




















THE TWELFTH TONE

Newsletter for the AGEHR, Area XII

April -May 2002

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FROM THE CHAIR

The Reno event is just around the corner! The Area XII Ringers Conference only happens every two years, and this June is it! We are expecting over 450 ringers to have a wonderful time under the direction of Arnold Sherman, Mary Balkow, and Ron Theile. Also, the annual Area XII Young Ringers Conference in Garden Grove (next to Disneyland) under the direction of David Ruder is this May. Both events are open to young people, although the May event is specifically targeted toward that age group. Individuals, partial groups, and full choirs are always welcome! Remember that you can always check the Area XII web page for up-to-the-moment announcements as well as the enclosed list of coming events.

Here's a great way you can get your local event insured and the ASCAP fees covered. As a member of AGEHR, just fill out a few forms and pay a very small fee, and your event is "AGEHR Endorsed." Compared to purchasing your own insurance and paying your own fees, it is an extremely low fee (based solely on the number of attendees and event days). It's also a one-stop shop: fill out the forms, send in the check, and you're done. Imagine the comfort of knowing that equipment theft or damage or personal injury is covered for your

event, and any ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers) fees are paid for performing music at your event. Quick, easy, and painless. If you don't have this kind of coverage already, let AGEHR do it for you!

On the National AGEHR level, there are some candidates being interviewed now for the opening of AGEHR Executive Director. However, there is still time to send a candidate to this hiring agency:

Robert Sellery Associates, Ltd
 1155 Connecticut Ave., Washington DC 20036
 202-331-0090, Fax: 202-333-1167
 sellery@cais.com, <http://www.sellery.com>

NEW MEMBERS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Handbell Director Andersen AFB Chapel	Sands-Pertel, Judi Greenhaven Lutheran Church Sacramento, CA
Panter, Eileen Atascadero Bible Church Atascadero, CA	Greene, Susan Loretto High School Sacramento, CA
Handbell Director Bethel Grace Baptist Church Bellflower, CA	Harrison, Carol Adda Clevenger School San Francisco,
Davis, Jane Foothill Ranch, CA	Archer, Hollace Sebastopol, CA
De Silva, Chris St. Brendan Church Los Angeles, CA	Handbell Director St John Lutheran Church Sacramento, CA
Leggett, Scott Whittier, CA	Choi, Stephen, North Hills, CA
Aprile, William Modesto, CA	Lee, Jong, Benjamin University Buena Park, CA
Whitenack, Andrew First Congregational Church Pasadena, CA	Vaughan, Audrey, Altadena, CA
	Brown, Linda, First United Methodist Church Reno, NV

WHAT YOU CAN BE DOING NOW TO PREPARE FOR RENO

(The fourth of a series.)

Commitment Fund Raising Music Preparation **Travel Plans** Last Minute

OK. You've got a bunch of committed ringers, you've started raising the funds to pay for the trip, and the music is starting to be recognizable during rehearsals, so what are your **travel plans**? There are a variety of well-worn ways to **travel** to a Ringers' Conference – some of which may be better suited to your particular group than others, depending on how far you must **travel** and what other constraints you may face.

If you are far enough away from the event site to have to **travel** overnight(s), do you want to prepare a concert and seek host venues to present your program and put you up for the night along the way? That could require considerable extra rehearsal time, depending on how much of the Festival/Conference repertoire is suitable for your program. However, the level of performance of your concert pieces will go up directly with the frequency with which they have been played in a public setting, so the comfort level of your ringers with regard to any of the RC repertoire (AND any solo music you might have prepared) will go up dramatically with repeated presentations. Playing for your supper, bed, and breakfast also gives you and your ringers a chance to meet interesting new people in different circumstances in novel places – and some of our more memorable **travels** have involved some of those new friends. In addition, this mode of **travel** can be very inexpensive – particularly if the host institution is willing to support a free-will offering during your concert, which can offset some if not all of your fuel expenses.

If time and distance constraints preclude vehicular **travel**, your primary option probably will be flight. Clearly, air **travel** is much more efficient than land **travel** but has its own pitfalls when a group such as a bell choir shows up at the airport with a huge pile of luggage. Depending on the airline's restrictions, you may have to limit your ringers' personal luggage in order to get the bell equipment on board. We once took 28 people to the East Coast for a 15-day concert tour and had 78 pieces of luggage. Our ringers had to pair up to share one suitcase, which meant we had to be very specific with our housing instructions for the hosts! The planning logistics can be awesome if air travel is your only way to get there, and getting to and from the event site can present interesting challenges as well.

[These words were written on the evening of September 10, 2001. Clearly, the heightened airport security measures and luggage checks that are now in place will only exacerbate the ordeal of taking a bell choir by air. – wlw.]

