

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. 2

May 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

October 11, 2008
**Second Annual Massachusetts
Skill Building Workshop**
Trinity Lutheran Church
Chelmsford, MA

November 1, 2008
High School Ringout
South Merrimack Christian
Academy, Merrimack, NH

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

January 24, 2009
Rhode Island Handbell Workshop
Barrington Congregational Church
Barrington, RI

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

Greetings All – If you are reading this, you have officially survived all that snow and the hustle and bustle of the Easter season. While I confess to enjoying the snow for a variety of reasons, I am glad to see it gone (almost) and appreciating all the new growth that is springing up. Speaking of growth, there has been much focus on growing our membership – how we can do that, what more can we offer to encourage new members, and how to retain current members. This is critical to our organization both on a local and a national level. I encourage each of you to seek out ringers and directors to become members and share the benefits you have found in being a member of AGEHR. On the other side of that coin, if you are a member and don't feel that being a member is or has not been of benefit, we need to hear from you. National is reaching out to the areas for input on how to better serve the membership – your input is critical if we are to meet the goals and membership retention and new members. Please feel free to contact any board member with your feedback.

So many events coming up! So many concerts coming up! So many folks working hard to provide educational events (or just come and have fun) and so many groups working hard on preparing for May and June concerts. Please check the Area I website for details on events and concerts that you can attend in your areas.

Also, please check out the details for the Adult Ringers Weekend later this year at Sunday River in Bethel, Maine. This is a beautiful site and we're working hard to make it a very special event.

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

Finally, make sure you have started your fundraising events so you can all attend Festival/Conference '09 in Orono. This is a venue that we have utilized before and it is shaping up to be a wonderful conference. There will be some changes in classes and clinicians who we are confident you will find helpful and meaningful for your ringing experience.

Enjoy the green grass, flowers, warmer weather and joyful ringing. 🗻

*Sue Henderson,
Area I Chair*

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our newest members to Area I

Claudia Hardy
Deep River, CT

Storrs Congregational Church
Storrs, CT

Jane R. Scott
Willimantic, CT

Kevin Verrette
West Roxbury, MA

Carol Washington
Weybridge, VT

Lincoln School
Providence, RI

Ella Saltonstall
Rockport, ME

Norma J. Atwood
South Yarmouth, MA

Carlene Ruesenberg
Concord, NH

Brooke O'Donnell
Marlboro, VT

Brownell Mountain School
Williston, VT

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)
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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 **Greg Fisher** (860-647-1470)
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

AGEHR Area I Board Ascribes to **POEMS**

What can POEMS do for you? At our May 2007 Area I board meeting, our chair, Sue Henderson looked at a brainstorming project we were using and uttered some now famous words – “can you rearrange those letters so that they form a WORD?!?” From that time forward POEMS was adopted into our mission as a board and informs all of the things we do, particularly in regard to event planning.

Performing Many of our events involve public performances, sharing concerts, reading sessions, and mini-concerts. Our ultimate goal and the most important one, the one all of the other lines of the POEM lead to, is bringing handbell music to as wide an audience as possible.

Organizing With such a glut of musical talent in Area I, we need to plan how we distribute that wealth! With teachers, composers, performers, event planners, and conductors at the ready, we hope to create events that fulfill the needs of our members.

Educating Not only because our founder was a special education teacher, not only because so many handbell directors, ringers, board members, and performers are also teachers, not only chimes in education are such an effective tool for developing so many competencies, and not only because we have such an effective chime loaner program, but also because everyone deserves to experience the sheer JOY of playing handbells. These are the reasons we educate.

Mentoring Have you been the lucky recipient of a mentoring session from an Area I mentor? Each state has a bevy of highly qualified handbell ringers, teachers, and directors who gladly

give of their time to new directors and ringers. Have you just purchased your first set of chimes or bells? Contact your state chairperson and ask for time with a mentor! You and your program will truly enjoy this experience.

Socializing The handbell community is spread across the globe, but is blessed with a very strong sense of community. “Bell people” do not need any help socializing, but it is very important to your board! Each event has a socializing or networking element for us to meet new colleagues, or to re-acquaint with friends we haven’t seen since the last bell event! If you have been at this a while you have “festival/conference” friends. If you are new to bells, come to FC09 and you will be issued at least ten “festival/conference” friends. They will be friends for LIFE! 🗡️

**www.
agehrarea1.
org**

**Here is a only a partial list
of what you'll find at
Area I's website:**

JOB LISTINGS

HANDBELL CONCERTS IN YOUR AREA

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Festival/Conference '09



Happy Spring! I am writing this on the first warm day of 2009. This weather reminds me how close the summer is and how much closer we are to our next Area I Festival/Conference at the University of Maine at Orono. So much work has already been done: repertoire has been chosen by an able committee, massed and divisional conductors have been hired, a world-class handbell ensemble has been contracted to perform our opening concert, music has been commissioned especially for this FC, classes and curriculum have been set, teachers have been invited, campuses and hotels have been visited, contracts have been negotiated and signed, and budgets have been calculated.

On the subject of budget I must here say a few unpleasant words: Pay. More. Money.

