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. 3 Spring 2005

AGEHR Area I Officers

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The Chair Chimes In

For the first time many of you will be reading this on-line instead of in hard copy. We thank those of you who have chosen this option so that we may save some trees and save some of our financial resources. However, be assured that if you have chosen to receive your newsletter by regular mail we will continue to send it to you because we don't want anyone to miss out on all this valuable news. All members will still receive some mailings by traditional mail, such as ballots and local event announcements.

By now you should have received the ballot to vote for new officers and to approve our new bylaws. Please participate in this process by returning the postcard with your vote.

I also want to remind you that one of the most important benefits of your AGEHR membership is the right to attend AGEHR ringing events. There are many to choose from over the next few months: Area I Festival/ Conference, Family Handbell Camp, Youth Handbell Camp, Area I High School Ring Out, Area I Director's Seminar, and the new Basic Skills Workshop. There is also a National Festival and a National Director's Seminar this summer. You will receive a summer issue of the Fundamental Tone that will contain registration information about the fall events, but you can also keep an eye on the Web site to get the most recent information. I look forward to meeting many of you at the Area I Festival/Conference in June!

Debra LeBrun Area I Chair

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

Reports

Connecticut

2005 has been and continues to be a very busy and active year for Connecticut handbell ringers and programs!!!

There will be a May Day Spring Ring at the Memorial United Methodist Church in Avon, CT on May 1. There will be five churches participating – Avon Congregational Church, Memorial United Methodist Church, First Congregational Church of Simsbury, South Congregational Church of Granby, and First Congregational Church of Canton Center. They will perform massed and individual pieces at their concert at 4:00 p.m.

The Hartford Christian Academy Handbell Choir from West Hartford, CT, has received two honors this year thus far. In January, they were invited to be part of the 2005 Inauguration Celebration for President George W. Bush. On Wednesday evening, January 19th, the choir played for two hours at the entrance of the Candlelight Dinner held at Union Station. This dinner hosted those who had made contributions to the election, and those the president wished to thank for their efforts. On Thursday evening, they again played at Union Station as people arrived for the Ball, which was one of the nine inaugural balls hosted by the President. Under the direction of Dr. Michael Healan, the twelve-member handbell choir, composed of young people in grades 9-12, played nine pieces from their repertoire. At the ball, they were able to see both President and Mrs. Bush, and Vice President and Mrs. Cheney. During the day they had the privilege of attending the swearing in ceremony. The Hartford Christian Handbell Choir was

one of three handbell choirs that were selected to perform at the Inauguration Ceremonies, and this is only the second time that handbell choirs have been invited to an inauguration, the first being four years ago. The ensemble's inaugural participation was also highlighted in a local television newscast in Connecticut. (See picture on page 7.)

The second honor came just this past week at the American Association of Christian Schools National Competition, held in Greenville, South Carolina. The Handbell Choir won second place in the country out of ten Christian Schools. Their two selections included Eternal Father Strong to Save arr. by J. Wayne Kerr, and Joy and Hope Abounding by Cathy Moklebust. Both pieces were performed from memory which added to their win. On the final awards program, the Handbell Choir was privileged to perform Eternal Father Strong to Save for over 3000 people. We are proud to have these young people represent not only our state, but also the art of handbell ringing!

Connecticut will also be the host for two community handbell ensemble performances in the coming months. Merrimack Valley Ringers will perform at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday May 21 at St. James Episcopal Church in Danbury. For further information, please contact Joanne Spring, the church's Music Director, at 203-748-3561. New England Ringers will be performing at Spring Glen Church in Hamden on Wednesday, July 6; Sue Wilber can be contacted for further information at 203-288-5847.

The Connecticut Spring Ring is scheduled for April 30 at Avon Community Baptist Church. 222 individuals are registered thus far – a record for our state!!! Jean

More AGEHR Area I Officers

Appointed Officers

Membership:

Festival/Conference Debra J. LeBrun fcchair gagehrarea1.org
Historian/Archivist: Barbara Bussart historian@agehrarea1.org

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Maine: TBA

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New Hampshire: Emlee Kohler

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Rhode Island: Andy Wallace (860-599-8896)

richair@agehrarea1.org

Vermont: Jerilyn Bergdahl (802-425-2177)

vtchair@agehrarea1.org

Degan will be the clinician; classes will be taught by Nina Spacek, Paul Contrastano, Jane Nolan, David Warfield, Pat Grimm, and Sue Wilber and will include such topics as Repertoire, Basic Skills, Solo and Ensemble Ringing, Looking Good/Sounding Better, Techniques, Bells & Spirituality, Boomwhackers, Chimes and Children, Rhythm, and Directors' Roundtable. The closing concert will feature individual choir performances, as well as performances of the massed repertoire pieces for the 2005 Festival/Conference in Durham, New Hampshire.

