

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area I, Inc.

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Atlantic Provinces, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Volume XIX, No. 1

Fall 2004

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The Chair Chimes In

This summer I had the good fortune to enjoy a 9 week sabbatical from my position as Minister of Music at the Congregational Church of Littleton. After being at the church for 18 years I was definitely in need of an opportunity to become revitalized. I also canceled the rest of my work as a professional musician for the summer so I could take full advantage of the sabbatical. Part of my time was spent attending handbell events.

I attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration of AGEHR in Norfolk, VA. This was a grand time and I really enjoyed spending time talking with some of our Area I members, some were even brand new members. I also had many good discussions with people from other areas and especially other area chairs. Our historical display was a big hit. There are plans to bring the display to other events and I am reserving a space for this display at the American Guild of Organists, Region I convention in Hartford, CT next summer. The silent auction was also a big hit at this event. They raised much more money than anticipated, \$11,000, for the Endowment Fund. We had every state in Area I represented with items in the auction. I also attended the Advisory Council which gathered together AGEHR Area Chairs and some of our national board and staff.

I attended the International Handbell Symposium in Toronto. There were only a few of us from Area I in attendance so I spent a lot of time meeting people from other areas and other countries. It is always eye-opening to ring with and be directed by people from all over the world. This was a great experience!

I taught at Family Handbell Camp in August. This continues to be a fun event and we had a lot of new attendees this year.

The Area I Board had its Fall meeting in October and here are some important items from that meeting that I wanted you to be aware of:

1. We will be rewriting our bylaws this winter so that they will align with the restructure that has happened at the National level. You will receive a

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Visit the Area I Web site at: www.agehrarea1.org

mailing in 2005 that will let you know about the specific changes and will require your vote to adopt the new bylaws.

2. Area I made it through their first full audit that we were required to have done in order to stay registered as a charitable organization in Massachusetts. We hired a new accounting firm this year, Shuman and Epstein, LLC, of Peabody, MA and they did an excellent job reviewing all our financial paperwork. Their help and advice have been a very useful resource to us, and we were very pleased that they found no significant inconsistencies in any of our accounting.
3. We have examined our schedule of annual ringing and director events in Area I and, based on requests and comments from our membership, we have decided to create two new events which will occur for the first time in the Fall of 2005. One of the new events, the Fall Directors' Seminar, will replace our traditional Winter Directors' Seminar and our Fall Repertoire Reading Sessions. We are also creating a brand new skill-building event for ringers that will focus on bell basics. We hope that these events will meet the needs expressed by many of our members for "more events that focus on basics", "more opportunities for level 1 and 2 ringers", and "more help for beginning directors". The Directors' Seminar will also have classes and repertoire reading sessions that will meet the needs of more experienced directors. Look for the announcements about these events elsewhere in our newsletter.

There are many events planned for the upcoming year including our biennial Area Festival/Conference. Please read the newsletter carefully and share it with your ringers, and don't forget to visit our Web site. This year there is at least one massed ringing event being

planned in each of the 6 New England states, so don't miss out!

Debra LeBrun, Chair

Reports

Connecticut

The Music Club of Hartford sponsored a performance by the New England Ringers on Sunday, October 17 at 3:00PM. This was the first Connecticut performance for that ensemble since the National Directors' Seminar in Hartford in July of 2003. The Central Connecticut Chapter of the Choristers Guild held a reading session on September 18th in Brookfield.

Planning has begun for a Connecticut Spring Ring to be held in April of 2005. This event will be held in Avon at the Valley Community Baptist Church; the clinician will be Jean Degan. A site visit has been conducted and planning will begin in earnest on November 6. Connecticut will also be the site for a beginning choir/ringers workshop and skill building session for Area I in the fall of 2005.

Susan Wilber, CT Chair

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Handbell Advisory Board continues its great work on behalf of the RI ringing community. The innovative Workshop Series is in full swing. Small group workshops are scheduled in three cycles throughout the state (small as it is) to make attending easier for participants. Workshops in Basic Ringing Techniques, Preparing for a Massed Ringing Event, Stopped Techniques, Musicianship & Theory, Multiple Bell Techniques, Directors' Toolkit, and Repertoire Reading are offered in the series.