Everything we use and buy has seen exponential growth in cost over the past two years. In addition to that, the board chose UMaine at Orono knowing that it would be a more expensive campus than was the University of Rhode Island in 2007. Food and dorms would be more costly to begin with, and many choirs would have to travel a great distance to attend the festival. One paramount consideration, however, was that the University of Maine conference/catering department was exemplary at the 1999 Festival/Conference, and after a somewhat tepid experience with their counterparts in RI, the board felt it was time to return to the outstanding facility and colossally-gifted staff at Orono.

I had an enlightening experience talking with other area leaders in April at the National AGEHR Area Advisory Council in Dallas, TX. Other area festivals have a similar price structure, or even a less expensive registration fee than does our typical Area I FC. One difference that is VERY important to consider is that WE FEED AND HOUSE OUR ATTENDEES. Can you imagine 800 ringers going to

McDonald's for lunch? For 2009, we'll enjoy great facilities, a functional schedule, and a positive experience with all aspects of "room and board."

Before you flip to see the per-ringer costs of the 2009 festival, please understand that many rate structures were explored and this was the LOWEST option the board could entertain in order to ensure the viability of the both event and the area. Our financial lifeblood is generated in our biennial Festival/Conference and we need you to start your fund raising engines so that we can have 800 ringers at the Alford Arena in June of 2009.

Is your choir going to attend FC09 as a first-time group? Apply for the Elizabeth Bradford Scholarship! In 2007 four choirs were awarded partial registration fees and we hope to have ten applicants for 2009! Information on this scholarship can be found at www.agehrarea1.org.

Start saving your pennies for Festival/Conference 2009! Make sure you register early to get the reduced rates! I can't imagine a more perfect combination than your talent, our conductors' expertise, and the beauty of summer in Vacationland! 🍌

Patrick Gagnon, Chair, FC'09, Area I Chair-Elect

Festival Conference '09

June 25-28, 2009
Orono, ME

William Griffin,
Monica McGowan,
Conductors

Festival/Conference RATES

	<i>Early</i> (3/15/09)	<i>Regular</i> (4/15/09)
Single	\$349	\$373
Double	\$309	\$333
Commuter	\$219	\$243
Chaperone (non-ringing)	\$199	\$218

F/C '09 Handbell YOU!

We are very excited to announce that for FC09 we will be using a coordinated curriculum for our class offerings that has been designed by the FC09 Dean of Education, Daniel K. Moore. "DKM" has taught handbells for more than 30 years at The Wheeler School in Providence, RI, and has been chair of nearly every committee and subcommittee both locally and nationally since his involvement in handbells began. Recently retired as chair of the National AGEHR Certification committee, he has spent a year creating class descriptions, class and rehearsal schedules, and selecting faculty for our next FC.

Classes will be offered in several areas, including bell techniques, musicianship and music theory, conducting, and in the ever pop-

ular "fun" subjects (i.e., non-bell classes). What skills do you need to develop? *Handbell YOU!* will help you. Have you always wondered about a musicianship or music theory topic and haven't had the time or place to ask? *Handbell YOU!* is on the job. Does your conducting need a little TLC? Have no fear; *Handbell YOU!* is here.

Each ringing division will "break" from rehearsal and move to classes appropriate for that division's level and needs. Each ringer will be given a suggested "course of study" involving several classes to choose from in pre-registration. While we still CANNOT guarantee 100% fulfillment of any registrant's selections, by offering the same classes MULTIPLE times, we will come very close to that ideal. As always we

will have a class-card swap board for you to "trade-in" a card for a class you might have already taken for a class that interests you. If, however, everything that "DKM" tells me is true, FC09 will be a class "dream."

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of FC09, I really need to hear from you. As I said in an earlier FT article, I actually read each FC07 evaluation form (particularly those about me and my alarm clock issues). It is my job to plan and (as it were) execute FC09, but ultimately it belongs to YOU! It is my firm belief that *Handbell YOU!* will become an important part of each future AGEHR Area I Festival/Conference. 🖋️

*Patrick Gagnon, Chair, FC'09,
Area I Chair-Elect*

The Elizabeth Bradford Composition Contest WINNER ANNOUNCED

The Area I 2009 Festival/Conference Repertoire Committee is pleased to announce that **"With A Bold Voice," by Dr. Michael Mazzatenta of Mesa, Arizona** is the winner of the first biennial Elizabeth Bradford Composition Contest. The committee received ten excellent submissions and worked hard to come to this decision. We were impressed with the diversity in the offerings, and amazed by the quality of the writing across the board. Thanks to all composers who submitted works! Be on the lookout for the publication of "With A Bold Voice" by AGEHR Music, distributed by Lorenz. The Area I board is pleased to have played a part in the creation of new music for our instrument!

