

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area I, Inc. • American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

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

Volume XXII, No. 1

February 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8–9, 2008
Area I Directors' Seminar
Framingham, MA

February 16, 2008
Spring Mini Ring
St. Johnsbury, VT

March 15, 2008
Massachusetts Spring Ring
Tewksbury, MA

March 15, 2008
Spring Mini Ring
Burlington, VT

March 29, 2008
Maine Spring Ring
Cumberland Center, ME

April 25–26, 2008
**Vermont Spring Ring
with Jason Wells**
Directors Workshop—April 25
Spring Ring—April 26
St. Johnsbury, VT

May 3, 2008
**Repertoire Reading Workshop
with Tim Waugh**
East Greenwich, RI

July 2–5, 2008
**Ringling Link 2008, Canada's
National Handbell Festival**
London, Ontario

November 7–8, 2008
Area I Adult Ringer Weekend
Sunday River Resort, Newry, ME

Sue Says... *a few words from the Chair*

Happy New Year to you all – I do hope you had a blessed holiday season. Many of you worked hard through November and December sharing your music with friends, family and lots of other folks. It is indeed a wonderful time to share our craft with others and rejoice in the art of handbells.

So now, it's a new year and we look forward. Your board met on January 12th and discussed many topics—please read about them in this newsletter. Board members are working hard on many projects and events—make sure you take advantage of as many of these opportunities as you can. I hope to see many of you at the Directors' Seminar in February and Spring events throughout the Area.

As you think about 2008, give these items consideration:

- Contact your State Representative and say hello! Volunteer your special gifts to lend a hand.
- Attend a workshop, either as an individual or with another member of your choir.
- Offer to be a clinician at a workshop or mentor another choir.
- Attend a concert of another handbell choir (check our website for area concerts and make sure your own events are posted).
- Become a member or renew your membership to AGEHR.
- Encourage a neighboring church, school or colleague to join the Guild.
- Offer to host a Reading Session next year or later this year.

Above all, please share this newsletter with your ringers.

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

Also, the Adult Ringers Weekend is alive and well—come to Sunday River, Newry, Maine, November 7–8, for a fabulous event at a fabulous location. The Area website contains more information, rates and registration.

We are still working at finding a location for Family Handbell Camp – keep checking to follow our progress!

We are also still in need of three individuals to assume the positions of state chair for Connecticut and New Hampshire. This is a wonderful opportunity to take a first step in becoming involved in the leadership of the Area – we embrace new folks and welcome

back prior board members. Please give this serious consideration.

Your board is here to serve you – please feel free to contact any one of us if you need help in any area.

Finally, don't forget about Festival/Conference '09 in Orono, ME – it's never too early to begin fund raising for your choir! Details are posted on the Area web site or you may contact Patrick Gagnon, FC Chair.

Best wishes to you all for a great spring ringing season! 🛎

*Sue Henderson,
Area I Chair*

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our newest members to Area I:

Quincy Point Congregational Church, Quincy, MA

Wayne Rogers, Dartmouth, NS, Canada

Elliot C. Brown, Burlington, MA

Berkley Congregational Church, Berkley, MA

David M. Ashley, Westford, VT

Tiago Mota, Raynham, MA

Laurie Newton, West Dover, VT

Chris Place, New Canaan, CT

Megan Errgong-Weider, Haverhill, MA

Alice Morrison, Westborough, MA

AGEHR AREA I OFFICERS

Elected Officers

Chair: **Sue Henderson** (978-851-3024)
chair@agehrarea1.org

Chair-Elect: **Patrick Gagnon** (978-851-0513)
chairelect@agehrarea1.org

Past Chair: **Nancy Reynolds** (802-748-4760)
pastchair@agehrarea1.org

Secretary: **Pam Sturdevant** (603-881-8689)
secretary@agehrarea1.org

Treasurer: **Sue Wilber** (978-256-3927)
treasurer@agehrarea1.org

National Liaisons

Education: **Griff Gall**
education@agehrarea1.org

Special Needs: **To Be Announced**

Appointed Officers

Festival/Conference '09 Chair **Patrick Gagnon** (978-851-0513)
fcchair@agehrarea1.org

Historian/Archivist **Barbara Bussart** (401-765-8015)
historian@agehrarea1.org

Membership **Jane Nolan** (860-464-2873)
membership@agehrarea1.org

Publications **Bill Noss** (603-886-1512)
editor@agehrarea1.org

Webmaster **Linda S. Lamb** (603-886-1512)
webmaster@agehrarea1.org

Bradford Scholarship **Nancy Reynolds** (802-748-4760)
scholarship@agehrarea1.org

State/Provincial Chairs

Atlantic Provinces (Canadian) **To Be Announced**
canchair@agehrarea1.org

Connecticut **To Be Announced**
ctchair@agehrarea1.org

Maine **Brian Wilson** (207-781-5880)
mechair@agehrarea1.org

Massachusetts **To Be Announced**
machair@agehrarea1.org

New Hampshire **To Be Announced**
nhchair@agehrarea1.org

Rhode Island **Gayle Keinard, Sec., Rhode Island Handbell Advisory Board**

richair@agehrarea1.org

Vermont **Jerilyn Bergdahl** (802-425-2177)
vtchair@agehrarea1.org

Festival/Conference '09



Plans are churning for an exciting Festival/Conference at the University of Maine at Orono.