Susan Wilber CT State Chair

Connecticut Spring Ring A Success

The Connecticut Spring Ring, held on April 30th, was a resounding success. There were 225 ringers who performed in the concert at the end of the day. Thank you to all of the Connecticut people who worked so hard organizing this event, directing, and teaching. Connecticut has not had a Spring Ring for the past few years so it was great to see the Spring Ring return to Connecticut which such success.

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Spring Ring took place on Saturday, April 9 at the St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Greenwich. Ed Henderson, Director of the New England Ringers, was our massed choirs' director. 136 ringers from RI, CT, and MA participated in the all day event. A public concert ended the day's events and in addition to our massed pieces, several choirs presented solo pieces. Congratulations to the Rhode Island Handbell Advisory Board for another successful event.

Andy Wallace, RI State Chair

Vermont

Bell ringers in Vermont can easily find extra ringing activities to warm the spirit during our long winter.

In January, twelve directors met for the Directors' Roundtable and a day of ringing, learning and discussion. Both Vermont Spring Ring music and Area I Festival Conference music were rehearsed under the direction of Phil Brown and Karen James.

Two mini-rings were held for directors and choirs to give an additional opportunity to rehearse Vermont

Spring Ring repertoire. One mini-ring was held in February in St. Johnsbury and hosted and directed by Phil Brown. An additional mini-ring was held in Burlington in March hosted by Northern Bronze handbell ensemble and directed by Sally Yankee, Marilyn Sink, Carolyn Harris and Jerilyn Bergdahl.

The Vermont Youth Ring was held April 9 at the Dothan Brook School in Hartland. Averill Tinker hosted the event and Phil Brown directed the group of twenty-five intermediate ringers representing three Vermont choirs and one Massachusetts choir. The day included video clips of the High School Ring Out and Ring of Fire, as well as games, activities and a pizza lunch. A concert concluded the very successful day.

The Vermont Spring Ring was held on April 29th and 30th in Newport, VT, near the Canadian border. Nicknamed "Bells on the Border" by registrar, Phil Brown, the event was directed by Deborah Rice. Deborah Rice also presented a workshop for the directors on Friday evening, April 29th. Twenty-two choirs with over 200 ringers registered for Saturday, April 30th. It was a day filled with ringing, a variety of classes, and fellowship. A public concert concluded the day.

Jerilyn Bergdahl VT State Chair

For Members Only

The agehr.org Web site has a feature "for members only" that allows each of us to verify or update personal data for future correspondence from the national organization and from area 1. I encourage everyone to check out this feature and make any necessary corrections.

Please make sure we have a valid address for you. In some cases correspondence is supposed to go to the church but we only have the street address instead of the post office box number needed for delivery or we have the church's name but no contact person. We have also seen cases where a city is misspelled or a zip code incorrect. All of these errors affect delivery of information and publications.

To access this feature on your computer, go to <www.agehr.org>, click on "Access Members Only Features" in the upper right hand corner. Have your membership number available as well as your AGEHR password. If you do not yet have a password, follow the

(Continued on page 6)

High School Ring Out 2005

FEATURING: Nationally recognized clinician Jason Wells, renowned director of Ring of Fire

WHEN: Saturday, November 5, 2005

WHERE: Souhegan High School; Amherst, NH

COST: \$10 per ringing participant

DETAILS: Repertoire, schedule and other details will be available in the August Fundamental Tone. If you would like details as soon as they are available e-mail Phil Brown, HSRO registrar at kbpb@together.net> and ask to be added to the HSRO e-mail list.

The Area I Board has agreed to underwrite this event so we can bring in a nationally known director and offer our high school ringers an exceptional event.

Those who have seen Jason in action are amazed at the amount of music he is able to get out of teen-age ringers during a one day event. This is an opportunity not to be missed by high school choirs. Do your program and your kids a favor and put the 2005 High School Ring-Out on your calendars now!



Jason Wells

Director Jason Wells founded Ring of Fire in 1997 in Hillsboro, Oregon. The group is an independent self-funded organization which is comprised of 13 members widely known for their fiery music, a unique spirited style, and their ability to perform their entire repertoire from memory! Their performance is an explosive combination of exuberant youth, an energetic director, and the brilliance of 61 bronze bells!