F/C '09 REPERTOIRE

TINS

1. Ring Jubilee – Susan E. Geschke, Agape 2437, 2–3 oct., L2
2. Praise Unfolding – Sandra Eithun, Choristers Guild CGB523, 3–5 oct., L1
3. Humbly I Adore You – Shawn Gingrich, Agape 2345, 3–5 oct., L1+

COPPERS

1. When We All Get to Heaven – Tammy Waldorp, Alfred 21855, 3–5 oct., L3
2. Coventry Carol – Michael Helman, Beckenhorst Press, HB294, 3–5 oct., L3+

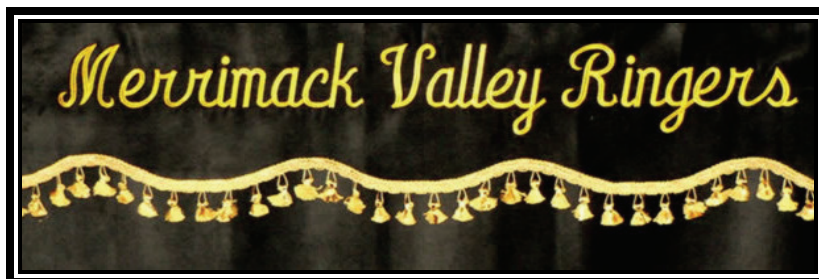
3. Bell Paeon – Derek K. Hakes, Beckenhorst Press, HB288, 3–5 oct., L3-

BRONZE

1. Prelude on “Herzliebster Jesu” – Fred Gramann, AGEHR AG47002, 4–7 oct., L5
2. Dance of the Reed Flutes – Tchaikovsky/Griffin, Flammer, HP5219, 5 oct., L5
3. A Walk in The Park – Karen Buckwalter, Beckenhorst Press HB250, 4–6 oct., L5
4. Fantasy #4 – Michael Helman, Beckenhorst Press, HB312, 3–6 oct., L4 (new 2008)

MASSED:

1. With a Bold Voice – Michael Mazzatenta – (Area I Composition Contest Winner) AGEHR Nov 2008, 3–5 oct., L3
2. On This Day Earth Shall Ring – Cathy Moklebust, Choristers Guild CGB461 (Ringer Part) 3–5 oct., L3, [Choristers Guild CGB460 (Full Score)]
3. What Wondrous Love is This – arr. Arnold Sherman, Agape 2392, 3–6 oct., L3-
4. Celebration – Fred Gramann, Lorenz 20/1397L, 3–5 oct., L2+



“Handbells for any occasion!”

Join this auditioned community handbell ensemble as they present their new tour – featuring an advanced & dynamic repertoire, perfect for “ringing in” Spring!

May 16, 2008 – 7:30pm
St. Christopher's Church
Nashua, NH

May 17, 2008 – 7:30pm
West Chelmsford UMC
Chelmsford, MA

May 18, 2008 – 3:00pm
Christ the King Lutheran Church
Wilbraham, MA

Also appearing at handbell festivals
in Danvers, MA and Boston, MA!

Visit our website for more details:

www.mvringers.com

Announcing

AGEHR, Area-I, Inc.

High School Ring Out 2008



FEATURING: Nationally recognized clinician **Monica McGowan**, Founding Director of *Twin Cities Bronze*

WHEN: Saturday, **November 1**, 2008

WHERE: South Merrimack Christian Academy, Merrimack, NH

COST: \$15 per ringing participant

DETAILS: Repertoire, schedule and other details will be published in the August Fundamental Tone and at www.agehrarea1.org If you would like details as soon as they are available in mid-May, e-mail Phil Brown, HSRO registrar at stjmusic@sover.net and ask to be added to the HSRO e-mail list.

AGEHR Area I Board sponsors this event so we can bring in a nationally known director and offer our high school ringers an exceptional event.



Monica S. McGowan holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska. Ms. McGowan has directed handbell choirs in Episcopal, Methodist, and Lutheran churches from Louisiana to Minnesota for over 15 years. She brings her background of education, teaching and extensive training in Handbells and Handchimes to both the conducting podium and the workshop setting in local, regional, and international conferences and handbell festivals and music camps, and events of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. (AGEHR). She has received handbell instruction from Donald Allured, William Payn, Dr. Paul Rosene, Michael Keller, and William Griffin. She was accredited in the first AGEHR Master Class in conducting receiving certification as Massed Conductor, Level One. She has served on the Area and National Board of directors for AGEHR, Inc. and her articles have appeared in the *Overtones*.

This is an opportunity not to be missed. Do your program and your young ringers a favor and put the 2008 High School Ring-Out on your calendars now!

Why Attend a National Director's Seminar?

Last August, I packed my bags and headed down to Dallas, Texas, for the AGEHR National Director's Seminar. I was excited to be attending my first national event, despite the sweltering August heat in Dallas. I had a rather long list of people that I have chatted with through e-mail that I was hoping to finally meet in person. I walked into the Westin in Dallas and was greeted by Area I's own Karen Leonard and AGEHR President Jenny Cauhorn. (Jenny was frantically assembling an interesting display that I much later learned was supposed to be an inverted handbell.) I continued to proceed through the check-in line and was greeted at the end by composer and arranger, Fred Gramann, who was in charge of handing out ribbons.

I looked through the list of workshops being offered and realized that I was surrounded by some of the most influential leaders in our field. Tim Waugh, Mike Joy, Susan Berry, Arnold Sherman, Kathy Ebling-Thorne and so many others were attending and teaching a variety of workshops at this one event. During the four days, I also had an opportunity to hear several amazing performances of ensembles from across the county including Bronze Works under the direction of Kay Cook, The Alleluia Ringers from Concordia University, The East Texas Handbell Ensemble and the Raleigh Ringers. Simply listening to and watching these high level ensembles was an incredible learning experience and worth the trip.

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Area I chime loaner program



Let AGEHR introduce the beauty of Handchimes to your school through our free chime loaner program.


