

## **A NOTE FROM THE ARM OF THE CHAIR**

**Lee Waggener**

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How do you plan a conference for handbell ringers? That's the current project of the Area XII Board. Not just one, but two conferences for 2004.

Area XII is blessed with the states of California, Nevada, and Hawaii, certainly geographically diverse and the largest of the twelve areas if you count the Pacific Ocean between us and Hawaii. To provide events within a reasonable distance of members becomes quite a challenge in this Area, so there is a schedule of rotation for the conference sites. Hawaii, the 50<sup>th</sup> state, is the perfect location to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AGEHR in 2004. Who wouldn't want to go to Hawaii and ring bells? But in reality, there are members who will not be able to afford this trip, so a second conference is being planned a week earlier in California, the 1850 state, at the Ontario Convention Center. Both conferences will be conducted by David Davidson.

So now we have locations, dates, and a conductor. The repertoire will be chosen by members of the committee and will be announced by summer so that you can start learning the music in September. But many other decisions need to be made. How much will it cost? Some of you have expressed a concern at the cost of bell events. All of the conference costs - meeting space, meals, conductor, clinicians, printing - must be covered and income generated for Area XII so that the business of running the Area can be continued. The budget is based on projected attendance, and much thought goes into setting the registration fee. In Ontario, some meals will be included, because eating elsewhere would be time-consuming and very inconvenient. In Hawaii, there are many places to eat near the conference location, so expensive catered meals will not be included. In Ontario, adequate bells sets will be available for classes, but in Hawaii not many bell sets are available, so the classes will focus on Hawaiian culture and lore. David Ruder, as the Chair-Elect, will be in charge of classes at both events.

Many hours of thought and labor go into planning events to make them appealing to our members. No matter which conference you attend, expect to be challenged by playing under David Davidson. Expect to learn from the other ringers and directors who attend. Expect to hear exciting concerts. Expect to make new friends. And expect to have FUN.

The Area XII Board is meeting April 25, 26, and 27 in Claremont. Part of the meeting will be spent visiting Ontario to help in our planning. From 4:00 pm Friday to noon on Sunday, we will be working on Area XII business. Your input is invaluable. Contact a Board member with your ideas for your Area. Offer to host an event at your church. Offer to help your Regional Coordinator with events. Send in information about your choir to your Regional Coordinator so that you can share with others. I am very pleased with the attendance at our events so far this year, but we need your ideas to make our events even more relevant for you. Let us hear from you. - Lee Waggener

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# NEW MEMBERS

## New Members in February

Karen Smith  
Seaside Community Church  
Torrance, CA 90505

Michael D'Spain  
Long Beach Polytechnic High  
School  
Long Beach, CA 90813

Bruce Vandervalk  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Camarillo, CA 93010

Terri Kubow  
San Diego, CA 92126

Linda Galligan  
First Presbyterian Church  
Burlingame, CA 94010

## New Members in March

Handbell Director  
William Snyder Elementary School  
Las Vegas, NV 89104

Frank Brownstead  
Catholic of Our Lady Angels  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Robert G Carson  
St Mary Magdalene Church  
San Diego, CA 92110

Ann Lyle Van Atta  
San Diego, CA 92122

Deb Yowell  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Scot Benton  
Rescue, CA 95672

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## ***The Twelfth Tone***

**April - May, 2003**

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information, please contact:

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each odd-numbered month for publication in the  
following even-numbered month (*e. g.*, the deadline for the

# VOICES FROM THE PAST

(The third in a series.)

Patty Marquart    Ginny Fleming    Dick Coulter    Diane Levorson    **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 50<sup>th</sup> 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..." - wlw*

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

At the end of summer '67, and after touring all summer with a professional singing/dancing group named "The Young Americans", I accepted a full-time position as Minister of Music at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Ohio. During the interview, I was told by the interviewer that a part of my duties would be directing an English Handbell Choir. My face must have become very distorted, because the interviewer asked if there was a problem and if I knew anything about handbells. My answer was simply, no problem, and no, I did not know anything about handbells. However, I quickly added that I would love the challenge and I really wanted the job.

Needless to say, 2 years later, with lots of help from the 15 ladies of the "Covenant Handbell Choir", and after talking to legends in the handbell world, Nancy Poore Tufts, Ellen Jane Lorenz, Donald Allured, and Robert Ivey, I was on the path of a new-found love, handbells! The church had a 3 octave set of Whitechapel Handbells. The bells were in cloth bags, hung on the wall on wooden pegs. The ladies of the Handbell Choir called the cloth bags, "bell-pants". There was no such thing as a carrying case for storage or traveling. Music was hand written, with a list of all available published music typed on a single 8 1/2 X 11 piece of paper. The handbell choir not only played for church services but was very much an outreach PR group for the church, ie. rest homes, retirement villages, smaller churches, etc.

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

I graduated from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio with a Bachelor of Music Education Degree and an earned Master of Music Education Degree from the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio. I majored in voice and conducting. I attended nearly every local and

regional workshop available to increase by handbell knowledge.

After coming to California in 1969, I did not work in church music or handbells until the fall of 1976, when I accepted the position of Director of Music at La Habra United Methodist Church, La Habra, CA who had a 3 octave set of Schulmerich Handbells. Within 2 years, the church acquired a complete 5 octave set, and we had 3 choirs rehearsing every week.

