

## THE TWELFTH TONE

Newsletter for the AGEHR, Area XII












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### IN THIS ISSUE

-  [News From The Chair](#)
-  [New Members](#)
-  [Preparing for Reno: No. 5](#)
-  [Coming Series](#)
-  [Regional Reports](#)
-  [Jim Scott Memorial Scholarships](#)
-  [Coming Events](#)
-  [Area XII Bears](#)
-  [Area XII Candidates' Statements](#)
-  [Area XII Ringers' Conference](#)
-  [Editorial](#)

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## From The Chair

Great news for AGEHR! With a unanimous vote of approval from the National Board of Directors, we now have a new Executive Director of AGEHR. Please welcome Jane Mary Tenhover of Cincinnati, Ohio (effective 5/20/02). Jane Mary says she is excited to accept the job offer. She comes to AGEHR with an extensive background in development, fund-raising, and financial planning. She has experience with non-profit organizations and working with volunteers, as well as a degree in journalism. More information about our new AGEHR Executive Director will be forthcoming at this summer's events and in the Overtones magazine.

Of course, right around the corner is the Area XII Ringers Conference in Reno, NV. It is going to be a big one! With well over 500 people attending, it will be one NOT to miss. Expect a terrific massed experience, wonderful classes, awesome showcase concerts, handbell vendors, new and old friendships, and so much more. With a directing staff like Arnold Sherman, Mary Balkow, and Ron Theile, I'm sure we'll be having a great time ringing and sharing. Don't forget that we'll be making several important pre-release announcements at the conference, such as

the Area XII Board election results and information about the Area XII 2004 Ringers Conference (which is also AGEHR's 50th birthday). This event is one of Area XII's least expensive large-scale conferences yet, due to the many housing options (hotel, KOA, and more). Late registrations are still being accepted, so contact Ken Collins for details.

The next issue will feature pictures and quotes from the Reno conference. If you have pictures/stories to submit to the Twelfth Tone newsletter from the Reno conference or anything else that's happening with Area XII members, send them in to Bill Waggener. I know I will. See you in Reno!

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

Henson, Sueanne,  
Big Valley Christian School  
Modesto, CA

Kuhne, Connie,  
St Michael and All Angels  
Studio City, CA

Rodgers, Virginia,  
San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church  
San Luis Obispo, CA

Bowker, Caroline,  
Palo Alto, CA

Carlock, Marcia,  
Soledad, CA

Eckert, Eugene,  
Los Gatos, CA

Frazier, Nina,  
First United Methodist Church  
Palmdale, CA

Griffin, Jean,

Fillmore, CA

Handbell Director  
John S Park Elementary School  
Las Vegas, NV

Egy, Kathy,  
Stanford Elementary School  
Las Vegas, NV

Vollrath, Terence  
First Lutheran Church  
Placerville, CA

Lindberg, Joy  
Gesthemane Lutheran Church  
Sacramento, CA

Lanier, Rick  
Seventh Ave Presbyterian Church  
San Francisco, CA

Henslin, Karen,  
Evangelical Free Church of Yorba Linda  
Yorba Linda, CA

Nisbet, Ann,  
First Presbyterian Church  
Elko, NV

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## **WHAT YOU CAN BE DOING NOW TO PREPARE FOR RENO**

(The fifth of a series.)

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

Last minute contingencies are inevitable. Perhaps the best preparation to fend off any last minute surprises is great organization and thorough planning. One of the most impressively

organized groups we've ever seen is the Westminster Choir College handbell choir. Upon arrival last year, every single piece of their equipment was unloaded onto the sidewalk and checked off, and no one moved anything until each piece was accounted for. Upon departure, the same system applied but in reverse: nothing was packed back onto their bus until every single piece was laid out on the sidewalk and accounted for. I suspect that same scheme was used 3000 miles earlier when their vehicle was loaded at the beginning of their trip. The likelihood of finding something missing somewhere along the line that would require a last minute replacement was not very great for them because their level of organization was phenomenal.

Some contingencies are at least modestly predictable and can be mitigated by minimal advanced planning. Have you renewed your inventory of restraining springs? Is your supply of replacement parts packed - as well as the tools required to make any emergency repairs? Expand your thinking to include other possible complications that might be unique to your particular group and how you might prepare for them.