An article will be submitted to each of the next several *Fundamental Tone* newsletters on an FC topic. The first article (page 11) will feature the audition process for the Bronze division and steps for mediation to be used for groups that need to improve their preparation. The second article will feature information about our new curriculum, *Handbell YOU!*, designed by Daniel K. Moore, dean of education for FC09. The following articles will pertain to our registration process. I will also write about Elizabeth Bradford and her legacy, and about the piece of music being commissioned in her honor.

An advertisement went into the Jan/Feb *Overtones* inviting submissions for our First Biennial composition contest. The winning piece will be a massed

selection at FC09, and may be premiered by Embellish at their opening concert on Thursday, June 25, 2009. A repertoire committee has been formed for other titles.

Contracts are in and signed by our conductors and ensemble. All are very excited about coming to Maine, and people simply cannot believe that I got Bill Griffin to do this.

I am still searching for a few committee members, namely a bell captain, conductor shadows (particularly one for Mr. Griffin), and people to handle small tasks close to the event. Committee members had the first site visit on January 19.

Start planning for your choir to attend FC09 as we hope to have 850 ringers in attendance! ✏

Patrick Gagnon, Chair, FC'09



Bradford Scholarship Deadline Extended to April 15th

DIRECTOR'S SCHOLARSHIP '08

The Bradford Scholarship was developed as a way to honor Elizabeth Bradford and her dedication to education and handbells. During non-Festival/Conference years, as presently constructed, the Scholarship Fund makes partial scholarships available to Directors attending their first National AGEHR educational event. At the Area I Board meeting on January 12th, it was voted to extend that deadline from Feb. 15th to April 15th, since the early bird deadline for the most well-known educational event for directors, the National Seminar, is June 15th. The later date will still allow applicants to be informed of the decision of the Scholarship Committee prior to that early bird date.

CRITERIA: All directors attending their first National AGEHR educational event, who are members of Area I, are eligible for this partial scholarship.

Have you just begun directing handbells? Do you want some specific training in directing this instrument? Have you been directing for awhile and feel a desire to reach beyond the mentoring and educational opportunities available in Area I by attending a National event? Have you wanted to meet and work with the composers and directors you have been hearing about, and whose music you have been directing? Are you interested in hearing solo

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BRADFORD SCHOLARSHIP...

performances and concerts by nationally and internationally acclaimed ringing groups? Do you want to meet and compare notes with other directors? If so, you should seriously consider honoring Elizabeth Bradford and enhancing your directing skills by taking advantage of this special scholarship opportunity.

Visit www.agehr.org to find out more about the National Seminar or other learning opportunities, then visit www.agehrarea1.org to learn more about the Bradford Scholarship and obtain the newly developed application form (see page 5 in this issue of *Fundamental Tone*).

Information from the AGEHR website indicates the National Seminar provides opportunities such as:

- Ringing tracks for all levels of music.
- An introductory Finale class as well as intermediate and advanced Finale tracks.

- Classes for music educators focusing on teaching handbells and handchimes in all classroom levels from elementary to high school.
- Sessions on Victorian solo ringing, handbell visuals, presentation and movement, handbell assignments, beginning and intermediate conducting, preparation for Directors Certification, processions, creating a concert program, handbells in contemporary worship, recruiting and retaining ringers, solo and ensemble ringing, Handbell Industry Council (HIC) Reading Sessions and much more.
- Technique classes in bass bells, treble bells, doubling, Healthy Ringing®, and music theory.
- Showcase concerts featuring The Pike's Peak Ringers, The Marvelous Musical Martins, The Kinjo Gakuen University Handbell Choir under the direction of Toshikazu Yoshida, and more. 



*Musical Excellence
In Handbell Ringing*
978-851-3024
www.newenglandringers.org

Upcoming Concerts

Sunday May 4 5:00PM	Dunn's Corners Community Church 221 Post Road, Westerly, RI Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 students
Sunday June 1 7:00PM	Faith United Church 52 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA Tickets: TBA
Sunday June 22 4:00PM	First Congregational Church 26 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA Tickets: TBA

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 and Summer 2008 and the 2008 Holiday Season.

AGEHR, Area I, Inc.
The Bradford Scholarship Application

Instructions: AGEHR, Area I, Inc. established the Elizabeth Bradford Endowment Fund in order to grant scholarship assistance to Directors, during non Festival/Conference years, to encourage them to attend their first AGEHR National educational event. It is our goal to provide Directors the opportunity to further develop their handbell directing skills through attendance at such an event and as a result they will be encouraged to become more active in the Guild. Only the income from the endowment is used for scholarships, but this is enough to provide partial registration assistance for several directors each time the scholarships are available. All Directors who are members of AGEHR, Area I, Inc. are eligible, except for the members of the Scholarship Committee. Please be aware that the scholarship will only pay a portion of the registration fee for the event. Applications must be sent to the Scholarship Committee Chair; postmarked no later than April 15th..

Date _____

Director's Name: _____ Member Number: _____

Group Address: _____

Group City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Address: _____

Home City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: () ____ - _____ Evening Phone: () ____ - _____

Email: _____ Handbell Affiliation: _____

Number of years Directing of any kind. _____ Number of years Directing Handbells _____

Educational Training for Directing of any kind. _____

Educational Training for Directing Handbells.

Have you ever attended an Area I Events designed for Directors? Yes No

Have you attended any AGEHR NATIONAL educational events for directors? Yes No

We would like to know a little bit about your experience with handbells. How did you become involved with handbells? How did you become a handbell director?