What you will receive:

- A one year membership to AGEHR.
- Three octaves of handchimes to use for one school year.
- Quality teaching resources
- Mentoring by local music educators familiar with handchimes.

For more information visit us online at www.agehrarea1.org

What is truly amazing about attending a national event like Director's Seminar, is the opportunity to meet and talk with so many other directors who have so much to share. I had a chance to meet several community ensemble directors and discuss issues around recruitment, fundraising, repertoire and marketing. We as directors do not have enough opportunities to continue our own learning. We become focused on teaching our ringers about their techniques and helping them to become the best musicians they can be. While the process of teaching is in itself an incredible learning experience, we need to take the time to recharge our own learning. Attending local learning events such as festival conference, directors' seminar and various skill building workshops provide valuable opportunities for us to learn. Consider attending one of the Master Classes in conducting or composing or even the National Directors' Seminar. I enjoyed the learning opportunities I had while attending

National Seminar and I'm sure that you will come away also having learned so much and having met many wonderful new friends.

National events can be costly, and Area I would like to help support some of our member's efforts in attending these important learning opportunities. Please take the time to visit our website to learn more about the Elizabeth Bradford Scholarship. This scholarship is perhaps best known for helping bring ringers to our Festival Conference; however, an equally important aspect of this program is dedicated to helping our director members attend learning events like National Seminar. 

Author Griff Gall is Area I's Education Liaison. He teaches music at Danvers Elementary School, in Danvers, MA, and is a founder and director of Back Bay Ringers.



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

Upcoming Concerts

Sunday May 18 5:00 PM	Meeting House at First Congregational Church 3624 Main Street, Manchester, VT Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 students
Tuesday May 20 8:00 PM	Boston Handbell Festival Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street Boston, MA
Sunday June 1 7:00 PM	Faith United Church 52 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door; high school age and younger free with adult
Sunday June 15 7:00 PM	First United Methodist Church 25 Church Street, Greenfield, MA Tickets: \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door; children 12 and under free
Saturday June 21 2:00 PM	First Congregational Church of Thomaston 135 Main Street, Thomaston, CT Tickets: \$10; \$5 18 and under
Sunday June 22 4:00 PM	First Church Congregational UCC 26 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA Tickets: \$11 in advance, \$13 at the door

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 Summer 2008 and the 2008 Holiday Season.



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.

Boston Area Handbell Choirs Come Together to Bring Music To Schools

Boston – For the second year in a row, a Boston area school is getting a special gift. The music department will receive two octaves of Malmark Choirchimes as the result of an innovative fundraiser sponsored by the Back Bay Ringers.

The Boston Handbell Festival, to be held May 20, 2008, at Boston's historic Old South Church, culminates in the presentation of the donated Malmark Choirchimes to a representative from the chosen school. The event is sponsored by the Back Bay Ringers and Old South Church, and, in addition to ensembles from those organizations, features performances by the New England Ringers, Merrimack Valley Ringers, and the Shoreline Ringers. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be applied toward the cost of the chime purchase.

"We started the Boston Handbell Festival to honor Boston's long connection with handbell ringing," says Griff Gall, artistic director for the Back Bay Ringers. "It continues the tradition of the Perkins Festival, held for years in the same location. This is also a great way to showcase some of New England's most talented advanced ringing ensembles, all in one place."

Concertgoers are treated to a variety of handbell music, ranging from the secular to sacred, including both original compositions and arrangements of standards from other musical genres. Each group will perform two solo pieces, and all will participate in massed ringing to begin and end the concert. Karen Leonard, director of the Merrimack Valley Ringers, is charged with the difficult task of leading the massed ringing – with only a half hour rehearsal to prepare.

"It can be a challenge to get all the groups to agree on what the tempo and interpretation of the massed pieces will be in a 30-minute rehearsal before the concert, but that challenge is one of the things I really enjoy," says Leonard. "The various groups prepare the massed selections with their own directors, then have to get used to my conducting in a very short period of time. The fact that it works is a testimony to the musicality of the ringers. They are well-rehearsed when they arrive, which allows them the freedom to watch me. It is a thrilling experience to be able to make music together."

"I think the art of handbell ringing is always improved when ensembles have a chance to see one another perform," explains

Peter Coulombe, director of the Old South Ringers. "You can learn so much from watching what another group does, from musicality to choreography. As a director, I can use this shared experience to point out things that were good and worth emulating, and everyone will know what I'm talking about."

The concert program is designed to be accessible to those unfamiliar with handbell music, but much care is taken to make sure handbell enthusiasts and the music-savvy Boston audience are entertained as well.

"One of the biggest reasons we sponsor this event is to introduce advanced handbell music to a much wider audience," says Patrick Gagnon, associate director of Back Bay Ringers. "This stunning venue, the history of the Perkins Festival, and the ability that five choirs have in terms of event promotion ensures the success of this performance and its most important donation of chimes. BBR is always looking for new ways to turn people on to our somewhat insular way of making music. This event is a draw for Boston's music lovers as well as our 'handbell groupies.' Our audiences have always included people who are hearing handbells and chimes for the first time."

It was that same goal that inspired the chime donation program. Serving as education liaison to AGEHR Area I and working as a music educator in a Boston suburb showed Griff Gall how elementary-aged children benefit from the opportunity to play on chimes.