Planning is already underway for the annual Spring Ring that will take place on Saturday, April 9, 2005 in

More AGEHR Area I Officers

Appointed Officers

Festival/Conference Chair **Debra J. LeBrun**
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canchair@agehrarea1.org
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nhchair@agehrarea1.org
Rhode Island: **Andy Wallace**
richair@agehrarea1.org
Vermont: **Jerilyn Bergdahl** (802-425-2177)
vtchair@agehrarea1.org

East Greenwich. The RIHAB has taken the lead on planning this event as well.

Priscilla Rig, Music Director at St. Lukes Episcopal Church in East Greenwich, has devised a creative way to get RI bell junkies together for even more ringing than they do at their home churches or community groups. An ecumenical group of about 14 ringers meet weekly and perform out in the community. The group has performed at nursing homes, community events and at civic organizations' meetings. They have even scheduled a formal concert in February. What an exciting way to get ringers from around the state together and to spread the word on handbell ringing.

Andy Wallace, RI Chair

Vermont

Summer Directors' Meeting: The Vermont Summer Directors' Meeting took place on July 21 in Pittsford, Vermont. Final reports for the successful Spring Ring 2004 held in Manchester, VT and Youth Ring held in Hartland, VT were presented, upcoming dates and events were discussed, and activities planned for the coming year. Vermont directors gave reports about celebrations and activities that have occurred in their individual choirs. Kim Strepka reported that her high school choir, The Bronze Ambassadors, from the United Christian Academy in Newport, VT rang Michael Helman's "A Prayer for Peace" at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City near Ground Zero, with Michael present. Michael Helman directed Spring Ring 2004 and ringers were overwhelmingly positive about his expertise with our over 240 ringers.

Spring Ring and Youth Ring 2005: Committees for both Spring Ring and Youth Ring 2005 have been formed. Repertoire for Spring Ring 2005 has been chosen and the committee members are in the process of finalizing the site in Newport, VT. Deborah Rice will be the clinician for the event. Youth Ring will once again be held in Hartland, VT, with Averill Tinker as the host. The Youth Ring committee will meet soon in order to choose repertoire and plan the day.

Jason Wells, Director of "Ring of Fire" in Newport, VT: Jason Wells, Director of "Ring of Fire", was invited to Newport, VT in Sept. to give a workshop in skill building aimed at high school ringers and graduates from the United Christian Academy, director Kim Strepka, and other ringers from the area. Two other high school choirs participated, as well as three ringers from the New England Ringers. The workshop started on Friday evening, continued Saturday and ended with a 4 PM concert. The group rang Kevin McChesney's "Cappricio", level 5, from memory, as well as other

challenging music during an invigorating and challenging event.

Upcoming Events: Upcoming events include the following: the Area-1 High School Ring Out will be held November 6, 2004 at St. Johnsbury Academy in St. Johnsbury, VT with Phil Brown as host and fellow Vermonter, Karen James, will direct; a date was set for the Directors' Roundtable, January 29, 2005 at the United Church in West Lebanon with Averill Tinker as host, itinerary for the day includes reading through the Spring Ring '05 repertoire in the morning and the Area-1 Festival massed music in the afternoon; Think Spring Mini-Rings will once again be held in February, potentially in St. Johnsbury and Burlington, VT.

Jerilyn Bergdahl, VT Chair

Education Liaison

The transition from the 2003-2004 school year has been very successful. All chime sets were returned to me last June for inspection.

All six sets of chimes are placed in schools throughout New England and Canada for the 2004-2005 school year. All six schools will be receiving an AGEHR membership, paid for by Area 1. The following six schools will be using the chimes this year:

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The Dike-Newell School, Bath, ME; Music Teacher: Susan Cyr . Susan teaches grades 1-5. She teaches approximately 20 classes per week.

The Kaler Elementary School, South Portland, ME; Music Teacher: Nancy Curran. Nancy will be using the chimes in grades 4-5.

The Manchester Elementary Middle School, Manchester, VT; Music Teacher: Fran Marino.

