

Claremont, CA

Volume XV Number 1

February - March, 2003

A NOTE FROM THE ARM OF THE CHAIR

Lee Waggener

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*Uniting People
Through a
Musical Art.*
That's our motto
for the American
Guild of English
Handbell

Ringers. How
have you been
touched by
music, especially
bell music, in
your life? I'd like
to share an
experience that
Bill and I had

last week that will always be one of my special moments in music.

We received a phone call from the husband of one of our members. She had passed away two months earlier, and he asked to have her name removed from the mailing list. Then he mentioned that she was a solo ringer and had a set of bells that he wanted to sell and could we help. We know a ringer in Massachusetts who was looking for a set of bells, so after a few phone calls and emails, we agreed to drive to Clovis to check out the bells.

There we met Charlie Owens, husband of Tina, who had been very active in the Fresno area. At first I did not put a face to the name, but then Charlie asked if we would like to see a video that Tina made to send to her family in Holland, and we immediately recognized Tina as a ringer whom we had met at the Twelfth Night Festivals in Bakersfield. In the video, she played "Amazing Grace" and showed off their new house. As we visited, Charlie told us more about their lives and Tina's delight with bell ringing. Although he did not play, he was an enthusiastic audience whenever Tina played, and he knew many ringers in the area. For her service, he requested that the ensemble that she played in, A Touch of Bronze, play a special piece and leave Tina's music and bells in place, just like the missing man aerial formation that he saw years ago in the Navy.

The bells had been lovingly cared for, so the following day he shipped them to the Hancock Church in Lexington, MA. We feel a particular connection to the ringers at that church because our daughter was their bell director there during her time as a graduate student in Boston, and the Kraleys from Hancock joined our choir at the International Symposium in England. Charlie wanted to make sure that the bells went to someone who would appreciate how much they meant to Tina and how many people had been touched by her music.

A few days later, I called Charlie and he shared a note that he had received from Cheryl Kraleys, the new owner of the bells. I can't quote her exactly but she wrote about all the ways that their new set would be used and the special bonds that had been formed in their circle of ringing at Hancock and with others that they had met throughout the country. She also assured Charlie that he would always be an honored

(Continued on page 15.)

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NEW MEMBERS

New Members in October

Tom Ciaramitaro
Concord, CA

Carol Hopping
La Verne Church of the
Brethren
La Verne, CA

Hye Kyung
New California Conservatory
Buena Park, CA

Anya Piantka
Incline Village, NV

New Members in November

Roger Vick
Thousand Oaks, CA

Carolyn Ziebell
Westlake Lutheran Church
Westlake Village, CA

Judy Woodruff
La Verne Church of the
Brethren
La Verne, CA

Mary Ann Melleby
La Verne Church of the
Brethren
San Dimas, CA

Joanne Goertz
Peace Lutheran Church
Camarillo, CA

John Howard
First Baptist Church
San Diego, CA

Jan Kneip
Bishop, CA

Wil Mandac
Sunnyvale, CA

Ted Bedford
Woodland, CA

Wayne Heaton
Wailuku Door of Faith
Maui, HI

New Members in December

Linda Galligan
First Presbyterian Church
Burlingame, CA

Bruce Vandervalk
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Camarillo, CA

Michael D'Spain
Long Beach Polytechnic High
School
Long Beach, CA

Terri Kubow
San Diego, CA

Karen Smith
Seaside Community Church
Torrance, CA

The Twelfth Tone **February - March, 2003**

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ADVERTISING RATES

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Quarter Page Ad <small>(Up to but not larger than 7.25"W x 2.25"H or 3.5"W x 4.75"H)</small>	\$15	\$78

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VOICES FROM THE PAST

(The fourth in a series.)

Patty Marquart Ginny Fleming Dick Coulter **Diane Levorsen** Gary Delk Mystery Chair

In this series, former Chairs of Area XII have consented to a written "interview" about their experiences, memories, and other thoughts about Area XII. Each has been given the same set of questions, which appear within the text of their responses. As we approach the 50th anniversary of AGEHR in 2004, I hope that this series will offer us a brief perspective of our past as we look forward to the next 50 years of "...uniting people through a musical art..." - wlv

1. **WHEN, WHERE, and HOW** did you get started in handbells?

In the spring of 1974, my church, St. Mark's United Methodist in San Diego, hosted Patty Marquart's Peace Ringers from Orange 1st United Methodist Church. Many of us were enthralled by the music and the instrument, and before long the \$1600.00 was raised for a three octave set of our own. Our choir director, Lucille Mayer started two groups in October. She had the bells laid out in "keyboard" order for the director, with the bass bells to her left, which was "backwards" to the ringers. A year later I started directing the beginning groups to fill in the vacancies, especially in the youth choir. By that time we had the "keyboard" reversed. In 1977 a fourth octave was added for \$1095.00, and in 1979 the fifth octave for \$1400.00. By 1978 I was directing all the choirs, and the youth group, The Jubilee Ringers, was attended Festival in Fresno, and both this choir and the adult choir, The Carillon Choir, gave concerts in the San Diego area.

2. **WHAT FORMAL MUSICAL TRAINING** did you have prior to working with handbells?

I majored in Music History and Theory at University of California, Riverside, although I opted for marriage and children instead of a college degree. Fortunately, I was able to study harmony, composition and conducting. All of my handbell training was through workshops, Festivals and Conferences, almost all sponsored by AGEHR. I greatly admire Patty Marquart and Ginny Fleming and learned an incredible amount from these two pioneers. I was also able to learn from Don Allured at an early stage in ringing, and his standards and techniques are still the basis for my bell ringing.

3. **WHAT** is your favorite handbell composition, and **WHY** is this work meaningful to you?

At one of my first workshops in the late-1970s, a list of all the handbell music that had been published

was passed out, and it was only three pages long! My early favorite was "Bell Jubilee" by Ellen Jane Lorenz. The Jubilee Ringers were named after the song, and it became our signature tune. At our first Festival in 1978 we memorized and processed to the delightful melody. I always cry when I hear "Jubilate for Bells" by Douglas Wagner, not just because it's a terrific handbell/organ duet, but because I had it played at my daughter's wedding, with Karen Zerlaut directing the bells and Ginny Fleming on tympani! I have to say now that my favorite is Kevin McChesney's "PDQ Bells", which he wrote in memory of my husband, Carl Levorsen, "who loved the enthusiasm of handbell ringers and their music".

4. **WHAT ADVICE** would you give to someone who is just starting to work with handbells?

Develop a critical ear. Attend every concert and workshop that you can. See if you can attend another director's rehearsal. Strive for musicality, not perfection. Learn the difference between a challenging piece and a frustrating piece of music. Ring as often as you can so you can appreciate "the other side of the table". Learn how to TEACH the ringers, and you will learn and grow with them.