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

After reading the other "voices from the past", I can't believe I'm saying this, **BELL JUBILEE** by Ellen Jane Lorenz. In coming to California, I taught in the public schools as a choral and handbell teacher/director for 32 years. After accepting the position at LaHabra United Methodist Church, I was invited to a handbell concert with "The Peace Ringers" and Patty Marquart was the director. That is the first time I heard Bell Jubilee. I was hooked. After attending our second handbell festival in Fresno, California, David Davidson directed Bell Jubilee as a memorized processional piece and that fantastic memory and excitement will stay with me forever.

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

What can I say that has not already been said in all the previous articles of "voices from the past". To quote Ginny Fleming, join AGEHR!!!!

This must be your first step. Its like going threw the registration process of any college, only much, much easier.

- #1 - Fill out the AGEHR registration form and send it along with your check.
- #2 - Read, attend, and participate in as many handbell events as possible.
- #3 - Ask questions of any AGEHR member close to you, information available via your membership chairman. All this information is available on your Area's newsletter.
- #4 - Attend other handbell rehearsals and performances. New techniques, ideas, and equipment is being created everyday. Make yourself available to absorb all of these opportunities and information.

## VOICES FROM THE PAST, continued

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

I became a card paying member of AGEHR in 1977, 26 years to date. I would equate AGEHR to a degree from a college or university. They provide members with support, information, and most of all, **education** in the handbell world. If you read the publications, attend and participate in the events, ie workshops, seminars, and festivals, you will "learn" the art of Handbell Ringing and Directing. AGEHR has been my life support for the past 26 years.

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

After returning home from the Las Vegas Conference, Richard Knox, Area XII Chairman asked if I would serve as Regional Coordinator. That is when it all started:

Regional Coordinator/ LA Area	1984-86
Festival Chair elect/ Visailia Festival	1986-87
Festival Chair/ Pasadena Festival	1987-88
Chair Elect/ Area XII	1988-90
Chairman/ Area XII	1990-92
Past Chair/ Area XII	1992-94
Event Coordinator/ Area XII	1994-96
Bells in Education Coordinator	1996-98
National AGEHR Board/CHIME COM	1995-98
Bells in Education Coordinator	2002-

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?*

Thorough the years, I have taught all levels of handbell ringing in churches, public schools and colleges, and speaking from an educational point of view, Handbells in Education has just "begun". The future for handbells in unstoppable!!

I want to relate the existance of handbells in the music world to that of the computer world. Look at how far we've come. Think back to what we (handbell musicians) were doing 30 years ago to what is happening now, *e. g.*, Sonos Ensemble from San Francisco, Raleigh Ringers, Campanile, Strikepoint, and many other college, community, and above average church choirs that are performing unbelievable music in a very professional performance.

From one line melodies and no damping, written on a single treble clef line to a full 6 octave plus instrument, producing sounds in a symphonic fashion that tantalizes any musical ear, through the use of handbells, handchimes, and other related rhythm instruments.

Because we are such a society that demands "instant" gratification, too many times, we can't see the forest for the trees. Think about how long orchestras and choral ensembles have been in existence compared to the first handbell ensemble as we know it today.

Year by year, we are getting more recognition, **Give us time.** We are on our way and we will get there!! We must all be as **active** as we can **make** time to be.  
- Gary Delk

## REGIONAL REPORTS



**San Francisco Bay Area Report**  
**Tammy Raetz** bay\_area@AreaXII.org

January and February have been busy months for the Bay Area handbell community. The Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos hosted their annual reading Ring Through in January, where ringers and directors got their fill of new music at the day-long event. February 8th saw the first Kids Fest, a festival for church youth handbell choirs, at Valley Church, and the event was not only successful but sold out due to space restrictions. Plans are underway for a larger location at next year's Kids Fest!

The Ninth Annual Bay Area Handbell Festival took place on February 22 at First Covenant Church in

Oakland, and the 100+ ringers profited from the directorship of Jim Meredith and the masterclasses taught by Sonos. This was the first time the Sonos masterclasses were offered in the Bay Area, which are part of their touring repertoire, and several of the popular classes were full to overflowing as eager ringers learned new skills and improved current ones.

Another educational event for children, this time for school groups, will be held March 13: an Elementary/Middle School Handbell Festival at All Saints School in Hayward with clinicians Pam (P.L.) Grove and Dave Ruder.

Our premier Bay Area ensembles are touring out of state this month and next: Velocity just returned

from a tour of the Pacific Northwest with their "Inspirations" concert, while Sonos is taking their "Runaway Child" program on tour to New Mexico, Nevada, Nebraska, and back home in Monterey, California on March 21.

The Joyful Ringers will perform at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church on March 22 following a chime workshop aimed at homeschooling families; the Joyful Ringers are a homeschooling and ringing family of 10 from Lakeport, CA.

Many other choirs are preparing for the next big event on the horizon, Spring Ring at Valley Church in Cupertino on March 29. The closing concert will feature some special performances, including a massed processional, a solo by Ruben Mendoza, and the premiere of composer and director William Kyle's new composition, "Picarella," by the Bay Bells.

Upcoming events include two exciting concerts by the Oregon youth choir Ring of Fire! the Bells of Tualatin Valley Academy, on April 16 at First Covenant Church in Oakland and April 17 at Valley Church in Cupertino. Both concerts will start at 7:30 p.m. and a great turn-out is expected for this amazing ensemble that fully memorizes all their music and rings with...fire!