The Steere Farm Elementary School, Pascaag, RI; Music Teacher: Suzanne Bailey.

The Great Salt Bay Elementary School, Damariscotta, ME; Music Teacher: Anne-Marie D'Amico. Anne-Marie teaches K-8 general music. s depending on the grade.

The Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy, Liverpool, NS; Music Teacher: Andrea Crouse. Andrea teaches grades 2-6 in a school of 500 students.
Bunny Stanley, Education Liaison

Coming Events

Saturday, November 6, 2004: Area 1 High School Ring Out at St. Johnsbury Academy in St. Johnsbury, VT

Saturday, November 6, 2004 at 7:00 PM: St. Luke Concert Handbell Choir from Gales Ferry, CT, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2238 Parade Rd., Laconia, NH, Directed by Jane Nolan. For more information call the church at (603) 528-4078.

November 12-13, 2004: Area I Adult Ringers Weekend, Mt. Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, NH.

Friday, November 19, 2004, 7:30 PM: Merrimack Valley Ringers First Church, 1 Concord Street, Nashua, NH, Contact: Karen Leonard, WCUMCKEL@aol.com, for more information.

Saturday, November 20, 2004: RI Workshop, Pawtucket, RI, contact: Carolyn Gardner, 401-782-2409, cgar106404@aol.com.

Sunday, November 28 2004, 4 PM: New England Ringers' holiday concert at the Rogers Center for the Performing Arts, Merrimack College – North Andover, MA. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Sunday, December 5, 2004, 7 PM: New England Ringers' holiday concert at Dunn's Corner Presbyterian Church – Westerly, Rhode Island. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Saturday, January 8, 2005: Area I Board Meeting, Keene, NH.

Saturday, January 22, 2005: RI Workshop, E. Greenwich, RI, contact: Carolyn Gardner, 401-782-2409, cgar106404@aol.com

Saturday, January 29, 2005: Vermont Directors' Roundtable at the United Church in West Lebanon, VT, Averill Tinker as host.

February 2005: Vermont's Think Spring Mini-Rings, potentially in St. Johnsbury and Burlington, VT.

Saturday, March 5, 2005: Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival, Tewksbury, MA

Saturday, March 12, 2005: Massachusetts Youth Spring Ring, Worcester, MA, Contact: Cheryl Kraley, 781-862-2209, Cheryl@kraley.com

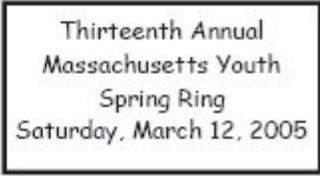
Saturday, April 2, 2005: Maine Spring Ring

Saturday, April 9, 2005: RI Spring Ring, E. Greenwich, RI, contact: Carolyn Gardner, 401-782-2409, cgar106404@aol.com.

Saturday, April 9, 2005: Vermont Youth Ring, Hartland, VT, contact: Jerilyn Bergdahl, 802-862-6521, vtchair@agehrea1.org.

Friday, April 29, 2005: VT Directors' Workshop, Newport, VT, contact: Jerilyn Bergdahl, 802-425-2177, vtchair@agehrea1.org.

(Continued on Page 6)



It's that time again! Hooray!!! The Thirteenth Annual Massachusetts Spring Ring at Forest Grove Middle School, Worcester, MA!!!! Don't miss out!!! A great day of ringing fun for kids from all over New England. Learn new music and techniques! Meet new friends and visit with old ones! Find other people who LOVE to play bells!

Registration packets will be available by request only. They will be mailed after January 1, 2005, to those who request a packet.

Request your registration packet by one of the following methods:

Email: cheryl@kraley.com
subject line: MYSR Registration
US Mail: Cheryl Kraley, MYSR Registrar
5 Fox Run Lane
Lexington, MA 02420
Phone: 781-862-2209
Web Site: www.agehrea1.org

We need: Your name, church or school name,
Address or e-mail to send the packet
Evening phone number

The registration packet will also be available on the Area I Website after January 1, 2005 for downloading.