5. **HOW LONG** have you been a member, and **WHAT** has The AGEHR meant to you?

I became a member in 1974 with my church. AGEHR has meant more to me than I can put into words. The organization, especially Area XII, has helped me develop as a ringer, a director, and a person. Bell people are the nicest people in the world, and I treasure the friends I have because of this organization.

6. **WHAT POSITION(S)** have you held in The AGEHR, and **WHEN** did you serve in each position?

District Representative for San Diego 1978-1980
Secretary 1980-1982
Treasurer 1982-1986
Chairman-Elect 1986-1988
Chairman 1988-1990
Past Chairman 1990-1992

VOICES FROM THE PAST, continued

Regional Coordinator (the same thing as the old District Rep) 1992-1994

Conference Chairman for the San Diego Conference. 1994-1996

7. **WHAT FUTURE** do you see for handbells? More to the point, **WHAT** do you think **MUST HAPPEN** in order to elevate handbell ringing to the level of public support and recognition enjoyed by community orchestras, choral ensembles, and the like?

At any level, we must produce MUSIC. It is thrilling that we have groups like SONOS, Campanile, the Raleigh Ringers, Strikepoint, Velocity, and many others that excite and educate audiences to the special tone of handbells, through such an incredible variety of musical styles. I once thanked Campanile for bringing jazz to so many people. SONOS is breaking new ground in the classical music world and commissioning works for handbells and orchestra. Who could have envisioned this in 1974? We were struggling with the right notes at the right time, more or less! Now that the bar has been raised, the beginners should be able to learn more quickly and rise to a higher level. We must all be musicians, not "just bell ringers". - Diane Levorsen

REGIONAL REPORTS



LA Metro Report

Shirley Heckman la_metro@areaxii.org

One of our LA Metro ensembles, Campanile, had a very exciting tour to Taiwan Dec. 3-16. Rima Greer reports, "The theatres were mostly packed - crowds of anywhere between 300 and 800 people, even on weeknights. And every single night we were literally MOBBED in the lobby for autographs. There is nothing like being rushed by a crowd of teenagers for your signature to feed your loftiest rock star fantasies. It was incredible. Unforgettable." A longer report can be read in the mid-January LA Metro eNewsletter. (If you are in the LA Metro Area and not receiving this eNewsletter, send a note to la_metro@areaxii.org to subscribe. Others can read the article when the eNewsletter is posted on the website <www.areaxii.org> in the Regional reports.

Ten members of the Carilloneers, the handbell choir of the Claremont United Church of Christ Congregational directed by Bill and Lee Waggener, participated for the tenth year in the Disneyland Candlelight Christmas Concerts, December 7th and 8th. Even though the music remains the same each year, the group challenges itself to play the music perfectly, from memory (along with the Disneyland orchestra, 300-voice choir, soloist, and trumpeters). This is especially helpful as the ringers must focus on the director as seen on the TV monitor high up in the back of the theater. In these concerts, the traditional Christmas story is told each evening by a celebrity narrator (this year by Mickey Rooney and Stephen Collins). Although participating in these concerts consumes an entire weekend from the Friday afternoon rehearsal until the last Sunday evening concert, the Carilloneers are energized for the Christmas season and enthusiastic about returning next year.

In February and March, as noted in the Calendar section, you will have an opportunity to participate in a Directors' Workshop. A one-day workshop will be held in Long Beach on February 22 and a weekend retreat at Oak Glen on March 8-9, both led by Bill and Lee Waggener. Having participated in the retreat/workshop several years ago, I highly recommend this setting and time frame. The expanded time allows for more in depth discussion/study of various issues and the informal setting allows for the opportunity to get to know the other participants whom you will likely meet again later at Area XII events. However, if time constraints are an issue, much information can be gained from the one-day workshop. So, whether you are a new or experienced handbell choir director, be sure to sign up early to reserve your space.

Southern California Report

Micki Mennet-Martin so_calif@areaxii.org



South Bay Twelfth Night Music Celebration 2003

Musicians from across San Diego County gathered at First United Methodist Church, Chula Vista, on Sunday afternoon, January 5, 2003. The focus of the event was to "put a bright red ribbon around our memories of Christmas 2002."

Participating were four handbell ensembles, a chime ensemble, a pianist, a guitar player and two vocal choirs.

The churches represented were the Chula Vista Presbyterian Church, the Community of Christ, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, St. James Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church of El Cajon, First United Methodist Church of Chula Vista and Imperial Beach United Methodist Church. The host church's Assistant Music Director, G. Scott Lacy, sang and played the piano during the free will offering and also played a piano prelude. Director of

REGIONAL REPORTS, continued

Pastoral Ministries Barbara Eveland presided as M.C.

We staggered the designated arrival times, so that each group had some individual "warm-up" time. The ringers had a massed rehearsal of "Away In A Manger" (arr. Cathy Moglebust) directed by Jo Anne Hammond, after which all the performers had dinner at the church. The 6:00 pm concert brought the day to a close. Music selections performed had been chosen from lists of each group's "favorite" pieces (as submitted by the directors). Participants had been encouraged to publicize the concert at their home churches. The Celebration concluded with all of the performers joining with the audience to sing "Away In A Manger," accompanied by the handbell choirs.

Jo Anne Hammond organized the program, Micki Mennet-Martin did a great job of filling in for an absent ringer, and Ginny Fleming helped us avert disaster by directing one number.

This was a very "low hassle" way to do a concert, since all the groups arrived with their music already at performance level. There was plenty of fellowship time planned across the day, and as we were leaving, several groups called out that they want to do it again next year!



Northern California Report

Louanne Marshall no_calif@areaxii.org

What an exciting holiday season we have enjoyed. There are two things I am really excited about. The first is the great response we have had from the Northern California region. I was able to spread the news about many of the handbell events that we had going on over the holiday season, and there were quite a few. Several new choirs came out and shared their music for the first time, too.

The second thing that I am really excited about is the February 15th Director's Workshop in Woodland. This is for directors and wanna-be directors. If you have someone that you are grooming to fill in for you, please bring him or her with you. It will double the fun! Or if you are a ringer and have an interest in directing, this is the place to be! We have a full schedule in the works that will help you kick off the New Year with some new ideas. The afternoon will include a reading session with Mel Tully from West Coast Handbell Supply so you will get an opportunity to hear and play some new music that can be added to your repertoire. Bill and Lee Waggener are working to make this time the best ever, and help you get your year off to a strong start. All that, plus a round table discussion over lunch and a chance for us to meet and get to know each other better too! What an opportunity, you don't want to miss this

one. Please send in your registration today! You can use the form provided in this newsletter.

Nevada Report

Barb Walsh nevada@areaxii.org

Howdy! Directors, assistant directors, and advancing ringers are invited to a Directors' Seminar and reading session on March 8 in Sparks, NV.