However, some surprises cannot be predicted. "If anything can go wrong, it will" ... "If everything seems to be going right, you've overlooked something." Generally speaking, Murphy will be right - unless you plan to expect and allow for those last minute surprises. But what could possibly go wrong when everything seems to be set for your trip to Reno? The answer is "Nothing" to "Anything". Your best bass ringer breaks a finger, your B3 develops a crack, a ringer has an emergency appendectomy partway through the trip, the transmission dies on one of your two vehicles in the middle of the boondocks two days away from home with the repair part unavailable for several days, the host vehicle that has half of your bells in it never shows up at the school where you're playing for an assembly ... and yes, all of those really happened to us over the last 30 years.

What do you do with such last minute surprises? You call upon your leadership, maturity, and sense of humor and cope! After all, isn't that what you're getting that massive salary for? - wlv

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## COMING SERIES

Beginning with the August-September issue, the next series will feature interviews with six former Chairs of Area XII. Each will respond to the same set of questions, but, of course, from their own experience and perspectives. Through these questions, I've asked them to reflect on Area XII as it was "back then" as well as to project their thoughts regarding the future of handbell ringing in this country.

From Ginny Fleming, Past Area XII Chair and Past President of AGEHR, I got the following bit of Area XII history:

It was in 1971 that AGEHR decided to expand from nine to twelve Areas. Area XII would

consist of those members residing in California, Hawaii and Nevada. At that time there were a total of 41 members - 40 in CA and 1 in Hawaii, 0 in Nevada. Jim Groves was appointed Chair, and the change became official on October 1, 1972. Jim named and started publishing "The Twelfth Tone" in 1971.

I'm eager to hear what our earlier leadership has to tell us. I hope you will be, too! - wlw

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## REGIONAL REPORTS



Southern California

**Micki Mennet-Martin** *mennet@aol.com*

From Kevin Kwan of San Diego Harmony Ringers comes the following news: Harmony Ringers has been having a great season playing at three different venues across San Diego County. We traveled to north county to the First Congregational Church of Escondido to play for their morning worship. We traveled to Fletcher Hills Presbyterian Church in east county to ring and share the program with two outstanding soprano soloists for a Sunday afternoon concert. The third event saw Harmony Ringers at La Jolla Lutheran Church. Harmony Ringers were featured presenting an afternoon program in their Concert Series. We are now in preparation for our spring and summer concerts. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events. For more information, contact us at the following numbers: Events Co-ordinator: Mary Den Herder ([marydh\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:marydh_2000@yahoo.com) or [jeffdh@juno.com](mailto:jeffdh@juno.com)), Chair: Rebekah Scott ([Rebekah.S.Scott@kp.org](mailto:Rebekah.S.Scott@kp.org)) or Auditions: Joan Mentze ([jmentze@sunstroke.sdsu.edu](mailto:jmentze@sunstroke.sdsu.edu)).

Those who ventured to Claremont for the April 13 workshop with Don Allured had an instructive, humorous, and enlightening day. We were challenged - music level ranged from level 3 to level 5. Alternate ways to perform musically difficult passages were explored including moving a single bell 5 octaves within a single measure while the music was played legato. Taco salad lunch, thanks to Lee and Bill Waggener, was enjoyed in the Claremont United Church of Christ's lovely gardens.

On Saturday, September 7, Ginny Fleming will present a "New Handbell Director's" workshop. The location is not yet determined. We will keep you posted.

On Saturday, November 9, Ruth O'Neil of Christ Presbyterian Church in Vista is co-chairing "Let Freedom Ring". North County San Diego choirs and other interested choirs are invited to contact Ruth at [ruthrings@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthrings@hotmail.com) for information about location, time and program. The idea which initiated the program is to bring North County handbell choirs together to enjoy music, hear one another and get acquainted. As more details become available, we will send them out on the e-newsletter and via the Twelfth Tone.

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Nevada

**Barbara Walsh** [barbagehr@worldnet.att.net](mailto:barbagehr@worldnet.att.net)

Howdy! We had a great time with 21 directors and ringers at the Directors' Seminar on March 23 with Dave and Dian Ruder as our clinicians! We learned everything from basic directing patterns to change ringing to 4-in-hand techniques to making a performance sparkle with cute ideas. If you missed Dave and Dian at the Directors' Seminar, you can work with them on October 5th this year at our ringers' workshop. Tentatively we'll be at South Reno United Methodist

Church from 9:00-4:00. Keep watching the 12th Tone for more info or give me a call at (775) 677-8119 to get updates.