Specific details about Bay Area and other handbell events can be found at [http://www.areaxii.org/e\\_news/bay\\_area/03\\_03\\_05bayt.htm](http://www.areaxii.org/e_news/bay_area/03_03_05bayt.htm). If you don't receive this calendar via the monthly Bay Area Handbell eNewsletter and would like to, send your email address to Bay\_Area@areaxii.org.

Ring with joy!



### **Los Angeles Metro Report**

**Shirley Heckman** la\_metro@areaxii.org

The LA Metro region recently hosted two Directors' Workshops. The first one, which was held at the California Heights UMC in Long Beach on February 22, was led by Bill and Lee Waggener with 21 directors and ringers in attendance. The second was a weekend retreat, led by Bill, Lee, and Wendy Waggener, at Pilgrim Pines Camp on March 8-9 with 19 directors and ringers registered. In both events, the music was supplied by Parker Emerson. I received many favorable comments on the value of the workshop and the retreat. If you missed this opportunity, plan to participate the next time that the workshops are offered. You and your choir will be glad that you did. The university/college handbell choirs were busy in March! Azusa Pacific University Handbell Choirs gave a concert on March 16 and also hosted the APU

Invitational Handbell Choir Festival Concert on March 22. The Master's College Handbell Choirs held their Fifth Annual Bellfest on March 23. And on March 29, Concordia University held its 2nd Invitational Handbell Choir Concert.

Check the Coming Events section and mark your calendar for the many other handbell events coming up this spring. All our choirs are working diligently to perfect their performances and are deserving of your support. Note that the high school age choirs in the LA Metro region are planning their "First High School Handbell Festival" at St. Matthias High School in Downey on May 20, and the children's choirs (grades 3-8) will again participate in the Young Ringers' Conference in Garden Grove on May 16 and San Diego on May 17.

"Ring of Fire" (The Bells of Tualatin Valley Junior Academy), an outstanding group of energetic teenage ringers from Oregon, directed by Jason Wells, will be giving concerts (they memorize their music!) in Southern California this spring: April 30 at Azusa Pacific University and May 3 at Calimesa SDA Church. Their short tour will conclude with a performance at the Crystal Cathedral on May 4. Don't miss seeing this amazing group perform!

If you are not receiving the LA Metro Handbell eNewsletter, send me a note to <la\_metro@areaxii.org>. Then you will receive monthly updates on what is happening in our region of Area XII. Also, be sure to send me the announcement of your spring concert - you'll get free



publicity!

**Nevada Report**

**Barbara Walsh** nevada@AreaXII.org

Howdy! By the time you read this, our Directors' Workshop in Reno with Mary Balkow will be history and so will the Sonos concert in Las Vegas. If you didn't get to attend either of these events, don't let another bell opportunity pass you by!

April 12th is the date of our 1st annual Sierra Spring Ring conducted by our own Tessique Koenig. Let's all make an effort to support an event like this in our own area. The cost is only \$10 per choir (orphans are welcomed) and we're doing 2 oldies but goodies, "Peace" (Norbert) and "A Joyful Ring" (Kinyon). The event this year is at South Reno United Methodist Church and will be held at 9:00-12:00. Let me know if you want to join us or you need more information.

If you have kid groups, you won't want to miss our umpteenth annual Young Ringers' Festival in Reno on May 27th. Jim Smith is our director and has arranged a song for us, "Buffalo Gal's Chopsticks". We're gonna have fun!

If you're a ring-a-holic and like beautiful places, then

you'll want to attend the Zephyr Point Handbell Conference at Lake Tahoe on July 27-31. Mary Balkow and Jim Smith will be the conductors. Space fills up fast, so contact me soon if you want to go.

One more note. My Tintabulations group will be playing at Disneyland on June 11th! We're very excited! We're hoping to play a couple of concerts on the way down US 395. If you might be interested in having us play a concert, let me know.

It sounds like we'll have a good representation of kids at the Las Vegas 12th Night; my Tintabulations group is going and so are about 50 of Ron Thiele's ringers (you remember them from the Reno conference!). The roller coaster ride lines on The Strip are going to be long! Contact Dixie Bailey (dxbaill3@prodigy.net) or Janet Ty (jyty@aol.com) if you'd like to attend this Jan. 11-12 event. Also in Las Vegas, Sonos will be giving a concert on March 9 at 3:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church.

### **Southern California Report**

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

Celebration Ensemble of First United Methodist Church, Chula Vista is led by Jo Anne Hammond. The ensemble will play *Majesty* and *Oh, Worship The King* from the Twelve Bells Series by Patricia Sanders Cota for the 9:00 am service on Palm Sunday, April 13. Jo Anne has recently begun a Junior High School bell group at the church as well. Jo Anne also directs the handbell choir Bell A-Peal at Good Samaritan Episcopal, San Diego. The Good Sam choir plays in church monthly and is planning to go to Hawaii for Area XII's conference the summer of 2004. On March 23, the group will be playing selections from Patricia Sanders Cota's Twelve Bell Series. Jo Anne's Community of Christ

Handchime Choir is an intergenerational group having ringers from 10 to 75 and ringing 3 octaves.

Ruth O'Neil directs the Celebration Handbells of La Costa Christ Presbyterian Church of Carlsbad. The choir plays next on Palm Sunday: *Sonatina* by Michael Helman and Ruby Hollis' *A New Day Is Coming*. Ruth plans a one-day Kids Day Camp either March 22 or 29 for the youth grades 5 through 8. The students will gather from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm, prepare a piece for the following Sunday, have a pizza lunch, and enjoy the new musical adventure. Some will have rung before, and for others, this will be a new experience.