Our clinician, Mary Balkow, will be teaching such classes as, "If You Want Them To Watch You, Give Them Something To Watch", "To Beat or Not To Beat", "Those Italian Terms That Mean Watch the Director", and "Putting Technique Into the Music". Contact me at (775) 677-8119 or barbagehr@worldnet.att.net for more info. We're gonna have fun!

It looks like we're going to try to do a Spring Ring in Reno on April 12th. We'll pick one or two fairly easy pieces to play together and then each choir can share a piece they've been working on. It should only take just the morning or afternoon, whatever we all decide. Is there a church/school that would like to host? I need lots of feedback from those who are interested about times, pieces, etc. so please share generously so we can make our first try successful!

Rumor has it that Dr. Jim Smith from Texas will be directing our Young Ringers' Festival on May 27! Contact me soon if you're interested in coming because I'm betting our space will fill up fast!

Central California Report

Paulette McFarlin cen_calif@areaxii.org



Thanks to Shirley Werner of Atascadero, there will be two Spring Rings in this area on March 29. Please have patience with both of us, as we are neophytes in putting on events such as these. Our terrific clinicians, though, are well experienced in directing massed choirs so the event will be great. Mel Tully, (clinician for Atascadero) our Web Master, and Cheryl Baker, (clinician for Fresno) are both past chairs of Area XII. Be sure to come to the Directors Workshop in Atascadero on Feb. 8. Beth Gonzales is the clinician for the day long workshop. Contact your regional rep for more info: Paulette McFarlin, pmcfarlin@ocsnet.net, (559) 781-3340.



San Francisco Bay Area Report

Tammy Raetz bay_area@areaxii.org

The end of 2002 was a busy one for handbell ringers in the Bay Area. It was a successful worship and concert season for church and community groups and ended with a spectacular tour of Japan for Sonos, who played to packed houses of enthusiastic audiences in six concerts, and who have been invited to return again next year for an even longer tour. We're very proud of our celebrities!

REGIONAL REPORTS, cont.

The Bay Area is starting the New Year with some great events for ringers, directors and handbell fans:

The Reading Ring Through, a popular annual event at First Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, takes place on Saturday, Jan. 25, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is \$8 at the door. West Coast Handbell Supply is sponsoring this relaxed day of ringing under Dave Ruder's direction, and there will be plenty of time to browse and meet up with handbell friends!

Then on February 22nd, the Handbell Festival in Oakland will feature director Jim Meredith and the members of Sonos, who will teach the master classes. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills and refine current ones with some of the best handbell musicians in the country!

March 29th will bring the Spring Ring (with or without showers!), and Bay Area choirs are already hard at work preparing some great music for the massed ringing with Dave Ruder, where they will be offered classes with skilled handbell teachers.

February and March also feature two festivals for youth: The Kids Fest, a new event for church kids who ring, on Feb. 8 at Valley Church in Cupertino, and the Elementary/Middle School Festival with clinician Pam (P.L.) Grove on March 13 at All Saints School in Hayward.

And in April, RING OF FIRE is coming to the Bay Area!!! If you haven't seen this amazing youth choir from the Tualatin Valley Academy in Oregon (<http://www.rof.org>), write this down in your calendar quick! Wednesday, April 16, at First Covenant Church, 4000 Redwood Rd., Oakland (concert time to be announced soon). This is the unknown youth choir that attended Pinnacle 2000 and blew everyone's socks off with their incredible memorized performance...and they're certainly not unknown anymore! Under the energetic and focused direction of Jason Wells, Ring of Fire combines movement, memory and magic to produce one of the most exciting handbell performances you'll ever see.

AREA V

HANDBELL COMPOSITION CONTEST

3-5 Octaves Non-sacred Original Composition
(No Higher Than Level 3)

Prize: \$500.00

Deadline: June 15, 2003

For contest rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Barbara A. Singleton

Area V Composition Contest

105 Nancy Dr.

Richmond, KY 40475

bsingleton@iclub.org

Concordia University

Irvine, California

Concert Series 2002/3

*CU Concert Handbells, soloists, and the
Resound! Ensemble in concert*

(free will offering except Christmas concerts)

- ▶ Sun., **November 17**, 7 pm **Gardena, CA**
Gardena Seventh Day Adventist Church
- ▶ Sun., **February 2**, 7 pm **Monrovia, CA**
First Lutheran Church
- ▶ Sun., **March 23**, 7 pm **San Diego, CA**
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
- ▶ Sun., **April 6**, 7 pm **Glendale, CA**
Salem Lutheran Church

Christmas concerts Dec. 7, 8, 13, & 14



2003 Invitational Concerts

*Concordia University's 50-ringer handbell
program is joined by guest ensembles:*

Saturday, February 22, 4 pm

- Lutheran High School of Orange County
- Glendale High School
- The Master's College, Santa Clarita

Saturday, March 29, 7 pm

- St. John's Lutheran Church, Orange
- Faith Lutheran High School, Las Vegas
- Christ Lutheran Church, La Mesa
- Rosary High School, Fullerton

Concordia University
Center for Worship and The Performing Arts
1530 Concordia West Irvine, CA 92612-3299

South of I-405, University Drive exit

Tickets: Adults \$8.00; Students/Seniors \$6.00
Phone: 949-854-8002, ext. 1526; details at ext. 1522
VISA and MasterCard accepted

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

The following article by Tim Waugh appeared in the November-December issue of *Quavers*, the Area VIII newsletter, paraphrased [with Tim's permission] by Valerie Stevenson. It contains such common sense information for preparing ringers for massed ringing that we secured his permission to present it here in nearly its original form. Initially, it was presented as two smaller, sequential articles, which have been combined for this publication. - *wlw*

In directing massed ringing at festivals, I've discovered some rehearsal suggestions for directors that assist in preparing your groups for festivals and massed ringing situations. Often, directors fall into two groups: those who follow the instructions in the rehearsal notes explicitly (leaving us with inflexible groups that can only play the music at the exact metronome markings) or those who do not look at the notes at all!

These notes are to provide guidelines without being specific to any individual piece. These are concepts and ideas that you can apply to the music that we are ringing, as well as assist you in preparing for other festivals and music at home.

TAKE TIME TO LOOK OVER THE SCORE

Usually, the composer gives us all the notes that we need. Each composer identifies dynamics, dynamic changes, special techniques, tempo markings, etc. Most rehearsal notes are nothing more than reminders of things that the composer has already written in. Tempos are also subject to change depending on the acoustical environment. Nothing is cast in stone in a massed ringing event!

You, as director, should make notes in your score to remind your ringers of these locations, especially in the midst of problem or busy spots. These places often have the ringer so occupied to "get the notes" that the "music" is lost. PRACTICE these spots, going to extremes - tempos mush faster and slower than marked, forte really loud, piano really soft, EVERYTHING martellato, or malleted, or thumb damped in the sections that you're rehearsing.

