



The Twelfth Tone

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. - Area XII
California ♦ Guam ♦ Hawaii ♦ Nevada

Claremont, CA

Volume XVI Number 4

August-September, 20

A NOTE FROM THE ARM OF THE CHAIR

Lee Waggener

Fifty for Fifty

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

Lee Waggener
1631 Oxford Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711-3464
(909) 624-0236 (H)
chair@areaxii.org

Chair-Elect

David Ruder
423 Palo Verde Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-6762
(408) 732-0760
(408) 426-4101 (FAX)
chairelect@areaxii.org

Past Chair

vacant

Secretary

Jo Anne Hammond
644 Mission Court
Chula Vista, CA 91910
(619) 426-4101 (H)
secretary@areaxii.org

Acting Treasurer

Jo Anne Hammond
644 Mission Court
Chula Vista, CA 91910
(619) 426-4101 (H)
secretary@areaxii.org

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Membership Chair

Rudy Rodriguez
14172 Bowen St
Garden Grove, CA 92843
(714) 636-7705
membership@areaxii.org

Twelfth Tone Editor

William L. Waggener
1631 Oxford Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711-3464
(909) 624-0236 (H)
twelfthtone@areaxii.org

Conferences Chair

Lee Waggener
(See above.)

Bells in Education

Karen Curry
300 W. Latchwood Lane
La Habra, CA 90631
(714) 879-0777
education@areaxii.org

Area XII's 50th anniversary celebrations are now a part of our history, and what a grand part! Almost six hundred directors, ringers, and chaperones participated in our two conferences in Ontario and Honolulu. Under David Davidson's masterful conducting, the "oldies but goodies" of handbell music came alive in the final concerts.

There are many on the Board who worked on these conferences. **Rudy Rodriguez** planned the table layout for the ringers in the massed ringing space at each venue and organized the sale of shirts. **David Ruder** searched for the best clinicians possible for the classes. In Ontario, Board members **Barbara Walsh** and **Joanne Hammond** came without choirs to be extra hands wherever needed. **Tammy Raetz** arrived early with Bay Bells and helped out during registration. **Shirley Heckman** and her husband Marlin were on hand at the registration tables. **Karen Curry's** choir provided the opening concert. In Honolulu, **Ginger Harris** jumped in to answer questions throughout the conference at the information table. To all of you on the Board who gave so much extra time and energy to these conferences, a huge thank you.

Other volunteers also worked behind the scenes. **Judy Woodruff** planned a spectacular reception in Honolulu. **Karen Laflin** and her bell choir borrowed bells, found Hawaiian class teachers, and ran innumerable errands in Honolulu for the committee. **Wendy Waggener** organized the solo concerts. **Doug and Barbara MacKenzie** made lovely centerpieces for Ontario. And **Norma Rose** ran a wonderful Silent Auction at both conferences, earning enough money for another set of handchimes for the loan program. Members of the **Claremont UCC Choral Bells** planned registration procedures in Ontario, set up classrooms, and took care of all the small emergencies that inevitably occur. To all these volunteers, thank you.

A special thanks goes to the registrar, **Bill Waggener**. He sent and answered between 1000 and 2000 emails, kept the money straight, and provided invaluable support throughout the last year as we planned these conferences. Now that the conferences are successfully finished, we're ready to plan another one!

To all those who attended, thank you for the time you spent learning music, raising funds, encouraging your ringers, and being such positive conference attendees. We look forward to seeing you at our new event for 2005 in Claremont, and the Ringers' and Young Ringers' Conferences in 2006 in Belmont.

At the conferences, our new officers were announced. Our new Treasurer is Kathy Arnold, Secretary is Paulette McFarlin, and Chair-elect is William Kyle. Congratulations to each of you as you take on new responsibilities for Area XII.

During the last two years, Bill and I have attended many Area XII events. I am leaving this office with fond memories of playing bells, meeting new friends, renewing old acquaintances, and planning for many more years of bell ringing. David Ruder will become Chair in September, and I look forward to working with him as we continue to provide opportunities for joining together in the musical art of handbell ringing. - *Lee Waggener*

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Northern California

Louanne Marshall
1971 Riggs Road
Lakeport, CA 95453
(707) 263-6032
no_calif@areaxii.org

San Francisco Bay Area

Tammy Raetz
3715 Alameda de las Pulgas
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 854-8002
bay_area@areaxii.org

Central California

Paulette McFarlin
960 Scenic Drive
Porterville, CA 93257
(559) 781-3340
cen_calif@areaxii.org

Los Angeles Metro

Shirley Heckman
2717 Park Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750
(909) 392-4012
la_metro@areaxii.org

Southern California

Micki Mennet-Martin
P. O. Box 2827
Ramona, CA 92065
(760) 789-0802 (H)
(760) 789-1424 (W: M-W-F)
so_calif@areaxii.org

Nevada

Barbara Walsh
3300 Deer Foot Lane
Reno, NV 89506-9735
(775) 677-8119
nevada@areaxii.org

Hawaii

Ginger Harris
P. O. Box 6335
Ocean View, HI 96737-6335
(808) 929-9647
hawaii@areaxii.org