We would like to know a little bit about why you wish to attend an AGEHR National educational event. What to you hope to learn? How do you plan to share that with the handbell organization you direct?

Please print and send to Nancy Reynolds. Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2008 .

Nancy Reynolds, Bradford Scholarship Chair
206 Boynton Ave.
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

For questions please contact the scholarship chair, Nancy Reynolds

RECRUIT, RETAIN, AND REFRESH YOUR RINGERS

Excerpts from Area VII's Clapper Chatter newsletter, November 2007; Alanna Teragawa, Area VII Chair, author.

At the two summer Area VII Director's Seminars last year, a roundtable discussion was held about the three "R's" that face directors each year: *Recruit, Retain, Refresh*. At one time or another, we all face challenges in at least one, if not all, of these areas of caring for our ringers. Below is some of the feedback that was received.

RECRUIT:


1. Ask choir members to assist in the recruiting. Personal prodding from a familiar face goes a long way.
2. Invite prospective ringers to your bell parties.
3. Perform frequently, to remain visible.
4. Start a beginning choir if you think your current ringing skill level scares away beginners.
5. Recruit through the Sunday School or VBS time by pointing to the notes during a sing-a-long.
6. Recruit through a short temple talk during worship. Hand out bells to the congregation during the talk.

RETAIN:

1. Thank them for their weekly commitment. Show them you appreciate them!

2. Feed them, like 'secular' communion: artichoke dip and wine (or juice).
3. Make their ringing experience fun. Plan social activities.
4. Send handwritten thank you cards.
5. Keep the ringers challenged musically.
6. Inspire them by showing videos of professional ringing groups.
7. Videotape your concerts, and show it during a bell party.
8. Choose a variety of music: solemn to maybe funky. Even let your ringers choose some of the repertoire occasionally.

REFRESH:

1. Attend a massed choir festival.
2. Commission a piece of music for your group.
3. Host a choir retreat with a guest clinician.
4. Create a choir 'mascot,' using uniforms and a cheer.
5. Tour with your group, using hotels or better yet, home stays in the visited churches.
6. Try ensemble ringing techniques to challenge the more capable in your group.
7. Attend ringing workshops in your area either as a group or encourage individuals to go with you. 

WANTED: Director Applicants For Bradford Scholarships

As you are a Director planning on attending your first National AGEHR educational event...

...you are invited to apply for a partial scholarship.

Please see Article on PAGE 3 of this Newsletter

Requirement: AGEHR Area I membership

Application Deadline: Extended to April 15, 2008

For further information please visit the Area I website (www.agehrarea1.org) or contact Nancy Reynolds, Bradford Scholarship Chair, at pastchair@agehrarea1.org or 802-748-4760.

Notes from the AGEHR Area Advisory Council Meeting

Sue Henderson, Area I chair, and Patrick Gagnon, Area I chair-elect, represented Area I at the fall Area Advisory Council meeting with the national officers in November 2007. The meeting, held in Covington, KY, highlighted several issues, was extremely informative, and was a key networking event for our officers. A brief summary of the discussions follows:

Increase Communication with *Overtones* Editor

- Provide news and feature articles
- Areas get 15% discount on Advertisements

National Website

- www.agehr.org will be completely redesigned as of January 1, 2008, and will be able to host all Area websites as subordinate pages with full functionality, or link to area pages that are currently working and have a desirable aesthetic (*Note: at presstime, the new agehr.org is not yet online*)

Insurance

- How to get insurance “riders” and “certificates” from AGEHR
- Ringing equipment is not covered by AGEHR in massed ringing; individuals and/or choirs must have policies (marine)
- Festival/Conference '09 communication should include information about insurance

Board Operations

- Electronic voting
- Meeting attendance
- Stair-stepping new members
- Difficulty of finding competent officers and what to do when “things aren’t working.”
- Consider having a meeting for new board members (retreat at Festival/Conference site prior to F/C)

Area Events

- How to identify which events are worthwhile and viable

Finance

- Areas to provide 1099 –Misc/1098s to all who receive \$600 or more from Area I (Clinicians, Guest Choirs, Composition Contest Winners)

Bylaws

- Each area submitted all bylaws which were distributed to the assembly for review (there were twelve ways to say the same thing)
- AGEHR will provide a template for all Area bylaws to be based

Nomination Process

- Online presence for Nominating Committee
- “Meet the board” sessions at events
- Provide candidate information packets at events (meeting dates, vision of board skills needed, job requirements and responsibilities)

AGEHR Music (John Behnke, Reif Lorenz)

- AGEHR will publish music of Area contest winners
- AGEHR has two excellent new resources for young ringers/beginners

Sue and Patrick came away with a very good sense about our work in Area I, about the future of the national organization, with great confidence in the current leadership of AGEHR, and with a multitude of new ideas. 🖊️

Edited from a report by Patrick Gagnon.



**Saturday, April 12, 2008
12:30 p.m.**

Bethlehem Baptist Church
216 Allen Street
Hampden, MA 01036

Please join the Bronze Ambassadors teen handbell choir for the first stop on their concert tour of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C. They will be joined by special guest, **Alex Mysliwiec**, handbell soloist, and the concert will feature music incorporating **Schulmerich's Melody Wave** electronic instruments. Call 413-224-1026 for more information. *Free Will Offering.*



2008 AGEHR Area I Adult Ringer Weekend

Friday and Saturday, November 7–8, 2008



This is an event that will challenge you to become a better ringer, and will give you a well-deserved rest from a hectic fall season! In Area I, we ascribe to POEMS as our reason for being! Come and see what POEMS can do for you!