IDENTIFY TRANSITIONS

The big "hot spots" of any massed ringing event are TRANSITION SPOTS. These are identified as key signature changes, time signature changes, tempo transitions, or bell changes without key signature changes and

PAGE TURNS!

Usually, these come in combination, especially on the higher levels of literature.

REHEARSE all these sections, backing up 4-5 measures and going through the transitions identified, no matter what happens :-)) !! Each time, identify things that the ringers did well, and the

specific expectation, e.g., "Let's work on the DYNAMICS now!", of the next repetition of the section.

PRACTICE BACKWARDS!

Start at the end of the composition, find an ending "section", and run that part until it is smooth. BACK UP and run another section, continuing through the section that you just completed. This gives the ringers a feeling of entering into sections that they are familiar with! Often, in the rush of preparation, the least prepared section of massed rung compositions is the end!

PLAY GAMES

During the rehearsal of the previously identified transitions, play "follow the director" and conduct [without speaking] accelerandi, rubati, dynamic changes, etc.

Encourage the ringers to evaluate their performance and repeat the "game", conducting other changes that are unpredictable. This is a technique to be used after the music is well on its way to completion. Another of the norms during massed ringing is the group [or several groups] who do not look at the director. Work to identify "check-in" spots that your ringers need to look up, and mark them in some way that is meaningful to you [the ringer].

DISCUSS THE FORM OF THE COMPOSITION

Did you know that most of the handbell compositions are in ABA form? Publishers have discovered that we, as music consumers, like ABA!

Even if the composition isn't ABA, discover how the piece is put together. Have the ringers identify similar measures and sections. They'll be identifying strategies and techniques that they can apply and transfer to other locations in the selection - or maybe into other compositions! They'll also become aware of the challenges and musicianship that is demanded of others in the group at "the other end of the table". This will improve their musicianship!

EVALUATE TECHNIQUE

Eventually, even the best ringers become lazy and the kinesthetic [muscle] memory forgets what it feels like to ring correctly. Stand back and watch your ringers as the piece is progressing and insist on good circles when ringing, flexible but good posture, and clean and controlled stopped techniques properly executed. Videotape the group during rehearsals and allow them to see and evaluate themselves.

- *Timothy H. Waugh*

COMING EVENTS

Kids' Fest

February 8, 2003 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Valley Church
10885 N. Stelling Rd.
Cupertino, CA 95014
Contact: Dian Ruder
Phone: (408) 732-0760
Email: chairelect@areaxii.org

Directors' Workshop

February 8, 2003

Clinician: Beth Gonzalez
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
4500 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA
Cost: \$25 in advance and \$28 at the door; bring sack lunch
Contact: Paulette McFarlin
Phone: (559) 781-3340
Email: cen_calif@areaxii.org

Directors' Workshop

February 15, 2003

Clinicians: Lee and Bill Waggener
Woodland United Fellowship
240 N. West St.
Woodland, CA
Cost: \$25 in advance; \$28 at the door and includes lunch
Contact: Louanne Marshall
Phone: (707) 263-6032
Email: no_calif@area.org

Senior Recital on Handbells

Soloist: Tami Brose
February 16, 2003 at 6:00 pm

Concordia University, Irvine
1530 Concordia West
Contact: Nancy Jessup
Email: nanjessup@aol.com

Concordia University Invitational Concert

February 22, 2003 at 4:00 pm

Concordia University
1530 Concordia West
Irvine, CA
Phone: (949) 854-8002, Ext 1526
Website: www.cui.edu

Directors' Workshop

February 22, 2003

Clinician(s): Bill and Lee Waggener

California Heights United Methodist Church

3759 Orange Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807
Contact: Kathy McCandless

Cost: \$25 in advance; \$28 at the door
Lunch: Available for \$5 or brown bag it
Phone: (562) 595-1996
Email: mccandlessvi@aol.com

Handbell Directors' Weekend Workshop and Retreat

March 8 - 9, 2003

Clinicians: Bill, Lee, and Wendy Waggener
Pilgrim Pines Camp
39570 Glen Road
Oak Glen, CA
Cost: \$104.00
Contact: Bill Waggener
Email: waggwl@aol.com

Directors' Seminar

March 8, 2003 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Clinician: Mary Balkow
Alice Maxwell School
2300 Rock Boulevard
Sparks, NV 89431
Cost: \$25 in advance and \$25 at the door; 12 - 1 hour for getting lunch
Contact: Barb Walsh
Email: nevada@areaxii.org

Elementary/Middle School Handbell Festival

March 13, 2003, 8:15 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

All Saints Catholic School
22870 2nd Street
Hayward, CA 94541
Clinician: Pam Grove
Massed ringing in two divisions, refreshments and games
Cost: \$5.00
Contact: Dolores Rhoads
Phone: (510) 522-5000
Email: Dolores@handbells.com

Senior Recital on Handbells

March 22, 2003 at 3 p.m.

Nick Hanson, soloist
Concordia University
1530 Concordia West
Irvine, CA

Contact: Nancy Jessup
Email: nanjessup@aol.com

Spring Ring

March 29, 2003

Valley Church
10885 N. Stelling Rd.
Cupertino, CA.
Email: chairelect@areaxii.org

Spring Ring

March 29, 2003

Clinician: Cheryl Baker
St. Paul United Methodist Church
2435 N. Thesta Street
Fresno, CA
Repertoire: 2 Massed, 2 Level 2, and 3 Level 3 pieces
Cost: \$12 per person
Contact: Paulette McFarlin
Phone: (559) 781-3340
Email: cen_calif@areaxii.org

Spring Ring

March 29, 2003

Clinician: Mel Tully
Atascadero, CA
Repertoire: 3 Massed, 2 Level 1-2, and 2 Level3-4 pieces
Cost: TBA
Contact: Shirley Warner
Phone: (805) 466-0537
Email: shipley712@charter.net

Concordia University Invitational Concert

March 29, 2003 at 7:00 pm

Concordia University
1530 Concordia West
Irvine, CA
Phone: (949) 854-8002, Ext 1526
Website: www.cui.edu

Twentieth Annual Spring Ring

April 5, 2003 10:00 am with free Concert open to the public at 3:30 pm

Clinicians: Paul W. Allen, Nadene Donner, Randy Knudson, and Arlene Michaels
Florin High School Gymnasium
7956 Cottonwood Lane
Sacramento, CA
Contact: Paul Allen
Phone: (916) 428-9719
Email: pwallen@gotnet.net