If you are located close enough to **travel** by car within a day's drive, there still are issues to

tackle. **Traveling** together in a caravan is ideal but requires the common agreement of all drivers to stay at the same (safe!) speed. Prearranged rest and food stops are a great way to reconnect periodically during the trip and confirm that no one has had a breakdown. In this day of the cell phone, prepare a list of all cell phone numbers that are along and distribute it to each vehicle. That presumes, of course, that you are **traveling** within the service areas of most of the cell phones that are along.

Once at the hotel, what can your ringers expect? Here's where chaperones and nonringing significant others can be of immense help. Check-in procedures and efficiency vary wildly, particularly when large groups of people arrive nearly simultaneously - as is typical at the beginning of an AGEHR event! Careful preparation of room assignments back home is a must, especially if there are younger ringers or those with unusual needs in the group. Breakfast in some hotels can be difficult, especially with a group of younger ringers who perhaps need a little extra supervision. Assign your group's chaperones to acquire the milk, bagels, cereal, fruit, and disposable bowls for a community breakfast in one of the rooms each day. Not only will that lower your food costs significantly, it also will allow you to monitor the condition of all your younger ringers each morning and to review the schedule for the rest of the day. I also highly recommend establishing one room (unfortunately, the Director's room will probably be the choice by default) as the central meeting place for evening get-togethers. Regardless of the age of your ringers, assembling at the end of the day for at least a brief discussion and perhaps a snack before sending people off to bed helps to temper any concerns and stresses that might have arisen earlier. Who knows - you just might get to relax a little, too!

- wlw

CONFERENCE CHOIR CORRECTION

Although both the original registration information and the Area XII website erroneously stated that "...up to 28 ringers will have this opportunity...", the Reno Conference Choir will be a single choir made up of 14-15 ringers. Applications are due by May 1, 002, and applicants will be notified regarding their status by May 20.

HANDBELLS IN EDUCATION

For those educators who are considering starting a handbell choir in the local school, or for those who need to have rationale for maintaining your program, I offer to you a partial reprint of information that is available from AGEHR's brochure "Handchimes in Music Education."

"People are engaged in music by performing, creating and responding to its qualities.

Students learn best by doing. Active participation, through singing, moving to music, playing instruments, and creative experiences, enhances musical skills and knowledge.

Handchimes allow students to learn through participation. All students at any age or ability level can achieve immediate satisfaction. Ringing chimes teaches interdependence and cooperation among the ringers and at the same time provides for individual responsibility and success.

Basic concepts, such as duration, become visual as well as aural with handchimes. Students both feel and see the pulse as they learn the proper ringing techniques for each note value. The clear tone of the handchime encourages the students to sing properly and helps develop good tonal acuity. Additionally, intervals and scales are more easily understood when they become visual through the use of handchimes.

Personal development (for the student) includes physical ... mental ... social improvement. Educational outcomes include understanding of musical concepts ... as well as interdisciplinary applications."

There's more in this brochure that I am sure the educator can use when called upon to rationalize or present the educational value of a handbell or handchime program in a school setting. Write or e-mail for your free copy. My contact information can be found on the front page of this issue.

- Ron Theile

REGIONAL REPORT



San Francisco Bay Area Report

David Ruder daveruder@aol.com

Ringers of all sizes and shapes in the S.F.B.A. are gathering enthusiasm for the big Area XII Area Festival in Reno, June 28-30. Meanwhile, we enjoyed a wonderful reading session in January at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, hosted by Norma Rose and directed by Dave Ruder. (West Coast Handbell Supply)

Three weeks later ringers traveled to Oakland's Covenant Church for the Bay Area Handbell Festival with Arnold Sherman. A full house enjoyed this wonderful composer and director. Since only about 150+ could participate in Oakland, there will be a wonderful opportunity at the Reno Conference for the rest of California, Nevada, and Hawaii to see why Arnold is so

well received wherever he directs! He's a neat guy.

Other upcoming area events include the School Bell Festival in Hayward on March 21, with Brian Downey and Dian Ruder conducting. Call (510) 522-5000 for more information.

The annual Bay Area Spring Ring in Cupertino at Valley Church, David Ruder directing, is a real bargain at \$45.00 per choir or \$5.00 per ringer. Massed ringing, solo choirs, and classes by the best teachers in the Bay Area will be some of the features. A final concert at 5:45 pm closes the event. Contact David Ruder at (408) 732-0760 for more information.

Dian Ruder is looking for other kid's groups to join her kids at Valley Church for a Kid's Fest. A couple more bell teams are all she needs. Details to be worked out after contact is made. DianRuder@aol.com.