FALL 2005
Announcing a New Area I Event For Ringers

This event will be a skill-building workshop and massed ringing session for beginning choirs and ringers who need help with further developing their skills in a low-pressure environment. This event is for you if you are a beginning ringer or a ringer who has been ringing for a while, but still does not feel comfortable with reading music or interpreting how to do the various techniques required. The music rung during this event will be only Level 1 and 2 music. Topics covered will include the following:

- Developing a "perfect" ringing stroke
- Handbell terminology and the anatomy of the handbell
- Notation of special bell techniques and how to properly execute them
- Developing your sight-reading skills

Ringers who are just joining a handbell choir for the first time in Fall 2005 are especially encouraged to attend. DIRECTORS – We will help you get your new ringers started off on the right foot!

This event will be from 9:00 – 3:00 on a Saturday, including lunch. There will be no performance, just a lot of fun learning time! Keep an eye out for more information in our upcoming newsletters and on the Web site.

FALL 2005
Announcing a New Area I Event For Directors
September 23-24, 2005 – Directors' Seminar

Holiday Inn Boxborough Woods, Boxborough, MA

This event will be a workshop for both beginning directors and experienced directors. Classes will include the following:

- Repertoire Reading sessions throughout the event
- Conducting Classes
- Tips for the beginning director
- How to properly teach techniques
- Selecting Music for your choirs
- Ringing Assignments
- Incorporating new ringers into your choir
- Caring for the physical needs of your ringers
- The National Directors' Certification Test

Please note that this event replaces the 2005 Winter Directors' Seminar and Fall Repertoire Reading Sessions.

It is hoped that this event will meet more of the needs of our members by offering a variety of classes that meet directors' individual needs. You will choose which classes you want to attend and there will be continuous massed repertoire ringing in the main hall. The event will run from Friday evening through Saturday with three delicious meals being provided by the hotel. Keep an eye out for more information in our upcoming newsletters and on the Web site.

Saturday, April 30, 2005: Vermont Spring Ring, Newport, VT, contact: Jerilyn Bergdahl, 802-425-2177, vtchair@agehrea1.org. Clinician: Deborah Rice.

June 23-26, 2005: Area I Festival/Conference, University of NH, Durham, NH.

August 6-10, 2005: Area I Family Handbell Camp, Camp Ogontz, NH, contact: Linda Lamb, 603-886-1512, secretary@agehrea1.org.

August, 10-13, 2005: Area I Youth Festival, Camp Ogontz, NH, contact: Linda Lamb, 603-886-1512, secretary@agehrea1.org.

September 23-24, 2005: Directors' Seminar at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough Woods, Boxborough, MA.

New Members

Please welcome these new members to Area I:

Canada

Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School,
Hubbards, NS
Brunswick Street Baptist Church Choir,
Fredericton, NB
Elizabeth MacLaren, Truro, NS

First United Church, Truro, NS
Joy Miller, Truro, NS
Margaret Farquharson, Pte Claire, PQ
St. John's United Church, Halifax, NS
St. James Carillon Choir, Dartmouth, NS
Trinity United Church, Summerside, PEI

Connecticut

Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford
First Baptist Church, Essex
First Baptist Church, Essex
Graceann Grindal, Bristol
Linda Stevens, Southington
Mill Plain Union Church, Torrington
Steve and Jan Mazeau, Westbrook

Maine

St. Andres Lutheran Church, Ellsworth
United Baptist Church of Ellsworth, Ellsworth

Massachusetts

Mattapoissett Congregational Church,
Mattapoissett

Rhode Island

Judith Doerner, Exeter
St. Jude RC Church, Lincoln

Vermont

Lyndon State College, Lyndonville

New for the Holidays!

Holiday Greetings Cards

Send your holiday greetings handbell-style this year! Our attractive new 5" x 7" cards are sure to bring a smile even to non-ringers' faces. All cards come in packs of 12 with matching envelopes.

Candlelight Bell Card: A tranquil image, a burning candle reflecting in a bell casting, adorns this card. Inside: *May Your Holiday Season be Melodious and Bright.* Red envelopes.