COMING EVENTS, continued

Area XII Board Meeting

April 25-27, 2003

Claremont, CA

Contact: Lee Waggener

Email: chair@areaxii.org

Teen Ringers Choirs Day

April 26, 2003

San Dieguito United Methodist Church

170 Calle Magdalena

Encinitas, CA

Contact: Karen Zerlaut

Phone: 760-942-1639

Email: zerlaut@aol.com

Young Ringers' Conference

**May 16, 2003 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
with concert at 3:00 pm**

Clinician: Gary Delk

Garden Grove United Methodist Church

12741 Main Street

Garden Grove, CA

Contact: Rudy Rodriguez

Email: membership@areaxii.org

Young Ringers' Conference

**May 17, 2003 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
with concert at 3:00 pm**

Clinician: Gary Delk

San Carlos United Methodist Church

6554 Cowles Mountain Road

San Diego, CA

Contact: Karlene Neal

Phone: (619) 579-1797

Email: membership@areaxii.org or
karleneneal@abac.com

Bats in the Belfry Tour of England and Scotland

May 23 - June 3, 2003

Organizers: Handbell Services

Phone: (800) 37BELLS

Web: <http://www.handbellservices.com>

High Challenge: A National AGEHR Advanced Youth Choir Event

June 19 - 21, 2003

Anaheim Convention Center

Anaheim, CA

Clinician: Tim Waugh

Registration materials available on
pages 9-11 of this issue

Contact: Nancy Jessup, Event Chair

Phone: (714) 545-3213

Email: nanjessup@aol.com

The Loire Valley Handbell Festival

July 21 - 29, 2003

Clinicians: Fred Gramann and Larry
Smith

The Loire Valley and Paris, France

Contact: British European Specialty
Tours

Phone: (800) 835-0402

Email: info@BESTConcertTours.com

4th National Residential Ring Week

July 28-Aug. 2, 2003

Dunblane Cathedral, Scotland.

Contact: Malcolm Wilson

Email: claganach@easynet.co.uk

Zephyr Point Handbell Conference

July 27 - 31, 2003

Clinicians: Mary Balkow, dean, Jim
Smith, co-director

Zephyr Cove, NV (on Lake Tahoe)

Phone: 775-588-6759

Email: zephyr@zephyrpoint.org

Web: <http://www.zephyrpoint.org>

"A Moose-i-cal Cruise to Alaska" Handbell Cruise

August 3 - 10, 2003

Clinician: Tim Waugh

Organizers: Bells of the Cascades

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the Seas, departing from
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Contact: Azumano Travel

Phone: (800) 395-5578

Solo Ensemble Extravaganza

August 7-10, 2003

Colorado College

Colorado Springs, CO

Contact: Beth Klein

Phone: (503) 805-1269

Email: beth@handbellsunlimited.com

Web: <http://www.handbellsunlimited.com>

Distinctly Bronze

Oct. 9-12, 2003

Guest conductor: Fred Gramann

Springmaid Beach, SC

Web: <http://www.agehr.org>

Area XII Ringers' and Young Ringers' Conferences

July 1-4, 2004 [NOTE NEW DATES!]

Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki

1777 Ala Moana Boulevard

Honolulu, Hawaii

June 25-27, 2004

TBA, but in Southern California

Contact: Mark Michaels

Email: conferencechair@areaxii.org

Web: www.areaxii.org

Handbell Spectacular 2004

July 24 - 27, 2004

Marriott Waterside Hotel

Norfolk, Virginia

Contact: Jane Mary Tenhover

Phone: (800) 878-5459

Email: executive@agehr.org

11th International Handbell Symposium

August 3-7, 2004

Westin Harbour Castle Hotel and

Convention Center

Toronto, Canada

Website: <http://www.agehr.org>

Pinnacle

Jan. 15-19, 2004

Location: TBD

Website: <http://www.agehr.org>

RUDY'S ROOST

The Care and Feeding of Ringers

Part 2: Where do you go to "buy" a ringer?

Back in the Dark Ages of Bells, when we rang by candlelight, I had a little 2-octave choir at my church. The seven ringers were middle-aged adults and could more or less read music. That was the Good News. The Bad News was that ringers kept leaving the choir with frightening regularity!

After checking my supply of deodorant and shower soap, I decided that the problem was not ALL me. The main problem was the same one that many churches and all schools have. People move on. They move because of work, or family needs, or retirement. They move on sometimes just because they think it is time to move on to another church, another city, to greener pastures. The challenge you, Master Handbell Director, have to face is keeping enough people in the handbell ensemble to be able to make music.

In my church, the Minister of Music expected the handbell choir to ring in at least one worship service every month, year round! A daunting challenge for our fledgling band of bell boppers. Add to that assignment the misconception by most of the congregation that bell ringers are magical people because they can make music from an instrument that requires seven people to play. Undoubtedly a feat unattainable by mere mortal human pew-sitters. The recruitment task was enormous.

So I started my campaign of recruiting people to become bell ringers as soon as the first ringer left the choir, which was only a few of weeks after I assumed responsibility of the choir. I first approached my friends in church who I knew could read at least some music. Then I approached the people in the vocal choir. Obviously they knew something about music. Well . . . most of them did. Then I started to randomly pick out people in the congregation and talked to them about joining that mystical group known as the Bell Choir. Kind of sounds like the recruitment for a Multi-Level scheme doesn't it?

When I did find a victim, er, I mean a recruit, I would invite them to my house for some coffee and a little one-on-one bell instruction. I would take home some bells, a couple of pads and some bell music. I would instruct the recruit for 1 to 2 hours or until their eyes glazed over. The goal of this instruction was to equip the recruit with enough of the basic bell ringing techniques to survive the first rehearsal. Once in a while, I would meet with the recruit twice before they attended their first bell rehearsal.

After doing this several times with new recruits, I started to keep track of exactly how many recruits

passed through the Rodriguez Conservancy of Competent Clapper Clangers. In the first 36 months that I directed our choir, I trained, one-on-one, 35 recruits!

Recruitment is a never-ending job. Two things happened as a result of this new ringer training. First, the choir survived and rang in a worship service every month for those first 36 months. The fact that the choir survived and even grew to 10 ringers playing 3 octaves, I took as a victory. The fact that they rang in church every month was frosting on the cake. The price to me personally, giving up time to train one-on-one and lugging bells to my home, was worth it.

No one likes to look like a fool especially in front of his or her friends and family. If one-on-one training was needed to keep the recruit from looking like a fool, then that is something I needed to do. All people like to feel important, at least important enough to be noticed. One-on-one training tells people that bells are important AND new ringers are important. The crux of the matter comes down to you, Master Handbell Director. Are you willing to do what is needed to make the program flourish or even survive?

The second thing that happened is I realized that I needed a better way of training bell recruits. Stay tuned to this same clapper-clanging channel, and the next bell-tingling time we will explore a better way of training in "The Care and Feeding of Ringers." - *Rudy Rodriguez, Membership Chair*

Pithy saying for the day:

Parents are memory makers for their children.

AREA XII VIDEO LIBRARY

The Area XII video library is available for loan to AGEHR members. You may borrow any of the following videos for the current postal shipping fee and return. Contact: David Ruder, video librarian for more details at 423 Palo Verde Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94086-6762; email: DaveRuder@aol.com or phone: (408) 732-0760.