I hope you're all attending the Area XII conference in Reno. It would be great to see all our Nevada bell ringers there! If you can't attend the conference itself, maybe you could attend the final concert on the 30th at 2:00-3:30 at the Reno Hilton. Come over and say hi. I'll be the one going crazy with all my kids there!

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Central Valley

**Paulette McFarlin** [pmcfarlin@ocsnet.net](mailto:pmcfarlin@ocsnet.net)

The RALEIGH RINGERS will be performing in the central Valley! Opus and the Modesto Community Concert Association are hosting the Raleigh Ringers in Modesto on Monday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Modesto Central Seventh Day Adventist Church. Tickets are \$10.00 per person--call (209) 549-0214 for more information. If you live within a three hour radius of Modesto, you really ought to take the half day off and go see this choir!

Santa Clarita is a little south of the Central Region, but Claire Blackwell held her Bellfest at Masters College on May 5. The same day in Atascadero, a Second Annual North County Handbell Concert was held at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer with four churches performing. Opus had their Spring Concert in Modesto on May 10 (William Aprile is the interim director for OPUS) and a concert involving handbell choirs from three churches and the Porterville College will be presented at the First Methodist Church in Porterville on June 2. Concerts are starting to happen and people are beginning to notify me. We are all looking forward to Twelfth Night Festival which will be in Bakersfield again next January. We missed its absence this past January.

I have helped place a couple of orphan Reno Conference ringers, but if you need help, drop me a line and I hope to find a place for you. pmcfarin@ocsnet.net or phone (559) 781-3340.

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## The Jim Scott Memorial Scholarships

Jim Scott served on the Area XII Board as regional representative for Central California in the early 80s. Upon his tragic death in an automobile accident, the Board instituted the Jim Scott Memorial Scholarship in his honor to assist one new director and one new ringer in attending their first Area XII Festival (now Ringers' Conference).

This year, because there were no applications for the new director's award, the Board has decided to present two ringer's awards instead. Those chosen from the pool of highly qualified applicants for this year's honors are **Heather Everson** of Fillmore and **Barbara White** of Long Beach.

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## AREA XII'S BEARS

Come to Reno and find out what Area XII's two California brown bears have been doing since they left the San Jose Conference two years ago. Bronzer went home with the Bells of Joy and Martalina went home with Karen Wolff. Both took their diaries with them to make notes on all their experiences. One even has a backpack, I hear.

Bronzer and Martalina will be available for a two year adoption again in Reno. Bronzer, Martalina's big brother, will be bid on by a group or choir; Martalina can be bid on by any

individual. Both are looking forward to seeing you at the Silent Auction table in Reno and sharing their adventures with you. - Norma Rose

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## AREA XII CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

### Chair-Elect:

#### **Richard Crawford**

Dick Crawford has been active in the world of handbells for nearly twenty years. He is an accomplished bass bell specialist, having performed in Conference Choirs at several Area XII and national events over the years. He has also taught classes in bass bell techniques at area conferences and workshops. A professional physicist, he authored the wildly successful "Handbell Physics For the Scientifically Challenged" series that ran in "Overtones" several years ago. He has several small-ensemble arrangements in print.

Dick is a ringer, not a director. He lives with his director, Mary, in Culver City, California. (Don't get too excited, friends -- they're married.)

#### **David Ruder**

David Ruder has been a handbell director for 29 years. He retired two years ago as the music director at La Entrada School in Menlo Park where he directed three bell choirs. He currently directs the Valley Ringers at Valley Church in Cupertino and Bay Bells, a community handbell ensemble. He serves on the Area XII AGEHR Board. He currently is the editor of the RING! newsletter, an international newsletter for handbell ringers.

He has conducted numerous bell workshops, served as a clinician at Area XII festivals, and directed the massed choirs in one of his compositions at the San Jose area festival. He directed the Young Ringers at the 1992 National Conference in Long Beach. He directed the Tins and Massed Ring at the National Conferences of American Guild of English Handbell Ringers in 1993 and 1995. He directed Young Ringers and Bronze at the 1996 Area XII Conferences. In 1997, he directed the Young Ringers at Kansas City and Sacramento. In 1999, he directed the Young Ringers at Anaheim for Area XII. During 2000 - 2001, he taught and directed at a variety of handbell events including the International Handbell Symposium in Birmingham, England, and the Music Camp at the International Peace Gardens in Canada. He has directed festivals throughout the United States. He has organized and taught at national conferences, directors' seminars, and area and local conferences for the last twenty-two years. In many of these



sessions, he has been responsible for organizing the curriculum and securing the staff.