Since its beginning 8 years ago while based at Tualatin Valley Jr. Academy, Ring of Fire has performed in 33 states, 8 countries, and with many national artists and musical organizations including a recent performance with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops in Symphony Hall.

Announcing a New Area I Event For Ringers

October 15, 2005 First Congregational Church, Essex, CT

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.

simple directions given to receive one. Once you access the "Members Only" you will see many features available to you among which will be "view/modify your AGEHR contact information".

Thank you for helping us to better serve you.

Jane Nolan Area 1 Membership Chair

Area I Festival/Conference 2005

June 23-26, 2005, UNH, Durham, NH

The official registration deadline for the Area I Festival/ Conference has passed, but there is still room for a limited number of people. If you want to attend, please contact our registrar as soon as possible: Karen Walker, (401) 885-1660, <Piwackit@aol.com>.

You can also find more information about the Festival/ Conference and registration forms on our Web site at <www.agehrarea1.org>.

Special Needs Aide at Festival:

Based on the feedback from some of our Festival/
Conference attendees in 2003 this year we have
worked diligently with UNH to help us better accommodate people with physical limitations. We also have a
volunteer who will be at Festival who will be helping
those with special physical needs solve problems that
they may encounter. So, if you are attending the
Festival/Conference please make sure you notify our
registrar of your special needs so we can accommodate you as much as possible.

Partial Registrations:

We have had numerous requests from people to allow partial registrations for Festival/Conference. Some people want to attend only the classes for one day and some people want to attend just Friday through Sunday. There has been a significant increase in this type of request this year because of the central location of the Festival/Conference and also the fact that many schools are getting out late for summer vacation because of snow days. I think it is important to explain why we generally do not allow partial registrations for Festival/Conference.

For those who can not arrive on Thursday and want to attend the rest of the Festival/Conference, Friday afternoon through Sunday:

The University charges us a set rate for a certain number of attendees for three nights and nine meals. They will not break down the charges for a different number of people each day. This is not unique to UNH; this has also been the case with the other colleges with which we have worked. So, we have told people that even if they can only attend part of the Festival/ Conference they need to pay the entire registration fee. Some Area Festivals and most National events are held at Convention Centers or hotels. In these cases people pay for the hotel separately and can attend only part of the event and pay less. In Area I we have continued to use college campuses because they are better at accommodating the large size of our Festival/ Conference and it helps us to keep the rates more reasonable. At many Festival/Conference you would pay the amount we charge for the entire registration fee just for your housing. The other problem we find with people missing some of the Festival/Conference is that to really participate fully in the massed ringing people need to be at the rehearsals. Even if you know how to play the music it is an adjustment to get used to how our guest conductors want to perform the pieces and it takes time to adjust to playing in a massed ringing environment.

For those who have asked if they could just attend classes for a day or two, without participating in ringing or staying on campus:

The reason we have only allowed this in a few select cases in the past is because of the way we handle class registration. We pre-register people for classes. People who came in just for a day would be limited in what classes they could attend since many of our classes would already be filled by people who were full registrants. We also don't even know until about a month before Festival/Conference the definite schedule of which classes will happen when. It is like fitting a very large puzzle together: take the list of possible classes and their teachers (who sometimes have limitations on when they can teach), the list of classrooms and equipment we have available, the list of massed ringing rehearsals, and then the list of requests for classes that over 750 people have made on their registration, and magically put this all together to come up with a class schedule that accommodates as many people as possible. This literally takes many days of work to accomplish. Adding another variable of accommodating some people who will just be at Festival/ Conference certain days would make this task nearly impossible. So, how might we make adjustments in the future to accommodate these requests? We really do not want to do away with pre-registering for classes because we have had such positive responses from

people about that process. We could however allow people who want to just attend classes for a day to pay a nominal fee to come and sit in on classes as there is room available. There are some classes that almost always seem to have extra room. However, we would risk that some people would be very disappointed by not finding any classes that they are interested in available on the day they attend.

I hope that this helps you to understand the policies regarding the Area I Festival/Conference. We are always open to suggestions and offers of help from anyone. We are constantly trying to improve our Festival based on suggestions made by our members. Area I is well-known throughout the country for running a top-notch Festival and we expect this year's Festival/Conference will be the best ever!