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An Invitation and Application for

High Challenge

NOW OPEN TO INCOMPLETE CHOIRS AND INDIVIDUALS

A National Ringing Event for Advanced High School Ringers The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

June 19–21, 2003

**Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, California**

Participant Information and Application

This ringing event is planned as an exciting gathering for exceptional high school handbell ringers who regularly ring Level 4–6 music well. The challenge and inspiration of working with other ringers their age on music at this high level will provide both participants and listeners with a concert to remember. The results of that work will be highlighted in the final concert performance, which is free and open to the public.

Tim Waugh, the guest director for this conference, will give our advanced ringers the opportunity to follow a different baton, and interpret music through another conductor. Having a chance to work and interact with a conductor like Tim offers a wonderful growth opportunity for our high school bronze level handbell groups.

Important Conference Notes:

- Participants must be high school ringers (plus or minus a bit) who regularly ring Level 4–6 music well.
- Conference features ringing and free time (Disneyland is across the street; the Pacific Ocean is 30 minutes away).
- Ringers must play all music on the repertoire list.
- Full groups are encouraged to perform one or two solo numbers in the final concert.
- We will provide tables, but each group or ringer is responsible for providing all other equipment such as music stands, pads, keyboard, etc.
- This event will focus on making music; there will be no classes or exhibits.
- Ringers will be free to find meals on their own; there will be no scheduled meals together.

If you wish to participate in *High Challenge*, please complete this initial application and return it with a deposit to: AGEHR, 1055 East Centerville Station Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459-5503.

Hotel Information

**Anaheim Hilton Hotel
777 Convention Way
Anaheim, CA 92802-3497
(714) 750-4321 Hotel
800 HILTONS Reservations
(Request group rate for Handbell Ringers)**

- **Ringers are responsible for making their own reservations.**
- **Hilton room rate: \$99 (plus tax) per night**

High Challenge
A National Ringing Event for Advanced High School Ringers
The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Ringing Site Information

Room 201
Anaheim Convention Center
800 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim, California 92802
(714) 765-8950

- **Registration begins Wednesday, June 18, after 5:00 p.m. in the Hilton Hotel lobby**
- **Event move-in, Thursday, June 19 at 8 a.m.**

Registration Fee

\$130.00 per person (Director, Ringer, and Chaperone)

Schedule:

June 19, Thursday

9:00 Massed Rehearsal
12:00 Lunch Break and Free Time
6:30 Massed Rehearsal
9:00 Welcome Activity

June 20, Friday

9:00 Massed Rehearsal
11:30 Lunch Break
12:30 Massed Rehearsal
4:00 Free Time

June 21, Saturday

9:00 Massed Rehearsal
11:30 Lunch Break and Free Time
3:00 Massed Rehearsal
5:00 Dinner Break
7:30 Performance (free and open to the public)

Repertoire List (level listed for each piece)

Ringer must play all music on the list.

1. *Capriccio* - Kevin McChesney (AGEHR 35131, level 5)
2. *Passacaglia* - Handel/Griffin (Beckenhorst HB3, level 6)
3. *Fancy* - Tim Waugh (Jeffers JHS9336, level 4+, to be released in December 2002)
4. *Uncommon Adoration* - Hart Morris (AGEHR 56004, level 6)
5. *Prelude on Herzliebster Jesu* - Fred Gramann (AGEHR 47002, level 5)

Each full group is encouraged to perform one or two solo numbers in the final concert.

Conductor: Tim Waugh

Tim Waugh holds a B.S. in Music Education in Organ from Concord College in Athens, West Virginia. His minor is in woodwinds (flute) and voice. Tim is an active musician known throughout his native West Virginia as well as nationally and internationally. He chairs the Department of Music and Division of Fine Arts at Pikeview High School, where he directs choral, handbell, and musical theatre activities. Tim's handbell choir at Pikeview High School recently received the AGEHR National Exemplary Award for Handbells/Handchimes.

Tim has served many Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish congregations as Pastoral Musician, providing direction for choral, handbell, and children's music. In fact, Tim recently retired from active church music ministry after 32 years of service. He now serves as Artist in Residence at the Berkley Presbyterian Church, playing on the Noack Organ, where he is given the opportunity to present recitals, compose, and pursue a career of conducting in festivals and conferences throughout the country.

High Challenge

A National Ringing Event for Advanced High School Ringers
The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Application for High Challenge

Note: This event is for high school handbell ringers who regularly ring Level 4-6 music well. If you wish to participate in *High Challenge*, please complete this initial application and return it with a deposit to: AGEHR, 1055 East Centerville Station Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459-5503. We thank you, and look forward to seeing you in Anaheim next June!

AGEHR Membership Number: _____

Name of Group: _____

Name of Director: _____

Name of Church/School: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Home Phone: _____

Number of Ringers: _____

Number of Chaperones: _____

Number of extra people on this trip: _____

Amount of linear table space needed: _____

____ We will bring our own tables.

____ We will need conference tables.

Fee: For members: \$130.00 per person (Director, Ringer, Chaperone)
For non-members: \$55.00 per choir + \$130.00 per person (Director, Ringer, Chaperone)

Non-Refundable Deposit of \$25.00 per person: _____ Director \$ _____

_____ Ringers \$ _____

_____ Chaperones \$ _____

Total number _____ Total deposit \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to AGEHR, Inc.)

Credit Card Information: Visa Mastercard

Card Number: _____

Signature: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Please copy this application and retain for your information

For more information, contact Nancy Jessup

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers • 1055 East Centerville Station Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459-5503

• (800) 878-5459 • Fax (937) 438-0434

Event Coordinator: Nancy Jessup • (714) 545-3213 or nanjessup@aol.com

IMHO: GLOVES, THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES...

Over the years I've heard all kinds of glove discussions regarding which type of glove served its supposed function best and was the most attractive. In the "olden days" it was canvas or leather gloves. I suppose this was a carry-over from tower ringing experiences.

Discussion over the last 25 years about what was best has wandered from dotted gloves (too sticky) or undotted (not a good enough grip); to reinforced gloves (too stiff) or unreinforced (wear out too quickly); to colored gloves, including the famous Raleigh Ringers tie-dyed entry (too distracting and unprofessional); or all white or black (much too formal and no fun).

In recent years the controversy has raged over whether handbell ensembles should or should not wear gloves. Since the purpose of this column is to express my own biased opinion, I shall do so and risk being the target of a rash of canvas, leather, dotted, undotted, colored, tie-dyed, white or black missiles of criticism.

Wearing gloves to play a musical instrument has been pretty unique to handbell ensembles and marching bands. Reasons given have generally included uniform appearance, absorbency of perspiration, better grip on the bell, keeping the bells cleaner from the dirt and oils of the hand, easier on tender hands and an artistic look when everyone moves the gloves in perfectly uniform arcs.