Rebekah Scott, chair of San Diego Harmony Ringers, notes the choir played March 9 at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in San Diego ~ Evensong at 5:00 pm and a concert which followed at 5:45 pm. Selections included *Procession of The Nobles*, *Nocturne in A Minor*, the Bach *Alleluia*, *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, *America*, *The Beautiful*, and *Stars and Stripes Forever*. The public was invited. The choir will also be playing at the Organ Pavillion in Balboa Park, San Diego on a Sunday afternoon in June. We will post the date when it is known. Again, the public is invited.

Paula Palmer is director of the handbell program at San Carlos United Methodist Church in La Mesa. The program includes four handbell choirs: Bell Tones, Church Chimes (beginning adults), Naturals (5th to 9th grade students) and The Fourth Grade Beginning Bell Choir - six young people all in the fourth grade. One or more of the choirs plays on the third Sunday of each month. The Bell Tones will be playing on Palm Sunday. All groups within the Music Program will be taking part in Music Sunday's program on Mother's Day, May 5.

## **RUDY'S ROOST**

### **The Care and Feeding of Ringers Part 3:**

#### **What grade is your choir? Choice? Premium? Grade A?**

Many years ago when I first starting conducting handbells, I had came from a choral conducting background and I didn't know a martellato from a mallet. So I went to every handbell directors training workshop within Pony Express distance from my church. And it was at one of these early workshops that I first heard that curious term: **The Graded Bell Program**.

*Oh, no, I thought. Don't tell me that there are Bell Police out there who come around and check out your choir! Would my choir pass? Are my ringers ready for an inspection?*

I could just see it now: Knock, knock. Open the rehearsal door. "Hello, I am Bell Patrolman Pounce. And I am here to inspect your pealing proficiency, so put your toes on this chalk line and start pealing."

After slyly talking with some other handbell directors, I learned that no, there were no Bell Police. Instead, the Graded Bell Program had something to do with having several choirs in your church or school. *Oh, is that all!?!? Here, I can barely manage to keep seven ringers in my little 2-octave choir and you want me to do what? Start more bell choirs?? Yeah, right!*

Further investigation taught me that indeed, the bigger bell programs around all had some form of a Graded Bell Program. For those of you who may be as uninformed as I once was, let me explain what a Graded Bell Program is.

## RUDY'S ROOST, continued

Basically, it is a program that has different choirs for ringers of differing ringing abilities. The age of the ringer may or may not play a part in the Graded Program. But ringing proficiency usually does. In the classic church example, the young Padawan ringer/learners form the entry-level choir where they learn the basics of bell ringing and The Bell Force. These young ringer/learners can be grade-school age or high school age. From this choir the more proficient ringer/learners advance up to the more challenging Jedi choirs. Those choirs composed of older ringers are the ones which ring often in church services or even go on tour. There could be more than one advanced choir to promote up to including bell ensembles for Jedi Master Ringers.

That's the theoretical example. But the question that I faced back then with my one little struggling choir, was how do I start additional choirs in my church when it is so much work just to keep one choir going??

The following is what worked for me in my church. There are many other success stories out. I urge you to talk to directors of graded bell programs and find out how they did it.

In my situation, we had one choir, The Master's Hands, which was tasked with the responsibility of ringing in at least one worship service every month year round. I told you in the last column about my travails of training 35 ringers in 36 months to keep this one choir properly populated. I reasoned and hoped that maybe a Graded Bell Program would be a better way to train and prepare new ringers for our main choir. So I advertised in church that "we" would be starting a bell class of only 12 weeks.

*"Come, have some fun with bells. No commitment beyond the 12 weeks. Everybody is starting fresh and new. At the end of the class you can drop out and no hard feelings, or you can sign-up for another class. And we never ring in front of the church unless the class wants to."* So said the ad.

I also did a lot of one-on-one recruiting to try to fill that first class. First class, Ha! I **still** do a lot of one-on-one recruiting. Anyway, I got four volunteers to join that first class. That was great! Four is a lot

better than one, but four beginners cannot ring 2-octaves of bells. What to do?

I soon found that some published 2-octave music can be rung by four ringers if you omit the bass clef. I know that is not "per Hoyle", but, hey, we are learning to make music. In the years to follow I wrote a lot of hymn tune arrangements that fit in the range of four ringers (D5 to D6). And of course we had a lot of fun learning and practicing bell technique drills. With no time pressure to get music ready by a deadline, we were able to relax with the drills and have some real fun.

I stayed true to my word and at the end of the 12 weeks I announced that the class was officially concluded. But if the ringers wanted, they could sign-up for another class and we would pick-up where we left off and continue our journey into the Wonderful World of Belldom. All of my ringers signed up for the next class.

I found out in these learning classes, if you can get the volunteer to stick with the class for 12 weeks that most of the time they will sign up for another 12 weeks. Do you know how much bell technique and bell music you can teach and produce in 24 weeks? That's almost 6 months!

With the turn over in the Master's Hands continuing as it had been, I soon found ringing positions in the main choir for my Padawan ringers to advance to. I have been using this learning class technique for 14 years now. The Master's Hands now ring 5 octaves of bells, and all of its 11 ringers, except 3 Life-time ringers who pre-date me, have graduated up from the learning choir. The system of the Graded Bell Program works!