5229 Candlelight Bell Holiday Card, pk of 12 \$4.95

Angel Bells Card: Original artwork of three angels singing to fill the air with music decorates this unique holiday message: *May the Voices of Angels Ring like Bells Throughout Your Holiday Season.* Gold envelopes.

5231 Angel Bells Holiday Card, pk of 12 \$4.95

"SleighBell" Card: This fun and playful card is definitely one of a kind! Santa rides on his "sleighbell" on his way to deliver toys to all the children! Inside: *When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But Santa riding a bell with his nine Reindeer! Merry Christmas!* Green envelopes.

5230 "SleighBell" Holiday Card, pk of 12 \$4.95

Handbell & Chime Ornaments

Our beautiful golden handbell ornaments are guaranteed to bring joy to ringers in the holiday spirit. Perfect as gifts as well! Handbell Ornaments ship and store flat, then can be opened into three-dimensional ornaments for your tree. Chime ornaments do not open, but will make a fantastic addition to the festivities!

5872	Handbells and Staff Ornament	\$6.00
5876	Handbell Christmas Tree Ornament	\$6.00
5874	Chime Snowflake Ornament	\$6.00
5875	Chime Messiah & Noel Ornament	\$6.00

Happy Holidays!
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Elizabeth Bradford Scholarships Encourage New Choirs and Directors

AGEHR, Area-I, Inc. established the Elizabeth Bradford Endowment Fund several years ago to provide scholarship assistance to encourage new choirs and directors to attend Festival/Conference and the national educational events so that they might become more active members of the Guild. Only the income from the endowment is used for scholarships, but this is enough to provide partial registration assistance for several choirs/directors each year. There are two types of scholarships available.

Choir scholarships are available to Area I handbell choirs attending their first AGEHR, Area I Festival/Conference. Scholarship applications for the 2005 AGEHR, Area I Festival/Conference, June 23 – 26, at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH will be accepted beginning in the fall of 2004.

- A choir will be defined as a performing group of 7 or more ringers.
- Preference will be shown to those choirs having at least 75% of their members planning to attend the Festival/Conference.
- Prior attendance by a director or single member of a choir will not preclude eligibility for this scholarship.
- The choir must be a member of AGEHR.
- Youth choirs attending their first Young Ringers Festival are also eligible.

Directors' scholarships are available to Area I handbell choir directors attending their first AGEHR national educational event.

- The director must be an AGEHR member or represent an AGEHR member choir.
- The director should provide some indication as to how attendance at Seminar will enhance her/his local choir and the Area-I handbell community.
- Directors are encouraged to take advantage of the college credit option when it is offered at these events.

Those interested in applying for scholarship assistance should send a letter of application to the Chair of the Overseers. The current chair of this committee is Emlee Kohler, 224 Forest Rd., Hancock, NH, 03449; e-mail: scholarship@agehrarea1.org. Applications should include your AGEHR membership number and should describe your handbell program, reasons for applying, fund raising plans if applicable and any other pertinent information. Programs, clippings, resumes, etc. may be sent as well. If applying for a choir scholarship, please include the size of your choir and the number of ringers planning to register for the Festival/Conference. All applications will be acknowledged.

The deadline for applications is January 31 of each year. The guidelines provide for an extension if no applications are received by the deadline; however, barring this unlikely event, only applications postmarked by January 31 will be considered for scholarships. Awards are usually announced by February 28.

All members of Area I are eligible except elected or appointed Board members, Overseers of the Endowment Fund, or members of any committee of the Area I Board. (For a complete set of Elizabeth Bradford Endowment Fund guidelines contact Emlee Kohler or visit the Area I Web page.)

The Raleigh Ringers

We'd like to thank everyone who contacted their public television stations last fall to televise "The Raleigh Ringers: One Winter Evening at Meymandi — A Holiday Special". Thanks to you, over 250 stations in 44 states showed our program! Although each station has the option of airing this seasonal show for 9 more years, they will be more likely to program it if they continue to receive requests for it. Won't you please consider helping the art of handbells reach audiences that have never seen bells before? Just call, email or write your local public television station to request that they program "The Raleigh Ringers: One Winter Evening at Meymandi - A Holiday Special" again this year. For help in finding information on the station nearest you, see our website:

www.rr.org

We appreciate your support!