I've watched groups that use different gloves as an incentive to young ringers to move through the ranks from cotton garden gloves, to white gloves, and finally to the black gloves. I once saw a junior high group play in darkness with white gloves that moved seemingly bodiless under the glow of black light. Another group had instant appeal to a younger audience with their tie-dyed hand coverings.

In recent years, a number of handbell directors have opted out of wearing gloves to conduct. They reason, if handbells are to gain stature in the musical world, handbell musicians should do away with all the little crutches that make them look unprofessional. Do you see choral, orchestral, and concert band directors wearing gloves? Handbell players need to "watch the stick" just like other musicians. (Of course, this probably means that ringers should also learn to watch the director better, learn to read music and grow in their musicianship skills.)

What about handbell players wearing gloves? In 1992, at the Area XII handbell conference in Hawaii, I had my first glimpse of Strikepoint, a wonderful, zany group from Duluth, Minnesota under the direction of Bill Alexander. Shock of all shocks, they were playing naked (without gloves)! Oh yes, their bells were a bit dirty, but they didn't

seem to mind. They wiped them down after each rehearsal. They also played very, very well!

When you talk to groups like Strikepoint or Campanile, you hear many of the same reasons given for not using gloves as you do for those who wear gloves. They have a uniform appearance; they get a better grip on the handle of the bell; they feel more sensitivity to their musical instrument without the glove intervention, much as a pianist or organist does with the keyboard; although the bells may look dirty, they are regularly wiped down and cleaned, in some cases more thoroughly than gloved groups do (taking the entire bells apart to clean). Ungloved performers look like other ensembles who perform without gloves--orchestras, chamber groups, etc. They also note that gloves get dirty real quick from perspiration and touching the face or other parts of the body. When transferred to the bell casing the handbells can become nearly as dirty as if you had not used gloves. Over the months of rehearsals gloveless ringers have built up calluses that usually withstand the rigors of vigorous rehearsals and performance. Bass ringers, however, often have a large box of Band-Aids or adhesive tape nearby!

So, what's my conclusion? First, as a director I do not use gloves in performance or rehearsal. If I need to demonstrate a bell technique where I touch the casting, I will put on a pair of gloves. If I am conducting a workshop, I will wear gloves out of respect for the ensemble I am teaching and to facilitate frequent demonstrations.

My handbell groups use gloves. They go nicely with our outfits. They fit tightly and give our tender hands a measure of protection from the wear and tear of extended handbell playing. We insist that the children's groups use gloves and we wash them frequently. Children often have sticky, dirty hands. We've found over the years that the bells stay cleaner with gloves on. There seems to be a greater respect for the care of the bells when children have to put on gloves to pick up or play the bells. Again, frequent cleaning of the gloves is essential as the dirt from the sticky hands is transferred to the gloves.

Whether adult ensembles wear gloves or not makes no difference to me. The look, however, should be uniform. The reasoning, justifiable. The cleaning, frequent. Go for it! - *David Ruder, Chair-Elect*

AREA XII LOAN PROGRAM

Area XII has both choirchime and handbell sets for loan to schools to experience these instruments and to get a program started. Contact Gary Delk, Bells in Education Coordinator at (562) 697-7805 or education@areaxii.org for more information about the loan program as well as application forms.

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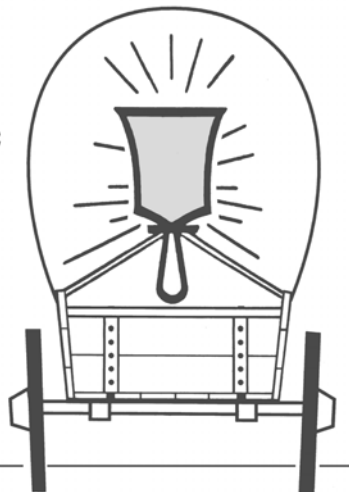
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Mel & Gail Tully

A NOTE FROM THE ARM OF THE CHAIR, continued

member of the family of Hancock Ringers.

At this time of profound loss for Charlie, he has gained a new family of ringers and friends on the other side of the country. He has received a video from Hancock that he can't wait to see so that he can "meet" his new friends, and they have a copy of his video of Tina. The bonds of music again have united and comforted across an entire continent.

We may never know whom we touch by our music. So often, we just try to get the right notes played at the right time, with some sense of the music behind the notes. We feel immense relief when we have finished playing. However, many who hear us are stirred in ways that are unknown to us, and new bonds are being created in ways that might amaze us. One of the blessings of sharing music is the giving of a gift that brings such pleasure to others. Perhaps knowing that music is speaking to others in significant ways may motivate you and your choir to reach for superior levels of accomplishment. - *Lee Waggener, Chair*

Area XII Spring Directors' Workshops

Directors' Workshop

February 8, 2003

Clinician: Beth Gonzalez
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
4500 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA

Cost (bring sack lunch): \$25 in advance; \$28 at the door
Contact: Paulette McFarlin
Phone: (559) 781-3340
Email: cen_calif@areaxii.org

The morning will be devoted to a workshop using the Massed pieces for the Atascadero Spring Ring at the end of March. Other topics will include handbell drills for difficult passages, discussion on ways to improve bell choir, e.g. small choir bell assignments, recruiting, etc. The afternoon will feature a reading session hosted by **WestCoast Handbell Supply**.

Directors' Workshop

February 15, 2003

Clinicians: Lee and Bill Waggener
Louanne Marshall
Woodland United Fellowship
240 N. West Street
Woodland, CA

Cost (includes lunch): \$25 in advance; \$28 at the door
Contact: Louanne Marshall
Phone: (707) 263-6032
Email: no_calif@area.org

The theme of the morning portion of this workshop will be "Ways To Improve Your Bell Choir", with five items of focus. The afternoon portion will feature a reading session hosted by **WestCoast Handbell Supply**.

Directors' Workshop

February 22, 2003

Clinicians: Bill and Lee Waggener,
Shirley Heckman
California Heights UMC
3759 Orange Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807

Cost: \$25 in advance; \$28 at the door
Lunch: Hot lunch available for \$5
Contact: Kathy McCandless
Phone: (562) 595-1996
Email: mccandlessvi@aol.com

The theme of the morning portion of this workshop will be "Ways To Improve Your Bell Choir", with five items of focus. The afternoon portion will feature a reading session hosted by **Emerson Music**.

Directors' Seminar

March 8, 2003

Clinician: Mary Balkow
Alice Maxwell School
2300 Rock Boulevard
Sparks, NV 89431

Cost (lunch not included): \$25 in advance; \$28 at the door
Contact: Barb Walsh
Phone: (775) 677-8119
Email: nevada@areaxii.org

We'll have classes from 9:00 to noon and a reading session hosted by **West Coast Handbell Supply** from 1:00 - 3:00 in the afternoon.

