FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1, Inc. • Handbell Musicians of America

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

Volume XXVI, No. 2

May 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 9–10, 2012 Adult Ringers Weekend Westbrook, CT

November 10, 2012 High School Ring-Out Amherst, NH



Handbell Musicians

MAY 15th! Boston Handbell Festival

Location: Old South Church 645 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116 (617) 536-1970

Notes From The Chair...



Welcome to Springtime! For some of us it means flowers blooming. For others it means Easter and still others SPRING RINGS!! When you read this, most of the area's spring rings will have been completed: Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire.

I am happy to announce that Martha Goodman has responded to the invitation to become the new Rhode Island State Chair. Rhode Island has been very active in the past with many workshops and rings. And I'm sure that it will be again under Martha's direction. I also want to thank Suzanne Bailey for showing an interest in becoming more involved with Rhode Island events and our Area board.

Board members Sue Wilber (chair-elect) and Kim Strepka (education liaison) recently attended the national board meeting in Chicago. Look for information from them in this publication about what is happening nationally.

Meanwhile, I am preparing to attend the International Symposium in Liverpool, England, this summer. It is exciting to see that some Area 1 members were accepted to the All Star choir. Krishna Ersson from Massachusetts (Back Bay Ringers) as well as former Area 1 ringer/ director Debra LeBrun, and one of her former Littleton ringers, David Anderson, will be representing the USA well. If you'd like to see the names of other "All Stars," they are listed on the national web site.

Speaking of All Stars, I am so excited that Kevin McChesney will be coming to Area 1 this fall for the Adult Ringers Weekend! Many of you know that Kevin was ill this past winter and had to cancel his time with us for the Director's Seminar. (Special thanks to David Harris of *(continued on page 2)*

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Visit the Area 1 website at **www.area1.handbellmusicians.org** or **www.handbellmusicians.org** for the National office website.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

(continued from page 1)

the Raleigh Ringers for filling in at the last minute!) So it's not too early to mark your calendar and note the new location for the Adult Ringers Weekend — Water's Edge Resort and Spa in Westbrook, CT, November 9–10, 2012. Come for the beautiful view right on the ocean, for the great ringing opportunity, the incredible meals and location near the casinos and great shopping. I understand that there will be live music in the lounge after rehearsals are complete on Friday night! I was nearly in tears at the beauty of the facility. I hope many can attend.

After the Adult Ringers Weekend location was signed, and Kevin McChesney agreed to come as clinician, I then received the paperwork from Phil Brown with the same date for the High School Ring Out. He too, had all the paperwork done and clinician signed. I wrote to both Ed and Phil to let them know of the conflict. While these are two totally different events, in different parts of the Area, they are still both sponsored by the Area and we try to avoid these conflicts at all times. At this point though, neither event can be changed. The Adult Ringers will be in Connecticut while the High Schoolers will be in New Hampshire. My apologies to all who would like to do both.

Starting this fall more educational opportunities will be introduced. Martha Goodman has come up with an educational initiative that is being reviewed by a committee from the Area 1 Board. Watch for exciting, in-depth workshops and classes.

Also exciting news for our editor of *Fundamental Tone* — Bill Noss became a grandfather! Congratulations to Bill and his family.

Jean Degan, Area 1 Chair

If you know of a school or church that owns bells but are not using them, please let us know. We may have a plan for getting them back into service. Email chair@agehrarea1.org

HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 OFFICERS

Elected Officers

Chair:	Jean Degan (860-543-3638)	
	chair@agehrarea1.org	
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National Liaisons		
	Kimharlaa Chranka	

Education: Kimberlee Strepka education@agehrarea1.org

Appointed Officers

Festival/Conference **Bill Noss** (603-886-1512) 2013 Chair fcchair@agehrarea1.org

Membership	Jane Nolan (860-464-2873)		
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Publications	Bill Noss (603-886-1512)		
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Webmaster	Linda S. Noss (603-886-1512)		
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	mechair@agehrarea1.org		
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	machair@agehrarea1.org		
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	nhchair@agehrarea1.org		
Rhode Island	Martha Goodman (508-928-2078)		
	richair@agehrarea1.org		
Vermont	Pat Pranger (802-446-2066)		
	vtchair@agehrarea1.org		

Notes from the National Leaders Meeting

On March 23 and 24,

Kimberlee Strepka, Area 1 Education Liaison, and Susan Wilber, Area 1 Chair-Elect, represented Area 1 at the National Leaders meeting at the Hilton Indian Lakes, just north of Chicago. The following is a combination of their notes, edited to relate to Area 1 member ringers and directors.