Next time we will delve into the realm of the goals of your choir and how that influences "**The Care and Feeding of Ringers.**" - Rudy Rodriguez

Pithy saying for the day:

*"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." Thomas A. Edison*

## IMHO: THREE CHEERS FOR THE VOLUNTEERS: HURRAH, HURRAH, HURRAH!

What makes our handbell organization so successful? The short answer...people!

Wow, Area XII certainly has some hardworking representatives! As I scrolled through the recent handbell e-newsletters from the various area

representatives, I was amazed by the number of activities reported and what was being organized. These good, kind, and unselfish people are giving untold hours for absolutely no monetary gain and doing a terrific job! It is only at the national AGEHR level that there are a few salaried employees.

## **IMHO: THREE CHEERS FOR THE VOLUNTEERS: HURRAH, HURRAH, HURRAH!, continued**

The AGEHR is profoundly fortunate to have so many leaders who give a tremendous amount of time and energy above and beyond the call of duty. Area XII continues to undertake new and exciting projects, prepare successful conventions, and deliver completed projects at an amazing price. The love of the handbell art by dedicated people is the simple reason for the organization's success.

Here are some examples. As you read this, Area XII board members are at work planning Spring Rings, reading sessions, seminars, answering questions, providing materials, publicizing events and preparing newsletters. BUT, they are also busy planning a convention in Hawaii (2004), yet so concerned that members will find Hawaii a problem (filled up, costly, too far away, etc.), that they are also planning a similar convention in Southern California to meet those different needs.

More examples: Bill Waggener spends hours every two months editing a terrific area newsletter chock full of information; our treasurer Debbie Davis keeps the books which requires lots of extra time for audits, tax reports, board reports, and other legal requirements; Jo Anne Hammond keeps up with all of Area XII's secretarial duties which include far more than the Board minutes, like By-law and motion organization and the usual parade of official requests. Lee Waggener, chairperson, finds emails clogging her computer (when it's working) with requests. She responds cheerfully to each by email or phone, keeps the Board on task, and has spent countless hours on details regarding various events. These individuals are striking examples of the kind of

sacrifice and giving that characterizes so many of our organization's members and leaders. Look at the masthead to this newsletter. There are many others who give of their time.

Oh yes, as in any organization there are the usual questions. Why didn't YOU do this? You forgot this! Who chose this music? Whose idea was this? Why does this cost so much? Why is this so late? Yet, these hardworking volunteers accept the questions willingly as input to making their efforts even better in the future. Other appreciative members have wrapped their comments with enormous praise and compliments.

Finally, the services that members receive would be extraordinarily expensive were it not for these volunteer efforts. The small amount members pay (and all the volunteers pay the same membership dues) allows the organization to work its magic. Without your support the journals, newsletters, advocacy, and materials would cease to flow. The volunteers' basic expenses for phone bills, stationary, stamps, gas, publicity materials, copying, etc., would not be met.

Thank you volunteers! You are the reason we exist and flourish, and you are the reason we have so much handbell joy in our lives through these AGEHR activities.

P.S. Maybe you'd like to join this wonderful staff. No pay, but lots of satisfaction. Contact your local representative, or say "yes" when they ask for help with some local event or task. - *Dave Ruder*



## **COMING EVENTS**

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

Sierra Spring Ring 2003 Reno  
**April 12, 2003 9:00 am to noon**  
South Reno United Methodist  
Church

200 Despain Lane  
Reno NV

Opus Invitational Festival  
**April 12, 2003 9:00 am to 3:30  
pm with free public concert  
at 4:00 pm**

Director: Richard J. Colla

First Methodist Church  
16th and I Streets  
Modesto, CA  
West Coast Handbell Supply  
Store on-site

Information and Registration:  
[www.opushandbell.org](http://www.opushandbell.org)

Bell Spectacular Concert: Golden  
Gate Boys Choir Ringmasters,  
VELOCITY, and the Honor  
Bell Choir of All Saints School

**April 12, 2003 at 7:30 pm**

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic  
Church

2808 Lakeshore Avenue  
Oakland, CA

Admission: \$12.00/\$6.00  
Phone: (510) 887-4311

Ring of Fire Concert

**April 17, 2003 at 7:30 pm**  
Valley Church,  
10885 No. Stelling Road  
Cupertino, CA  
Contact: David Ruder  
Email: chairelect@areaxii.org

Area XII Board Meeting

**April 25-27, 2003**  
Claremont, CA  
Contact: Lee Waggener  
Email: lwaggener@aol.com

RING OF FIRE CONCERTS

**April 30, 2003 at 7:30 pm**  
Azusa Pacific University  
Azusa, CA  
Contact: Dr. Donavon Gray,  
Email: dgray@apu.edu

**May 3, 2003 at 7:30 pm**

Calimesa SDA Church  
391 Myrtlewood Drive  
Calimesa, CA  
Phone: (909) 795-9741

Bay Bells, St. Andrew  
Presbyterian and SFSU  
Handbell Concert

**May 4, 2003**

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church  
1125 Terra Nova Blvd.  
Pacifica, CA  
Cost: \$5.00 donation.  
Email: elsbellz@aol.com