POEMS

(Performing, Organizing, Educating, Mentoring, and Socializing)

- Bring your spouse or significant other!
- Bring your choir (adults only)!
- Stay in luxury at the Grand Summit hotel!
- Enjoy three gourmet meals!
- Indulge in a late-night dessert and wine tasting!
- Pamper yourself and your guest with a la carte spa treatments such as:
 - Hot Oil Scalp Massage
 - Leg Soother Massage
 - Eye and Lip Contour Facial treatment
 - and **more!**

Arrive a day early or stay a day late and enjoy our **special conference rates!**

**Most of all, enjoy the ministrations of our fabulous clinician,
Ed Henderson, director of the New England Ringers!!!**



No advanced preparation is required for this event!
All music is provided as part of your registration fee!

WE NEED YOUR BELLS, FOAM, CHIMES, AND MALLETS!

This event requires a great deal of ringing equipment, so please consider loaning us your precious handbells! We are especially in need of:

FIVE-OCTAVE SETS OF BELLS AND CHIMES.

Directions to Sunday River can be found at
<http://www.sundayriver.com/summer/directions.html>
and more information about this amazing resort can be found at
<http://www.sundayriver.com>.

Room, Board, and Program Fees:

Hotel - two options! (paid directly to the hotel)
\$99 for a standard room (single or double)
\$139 for a suite (single or double)

Registration - Program Fees, Music, and \$15 spa service voucher (you may choose to pay for an upgrade)
(Checks or Money orders made payable to AGEHR Area I, Inc.; designate ARW08 in the memo)
\$171 - ringer registration (early bird, registration postmarked by 9/1/08)
\$186 - ringer regular registration (postmarked by 10/15/08)
\$121 - guest registraion (early bird, registration postmarked by 9/1/08)
\$136 - guest regular registration (postmarked by 10/15/08)

Note - this event is for AGEHR members (and guests) only!
Make sure your membership is active,

or **RENEW IT TODAY** by visiting
<http://www.agehr.org/members/becomemember.asp>.

If you are a director, your choir can attend using your member number!

Options - negotiated between participants and Sunday River Resort
Extra night - Thursday, Nov 6, or Saturday, Nov 8 - same rates for standard and suite
Extra Spa menu items - \$10-\$360

Registration will be available online at www.agehrarea1.org beginning on March 1, 2008, but you can ask questions of Patrick at aw@agehrarea1.org.



Composition Competition

honoring the life of Elizabeth Bradford (1906-2007),
musician, teacher, humanitarian, former president of the
New England Guild of English Handbell Ringers

"With a bold voice and commanding presence, Elizabeth H. Bradford had a flair for
English handbell ringing and an uncommon understanding that all children learn differently."
-Boston Globe, May 21, 2007

We are currently seeking submissions!!!

- 3-5 octaves
- Handbells (opt handchimes)
- 2-4 minutes in length
- AGEHR Level 3
- \$750 prize
- AGEHR Publication in November 2008
- Massed piece 2009 Festival/Conference

Email all inquiries about format for submissions
to Patrick Gagnon, FC09 Chair
fcchair@agehrarea1.org, or call 978-604-8145



This view could be yours...

Join Bells of the Cascades on January 3, 2009 for a
7-Day Eastern Caribbean Cruise aboard the
MS *Statendam*, featuring guest clinician David M.
Harris, Music Director of the Raleigh Ringers.

This roundtrip from Ft. Lauderdale includes calls in Grand Turk,
Mayaguez, St. Thomas and Nassau!



- Inside from \$1,049 • Ocean view from \$1,214 •
- Verandah from \$1,849 •

Price includes all Bells of the Cascades' activities, classes, a hosted cocktail party,
most meals and entertainment aboard the ship, and all taxes and port charges.

Deposit by
March 31, '08
and receive \$20
shipboard credit for
an inside stateroom,
\$30 for an ocean
view and \$40 for
verandah!



For more information, visit
www.azumano.com/bells or
contact Cruises By Azumano.
825 NE Multnomah
Portland, OR 97232
800-395-5578
bells@azumano.com
www.bellsinthecascades.org



Rates are per person, based on double occupancy, subject to availability, and may change without notice. Rates do not
include airfare unless otherwise noted. Other restrictions apply. Shipboard credits are per person. Participants must book
their cabin through Azumano Travel to take part in any bell ringing activities.

Photos from the

AREA I ADULT RINGER WEEKEND 2006

November 10-11, 2006, Mount Washington Hotel
Bretton Woods, New Hampshire

Save the date for this year's Adult Ringer
Weekend—November 7-8—to be held at
Sunday River Resort in Newry, Maine.

**REGISTRATION IS ON PAGE 8-9 OF THIS
NEWSLETTER!**

— INFO —

2009 Area I Festival/Conference Divisions

The 2009 Area I Festival Conference at the University of Maine at Orono will be a tremendous event. A repertoire selection committee is at work deciding what music we will play, and the Dean of Education is hard at work deciding what, as it were, lessons we will learn. I am hard at work trying to find a few more members of my committee to assure another wildly successful FC! In each of the next several issues of the Fundamental Tone I will be writing to you about many things, and in this inaugural letter I will address the issue of the three ringing divisions for FC09.