Debra LeBrun Area I Chair

New Members

Please welcome these new members into Area I:

Connecticut

Graceann Grindal, Bristol, CT

Maine

Second Congregational Church, Warren, ME United Baptist Church of Ellsworth, Ellsworth, ME

Massachusetts

Margie Zeller, Westport, MA Tewksbury Congregational Church, Tewksbury, MA Vivian Wells, Brimfield , MA Wendy Palanza, Mansfield, MA

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The Hartford Christian Academy Handbell Choir West Hartford, CT,



Coming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
May 14, 2005	Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival	Tewksbury, MA	Ed Henderson, 978-851-3024 EdH@DELTA-F.com Karen Leonard, 978-256-8404 WCUMCKEL@aol.com
May 17, 2005 8:00 p.m.	25th Annual Perkins Handbell Festival	Old South Church Copley Square, Boston	Adele Trytko Adeletrytko@aol.com
June 23-26, 2005	Area I Festival/Conference Clinicians: Kathleen Wissinger Dave Ruder	University of NH Durham, NH	Karen Walker, 401-885-1660 Piwackit@aol.com
August 6-10, 2005	Area I Family Handbell Camp	Camp Ogontz Lisbon, NH	Laura Arbour, 413-323-4076 laura523@juno.com
August 10-13, 2005	Area I Youth Festival	Camp Ogontz Lisbon, NH	Linda Lamb, 603-886-1512, secretary@agehrarea1.org
September 23-24, 2005	Area I Directors' Seminar	Holiday Inn at Boxborough Woods, Boxborough, MA	
October 15, 2005	Area I Skill Building Workshop	First Congregational Church of Essex, Essex, CT	
November 5, 2005	Area I High School Ring Out	Souhegan High School Amherst, NH	
November 10-11, 2006	Adult Ringers Weekend Jane Anderson, Clinician	Mount Washington Hotel	Information at Festival/Conference



Keep Your Bells Looking Their Best!

Simichrome Polish

Restore that "new" look to your bells with Simichrome Polish", recommended by handbell manufacturers. Apply the ammonia-based

polish on the bell surface with a soft cotton cloth. (Our cleaning cloths are perfect for this). Spread the polish evenly with a circular motion, then wipe off. This polish oxidizes the tarnish and restores the original luster to the bells.

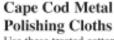
1102	50 gram tube	\$7.75
1103	250 gram can	\$22.25
1104	1000 gram can	\$61.00

Cleaning Cloths

Not pictured. Use one cloth to apply the polish to the bell casting. Remove the polish with a second cloth. A third cloth picks up any remaining residue. The lint-free interlocking knit does not unravel. Cloths may be washed and reused, but each washing reduces absorbency.

1011 4 Cloths \$2,95 1014 16 Cloths \$9,95





Use these treated cotton cloths to polish bronze castings quickly and easily. Safe for most metals, these cloths also protect by leaving

an invisible layer of anti-tarnish protection.

Each packet contains two 4" x 6" moistened polishing cloths in a reclosable foil pouch. The collector's tin of six 6" x 10" cloths includes one pair of nitrite gloves.

1108	Package of 2 Cloths	\$4.50
1109	Tin of 6 Cloths w/Gloves	\$16.95

Cloths for Polishing

After each rehearsal, use these cloths to clean your bells. Inner red cloth has jeweler's rouge embedded in the cloth for cleaning. The outer buffing cloth wipes away the rouge and light tarnish.





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UPCOMING APPEARANCES

2005 CONCERTS AND FOURTH ANNUAL SUMMER TOUR

Sunday, First United Methodist Church

June 5, 7PM Greenfield, MA

Admission TBD

Tuesday, First Church, Congregational

July 5 Methuen, MA

Admission and time TBD

Wednesday, Spring Glen Church

July 6 Hamden, CT

Admission and time TBD

Thursday, Christ United Church of Christ

July 7 Harleysville, PA

Admission and time TBD

Friday, Area II Festival/Conference

July 8 Bucknell University – Lewisburg, PA

TIME TBD

Would your organization like to present an NER concert? Contact us at newenglandrings@aol.com, or call us at 978-851-3024.

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:

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.