“Chimes are a terrific instrument to use with children because of their versatility,” says Gall. “One set of chimes can engage many students in active music-making. Teachers can create concrete hands-on learning experiences for complex musical ideas such as key signatures, scales, tonality, and accidentals with the chimes. They can also help build independence in reading and performing rhythms and maintaining a sense of steady beat.”

Karen Leonard adds, chimes can spark a passion for music that stays with children their entire lives. She says she’s seen those results first hand, through her

program at church.

“Children I had 28 years ago have grown up, gone away to college, and are now back ringing as adults — or contributing in some other way to the musical life of the church and community. I would like to think it was their early exposure to a successful musical experience that made the difference, and got them hooked on music.”

Although AGEHR Area I currently coordinates a chime loaner program to schools within the coverage area, Gall felt it was important to ensure chimes become a permanent addition to music curricula. The selected school will receive its own two-octave set of Malmark Choirchimes, as well as beginner sheet music to help with classroom use. In addition, the teacher who made the application will receive a consultation session with Gall on how to teach with chimes, and will be

invited to sit in on a Back Bay Ringers rehearsal that includes a chime demonstration. Schools from all over the Boston metro area have been invited to apply. The application deadline is April 25.

“For me, this is a way to ensure the long term relevance of our unique art,” says Gagnon, who is currently Chair-Elect of Area I. “Current thinking in many school districts aligns music education with extracurricular activities rather than core curriculum. This tragedy manifests itself first in dwindling budget allocations given to classroom music teachers, then in the loss of teaching positions. Yet in the face of this negativity, here is an event where almost 100 musicians will prepare repertoire, publicize, promote, attend, and give financially so a group of children they don’t even know will be able to experience the art of ringing. It doesn’t get any better than that.”

“That’s the best part about the Boston Handbell Festival,” says Coulombe, “bringing people together to accomplish something none of us could do alone.”

Author Kelly Isenor has been ringing handbells off and on since she was 8 years old, and counts an annual performance with Boston’s Handel and Haydn Society at Symphony Hall as one of her favorite musical opportunities. Currently working as a freelance writer, she enjoys traveling, cooking, or just curling up with a good book.

IF YOU GO:

Boston Handbell Festival

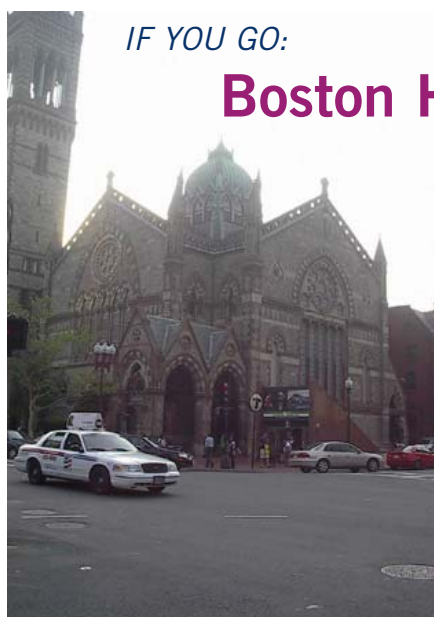
When: Tuesday,
May 20, 2008, 8 p.m.

Where: Old South Church,
645 Boylston St,
Boston, MA 02116

Cost: Free (reserved
seating not available)

Wheelchair Accessible

More information:
www.backbayringers.org



Fundraising: One Idea

Almost every recent Area newsletter I've read contains an article about fundraising to help pay your choir's way to Festival/Conference. And why do we all go to Festival? Because it's fun, and nothing will help get your choir ringing at a higher level than the teambuilding and training available at F/C.



Some of the fundraising ideas from other Areas: 1) give a concert and accept a freewill offering, 2) print cookbooks using choir members' favorite recipes, 3) print and sell calendars, 4) sell flowering plants and bulbs, and, of course, 5) hold bake and food sales. (And don't forget to look into Area I's Bradford Scholarship to help first-time attendees pay their way.)

I had a wonderful conversation in February at the Directors' Seminar with Mary Divers of Laconia, NH. One of our discussions concerned her Good Shepherd Lutheran Church choir's fundraising efforts. They decided that making and selling chili on Super Bowl Sunday was sure to be a hit! My local high school's Music Boosters does a similar fundraiser—pre-selling and delivering subs on Super Bowl Sunday. It's a great idea to lessen the work of inviting people over for the game, and your choir's supporters are sure to love it.

Mary's choir members decided upon the recipe after members submitted their recipes for tasting.

**CHECK OUT
AREA I'S WEBSITE:
WWW.AGEHRAREA1.ORG**

Here is a only a partial list of what you'll find:

**JOB LISTINGS
HANDBELL CONCERTS IN YOUR AREA
EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS**

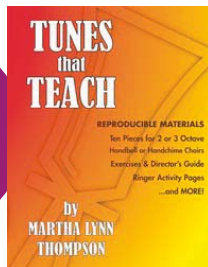
Then it was time for orders! All orders were pre-sold, to be picked up the day before the event, some fresh and some frozen. Their choir used heavy-duty Ziploc bags to package the product, but next year will use paper or plastic soup containers for packaging, after finding the Ziploc bags hard to handle. — *Editor*



Photo From
**RHODE ISLAND
SPRING RING**

Saturday, May 3
St. Luke's Episcopal
East Greenwich, RI

Director Tim Waugh shares some mind-stretching exercises with participants of RI Spring Ring.