Monica McGowan will be our massed director and will also direct the **Tins** division, the division for choirs with only a few years of ringing experience, and who have mostly two or three octaves of handbells. Typically this is the “mid-sized” division and rings three selections of music graded at AGEHR L1 and L2. The most exciting thing I can tell you about the Tins for 2009 is the institution of Tins Mastery, a series of classes for each Tins choir and their director. This new program will give each group extra time to solve issues in the massed and divisional music, and to work with a master teacher.

The **Coppers** division is by far the largest group of ringers, and will be led by the venerable composer and conductor, William Griffin. Choirs in this division typically have been ringing for several years and may have three-to-five octaves of handbells. Repertoire for this division typically includes three pieces graded at AGEHR L2–L3+. Careful scheduling at FC09 will allow all Coppers ringers to enjoy classes AND rehearsals without any conflicts!

Finally our auditioned **Bronze** division is typically our smallest ringing division. William Griffin will also lead these choirs, generally represented by groups with many years of experience, extended sets of bells and chimes, and a desire to ring

“bronze-level” music, graded at AGEHR L4–L6. Based upon feedback received from ringers on the FC07 evaluation forms, and in order to continue the high level of music making in this division, I will clarify the criteria for Bronze division choirs:

- The bronze choir must submit an audio/video recording of two selections of L4–L6 music, one selection being an FC09 Bronze division piece.
 - A recording both of the sound and the images in which the choir and director are clearly visible.
 - Titles, composers/arrangers, and publisher information must accompany the submission.
 - DVD is the preferred format for this submission.
 - Ringers on the recording must be the ringers who are registered for FC09.
- The video can be of a rehearsal or a performance, but with the video equipment currently available, should be of high quality and clarity.
- The choir’s recording will be reviewed by a small, impartial, anonymous committee that will evaluate the performance based on the rubric found on the following page.
- The video must be clearly labeled and submitted to the FC Chair by January 30, 2009. Further submission guidelines will follow.
- All choirs and directors will receive written feedback from the committee about the performance, including an overall score with a breakdown of each rubric category.
- Try using this rubric with your choir before you submit your audition tape.
- The “low” score is 9. The “high” score is 40.
- Each auditioning group will be judged only

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FC09 Bronze Division Audition Rubric

Pts.	Repertoire (10%)	Musicianship (40%)	Tempo (30%)	Contact (10%)	Assignments (10%)
4	The repertoire represents two L4–L6 pieces, one of which is from FC09 Bronze division repertoire.	Pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and expression are all correct throughout both pieces.	The repertoire is performed at the tempo marking indicated by the composer.	The choir and director are in contact at all times. The choir responds to the director's gestures with the intended musical result.	The ringers are playing at appropriate bell assignments that allow for a musically successful performance.
3	N/A	Some errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and expression—only a few ringers make errors.	The repertoire is performed at a slightly different tempo than the one indicated by the composer.	The choir and director have a moderate amount of contact, but the choir does not respond to some of the director's gestures.	The ringers are playing at appropriate bell assignments, but some planned omissions occur in some ringer's assignments.
2	N/A	Many errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and expression—several ringers make errors.	The repertoire is performed at a much different tempo than the one indicated by the composer.	The choir and director are infrequently in contact and the choir responds only to a few of the director's gestures.	Some ringers are playing at inappropriate bell assignments and are unable to solve some passages.
1	The repertoire does not meet the stated guidelines.	Many errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and expression—these issues are pervasive in the choir.	The repertoire is performed at a substantially different tempo than the one indicated by the composer.	The choir and director are not in contact. The choir does not respond to the director's gestures.	The choice of bell assignment impedes a successful performance.

DIVISIONS FC'09...

- against the rubric, not against other submissions.
- Each auditioning group will be considered individually, but a score of 25 or higher will be needed for acceptance to the FC09 Bronze division.
 - If the reviewing committee has a concern that the choir might not be prepared to participate in the Bronze division:
 - The choir may be asked to ring in the Coppers division
 - The choir may be asked to work on suggested

issues, work with an Area I mentor, and resubmit a new recording.

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure a positive experience for all in the Bronze division at FC09. This is a slightly different process than the one that was used at the 2007 Festival/Conference at URI, and it is the intention of the Area I board that this be a transparent, fair process. Our mission is all about POEMS! (Performing, Organizing, Educating, Mentoring, and Socializing). Come one, come all to the University of Maine at Orono for the 2009 Area I Festival/Conference to see what POEMS can do for you! 

Patrick Gagnon, Chair, FC09

Announcing Rhode Island's Spring Ring '08
Featuring
Internationally Acclaimed Clinician and Conductor

TIM WAUGH

Saturday, May 3, 2008
Swift Gymnasium and St. Luke's Episcopal Church
East Greenwich, RI

Don't miss this opportunity to work with one of the outstanding practitioners of our handbell art. We *guarantee* that you and your ringers will have an exciting and memorable day.

Massed Repertoire (for all) (NO PHOTOCOPIES ALLOWED):

1. *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry* – Martha Lynn Thompson, CGB503306 L2
2. *Reperquissio* – Tim Waugh, From The Top Publishing 20162 3-5 L2
3. *Brethren We Have Met To Worship* – Littleton, Ringing Word RW8069 3-5 L3

Tentative Schedule:

8:00 – 8:45	Registration and Set-up (Swift Gym)
8:45 – 9:00	Announcements and Opening Bell
9:00 – 10:15	Massed Rehearsal I
10:15 – 10:30	Break (light refreshment provided)
10:30 – 11:20	Morning Workshop (various locations TBA)
11:30 – 12:30	Massed Rehearsal II
12:30 – 1:10	Lunch (on your own). Beverage will be provided.
1:15 – 2:00	Afternoon Workshop (ALL in Swift Gym)
2:00 – 2:15	Break
2:15 – 3:15	Massed Rehearsal III
3:00	Sharing Concert (open to the public)

'Dig Into the Music!' Enhance Your Ringing Experience

Morning Workshops. Morning workshop sessions will be assigned based on ringing positions (low, middle or high bells). Expert clinicians will address specific issues related to these bell ranges helping you to improve your techniques and musicality using the massed repertoire.