1. National Office Update

- To date, the New Initiatives campaign has received \$122,072 of the \$155,996 pledged.
- The 2012 Master Series will include Music Theory necessary for certification. Nationally, there are 156 registrants for certification.
- Distinctly Bronze, both East and West, were successes and next year's events are already being
 - planned.
- National Seminar in Cincinnati will include all certification courses for Level I certification.
- The All-Stars for this summer's International Symposium were recently announced.

2. Music Publishing Report: John Behnke shared all of the 2012 releases of AGEHR published music. Each meeting participant received a packet of music.

BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL

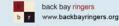
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012 8:00 pm Old South Church Boston, Massachusetts

Participating choirs in the sixth annual Boston Handbell Festival include: BACK BAY CARILLON BACK BAY RINGERS JUBILATE BELLS OF FCC READING MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS NEW ENGLAND RINGERS OLD SOUTH RINGERS

Admission is free

A free will donation will be collected. Proceeds from the donation will be used to purchase a two octave set of Malmark Choirchimes to be donated to a Boston-area school.

Event co-sponsored by:



Old South Church www.oldsouth.org

3. New Membership Proposal:

Membership continues to decline but at a slower rate than other similar organizations. Several new proposals for membership were presented; the national office is developing a new membership structure with increased benefits. Some of the membership dues will now be returned to the Areas to promote education and reduce costs for attending

area events. To reach out for new members, new member packets will be updated and streamlined and tabletop displays (as opposed to the old brochures) will be sent to each Area to display at events. There was a lot of conversation around the room about the changes to come in this area. (continued on page 4)

NOTES FROM NATIONAL LEADERS MEETING...

(continued from page 3)

3. Visioning with National

Board: We spent most of the first day visioning with the National Board. Some ideas/action items:

- Encourage membership the Board has adopted the motto "every member get one" and encouraged us all to do the same.
- While the New Initiatives campaign generated a much needed influx of cash we need to focus our future efforts on Planned Giving.
- The Board is still working on finding the most effective way to increase voter registration. In the last

election, there were a minimal number of responses and they would like increase the number of voters.

- The most immediate focus is the third phase of the Initiative – Membership.
- The Board would like to have a National Leadership representative at Area meetings, possibly using Skype computer program.
- Volunteer efforts need to be publicly acknowledged. The national office will highlight happenings and people if we make them aware.
- Some ideas for fundraising brainstormed between the Board and Area leaders include:

- New Legacy Society marketing materials
- A special meal
- Social Fundraising (NEON)
- Overtones articles
- Area buy-In and benefits
- Area leaders broke into small groups and were given the task of determining our vision for the future: "Assuming money, resources, and leadership are not problems, what should we focus on to strengthen our membership and be seen as a legitimate art?" Most groups felt we needed to focus on youth/young adults - where our future lies - and turn our efforts to becoming more visible in the arts world to cement our legiti-

Merrimack Valley 9 "Always Different-Always Fun!"

Now in their 10th year, this auditioned community handbell ensemble is celebrating their anniversary with a new tour, featuring favorite selections from concerts over the years and premiering a brand new piece by Arnold Sherman commissioned just for the group. Join them at an upcoming concert and be a part of the unique musical experience that is Merrimack Valley Ringers!

Tour dates include venues in Manchester, NH, Eastern & Western MA, and Martha's Vineyard.



For more tour details and information about the group and its members, visit our NEW website: www.mvringers.org macy. Other ideas: Resident artist programs, corporate sponsors/partners; Guild-owned bell sets; college certification programs; better leader training; seasonal publications; templates for event sponsor (event-in-a-box).

5. Rebranding and website

 Handbell Musicians of America is a trade name; AGEHR is still our legal name. It is not necessary to change Area bylaws or Area bank accounts. It was suggested that when signing contracts, AGEHR should still be the legal entity, but add "DBA Handbell Musicians of America" after AGEHR. All newsletters, events, Area email addresses, forms, and websites should reflect Handbell Musicians of America (e.g., *editor@area1. handbellmusicians.org*). Handbell Musicians of America is a way to market ourselves in a clearer way. Changing from AGEHR to Handbell Musicians of America at the national offices is about 98% complete.