Young Ringers Conferences

**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: TheRudyBell@aol.com

**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: TheRudyBell@aol.com or  
karleneNeal@abac. Com

Handbell Showcase Spring  
Concert Series: Michèle  
Sharik, and Velocity

May 18, 2003 at 3:00 pm  
Westminster Presbyterian 3 p.m.  
1100 Shasta Avenue  
San Jose, CA  
Tickets: \$7.00/5.00  
Phone: (408) 294-7447

25th Annual Handbell Concert

**May 18, 2003 at 3:30 pm**  
Walnut Creek United Methodist  
Church  
Cost: Free Will Offering

The Bay Bells and Valley Ringers  
in Concert

**May 18, 2003 at 6:00 pm**

Valley Church  
10885 North Stelling Road  
Cupertino, CA  
Cost: Free Will Offering  
Email: elsbellz@aol.com

First LA Metro High School  
Handbell Festival

**May 20, 2003 4:00 - 8:30 pm**

St. Matthias High School  
7851 Gardendale Street  
Downey, CA  
Contact: Shirley Heckman

Saratoga Presbyterian Church  
Handbell Choir and Bay Bells  
in Concert

**June 8, 2003 at 6:00 pm**  
Saratoga Presbyterian Church  
20455 Herriman Avenue  
Saratoga, CA  
Phone: (408) 867-0144

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>

Sonos performs with the San  
Francisco Girls Chorus

**June 1, 2003 at 3:00 pm**  
St. John's Presbyterian Church

2727 College Avenue  
Berkeley, CA  
Tickets: General: \$12 - \$18  
Reserved: \$12 - \$40  
Contact: City Box Office  
Phone: (415) 392-4400

AGEHR Master Class In  
Conducting

**June 19 - 21, 2003**  
Clinician: Bill Payn  
Anaheim Convention Center  
Contact: AGEHR  
Phone: (800) 878-5459

HIGH CHALLENGE: A National  
AGEHR Advanced Youth  
Choir Event

**June 19 - 21, 2003**  
Anaheim Convention Center  
Anaheim, CA  
Clinician: Tim Waugh

Registration materials available  
in September, 2002

Contact: Nancy Jessup, Event  
Chair  
Phone: (714) 545-3213  
Email: nanjessup@aol.com.

High School Handbell Directors'  
Planning Session

June 20, 2003 at 10:00 am  
La Habra  
Contact: Karen Curry  
Email: KVCTinker@aol.com

SONOS Concert

St. Luke's Sunset Series  
**June 28, 2003 at 8 pm**  
St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
20 University Avenue  
Los Gatos, CA  
Ticket information after Easter  
Phone: (408) 354-4560

## COMING EVENTS, continued

### Directors' Seminar 2003

**Session I: July 17 - 19, 2003**

**Session II: July 19 - 22, 2003**

Hartford Hilton

Hartford, CT

Phone: (800) 878-5459

Web Site: [www.agehr.org](http://www.agehr.org)

### 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](mailto:info@BESTConcertTours.com)

### Zephyr Point Handbell Conference

**July 27 - 31, 2003**

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

Zephyr Cove, NV (on Lake Tahoe)

### 4th National Residential Ring Week

**July 28 - Aug. 2, 2003**

Dunblane Cathedral, Scotland.

Contact: Malcolm Wilson

Email: [claganach@easynet.co.uk](mailto:claganach@easynet.co.uk).

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

### **August 3 - 10, 2003**

Clinician: Tim Waugh

Organizers: Bells of the Cascades  
Inside Passage cruise on the  
Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's  
*Vision of the Seas*, departing  
from Vancouver, B.C. Prices  
start at \$1029 per person,  
double occupancy.

Contact: Azumano Travel

Phone: (800) 395-5578

### Summer Ring

**August 6 - 8, 2003**

Concordia University, Irvine, CA  
A handbell event for ringers,  
directors, and their families  
designed to develop strong  
ringing techniques and  
leadership qualities.

Contact: Nancy Jessup

Email: [nanjessup@aol.com](mailto:nanjessup@aol.com)

### Solo Ensemble Extravaganza

**August 7 - 10, 2003**

Colorado College,  
Colorado Springs, CO

Contact: Beth Klein

Phone: (503) 805-1269

Email: [beth@handbellsunlimited.com](mailto:beth@handbellsunlimited.com)

Web:

<http://www.handbellsunlimited.com>

### Distinctly Bronze

**October 9 - 13, 2003**

Guest conductor: Fred Gramann

Springmaid Beach, South Carolina  
Website: <http://www.agehr.org>

### Area XII Ringers Conferences

**June 25 - 27, 2004**

Clinician: David Davidson  
Ontario Convention Center  
Ontario, California

Contact: Mark Michaels Email:

[mmichaels206@yahoo.com](mailto:mmichaels206@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://AreaXII.org>

### **July 1 - 4, 2004**

Clinician: David Davidson  
Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki  
1777 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Contact: Mark Michaels

Email: [mmichaels206@yahoo.com](mailto:mmichaels206@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.areaxii.org/calendar.html](http://www.areaxii.org/calendar.html)

### Handbell Spectacular 2004

**July 24 - 27, 2004**

Marriott Waterside Hotel  
Norfolk, Virginia

Contact: Jane Mary Tenhover

Phone: (800) 878-5459

Email: [executive@agehr.org](mailto:executive@agehr.org)

### Pinnacle

**January 15 - 19, 2004**

Location: TBD.