His school choirs have performed at three California Music Educator Conferences and in concerts throughout California, Nevada, and parts of Oregon. As the Bells in Schools Coordinator for Area XII, he organized a number of school handbell festivals. He initiated a handbell and chimes loan program for schools to encourage their own purchase of bell sets.

The Handbell Music Grading System, which the committee he chaired developed, was born out of a desire to develop an objective means of grading and determining music levels, an important need for curriculum development. He is the past chairman of the Committee for Handbells in Music Education. His writings appear regularly in *Overtones*.

David has degrees from San Jose Christian College, where he directed the choir and taught church music history and San Jose State University and advanced training in worship and choral music at University of Southern California. His entire family - Dian, who directs the Valley Echo Bells and Canterbury Bells, Annette, and Philip - are active bell ringers.

### **Secretary:**

#### **Rachel Davidson**

Rachel (Calkins) Davidson has loved handbells since she was a young girl. She began ringing in the fourth grade and has continued playing for the past 17 years. Her love of bells led her to Concordia University in Irvine where she performed for 4 years and directed for 1 year. Currently, Rachel is teaching math and directing a small choir at Ladera Vista Junior High in Fullerton while playing with the Cathedral Bells of St. Johns Lutheran Church of Orange.

#### **Jo Anne Hammond**

Jo Anne Hammond was Treasurer of Area XII for two terms and has also served as Southern California regional coordinator. She has been a clinician at local events and Area conferences. Jo Anne has been ringing for over twenty years and directing for eighteen years. She currently directs choirs at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in San Diego and at the Community of Christ in Chula Vista, as well as ringing in an ensemble at the First United Methodist Church of Chula Vista. For the past fourteen years, she has been employed as a School Administrative Secretary for the Sweetwater Union High School District.

### **Treasurer:**

## **Debbie Davis**

Debbie is a manager with Bartig, Basler & Ray, CPAs, Inc., and has more than twenty years of experience with the firm. She has extensive experience in accounting, tax preparation and planning, working with individuals, partnerships, corporations, trusts and estates engaged in a diversity of businesses and occupations. As the Treasurer of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, she is responsible for the accounting system, budgets, financial reporting, and related financial matters of the Church. She is a member of the Church's chancel and handbell choirs and a member of the Bel Tempo Handbell Choir. She has served as Treasurer for Area XII of AGEHR for the past two years.

## **Jim McFarlin**

Jim McFarlin has been a bell ringer for ten years and is ringing in two bell choirs at the present. He retired from Computer Science Raytheon in Florida as a Systems Analyst and is currently farming oranges and olives in Orange Cove. He was Vice President--Office Manager for Olivewood Homes in Porterville for five years (1975-80). He is presently financial secretary and treasurer of First United Methodist Church of Porterville.

[The candidates' statements have been arranged in alphabetical order - first by Office and then by last name. - wlw]

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# **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

For more information, see the Area XII Website at:

*<http://www.AreaXII.org>*

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## A NOTE FROM THE KEYBOARD

In this issue are (1) the personal statements from the candidates for our next slate of officers and (2) your ballot for their election. In fact, this issue has been mailed first class just because it contains this urgently important material. Please read their qualifications carefully, and mail your marked ballot to Mel Tully, our Past Chair, who is responsible for tallying the responses and certifying the results.

Historically, the number of ballots returned in Area XII elections has been embarrassingly low. Less than one-third of the membership voted in the 2000 election, which was among the highest returns in recent years. For a relatively small organization such as ours, getting a high response is extremely important in order to achieve a meaningful representation of the membership through the ballot.

Agreeing to have your name placed on the ballot takes more than just a bit of courage and very much puts one's ego "on the line". Regrettably, only one person of each pair on the slate will be the "winner",

and even more regrettably, the other becomes cast as "loser" - which is clearly not an accurate

portrayal of any of our candidates. This also means that only half of these highly qualified people who have expressed their willingness to serve Area XII in an elected position will actually be able to do so. At the very least, we owe those who have graciously put their names "on the line" our collective gratitude and the return of our ballots.

The ballots must be postmarked by June 15, 2002, and received by June 22, 2002, in order to be valid. Please take time right now to read the candidates' statements, mark your ballot, and drop it in the mail before it gets lost in the busy-ness of life.

The election results will be announced at the final luncheon of the Reno Ringers' Conference 2002 on June 30 and in the August-September issue of The Twelfth Tone. Will your vote be included?

William L. Waggener

Editor

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