Afternoon Workshop. After lunch, Tim Waugh will lead a massed workshop presenting some of his unique workshop activities to improve your rhythm and musical style.

Clinicians

Massed Conductor, *Tim Waugh*. To learn everything there is to know about Tim go to:
<http://www.timwaugh.com/>

Morning Workshop Clinicians: Andy Wallace – High bells; Dan Moore – Mid bells;
Ed Henderson – Low bells

REGISTRATION FORM

Rhode Island *SPRING RING*, Saturday, May 3, 2008
ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SWIFT GYM
Corner of Pierce and Church Streets, East Greenwich, RI

REGISTRATION DEADLINE April 1, 2008
PLEASE PRINT

Your Name _____ AGEHR Membership # _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone (____) _____

Name of your Church/School Handbell Choir _____

- We are bringing _____ octaves of bells
- We are bringing our own tables and foam. Total length: _____ feet
- We need to rent tables: _____ 8' tables @ \$15.00/table (provide your own foam)
(limited rental tables available)
- I/We will share the following selection at the closing concert:
Title _____ Composer _____
Performers (solo, ensemble, full choir) will be: _____

Total for registration: # member registrants from reverse side @ \$25.00):	\$ _____
Total for registration: # non-member registrants from reverse side @ \$30.00):	*\$ _____
Total cost for table rental (# 8' tables @ \$15.00):	\$ _____
Enclosed is my check paid to " AGEHR, Area I – Rhode Island " for:	\$ _____
<i>One check per group, please.</i>	

Mail this completed form (both sides) with your check to:

Karen Walker, RISR '08 Registrar
145 D' Agnillo Drive
Warwick, RI 02818

Questions? Call 401-885-1660 or e-mail: piwackit@aol.com

Registrations received after April 1 will be placed on a waiting list.
Space is limited!

There are no separate ringing divisions. All registrants are expected to ring all three pieces. Floor placement is by postmark of completed and paid registration; first come, first served
REFUND POLICY. Refunds requests received before April 1 will be charged a \$25.00 processing fee. **NO REFUNDS AFTER April 1.**

RI Spring Ring '08 REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT each registrant's **full name** and **bell assignment** (ex. C6-D6)

NAME	Ringing ASSIGNMENT
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____
13. _____	_____
14. _____	_____

Please indicate any positions available to 'orphan' ringers.

— PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS. —

***Ringers in choirs whose director holds an AGEHR membership are considered 'members.'**

AGEHR membership information is available from the Registrar.

DETAILS, DETAILS

What To Bring: Lunch, Bells, Gloves, Music Stands, Tables and Pads, Comfortable Footwear.

Sharing Concert: Please consider presenting a piece at the final Sharing Concert. This is a great opportunity to perform in a non-threatening environment! You will never have a more appreciative audience.

Registration: Please read and fill out the registration materials carefully. Note the Deadlines and Refund Policy. Make a copy of your completed registration form for your records.

This event is organized and sponsored by the *Rhode Island Handbell Advisory Board* (RIHAB): Kim Allard, Patrick Campbell, Carolyn Gardner, Gayle Keinard, Dan Moore, Priscilla Rigg, Karen Walker, Michael Walker, treasurer Barbara Ward.



Handbells on the Radio?

- Have you ever wished there was a radio station or tv program that talked only about handbells?
- Do you wish there was a place you could go for current information on concerts, techniques, and news from the handbell world?
- What if it was available for download off the internet so you could listen whenever you wanted?
- What if it was it easy and automatic and FREE?

Welcome to the Handbell Podcast, a place where handbell enthusiasts get together to talk about everything handbells. You may have heard the term podcast, but did you know that you don't need an iPod to listen. You can listen on your computer, burn the show to a CD, use any MP3 player or just listen live. All you need is a computer with and internet connection.

Hosts Dean Jensen and Paul Weller create two shows each week filled with handbell related

content including interviews with clinicians, publishers, composers and other people from the handbell community, as well as music reviews, education segments, emails from the listeners, and discussions about different handbell topics each week. The content of each show is driven by the comments and requests from listeners. The Handbell Podcast strives to promote the great community surrounding this wonderful instrument! People from around the world are getting together to talk about handbells.

How do you get involved and listen? The first thing to do is visit the show website at <http://www.handbellpodcast.com>. Here you will find a listing of each show complete with show notes, important links, direct download, subscription buttons and much more. From this site you will also find links to our community site, podcast store, iTunes, and other handbell-related places. If you would like to automatically receive the show each week, it's as simple as

downloading and installing the iTunes software from apple.com and doing a search for handbells in the iTunes Store. Once you have found the show, click on the subscribe button and each time you open iTunes, it will check for any new shows and automatically download it for you. Once downloaded, you can listen on your computer, burn the show to a CD, or transfer to your MP3 Player.

If you would like more information or have questions/problems with finding the show, you can email the Handbell Podcast at handbellpodcast@gmail.com. We hope you check out the show and join us each week as we grow the community and keep the conversations going.