“As directors, we are all teachers!”

Tunes That Teach:

By Martha Lynn Thompson

Open up the book *Tunes that Teach* and the first page reads, “Permission to photocopy the exercises and pieces in this book is hereby granted to one teacher or director as part of the purchase price.” This is just one of the many features of this new resource published for AGEHR. This resource is divided into twelve units with each unit centered on a song that has been printed in both a two octave and a three-octave version. Each unit contains a collection of exercises designed to address musical challenges in the specific song. A teacher notes page that lists learning goals, suggestions for teaching and historical and cultural context for the arrangement is also included in each unit. All of the arrangements in this book have multiple titles that allow them to be performed in a variety of settings including worship or as part of a public school music program. This book also contains a guide to Handbell Notation and a glossary of Music Terms that can be photo copied for your ringer’s binders. The back of the book contains a few simple worksheets for identifying note names on the staff, and a few word searches. The words searches might be good to have in the ringer’s folders to keep them out of trouble if you are working with another section during part of a rehearsal.

The ten pieces of repertoire selected for this collection provide a wonderful variety of classical tunes and folk melodies. The tunes include, English County Dance (All things Bright and Beautiful,) Austria (Glorious Things of thee are spoken,) and Trumpet Tune in C. The Native American Melody I would use with caution, as I have not been able to verify the authenticity and appropriateness of this selection. (There is much debate over the use of Native American music because melodies were often taken from the culture with out general consent for performing the melody out of context. If I did choose to perform this selection, I would not play the accented drum beat as written, instead it would be more appropriate to keep the drum beat

free of accents, playing each beat evenly.) This book is not intended as a “method” for teaching ringing. The repertoire is arranged by difficulty and Thompson has carefully introduced new techniques through out the book in a logical order that provides a clear teaching path.

Thompson writes, “As you use this material, you should not only think like a handbell/handchime director, but you should also think like a teacher. As directors, we are all teachers!” Her enthusiasm for developing real musical learning, as opposed to just teaching a song for a performance is clear through out this terrific resource. I hope that we see more resources like this that provide such clear learning opportunities for both directors and ringers! 🛠️

This review is the opinion of Griff Gall, Area I Education Liaison.

LINK YOUR CHURCH WEBSITE TO OUR AREA I WEBSITE

**For our members' benefit, we invite you to submit
your church's website to be included on
our Area I 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 I Webmaster at
webmaster@agehrarea1.org**

Things You (may) Need to Know About Traveling With Handbells

The Wheeler School Concert Ringers' Trek to Florida

- **Did you know** that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will only open your handbell cases at the airport if you are carrying heavy metal such as C3 – F3.
- **Did you know** that your manufacturer's cases are not made to withstand the rigors of repeated air travel? They look nice in your closet and will last there indefinitely.
- **Did you know** that directing twelve sun-burned teens is somewhat like trying to get penguins to ring handbells? It just isn't right!
- **Did you know** that an adult handbell director can go for 96 hours without sleep?



The music, you ask? What about the music? Did they play well? Were the audiences receptive? A friend who previewed the tour program* months before we left and remarked that I had lost my mind; surely no sane person would program that


repertoire all at once, especially for high school ringers. My reply was simple: you gotta keep 'em busy or pay the consequences of boredom, feigned mental fatigue, and imaginary aches and pains. Was every note perfect? No. Was every rhythm crisply accurate? No. Are they ever? That's the handbell director's ultimate dream. What there was, however, was genuinely grand music

These are but some of the lessons learned from the Concert Handbell Ringers of the Wheeler School's recent tour to Florida. A year's planning is just barely enough. The Providence-to-Tampa non-stop flight was easy; locating rental vans in the parking garage was not quite so easy; finding our way to a rendezvous point to pick loaned pads and covers was a challenge; finding our motel in Bradenton was next to impossible. And that was only day one!

Touring with a teen handbell choir is always full of surprises—such as Bill Griffin (past AGEHR President and music editor) showing up for our first concert after a two-and-a-half hour drive (he spent most of his time helping the audience find seats!). That was a surprise and an honor! What a surprise to find that every sanctuary we played in seated a minimum of 900 people, had room for three or more handbell choirs to set up at once, and had built-in audio and video recording equipment.

making, communication and interaction with the audiences, and most importantly, a growth and transformation within each ringer—a commitment to do the best job possible.

We'll get back to Florida again, someday. In the meantime we are indebted to the ringer's parents for their support, to our school for making such a trip feasible, to the concert hosts for providing excellent venues (and meals), and to the leadership of Florida's AGEHR chapter for their support.

* If you'd like a copy of the program, email me at danielmoore@wheelerschool.org 

Dan Moore is Director of the handbell program at The Wheeler School, Providence, Rhode Island. The program begins in fourth grade with handchimes and continues with handbells through high school.

REPORT FROM MAINE

Maine recently held their spring ring in our new space at Greely Middle School. I am happy to report that the day was a huge success. As in years past, we handed out a review form and were pleased to note so many positive comments! It is always nice to bask in our accomplishments, but nicer to be already thinking of future experiences and happenings to encourage more participation in the AGEHR and handbell ringing.