Remember, if you're not getting the S. F. Bay Area Handbell e-newsletter filled with updated information, contact: DaveRuder@aol.com and you'll get the next issue. (It comes out at least monthly.)

We're very proud of one of our S. F. Bay area ringers. Her new and first hymn for the dedication and use of handbells was recently accepted for publication by GIA Publications, Inc. It is entitled "Dedication" and will be introduced at the AGEHR Director's Seminar in Des Moines, Iowa in July. The text is by Tammy Raetz, a member of the Bethany Lutheran Church Handbell Choir (Menlo Park, CA) and the San Francisco Bay Area community group, Bay Bells. The tune and handbell arrangement are by handbell composer Kath Wissinger of Virginia ("To Snow Or Not To Snow" and "Broken For You").



Nevada Report

Barb Walsh barbagehr@worldnet.att.net

Howdy! My new principal asked me when things would finally slow down bell-wise; he was serious! In January, my Tintabulations group went to the Las Vegas 12th Night. I highly recommend going to this event; this was our second time and we've had a blast both times. We get to play some pretty challenging pieces ("Sleigh Ride") with top-notch directors like Karen Buckwalter. She didn't even bat an eye when one of the table legs collapsed on a zealous mart! (That person has now been nicknamed "The Martellator".) Fortunately, only three of the bells we were borrowing rolled onto the cement floor, none damaged. The other 17 bells were grabbed by 4 ringers in a split second!

When the Olympic torch came through Reno, Tintabulations, Opus I and Risley Elementary's Sonnette group had the honor of performing. Virginia Street was filled with

people plus TV coverage. I don't think we've ever played for such a huge audience! Take advantage of the upcoming events in our area. May 28th is our annual Washoe County Young Ringers' Event. Mary Balkow is our clinician. June 28-30 is of course Area XII's Conference at the Reno Hilton. July 28-Aug. 1 is the Zephyr Point Conference right next to beautiful Lake Tahoe. Contact me if you'd like info on any of these events.



Southern California Report

Micki Mennet-Martin mennet@aol.com

The **High and Low Bell Workshop** held February 23, 2002, at the First United Methodist Church, Escondido was an enormous success. Clinicians Lee and Bill Waggener were greatly appreciated by the participants. "It was easy to get your questions answered" said Mary Kate Ray. "I've always had a lot of respect for 4-in-hand. Now I have more and I'm learning how to do it. It was wonderful, I learned a lot," bass ringer Merle Avery noted. "They taught us a different slant on how to do things. The way they taught us, I understood and I got it. They treated each question with great dignity. Their answers were clear, not too complicated," per Shirley Buskirk. Thank you Lee and Bill!

San Diego Harmony Ringers: February 24, 2002. "A Concert of Concerts" at La Jolla Lutheran Church. LJLC Music Director, Lois Howard described the concert as elegant, exquisite and musically uplifting. March 3, 2002. "A Concert For Your Enjoyment" was presented by the Fletcher Hills Presbyterian Church. Featured in both programs was Harmony Ringers member Kathryn Kinslow, soprano, singing "Panis Angelicus" accompanied by the ensemble. Included in each program was the moving "Amazing Grace", arranged by Carl Wiltse and commissioned by Harmony Ringers member, Micki Mennet-Martin.

Ruth O'Neil of Christ Presbyterian Church in Vista is chairing "Let Freedom Ring" Saturday, November 8, 2002, to be held at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church. Three massed ringing pieces have been selected: "Jubilance" by Kevin McChesney, "Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace" by Kevin McChesney, and "In God We Trust" by Cynthia Dobrinski. Every participating choir is invited to present a selection of their choosing. The idea was initially to bring North San Diego County bell choirs together. However, all choirs for which they have room will be welcomed.

Contact Ruth at ruthrings@hotmail.com for more details or for questions.

Raleigh Ringers are coming to San Diego June 15, 2002. An afternoon workshop is planned from 2:00-5:00 pm followed by an evening concert at 7:00 pm will be presented at College Avenue Baptist Church, 4747 College Avenue, San Diego 92115. For workshop content,

contact David Harris, Director of the Raleigh Ringers at <http://www.rr.org>. For directions, consult the detailed maps of your trusty Thomas Brothers Guide. College Avenue Baptist Church may be contacted at (619) 582-7222, x-218.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY LOGO CONTEST

In the year 2004, AGEHR will celebrate its 50th anniversary. A committee has been appointed to develop a coordinated series of plans that have as their major goal a nationwide, year long celebration of the occasion. An additional goal is to increase the public's awareness of handbell and handchime ringing.