Directors' Workshop/Seminar Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Phone (____) _____ email _____

I ring direct handbells at: _____

I am registering for:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> February 8 / Atascadero
\$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> February 15 / Woodland
\$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> February 22 / Long Beach
\$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 8 / Sparks
\$25 |
|---|--|--|--|

Mail form and payment to:

960 Scenic Drive
Porterville, CA 93257

1971 Riggs Road
Lakeport, CA 95453

3759 Orange Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807

3300 Deer Foot Lane
Reno, NV 89506-9735

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to: **AGEHR Area XII**.

Please photocopy this sheet to provide one form for each registrant.

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AREA XII COMPOSITION CONTEST

Original Compositions or Arrangements

Prize: Publication and inclusion in the Area XII Ringers' Conferences 2004

Submission Deadline: March 15, 2003

For contest rules and composition categories, see www.areaxii.org or email or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Cheryl Baker, Chair
Area XII Composition Contest Committee
578 Sutton Way #158
Grass Valley, CA 95945-5306
cbaker@comcast.net

AREA XII RINGERS' CONFERENCES - 2004

The Area XII *Conference Committee* responsible for planning the Ringers' Conferences for 2004 is pleased to announce that the plans are well under way. Under the leadership of Chair Mark Michaels, two events are scheduled for 2004, the 50th anniversary of The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc.: a mainland event at one of two sites currently being evaluated in Southern California over the weekend of June 25, 26, and 27, 2004 and a second event at the Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki in Honolulu over the weekend of July 1, 2, 3, and 4, 2004.

The current plan is to have both of these events directed by the same conductor and share a number of features. Area XII ringers will have a choice of events with which to celebrate the 50th year of the Guild: Hawaii, the 50th state or California, the 1850 state.

The Hawaii Conference will focus on bellringing in the rehearsals (including working on ringing technique) and on Hawaiian culture and lore in the classes and free time, whereas the Southern California Conference will have a format similar to past events with extensive rehearsals supported by classes and workshops in bell-related issues.

In order to choose a conductor who is the best fit for what we envision for these events, your *Conference Committee* has taken a very different path this year. After much discussion at the Fall, 2001, Board meeting, Committee Chair Michaels invited those on our list of potential conductors to share their views about conducting Conferences as well as what special gifts they might bring to our two events. Their responses have been extremely thoughtful, and the *Committee* will be challenged to select only one from our highly talented and experienced pool of applicants.

Plans are also under way for selecting the repertoire for these events. The biennial Area XII Composition Contest will be announced in the coming months, and any award-winning piece(s) would be included. All Area XII composers are urged to submit their work so that perhaps something very special can be part of our contribution to the Guild's golden anniversary year.

Many of the details that we want to share as soon as possible (including the costs and the conductor) will be finalized just after this issue of **The Twelfth Tone** goes to press. Look for a full-page announcement of these two events in the April-May issue. - *wlw*

A HANDBELL DIRECTORS' WEEKEND WORKSHOP AND RETREAT

in the San Bernardino Mountains at the

Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center

just above Oak Glen, California

From Saturday, March 8th at 9:00 am
through Sunday, March 9th at 1:00 pm

Fee includes packet of music, overnight
camp cabin lodging, and 4 meals

Music Reading & Healthy Ringing Techniques
& Directing Clinic & Rehearsal Planning

Clinicians: **Wendy, Lee, and
Bill Waggener**

The Music Packet

Two Pieces For Perfection
Remainder For Techniques

Directors' Issues

Program Organization
Recruitment
Children's Choirs
Music Reading
Rhythm
Choosing Repertoire
Healthy Ringing
Sight Reading
Bells in Worship

Conducting Issues

Precise Ringing
Starting a Piece
Isolating A Melodic Line
Transitions
Rehearsal Strategies

Our plan is to select a **specific conducting or musical challenge** as the focus of each session. There will be **brief conducting clinics** throughout the weekend for those who would like to try techniques related to the music at hand - and by the end of the weekend, we hope every participant who would like to do so will have had an opportunity to conduct at least once. The goal of these episodes is to give kind and supportive feedback to all participants to enhance their ability to communicate with the ringers in their choirs back home.

Accommodations at Pilgrim Pines are in winterized and heated double cabins with 6 built-in bunk beds (each with private reading light) and half-bath per side. Participants may bring either sleeping bag or linens and bedding. Recently modernized shower facilities are located within each cabin cluster. Meals will be provided in the common dining hall which has also been recently renovated. There is a *very limited* number of double rooms with twin beds available for an additional fee of \$10 per person. Call for availability before requesting.

This event marks the return of a highly successful series of weekend retreats conducted by the Waggeners at Pilgrim Pines a number of years ago. Space will be limited to 24 participants. Although the focus of the weekend will be on developing the participants' directing skills, ringers are absolutely welcome as well. Further information and driving instructions will be sent to registrants. We will ring on one 5-octave set and one 6-1/2 octave set, so there should be ample opportunity for everyone to experience ringing at all parts of the table. For more details, call (909) 624-0236 or email waggwl@aol.com.

Fee: \$114.00

See page 13 of the October-November issue of **The Twelfth Tone** for the Registration Form or contact the Waggeners for another copy.

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- Regular Membership \$55.00
- Ringer Membership \$22.00

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- Full-Time Student Membership. \$37.00
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A NOTE FROM THE KEYBOARD

My New Year's Resolutions:

As Director of my handbell choir, I hereby resolve to **arrive early for every rehearsal** - *as long as my ringers show up on time.*

As Director of my handbell choir, I hereby resolve to **make every conducting gesture precise and meaningful** - *as long as my ringers look up to see the unmistakably clear visual messages I'm giving.*

As Director of my handbell choir, I hereby resolve to **prepare each score with absolute detail given to all difficult passages** - *as long as my ringers actually DO the maneuvers and techniques I've marked in their music.*

As Director of my handbell choir, I hereby resolve to **wash gloves frequently** - *as long as my ringers mark their initials in them and put them away after each rehearsal.*

As Director of my handbell choir, I hereby resolve to **refrain from counting out loud** - *as long as my ringers count flawlessly for themselves.*

As Director of my handbell choir, I hereby resolve to **announce all ringing commitments far in advance** - *as long as my ringers bring their calendars to every rehearsal.*

As Director of my handbell choir, I hereby resolve to **forgive my ringers for their absences** - *as long as they provide substitutes at least as competent as they are.*

As Director of my handbell choir, I hereby resolve to **keep my cool** - *as long as my ringers faithfully do everything I ask.*

As Director of my handbell choir, I wonder just how far into the New Year I will be able to keep my well-planned resolutions...

William L. Waggener
Editor

PS: On the other hand, could substituting "whether or not" for "as long as" in each of these possibly make a difference? I wonder...