- For issues with passwords or emails, please contact Sandy in the National office; she is in the office on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Mailing lists absolutely cannot be used for marketing purposes.
- Stationery: There is artwork available for the (continued on page 6)

Enlivening MUSIC

CONFERENCE 2012

Champlain College Burlington, Vermont

and WORSHIP



with Alice Parker Dr. Daryl Hollinger Rev. Bruce Epperly Dr. David Neiweem Karen James Peter & Mary Alice Amidon

July 29 to August 2, 2012



David M. Harris, Director

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Fundamental Tone

is a publication of the **Handbell Musicians of America Area 1** It is published four times per year at 3 Sarasota Av., Nashua, NH, Bill Noss, Editor (<editor@agehrarea1.org> or call 603-886-1512. Publication date is the first Monday in **February, May, August,**

and November. Editorial copy and advertising is due on the 18th of the month preceding publication.

Advertising Rates:

Full page: (7.25" w. x 9.625" h.) \$80.00; Half page: (7.25" w. x 4.625" h.) \$50.00; Quarter page: (3.5" w. x 4.625" h.) \$30.00; Eighth page: (3.5" w. x 2.2" h.) \$20:00. Payment is due before publication. Discounts are available for prepayment of two issues (-5%) and four issues (-10%). Preferred formats for ads is a .pdf or .jpg file.

NOTES FROM NATIONAL LEADERS MEETING...

(continued from page 5)

- rebranding at handbellmusicians.org/logos, and templates for letterhead, envelopes, and business cards that the Areas can also use are in the works. Do not combine two logos into one.
- There is a template available for Area websites. Not all Areas are using it and there was some discussion, on an informational level, as to "why?" There is a \$75 one time fee to set up the template website and no further costs. J.R. Smith is ready and willing to assist any Area that

wants to convert.

- National is working on a national registration system

 all funds would flow through National and then be disbursed to Areas as appropriate. They would need information on Area events at least one month ahead of time in order to set up registration for an Area event. This system will hopefully be online this summer.
- All leaders were encouraged to use of the Area Leader Resource Center.
- Membership: Katie stressed that the monthly membership email is important. Passwords have been sent to be used when

accessing reports, and a "how to" document will be uploaded to the website in the future to help with understanding the reports.

- The Fall Area leadership event will be held in Dallas; the topic will be based on feedback from Areas as to what they are looking for in training. Jenny should be contacted with areas of interest for future meetings.
- 6. Look for Area 1 to be featured in Board President Lee Afdahl's column in the next Overtones! He is spotlighting "grassroots" efforts in a chosen-at-random Area in each of his columns and Area 1 is the next issue's choice.

New England Ringers

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

Upcoming Concerts

Saturday, May 5	Webster Presbyterian Church
12:30 pm	Workshop 7:30 pm Concert
	550 Webster Rd., Webster, New York
Sunday, May 6	First United Methodist Church
3:00 pm	603 State St., Schenectady, New York
Saturday, May 12	First Parish Church
7:30 pm	9 Cleaveland St., Brunswick, Maine
Tuesday, May 15	Boston Handbell Festival
8:00 pm	Old South Church, 645 Boylston, Boston
Saturday, June 2	The United Church of Christ in Devon
7:00 pm	30 Ormond St., Milford, Connecticut
Sunday, June 3	Congregational Church
4:30 pm	175 Main St., Putnam, Connecticut
Saturday, June 23	Cross Street AME Zion Church
6:30 pm	440 West St., Middletown, Connecticut
Sunday, July 22	Open Rehearsal
2:00 pm	First United Methodist Church
	25 Church St., Greenfield, Massachusetts

Would your organization like to present an NER concert or host an NER-led Skill Building Workshop? Contact us at *info@newenglandringers.org* or call 978-851-3024. Host venues are currently being sought for the 2012 Spring and Holiday seasons and beyond.



Announcing: AGEHR, Area 1, Inc. High School Ring-Out 2012

FEATURING: Nationally recognized clinician, ringer and teacher **PL Grove** and <u>your</u> high school ringers !!

- WHEN: Saturday, November 10, 2012
- WHERE: Souhegan High School, Amherst, NH
- COST: \$20 per ringing participant

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

AGEHR Area 1 Board sponsors this event so we can bring in nationally known directors and offer our high school ringers an exceptional learning experience. Multi-generational and adult choirs are



welcome to attend.

For over 30 years, **Pamela** "**P.L.**" **Grove** has been at the forefront of handbell artistry in America. As a founding ringer with the critically acclaimed Sonos Handbell Ensemble, her more notable performances include those with the San Francisco Girls Chorus, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, the Kronos Quartet, Frederica von Stade and twice on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*. She is currently artistic director for Velocity Handbell Ensemble, and she has directed several church handbell choirs over the years. She continues to pioneer in the field of handbells, having recently become one of only a few people ever to receive a degree in handbell performance. While P.L. makes her living working for the government, she prefers to spend her time playing piano, singing, composing music, and playing handbells.