I had the chance to do a lot of observing at the Maine festival and watched the rehearsals. I was amazed at the wonderful skills different choirs possess. I was also amazed at some of the ringing techniques I observed, and frankly it makes me really nervous that a lot of people may be potentially ready to injure themselves! Hence, I feel a sudden calling to get some education going on healthy ringing in choirs. Skill building workshops have not



been happening in Maine, and with some encouragement from our own Area I chair elect, Patrick Gagnon, I have elected to hold at least one this year, hopefully in October.

I am still working on getting the word out to all choirs about AGEHR, and my role as state chair.

Please be aware of some outstanding opportunities for all Area I to be held in our great State of Maine. The adult ringer's weekend will be November 7–8 in Bethel, at the wonderful Sunday River Resort. The Festival/Conference for Area 1 in 2009 will be held in Orono on June 25–29. Check the Area 1 Webpage for more information! I am also negotiating a concert to be performed in the Portland area by The New England Ringers for May 2009—stay tuned for details.

Finally I am getting closer to my dream of getting a community group started. My goal is to have our first meeting in September! ✍️

Brian Wilson, Maine State Chair



back bay ringers 2008 spring performances

HIGHLANDS HANDBELL FESTIVAL
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 7:30 PM
HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
190 HOBART STREET
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 8:00 PM
OLD SOUTH CHURCH
645 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING CONCERT
FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 7:30 PM
CLIFTON LUTHERAN CHURCH
150 HUMPHREY STREET
MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING CONCERT
SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 7:30 PM
ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
16 GREAT ROAD
SUDBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

SUMMERSDAY
FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 5:30 PM
BOSTON CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTER
415 SUMMER STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.BACKBAYRINGERS.ORG

REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



This is STILL an exciting time to be looking for the next chairperson for Massachusetts! Our three **community choirs** are revving up for busy Spring seasons including performances in churches for concerts and weddings, and in secular venues. Look for listings of concerts by the Back Bay Ringers (including the Back Bay Carillon and Back Bay Quartet), the Merrimack Valley Ringers (including 4/16 MVR and the MVR trio), and the busy New England Ringers on their biennial New England tour.

Our second annual **Massachusetts Spring Ring** was held on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at Tewksbury Memorial High School. Eighteen choirs were present to share solo selections and to ring four massed pieces in our public concert. Ed Henderson and Karen Leonard were our celebrated massed conductors. It was a joy to see so many familiar faces at this event!

Join the Old South Ringers, Back Bay Ringers, Back Bay Carillon, Shoreline Ringers, New England Ringers, and Merrimack Valley Ringers on Tuesday, May 20 at 8:00 p.m. at Boston's historic Old South Church for the second annual **Boston Handbell Festival!** This event is co-sponsored by Back Bay Ringers and Old South Church and will give away a brand new set of Malmark Choirchimes

to a local public school. Last year's recipient will be on hand to see the tradition continue!

Massachusetts is going to host a second annual **Fall Skill Building Workshop** at Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 11, 2008. This event will be for you and your beginning ringers, both youth and adults! For a small fee you will receive FIVE classes and a FABULOUS lunch. Music will be available for purchase and several of Area I's master teachers will be on hand sharing their expertise.

2009 will see the return of the **Massachusetts Youth Spring Ring!** A small committee met at the 2008 Directors' Seminar to plan this event and I can't wait to see it come to life. If you have an interest in this event, and have a youth choir, please watch this space, the Area I website, and your mailbox for information!

Can you write a five-paragraph article about the amazing handbell happenings in Massachusetts? Can you type emails and make phone calls to new AGEHR members who live in Massachusetts? Can you go to three meetings a year with a bunch of fun handbell people? If so, then **YOU need to be the next Massachusetts State Chair** for AGEHR Area I! Please contact me at PGa1820@aol.com if you are interested! ✍️

Patrick Gagnon, Chair-Elect, AGEHR Area I

REPORT FROM VERMONT



This past weekend the concert audience of over three hundred people at the **27th Annual Vermont Spring Ring** was spontaneously on its feet cheering as two-hundred-sixty-one ringers rang "Capriccio" under the direction of Jason Wells, clinician. The audience was stunned when the ringers closed their music to ring the encore from memory! Only a few ringers present knew or had seen this level 5 composition before they came to Spring Ring, so it was quite an accomplishment for the ringers and exciting for

everyone. One longtime director exclaimed that she was experiencing the most fun ringing that she had ever had and other comments were equally enthusiastic. Jason thrilled the group with his dynamic personality and directing style at both the Directors' Workshop on Friday night and throughout the day on Saturday.

Ringers at the Vermont Spring Ring represented thirty-one choirs mainly from Vermont, but also from New Hampshire and Canada. The event was held in St. Johnsbury, VT, at the St. Johnsbury Academy gymnasium and was hosted by committee members; Phil Brown, Kathy Brown, Joy Toll-

Photos from the

27TH ANNUAL VERMONT SPRING RING AND DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP

Photos Courtesy of Joy Toll-Chandler, Phil Brown, Nancy Reynolds



Chandler, Kay Ellis, Nancy Reynolds and Kim Strepka. Six classes were held during the noon hour; Escaping the Little Black Dots on the Page 101, Fine Tuning Schulmerich Bells, What You See Is What You Hear, Skill Building, Morris Dances, and Reading Repertoire Session.