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

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E-mail: [lois@abc.ca](mailto:lois@abc.ca)



### **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](mailto:bsingleton@iclub.org)**

# SIERRA SPRING RING 2003

SATURDAY, APRIL 12<sup>th</sup> 9 A.M

## SCHEDULE

8:30-9:00 Check-in and Set-up  
9:00 Massed Rehearsal  
11:15 Massed and Solo  
Performance/Free  
Public Concert

## MASSED PIECES

"A Joyful Ring"	"Peace"
Barbara B. Kinyon	Nobet/Wilson
Agape Press	Agape Press
Code No.1397	Code No. 1258
2-3 Octaves	3-5 Octaves

(Director's notes will add octaves 4 & 5)

Both available from West Coast Handbell Supply  
(800) 625-5111

Director's notes will be mailed or emailed to you upon receipt of your registration.

## LOCATION:

SOUTH RENO UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
200 DESPAIN LANE, RENO

From 395 take 451 (Mount Rose Highway) West. Turn left on Wedge Parkway (1<sup>st</sup> light) Turn right on DeSpain and then the 1<sup>st</sup> left into the church parking lot.

## MASSED DIRECTOR: TESSIQUE KOENIG

Tessique holds a degree in Music Education from the University of Nevada, Reno. She's been involved with handbells for 8 years and currently directs 4 bell ensembles in the Reno/Sparks area and also rings in 4. Questions about the music?

Tessique: (775) 356-2752

## WHAT TO BRING:

Bells                      Gloves                      Pads\*  
Music - Both Massed Pieces

\*Please note: we are not able to supply pads

**To Register:** By April 1<sup>st</sup>, complete form below and send along with \$10.00 (per group) registration fee (make checks out to AGEHR Area XII) to: Lynn Chevillon, 35 Killington Court, Reno, NV 89511

**Questions?** Lynn-775- 852-3504 lynnchevillon@netscape.net

Barbara Walsh 775-677-8119 barbagehr@worldnet.att.net

## REGISTRATION: SIERRA SPRING RING 2003

Name of Group \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

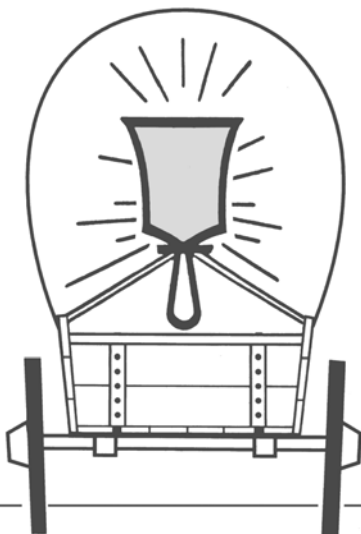
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ We will need \_\_\_\_\_ feet of table space.

We need you to supply tables for us.       We would like to perform a solo piece.

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Our hours are Monday-Friday, 9-6 Pacific Time

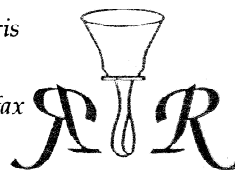
Mel & Gail Tully

are needed to see this picture.

CHORAL MUS

*The Raleigh Ringers*

Music Director: David M. Harris  
8516 Sleepy Creek Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27613  
(919) 847-RLRG (7574) phone/fax  
email: rringer@rr.org  
www.rr.org



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## YOUNG RINGERS' CONFERENCES 2003

8:00 am - 4:00 pm with concert at 3:00 pm

Clinician: Gary Delk

**May 16, 2003**

Garden Grove UMC  
12741 Main Street  
Garden Grove, CA

Contact: Rudy Rodriquez  
Email: [TheRudyBell@aol.com](mailto:TheRudyBell@aol.com)