The Handbell Podcast

Website:

<http://www.handbellpodcast.com>


Community:

<http://handbellcommunity.com>

Frappr Map:

<http://www.frappr.com/handbellpodcast>

Podcast Store:

<http://www.cafepress.com/handbellpodcast> 

LINK YOUR CHURCH WEBSITE TO OUR AREA 1 WEBSITE

For our members' benefit, we invite you to submit your church's website to be included on our Area 1 website.

Having your church's website listed, our members can easily get directions to concerts of interest and contact information for directors.

Submit your church or group website to the Area 1 Webmaster at webmaster@agehrarea1.org

Editor's Note: I've heard about the Handbell Podcast for a while now, but only listened recently to their last four shows. It is definitely worth a listen; fun and educational! Having iTunes on your computer makes it really simple to receive and listen (you don't have to own an iPod).

— BN

REPORT FROM VERMONT

Fresh from attending an Area I Board meeting, I can say with confidence that there are so many wonderful things happening in our part of the ringing world. As I was preparing this article, my thoughts turned with gratitude to the volunteers who put so much time and energy into providing engaging and supportive experiences for our directors and ringers. And to our directors and ringers who support one another and our art, and share our celebrations and challenges. Thank you.

Vermont Directors Roundtable: By newsletter presstime, the Directors Roundtable will have been held on Jan. 26, 2008, in West Lebanon, NH. Averill Tinker hosted the event. Directors were able to review Vermont Spring Ring 2008 repertoire in the morning with Karen James, Phil Brown and Jerilyn Bergdahl, directing. In the afternoon session, Karen James presented a workshop on memorization techniques.

Vermont Spring Ring 2008: Kingdom Rings, St. Johnsbury, VT, April 25—Directors' Workshop; April



26—Spring Ring. We are pleased to welcome Jason Wells as our clinician for the evening Directors' Workshop and Spring Ring the following day. Jason will also teach a class on "escaping the little black dots on the page" during the noon hour class period. Other classes during the noon hour include a reading session, Schulmerich bell maintenance, Morris dancing, "what you see is what you hear," and skill building. Committee members include: Phil Brown, facilities and chair; Joy Toll-Chandler, registrar; Kay Ellis, hospitality; Nancy Reynolds and Kim Strepka, publicity; Kathy Brown, Directors' Workshop.

Mini-Rings: Two mini-rings will be held this year, one on February 16 in St. Johnsbury, VT, hosted and directed by Phil Brown. The other mini-ring is scheduled for March 15 in Burlington, VT, hosted by Northern Bronze, a community handbell choir, and directed by Northern Bronze members. The mini-rings will focus on rehearsing Spring Ring 2008 repertoire and provide a chance for choir members to learn the repertoire in a smaller group setting and to get to know one another better. 🗑️

Jerilyn Bergdahl, Vermont State Chair

The Alleluia Ringers of Concordia University Wisconsin

under the direction of Dr. John Behnke will be making a mini-tour of New England. (Dr. Behnke is also AGEHR's Music Editor.) Concert venues are listed below and everyone is cordially invited.

**Thursday,
March 27**
7:30 pm Clifton Lutheran Church
150 Humphrey Street
Marblehead, MA
Mr. David Wurth
(781) 631-4379

**Friday,
March 28**
7:30 pm Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
54 Cedar Swamp Rd.
Smithfield, RI
Pastor Larry Nichols
(401) 232-7575

**Saturday,
March 29**
7:30 pm Immanuel Lutheran Church
154 Meadow St.
Bristol, CT
Mr. Vernon Koch
(860) 583-5649

**Sunday,
March 30**
9:00 am Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
8 Maple St.
Terryville, CT
Service Pastor Joel Kotila
(860) 582-0723

REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



This is STILL an exciting time to be looking for the next chairperson for Massachusetts! Our three state community choirs are recovering from their winter seasons, and auditioning new ringers. Back Bay Carillon, a new choir in the Back Bay Ringers organization, made two successful premier performances this winter in Danvers and Chestnut Hill, MA. Merrimack Valley Ringers won the race against a blizzard on their return from a concert in the great state of Maine in December, and the New England Ringers are looking forward to being the demonstration choir at our Area I Directors' Seminar in February, where they will enjoy the ministrations of our guest clinician, Kathleen Ebling-Thorne. Each choir has enjoyed a successful season of CD sales, and is looking forward to a busy spring.

Massachusetts' first Skill Building Workshop was a riotous success on Saturday, October 13, 2007 (which was the Area I "Holy Day of Obligation" with FOUR concurrent events across New England). The lunch of sloppy joes and apple crisp won the highest *Accolades* (get it? Ha ha ha!), and attendees also enjoyed the teaching of Jeannie Cushman, Carolyn Elmore, Holly Cerullo, and

Patrick Gagnon. Another workshop weekend is being planned for 2008.

Our second annual Massachusetts Spring Ring will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2008, at Tewksbury Memorial High School. Choirs are working on three pieces of music, solo selections, and we will enjoy another youth division massed piece. Brass will accompany two of the massed selections. Our conductors will be Ed Henderson, Jr., and Karen E. Leonard. Registration materials and audio clips of the repertoire can be found at www.agehrarea1.org.

Back Bay Ringers and Old South Church will co-sponsor the second-annual Boston Handbell Festival, which will feature community and church choirs from Area I, solo selections, massed ringing, and the donation of a new set of Malmark Choir-chimes to a local public school. This is a continuation of the longstanding Perkins Handbell Festival.