In preparation for the Spring Ring, two **Think Spring Mini-Rings** were held; one in February hosted by Phil Brown, and the other in Essex hosted by Northern Bronze community choir. The purposes of mini-rings are three-fold: 1) to rehearse the Spring ring repertoire as a massed group and convey helpful ringing hints; 2) to provide a massed ringing experience for newcomers; 3) to meet other ringers and socialize. Judging from the comments and reactions of participants, mini-rings provide a welcome experience and participation continues to increase with over 80 ringers and directors taking advantage of this opportunity and attending this year. Plans are already in place to add a third mini-ring in the central part of the State next year. No fees are charged for mini-rings.

Upcoming Events

Directors will gather for the **Summer Directors' Meeting** at the home of Karen James in Pittsford,



VT, on July 16 at 10AM. Topics for discussion will include: preparations for an additional Think Spring Mini-Ring; plans for a Skill Building Workshop in Vermont this fall; evaluation of past events this year and setting dates and planning for events in the coming year.

The **Skill Building Workshop** held last October was the first ever hosted in Vermont. We are planning to hold another Workshop, potentially slated for this October. Look for more information on the Area website, Vermont e-newsletter, or other Vermont publications. ✏

Jerilyn Bergdahl, Vermont State Chair

REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



As the new state chair for Connecticut, I am still learning the ropes and gathering ideas for moving our art of handbell ringing forward in the state. I offer a hearty thanks to Sue Wilber, previous state chair, for helping me get underway. I welcome the opportunity to meet new friends and ringers in this new position, and I look forward to hearing ideas from everyone.

A few ideas floated so far:

- Re-establish a Connecticut Spring Ring in 2009
- Provide recognition for youth bell choirs, and design some specific events aimed at the younger ringers
- Organize an event where our community bell choirs can join with others to present a regional event/concert.


Upcoming events:

- Farmington Valley Spring Ring, May 4, at 4pm at First Church of Christ, Simsbury.
Participating choirs are: Avon Congregational

Church, First Congregational Church (Canton), First Church of Christ (Simsbury), Memorial United Methodist Church (Avon), and South Congregational Church (Granby).

- The Shoreline Ringers have concerts scheduled for May 16th and 17th, and June 13. They will also be joining five other elite groups at the always exciting Boston Handbell Festival on Tuesday, May 20. This is a continuation of the former Perkins Handbell Festival. More info is available on their website at shorelineringers.org.
- The Hockanum Valley Ringers will be performing at 7pm on April 26 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vernon and at the Glastonbury Community Center May 3 at 1pm. More information will be available (if I get it finished soon) on their website at hvringers.org.

Also in the planning stages is a repertoire reading session in Middletown, tentatively planned for October 11. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

I welcome all ideas for Connecticut and Area I activities. 

Greg Fisher, Connecticut State Chair

Keep Your Handbells Looking and Playing Their Best!

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1102	50 gram tube	\$8.50
1103	250 gram can	\$26.75
1104	1000 gram can	\$72.95



Cape Cod® Metal Polishing Cloths

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.

1001	Polishing Cloth	\$3.00
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Polishing cloths may cause staining of gloves or covers. Use with caution.



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 oz. package	\$3.95
1014	16 oz. package	\$11.95

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www.HandbellWorld.com

Maybe It's Time for More than Just Polish!

Just like any musical instrument, handbells play and sound better when they are properly maintained. Part of this maintenance should include regular servicing by trained professional technicians. Call us at 1-800-JHS-BELL to find out more about our Handbell Service Department or to schedule an appointment.

NOTES FROM
April 2008
AGEHR Area Advisory Council
Dallas, Texas


Patrick Gagnon represented Area I at the Spring Area Advisory Council meeting with the national officers in April, 2008. The meeting was held in Dallas, TX, at the Weston Park Central Hotel – the same hotel that hosted the AGEHR National Directors' Seminar in the summer of 2007.

- www.agehr.org is completely redesigned and online!
- Membership was discussed
 - ◆ How do we retain members after a one-year gift membership expires?
 - ◆ What are the benefits of being a member?
 - *Overtones*
 - Area I newsletter
 - Event attendance
 - In order to attend an AGEHR sponsored/endorsed event you *MUST* be a member of AGEHR!
 - ◆ Voting in national and regional AGEHR elections
 - ◆ Mentoring from local leaders
- Patrick met with Dr. John Behnke, AGEHR Publications Director, to discuss the impend-

ing publication of the first AGEHR Area I Composition Contest winner.

- A visioning session was held with the National AGEHR board with president Debbie Rice joining the session via Skype. The question to be pondered was:
 - ◆ **“In five years, what should the newspaper headlines for AGEHR be?”**

Discussion ensued about this salient point including suggestions from the Area I board, and from each of the twelve AGEHR area boards. Included in the discussion were suggestions for Educational programs and Artistic development in the handbell field. This was a spirited discussion and it was impressive to hear the multitude of ideas from board colleagues. AGEHR is a vibrant organization with passionate leaders! I am so glad to have been able to spend time with so many of them in Dallas.

Thank you for allowing me to represent Area I in this way! 

Patrick Gagnon, Area I Chair-Elect

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.

Deadline for next issue:
JULY 18, 2008

FIRST CLASS

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