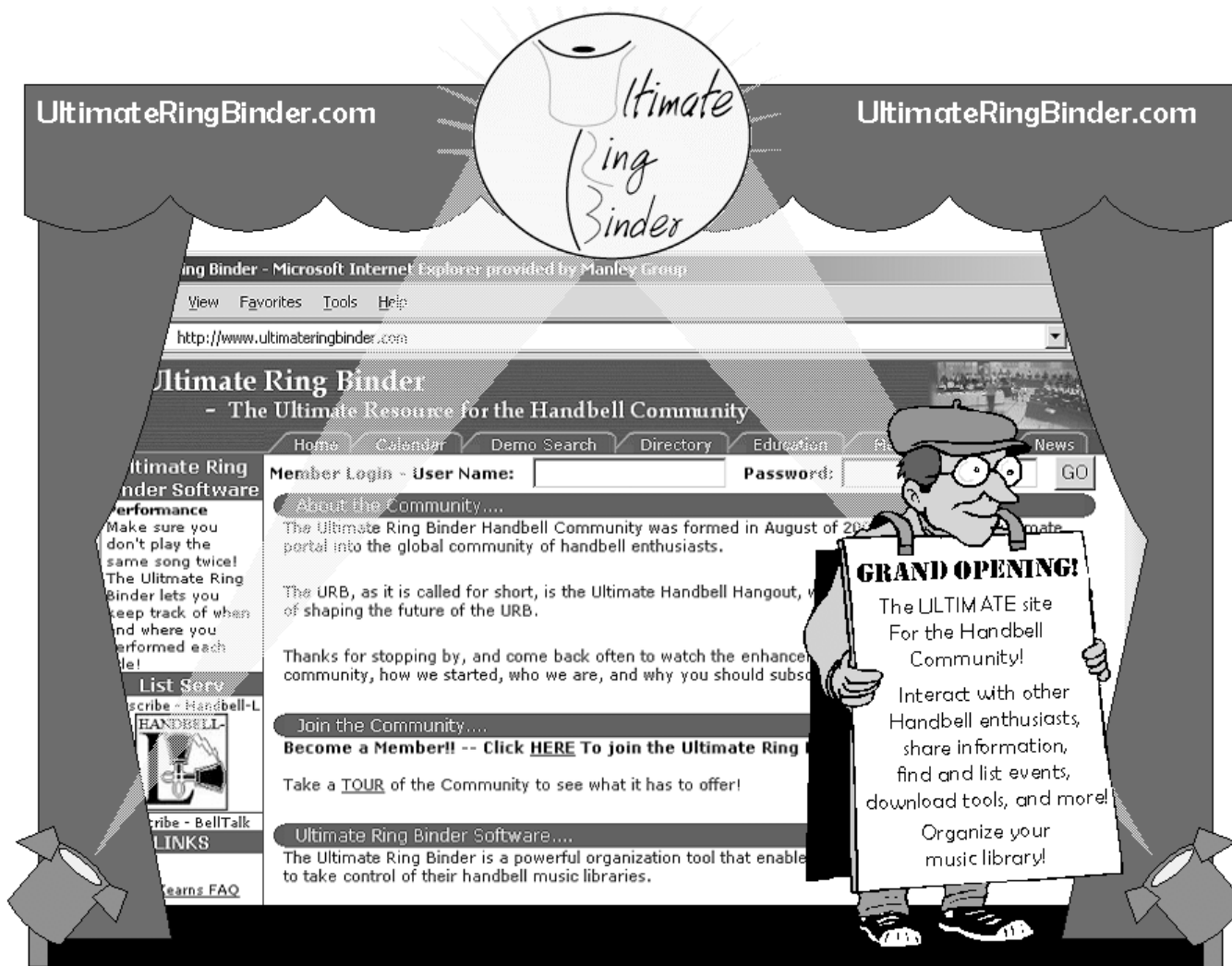
**May 17, 2003**

San Carlos UMC  
6554 Cowles Mountain Road  
San Diego, CA

Karlene Neal  
[TheRudyBell@aol.com](mailto:TheRudyBell@aol.com)  
or [karleneneal@abac.com](mailto:karleneneal@abac.com)

For further information, repertoire list, and Registration Forms, go to:

[http://www.areaxii.org/Conferences/Young%20Ringers%20Conf/voung\\_ringers\\_index.htm](http://www.areaxii.org/Conferences/Young%20Ringers%20Conf/voung_ringers_index.htm)



## Announcing

# The Area XII Ringers Conferences 2004

Conductor: David Davidson

June 25 - 27, 2004

Ontario Convention Center

Ontario, California

Tins and Coppers

July 1 - 4, 2004

Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki

Honolulu, Hawaii

Coppers and Bronze

Contact: Lee Waggener, Area XII Chair

Email: [chair@areaxii.org](mailto:chair@areaxii.org)

Web: [www.areaxii.org](http://www.areaxii.org)

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Quark™ and a  
1997 Pacific Northwest  
are needed to see this picture.



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**Are they more than five years old** and have never been serviced?  
**Do they produce sounds that could be described as squeaks, clicks, thuds or clangs?**



**Do their clappers seem to stick or not move freely?**  
**Are their handles and handguards worn or difficult to read?**  
**Are their castings tarnished?**



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**Mailing Information**

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Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **A NOTE FROM THE KEYBOARD**

A few days ago, Lee and I received our copies of the proposed By-Laws changes that reflect the major reorganization being planned at the National level, and you also undoubtedly have received these by now as well. In the October-November, 2002, issue, we published a letter from President Karen Leonard and President-Elect Beth Watson outlining *what would change* and *what would stay the same* under the proposed reorganization. Please refer to the October-November issue for the details of their letter.

Change is seldom easy and often fearful, if only because we really don't know for sure what the results are going to be until they happen – and if one were to analyze his/her fears, most relate to the unknown. A great deal of labor and agony has gone into developing this proposal, and if it is passed, the Guild will assume a very new look at the National level.

We have come a *very* long way since Mary Kettlehut was able to run the Guild's membership "office" out of a shoebox in her Nebraska farmhouse kitchen. The Guild still has a long way to go to become a truly healthy and thriving organization, and the hope of the reorganization committee is that their proposed changes will carry us forward toward that constructive and worthwhile goal.

I absolutely concur with the committee's assessment that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer have both become superfluous now that we have a national business office with, presumably, highly competent employees to perform the tasks formerly accomplished by these two elected volunteers. I do have reservations about the fact that the twelve Area Boards would no longer communicate *directly* with the nationally elected policy-making Board but rather would do so through the Executive Director, an employee rather than an elected officer of the organization. Formally placing a potential filter (even if it is innocent, unconscious, and unintentional) between the grass-roots level of the organization and the highest leadership does not strike me as a good idea if for no other reason than it could someday place our employee or an Area leader in an unnecessarily awkward position. However, I wholeheartedly support the overall proposal, and if it doesn't seem to be working after a reasonable trial period, I trust that our nationally elected leadership will once again discern the organizational defects and will work equally diligently to seek their solutions.

William L. Waggener  
Editor