

**Handbell Musicians of America
Area 1 Festival/Conference 2013
Durham, New Hampshire
June 25, 2013**

Report of the Membership Chair

Area 1 currently has 319 members. Our membership continues to decline, and we are very concerned about that and what we might do to encourage new members. We welcome your suggestions

We tried this last year to encourage new members with a new Education Initiative, offering small skill building workshops throughout New England to our members with the hopes of introducing non-members to what the organization can do for both directors and ringers, by educating them in proper technique, conducting classes for directors seeking ways to get the most out of your ringers and your rehearsals. If you would be interested in participating or hosting one of these events, please contact me.

We still give each new "regular" membership a \$25 gift certificate to be used towards registration at any Area 1 event in the first two years of membership. By taking advantage of this, in some cases the director could share this with his/her choir towards registration in local workshops, or the director could put it towards a director's seminar, festival/conference or possibly an adult ringers weekend. The possibilities are endless.

Area 1 also has a mentoring program where we encourage new directors to contact us and we will provide a mentor for them and their choir. We are blessed with many fine directors willing to help new directors build their confidence as they tackle the job they really wanted or perhaps got by default. The partnership could be so helpful. It's like having your very own private teacher- a wealth of helpful information and instruction just for the asking.

I am always available and look forward to serving you in any way possible. I can be reached at, membership.area1@handbellmusicians.org .

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Nolan
Membership Chair