New Hampshire

Cathryn Marker, Wolfeboro, NH First Congregational Church, Milford, NH Terri Pattee, Bedford, NH Westmoreland School, Westmoreland, NH

Rhode Island

St. Jude RC Church, Lincoln, RI

Vermont

Rutland-Windsor, Ludlow, VT

Report of the Area Advisory Council Meeting

On April 1-2, 2005 I had the pleasure of attending the Advisory Council Meeting in Dayton, Ohio led by AGEHR's Executive Directory Jane Mary Tenhover, and the National AGEHR Board. Each of AGEHR's twelve areas was represented by their Chair or, in a few cases, their Chair-elect. We heard the results of AGEHR's research project which explored members' opinions on AGEHR's present efforts and potential opportunities for the future. Each of us received a report that listed the details of the project's findings. The project was conducted over the past year through a written survey and various focus groups held throughout the country. The results of this research will provide us with valuable information about how we can better serve the needs of our membership. In summary:

- There were many positive comments about the value of area newsletters and area events.
- Many people listed cost and proximity as major considerations for attending an event.
- Many people made suggestions for improving the national Web site although most did state that they found the Web site to be very helpful.
- Most people also see OVERTONES as a very good resource, although many made suggestions for improving the publication.
- Most people gave a very good rating to AGEHR Music publishing.
- There were many AGEHR services and programs that most people were unaware of, such as the Legacy Society and the Exemplary Awards Program.

- Many people focused on the need to foster more programs for children and youth.
- Many offered suggestions on how to raise more awareness of AGEHR, such as performing at high profile events and connecting with other similar organizations.

As a result of the information gathered the National office has set up a 5-year plan that includes goals in the categories of Music Publishing, Membership, Music Educators, Overtones, Events, and Fundraising. We have a relatively new Music Editor and a brand new Overtones Editor so we are already starting to see improvements in these areas. The National Board has also spent a great deal of time reviewing and revising their Policy Governance document. Mike Bryant reported to us about his efforts as part of the National Education Committee. He has been working on formalizing a process for adjudicating school handbell choirs, similar to what is done in MENC for bands and choirs. The hope is that by having a system in place for judging a group against a set of established standards, handbell choirs will receive more acceptance and respect in the world of music education. He stressed that it was not their intention to create a competitive atmosphere at all. Groups would be judged against a set of standards, not against each other.

The most valuable part of the meeting for me was when each Area Chair shared information about the new things happening in their Area. I also had time for conversations with other Area chairs during the meals. I enjoyed hearing about what was happening in other areas and sharing with others about the exciting things happening in Area I.

Debra LeBrun Chair, Area I

New Special Needs Liaison

We are pleased to announce that Jeannie Cushman has agreed to be the new Special Needs Liaison for Area I. Jeannie has been active in handbell ringing since 1988 and currently rings with the New England Ringers and the Bells of Joy in Rutland, VT. She has attended numerous area festivals and national events and was on the faculty for the AGEHR, Area I Festival/ Conferences in 2003 and 2005. Jeannie is a Physical Therapist doing home-health in her "real" life. Her experience as a physical therapist and her interest in using proper ringing technique to avoid causing

physical injury will make her a valuable resource for our Area I membership. Our Special Needs Liaison is a person that is available as a resource for you to use at local events or to contact with questions about special needs that directors or ringers have, such as how to ring safely if you have a physical injury or limitation, what are good physical warm-ups to use before ringing, or how to incorporate a person with a special physical need or learning disability into your group. She may not always have an answer, but when she can't help you she can put you in touch with someone who can. You can contact Jeannie by e-mail at j56cush@cs.com or by phone at (802) 775-4065.

Debra LeBrun Chair, Area I



Membership Form - The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

□ Platinum Membership	Mailing Information	
□ Sterling	Name:	
□ Regular Membership	Address:	
☐ Ringer Membership	City/State/Zip:	
Membership number of choir:	Is the above a (check one)	
☐ Senior Citizen Membership \$40.00 Individual membership, may not represent a group.	☐ Personal Address or ☐ Organizational Address	
□ Full-Time Student Membership\$30.00	Daytime Phone:	
□ Business Membership \$130.00		
☐ Canadian Membership add \$10.00 to all membership categories to cover additional postage	E-mail: Name of Business/School/Church:	
International Membership	Name of Business/School/Church.	
□ A, Overtones at Printed Matter rate \$65.00□ B, Overtones at First Class rate \$95.00	Is this a ☐ New Membership or ☐ Renewal	
Mail to : AGEHR, Inc.	Membership Number:	
1055 East Centerville Station Road Dayton, OH 45459-5503	Credit Card Information	
Make check/money order payable to: The AGEHR, Inc.	Card Number:	
Payment enclosed \$ U.S. Funds	Signature:	
All returned checks will incur a \$25 processing fee.	Expiration Date:	

The Fundamental Tone Newsletter of AGEHR Area I 25 Pine Road Bererly, MA1915-3729

Return Services Requested

FIRST CLASS

Deadline for next issue: July 18, 2005