I continue to enjoy polite rejections from individuals approached about being Massachusetts chairperson. Sometimes I sit at home and cry, but usually I just make like a nail and "press on." Think of me when you smile and maybe my mood will improve. 🪛

Patrick Gagnon, Chair-Elect, AGEHR Area I

REPORT FROM MAINE



Maine is looking forward to an exciting and rejuvenated year in handbell ringing.

I am in the midst of circulating my name throughout the state and hopefully inspiring some old as well as new choirs to get ringing. I have heard of sets of handbells gathering dust in closets—I hope to get these bells out and ringing once more with encouragement and education!

Maine's Spring Ring will be held on Saturday March 29th, 2008, at Greely Middle School in Cumberland Center, Maine. Our directors will be Karen Leonard and Dan Moore. We hope to get a

lot of information out to the public and have a full attendance for our afternoon concert! Over the past years, attendance of ringers has grown and we expect that trend will continue.

Several skill building events are also in the works for later in the year throughout the state. Stay tuned to the next *Fundamental Tone* for dates, places and times.

My top priority for this year is to get a Community group up and ringing. It is in the works right now and hopefully will begin in the Fall! Until the next issue... 🪛

Brian Wilson, Maine State Chair

REPORT FROM RHODE ISLAND



Beginning in 2003, The Rhode Island Handbell Advisory Board (RIHAB) was formally organized to promote ringing activities in the state. Charter members were those who wanted to promote handbell ringing and have a stronger voice in the organization of ringing events. While living in a small state does have advantages, the Rhode Island leadership was at best inconsistent—during some years very active and at other times nearly invisible.

Under the leadership of Lori Kast, RIHAB moved ahead. Membership increased, financial records properly kept, and ringers in RI had activities to attend and be proud of. Except for a one-year tenure by Andy Wallace, the state chair position has remained vacant since Lori's retirement.

The first round of RI Handbell Workshops were held at various locations throughout the state (2003–04) offering two events focused on basic ringing techniques, and one event for directors, dealing with recruitment and retention of ringers, handbell assignments, teaching technique, and presentation. The premise was that the state membership would benefit from a series of varied, intense, and inexpensive workshops. Initial workshops were held on Saturday mornings for three hours with enrollment limited to 12 in each class. Registration fee was \$10.00.

During these years, under the watchful eye of State Chair Lori Kast, the Board continued to plan and implement a Spring Ring. Jean Degan was the massed conductor in 2004. As the Board assumed more and more responsibility for the organization of state activities, additional RIHAB members were recruited and tasks were assigned to implement activities and keep track of our organizational needs (financial and secretarial records).

It became clear that while each member of RIHAB was willing to pitch in, there was not one individual keen on assuming the state chairmanship. RIHAB, however, was becoming an increasingly strong force in the region. Although workshop registrations fluctuated,

the Board voted to persist, and expand the offerings. The Board felt that offering regular workshops as a series of events was the key to success.

The decision to again promote workshops was supported for the next few years. The 2005 Spring Ring, however, was cancelled due to low registration. Bill Alexander was to have been the clinician. That cancellation was both a fiscal and philosophical blow to the Board. That year also saw a sharp decrease in workshop registrations.

To counteract the problems of 2004–05, the Board agreed to support a new approach to the workshops, and replace the Spring Ring every other year with an invitational handbell festival concert modeled after The Perkins Festival in Boston. The invitational concert was a huge success, drawing choirs from both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The workshops became enhanced repertoire reading sessions with the clinician(s) choosing select pieces as teaching tools to convey specific ideas. The workshops have been well-received.

The 2008 RI Spring Ring will be May 3, in East Greenwich, RI. Tim Waugh is the massed director/clinician. Registration is limited, and all information about the event is on the Area I website.

Throughout this somewhat tumultuous period, RIHAB has been mindful of its obligations and responsibility to the Area I Board, and has made every effort to comply with policy and procedure, as well as the spirit of Area I. With the advent of more regular (we hope) representation, RIHAB looks forward to improved communication with the Area I Board and the membership.

RIHAB BOARD MEMBERS 2007–08

Kim Allard, Lincoln, RI
Patrick Campbell, Pawtucket, RI
Carolyn Gardner, South Kingstown, RI
Gayle Keinard, Peacedale, RI (secretary)
Dan Moore, Rumford, RI
Priscilla Rigg, East Greenwich, RI
Karen Walker, Warwick, RI
Michael Walker, Warwick, RI (treasurer)
Barbara Ward, Barrington, RI

— Reported by Dan Moore, RIHAB Board

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/advertising for publication is the 18th of the month prior to publication. It is distributed from 3 Sarasota Av., Nashua, NH 03060. If you would like to place an advertisement in the *Fundamental Tone*, contact Bill Noss (<editor@agehrarea1.org> or call 603-886-1512).

Advertising rates: Full page: \$80.00 (7.25" w. x 9.625" h.); Half page: \$50.00 (7.25" w. x 4.625" h.); Quarter page: \$30.00 (3.5" w. x 4.625" h.); Eighth page: \$20.00 (3.5" w. x 2.2" h.); Business Card: \$10 (3.5" w. x 1" h.). The preferred format for ads is a .jpg file.



Please let us know how we can serve you better!

Contact us at anytime at editor@agehrarea1.org.

And ***please*** keep your email and mailing addresses current by updating your information at AGEHR's national website: www.agehr.org.

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