Need Gift Ideas for the Holidays?

Our signature Tie Dyed Gloves are once again available for sale! Contact gloves@rr.org if you'd like ordering information.

CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, T-shirts and other great gifts are available through our online store at www.rr.org.

If you'd like to subscribe to The Raleigh Ringers monthly electronic newsletter or snail mail list, please contact rradmin@rr.org.



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Raleigh, NC 27613
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rringer@rr.org

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UPCOMING APPEARANCES

2004 HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Sunday, Nov. 28, 4 PM	Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, North Andover, MA <i>Admission \$10 (in advance), \$12 (at the door)</i>
Sunday, Dec. 5, 7 PM	Dunn's Corners Presbyterian Church, Westerly, RI <i>Admission TBD</i>

Would your organization like to present an NER concert? Contact us at newenglandrings@aol.com, or call us at 978-851-3024. Host venues are currently sought anywhere in New England for Spring 2005, and in RI, CT, downstate NY, NJ, or eastern PA for NER's 2005 Summer Tour, July 5-7.

Fundamental Tone Goes Electronic

As of the Spring 2005 issue of THE FUNDAMENTAL TONE we will no longer send you a hard copy of the newsletter by mail unless you request it. Those who don't specifically request to receive the newsletter by mail will receive an e-mail notification as soon as the newsletter is available online. The e-mail message will contain a link to the online newsletter. This way you can go to the newsletter at your convenience and always have instant access to this valuable information. You may download the newsletter and store it on your computer or just visit it online, whichever you prefer. You will actually receive your newsletter sooner by this method than waiting for it to arrive by regular mail. The executive board hopes that this change in how we deliver our newsletter will save both financial and natural resources. By reducing the expenses of our newsletter we will have more money available to support programs to meet your needs. We have heard that many of you throw away your hard copy soon after you receive it and only access the information online anyway and we are aware that the handbell community contains an above-average number of computer literate people.

However, be assured that **if you still wish to receive your newsletter by regular mail you will continue to receive it that way**, but you must let us know. Even if half of our membership still opts to receive a hard copy we will still save many valuable resources.

In order to make this work we really need your cooperation. We need to know how you want to receive your newsletter and we need accurate e-mail addresses for those that opt for the electronic copy. We earnestly request that all Area I members fill out the form below and return it to:

Ruth Bowers
Fundamental Tone
25 Pine Road
Beverly, MA 01915-3729

Instead of sending in the form, you may send this information by e-mail to: editor@agehrarea1.org

NAME: _____

AGEHR MEMBERSHIP # _____

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHOICE:

_____ I wish to continue receiving my newsletter by regular mail

_____ I wish to receive an e-mail notification and link to the online newsletter

Please send it to this e-mail address _____

(We will not be sending any junk mail to this e-mail address, only the newsletter notification.)

YOU MUST RETURN THIS FORM OR SEND THIS INFORMATION TO US BY E-MAIL BY APRIL 1, 2005!!!

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The Fundamental Tone is published four times a year (on the first Monday of February, May, August, November) by Area I of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. Deadline for submitting information for publication is the 18th of the month prior to publication. It is distributed from 25 Pine Road, Beverly, MA 01915. If you would like to place an advertisement in the Fundamental Tone, contact Ruth Bowers (Ruth.Bowers@comcast.net or call 978-922-8137). Advertising rates are:

Full page: \$80.00 (7" X 9.5")    Quarter page: \$30.00 (3.25" X 4.5")    Business Card: \$10 (3.25" X 1")  
Half page: \$50.00 (7" X 4.5")    Eighth page: \$20.00 (3.25" X 2.2")

The preferred format for an ad is as a .jpg file. DO NOT send it as a .PDF file.



*The Fundamental Tone*  
*Newsletter of AGEHR Area I*  
25 Pine Road  
Beverly, MA 01915-3729

**Return Services Requested**

***FIRST CLASS***

Deadline for next  
issue: January 18, 2005