Do your program and your youth ringers a favor and put the 2012 High School Ring-Out on their calendars now!

Festival Conference 2013



University of New Hampshire and naers

You'll all be excited to know that we have a signed contract to hold our Festival Conference 2013 at University of New Hampshire. And, you may be even more excited that The Raleigh Ringers has agreed to perform at our opening concert Thursday evening AND teach classes on Friday and Saturday. We'll have more information for you in the August *Fundamental Tone*, but now is the time to begin planning to attend. I'll see you there! / Bill Noss, Festival 2013 Chair

REPORT FROM VERMONT

ERMON'

At the Vermont Spring Ring on April 28th, 248 attendees from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York attended, and one group from Quebec! The previous evening, David Weck led a workshop for 18 handbell directors. Spring Ring day was filled with

exciting classes ranging from basic ringing techniques to t'ai chi. Opening bell was at 8:45 a.m. and culminated with concert at 4 p.m. to a standing room only audience. The concert featured four massed pieces as well as solos by a number of choirs. David is an enthusiastic leader and brought out the very highest levels of musicianship. Plans are already under way for next year's Vermont Spring Ring in St. Johnsbury. 🧹 Pat Pranger, Vermont State Chair



hotos submitted by Karen

Middlebury High School, Middlebury, Vermont — The Vermont Spring Ring was held on April 28, directed by David Weck, director of The Agape Ringers of Chicago.

REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



The **Connecticut Spring Ring** was held on April 14 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Windsor. Over 100 ringers attended, and, from all reports, had a wonderful time. The ringers represented sixteen handbell choirs from Connecticut, and one from Massachusetts.

Karen Leonard was the guest conductor. Everyone appreciated her professionalism, humor and her patience! The massed ring pieces prepared for the afternoon concert were: *Prelude on Thaxted* (Helman), *Chanson* (Lowenberg), and *Joyful Rhythm* (McChesney). In addition, Karen held a workshop to prepare an advanced level piece, *Canticle of Praise* (Sherman). There were two groups who also rang at the concert: **Hockanum Valley Ringers,** and **Trinity Ringers** from the host church.

Nine other workshops were held, covering beginning and advanced techniques, rhythm, the everpopular boomwhackers, director's tips, bell maintenance, and ringing as prayer. Thank you to all my **Shoreline Ringers** friends and connections, who volunteered to lead work-

shops!). Thanks also to Jean Degan for staffing the Glove Tree; to Joyce Bridgman, who coordinated the merchandise from Handbell Services; to Steve Mazeau who coordinated loaners; and to all the groups who helped out by loaning equipment for the workshops.

Bob Gilbert and his ringers/musicians from Trinity were gracious hosts, supplying assistance and coffee and snacks. Thank you to all of them! Also, many thanks to Brian Hager, who served as event registrar.

Upcoming handbell concert(s) in Connecticut:

The Bell Choirs of the Congregational Church of Brookfield, on Sunday, June 3rd at 3:30 pm. Address: 160 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804 (at the corner of Rt. 133 and Rt. 25).

Mobby Larson, Connecticut State Chair

Over 100 ringers enjoyed the handbell ringing with the direction of Karen Leonard at Trinity United Methodist Church in Windsor, Connecticut. At bottom right is Michael Steele of Shoreline Ringers showing proper bell maintenance. Photos submitted by Mobby Larson.





Excerpt from Results of Handbell Survey

Editor's Note: In the recent February issue of Fundamental Tone and at our February Area 1 Directors Seminar, we asked our member directors that work with youth in a church setting to take an online survey. The following is an approved excerpt from that survey and thesis.*

Generation Z Youth In Today's Church Handbell Choirs

A basic knowledge of today's children and youth, and their unique characteristics, will assist a handbell director in building a healthy bell choir and developing relationships with ringers and parents. Children and youth currently populating church handbell choirs are referred to as members of Generation Z, commonly defined as people born between the mid-1990s and 2010. They are also known as Digital Natives. Generation Z is the first true "Internet" generation. Because they are native speakers of the digital world, they think and process information in a fundamentally different style from their predecessors.¹

A Generation Z member is comfortable with and even dependent on technology. A Gen Z member is constantly multitasking and always connected. He or she communicates through various social networking channels, often across countries and cultures. Generation Z is characterized as tech savvy, globally connected (in the virtual world), flexible, smarter, and brand loyal.²

Generation X (born between 1960 and 1980) is raising Generation Z with a high-involvement parenting style. Generation X saw a social trend of divorces and is expected to instill stronger family values, along with 'old' notions such as work ethic, etiquette, and resilience. This, along with better education, will make Generation Z more tolerant, respectful, and responsible. Young people not only incorporate instant access of voluminous information, but also identify how to process that information, make sense of it, and shape that information into more than patterns. As we process digital information faster and more frequently, the brain's wiring will change and deal with more information more efficiently.³

Bell choir directors should be willing to acknowledge and adapt to widespread cultural differences in today's youth. Successful leaders of young people are learning how to nurture creativity using means that were not necessary for previous generations. These leaders are challenged to assess behavior, as well as progress with the music and instrument, and weigh the outcomes. Our experiences with Generation Z musicians, and our knowledge of their unique characteristics, will influence our approach to maintaining vital children's and youth handbell choirs.