"LET'S CELEBRATE!" has been selected as the theme for 2004.

The 50th Anniversary Committee is pleased to announce a contest to design a special logo to make this celebration even more significant! This logo will be used throughout the year for all events at all levels. It will be included in publicity, on T-shirts, with gift ideas, and for other items yet to be developed.

A prize of \$500 is being offered for the winning logo, with guidelines as follows:

- ✘ Entries must be on a format no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches.
- ✘ Any medium will be accepted: pencil, pen, marker, paint, or computer-generated.
- ✘ Space should be allowed to add a place and date.
- ✘ Celebration of the 50th year should be indicated in some way.

The logo for this special year of events should be elegant and festive and be reflective of our history. Entries must be received by the chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee no later than March 30, 2002: 50th Anniversary Logo Contest Ginny Fleming 1783 Yale Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91913

No fax or e-mail, please. Copies of every entry, designated by a number only, will be sent to each judge. The originator of each entry will be kept anonymous until a winning entry is selected. The committee reserves the right to declare no winning entry. Join the fun! Get your creative juices flowing, and send in your entry!



Reno Hilton

f **Massed Ringing** f **Division Ringing** f **Classes** f **Solo Concerts** f
f **The Beautiful Reno Setting** f •• **The Silent Auction** f

Arnold Sherman, Mary Balkow, and Ron Theile, conductors

DUES INCREASE

Due to the rising costs of postage and printing, the annual dues for all categories of AGEHR membership will increase to the following amounts **effective April 1, 2002.**

Member Category April 1, 2002 Dues

Regular \$55.00
Ringer \$22.00
Senior Citizen \$37.00
Business \$110.00
Sterling \$90.00
Platinum \$170.00
Fulltime Student \$37.00

International \$37.00 plus postage

Canadian Add \$15.00 to the membership for all categories for extra postage

To take advantage of your current dues amount for another year, you may renew early without adversely effecting your membership expiration date. Your membership number and expiration date can be found on the mailing label of your *Overtones*. If you have any questions, please e-mail: membership@agehr.org or call the national office at (800) 878-5459.

Sara Smith, Membership Director

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Many thanks to the 40 members who have replied so far to the membership survey. Eight of you have attended no events in the last two years, three of you have attended six or more, and the rest were scattered in between. Reading sessions and classes on techniques and musical interpretation are topics that would attract many of you. One day and weekend events are the most preferred formats.

At the Conference in Reno, there will be several reading sessions. Technique classes will be offered in every class time period. There are times to sign up for choir coaching, and this might be a great time to watch a coach work on musical interpretation with a choir. Christine Anderson will be teaching solo ringing, a special treat for us now that she lives in Area XII.

For those of you not attending the Conference in Reno, plans are being made for reading sessions and new director workshops in the fall, directors' workshops in January and February, and one day ringing events in the Spring. You can be an important part by volunteering to be a host. Contact your Regional Representative to say that you have space to host an activity.

- Lee Waggener

A NOTE FROM THE KEYBOARD

In the last month, we had the privilege of participating in two of this year's four Directors' Workshops sponsored by Area XII at the beginning of each calendar year. It is always gratifying to sense that those who came are going back home with something more than they had previously - a refined technique, a new musical insight, a new handbell connection, a new "a-HA" about ringing.

However, what concerns me is that whereas the available table space was completely filled with directors (and a few ringers) at the Central California Regional event and whereas the host's ringers filled out the Southern California Regional event to make it a really productive day for the couple of directors who came, the Los Angeles Metro Regional event had to be cancelled for lack of response from the membership in the LA basin. (As of this writing, the fourth event in Nevada hasn't been held, so we don't yet know what attendance it will draw.)

What's going on? Why was there almost no interest in two of the Area's most densely populated Regions? Was it the date? Was it the clinician(s)? Was it the music? Was it the site? Was it the workshop focus? Was it ineffective publicity?

On the other hand, why was there very strong interest in one of our least densely populated Regions? Was it the date? Was it the clinician(s)? Was it the music? Was it the site? Was it the workshop focus? Was it effective publicity? Was it a personal connection with the Regional Representative?

These are hard questions to face, and their answers may not boost everyone's ego. The Area XII Board will hold its annual Spring meeting over the third weekend of April. The agenda undoubtedly will be full, but receiving and discussing blunt feedback from the membership is critically important for effective future planning. Please use the phone numbers or email addresses at the top of this issue to let the Board know - either directly to one of the elected officers or via your Regional Representative - why you did or why you didn't participate in one of the Area XII Directors' Workshops this year.

William L. Waggener

Editor

This page was last updated Thursday April 27, 2006 and is maintained by [Webmaster](#).