*Beth Ann Edwards, a student at Concordia University Wisconsin, is working on her Master of Church Music, Handbell Emphasis, degree. The preceding is excerpted from her final project, which is focused on children and youth in church handbell choirs.

¹ http://www.learningsolutionsmag.com/articles/80/

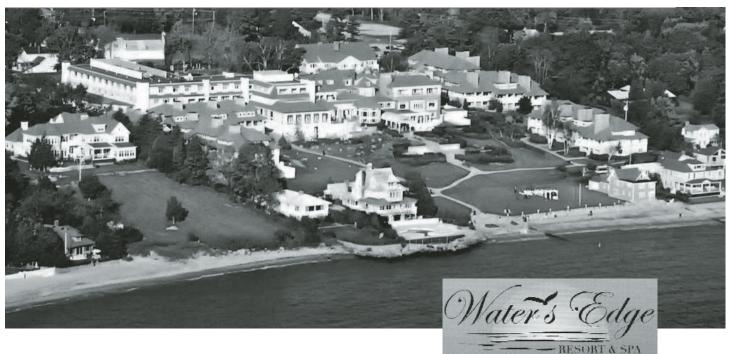
³ http://www.grailresearch.com/About_Us/ Reports_and_Pubs.aspx.



Rates: \$385 Single, \$294 Double, \$202 Commuter

² Integreon. "Grail Research: Reports & Publications: Consumers of Tomorrow: Insights and Observations About Generation Z." Grail Research. http://www.grailresearch.com/About_Us/Reports_and_Pubs.aspx (accessed April 2, 2012).

2012 Hdult Ringers Weekend



November 9–10, 2012

An opportunity to combine ringing under well-known conductor/ composer *Kevin McChesney*



and relaxing with other ringers in an upscale vacation destination.

- An adults only event.
- Advance preparation of the music is not required.
 - Repertoire is included in the registration fee and is handed out at arrival.

• Schedule includes several rehearsals followed by a sharing concert for hotel guests and visitors at the end of the event.

SEE YOU THERE!

Water's Edge Resort & Spa Westbrook, Connecticut

Overlooking the peaceful Long Island Sound, Water's Edge Resort & Spa is a historic gem. Combining charm, sandy beaches, beautiful resort accommodations, expansive meeting space, award-winning dining, a luxurious spa and friendly service, the hotel and spa is a premier choice among New England beach resorts, ideal for leisure, business or group travel. Open year round, Water's Edge Resort & Spa is a delightful host for your vacation, romantic getaway, wedding or other unforgettable occasion.

As the only true beachfront resort in Connecticut, Water's Edge offers a unique perspective of the glistening shoreline. Located on 20 oceanfront acres, Water's Edge Resort & Spa provides effortless access to a variety of entertaining activities such as boat rides, golf, shopping, museums, casinos and more. (www.watersedgeresortandspa.com)

This event is sponsored/endorsed by Handbell Musicians of America, Inc. dedicated to uniting people through the musical art of handbell and handchime ringing. www.handbellmusicians.org



Check Area 1's website: www.agehrarea1.org or send an email to arw2012@agehrearea1.org and we'll email you with all the latest details.

REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



Saturday, May 5: **New England Ringers Workshop,** Webster, NY, endorsed by Handbell Musicians of America, Area 2.

()

The **Massachusetts Spring Ring,** held on March 24 and chaired by David Wurth, had 190 ringers and orphans representing 19 organizations and 3 first-time groups. Saturday, May 19: **Merrimack Valley Ringers Workshop,** Southwick, MA, endorsed by Handbell Musicians of America, Area 1.

Gail Granum, MA State Chair



Tewksbury High School, Tewksbury, Massachusetts — The Massachusetts Spring Ring was held at Tewksbury High School, as it has for many years. However, the brand new high school building next door will be used next year, so this will be the last ring at this gymnasium. Event director was Patrick Gagnon, former Area 1 chair.

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