APPOINTED LIAISONS

Special Groups Liaison

Diane Bell
4550 Rio Poco Road
Reno, NV 89502-6332
(702) 827-2312
specialgroups@areaxii.org

Electronic Liaison

Mel Tully, Jr.
P. O. Box 4361
Visalia, CA 93278-4361
(559) 636-0903 (H)
(559) 625-5111 (W/FAX)
webmaster@areaxii.org

NEW MEMBERS

New Members in May

Mary Blake
Lincoln, CA

Ivar Tombach
Camarillo, CA

Kenneth C. Brown
Chula Vista, CA

Timothy Zerlang
Grace Lutheran Church
Palo Alto, CA

Robert D. Daniel
Reno, NV

New Members in June

Melody Ricci
Apple Valley, CA

Kathy Arnold
Mountain View, CA

IN THIS ISSUE

A Note From The Arm Of The Chair	1
New Members	2
Publisher's Information	2
Ringers, Conferences Report	3
Ringers' Conferences and the Internet	4
Bells For Sale	5
Regional Reports	5
Raleigh Ringers	6
Ring in England and Scotland	6
Area XII School Loan Program	6
Emerson Music	7
The Jim Scott Memorial Scholarships	7
Area XII-Sponsored Fall Workshops	7
Rudy's Roost	8
IMHO: Some Rules For Handbell Success	9
Area XII Workshop Registration Form	9
The Handbell Mart	10
STEP	11
West Coast Handbell Supply	11
Quality Handbell Repair	11
Handbell Services, Inc.	11
Coming Events	12
Area XII Ringers' Conferences 2006	13
A Ringer's Feast	14
Election of Officers	14
Handbell Exploration	15
Area XII's First Honorary Service Award	15
Malmark Handbells	16
Ultimate Ring Binder	16
Jeffers Handbell Supply	17
Membership Form	17
Editorial	18

The Twelfth Tone **August-September, 2004**

To submit articles or for advertising
information, please contact:

William L. Waggener, Editor
1631 Oxford, Claremont, CA 91711-3464
(909) 624-0236 or WaggWL@aol.com

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ADVERTISING RATES

	Single <u>Run</u>	Annual <u>(6 issues)</u>
Full Page Ad <small>(Up to but not larger than 7.25"W x 9.75"H)</small>	\$75.00	\$375.00
Half Page Ad <small>(Up to but not larger than 7.25"W x 4.75"H or 3.5"W x 9.75"H)</small>	\$45.00	\$225.00
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>	\$22.50	\$112.50

Camera-ready advertising copy is due on the tenth of each odd-numbered month for publication in the following even-numbered month (e. g., the deadline for the February issue is January 10).

2004 RINGERS' CONFERENCES REPORT

By the time this is published, the two Area XII Ringers' Conferences 2004 in Ontario and Honolulu will be over except for the memories. Area XII did itself proud for its share of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc.

Conference Conductor David Davidson drew the best possible ringing from those in the room and worked continuously on creating the musical effects demanded by the music. Classes covered numerous

ringing techniques and musicianship, and in Honolulu, participants even learned how to make several Hawaiian craft items and to do the Hula!

The repertoire for this year's pair of conferences was chosen from some of the earlier classic works from the last 50 years, so many of the less experienced participants were exposed to this literature for the first time in their ringing careers. However, in both events, the ringers worked diligently to make things right for the final concerts.



Scenes from Ontario



Scenes from Honolulu

RINGERS' CONFERENCES AND THE INTERNET

For the first time - at least for Area XII, we have tried to use email and the Internet almost exclusively to communicate information about these events. There are several pertinent and significant reasons for doing so:

(1) **information can be disseminated virtually instantly, with replies, if appropriate or necessary, nearly as fast:** As Registrar, I have sent and received an uncountable number of messages from our registrants, a few as bulk messages to each choir but the majority as individual questions dealing with special or unique issues. The efficiency with which questions can be posed and answers given has been most encouraging, and the questions have gone both ways.

(2) **the cost of postage and printing is going only**

(3) **one way - UP!:** Previous events like these have had hundreds of dollars budgeted just for printing and mailing Conference information out to the membership, not only the initial registration information and forms but also confirmation notices and any followup material. Although we did mail the initial form with an issue of *The Twelfth Tone*, almost 100% of the secondary documents were distributed electronically. The savings have been substantial - which translates into lower registration fees!

(4) **more registrants - not just the directors can be included:** Communicating with everyone just seems to be a good idea, if only to increase the likelihood that important information really gets delivered to those who need it. There are several important sub-issues here, however. First, not every director who has email has the software

RINGERS' CONFERENCES AND THE INTERNET, continued

to deal with compressed attachments, on-line forms, and the like. Second, not everyone spends the day using their computers to respond to emails as they arrive, so the more recipients each group has, the more quickly time-sensitive messages will be read. Third – and perhaps this could be the most important of all, directors can be relieved of the responsibility of being the sole conduit of information between the Area XII Conference Committee and their ringers. Most directors did provide email addresses for all or at least the majority of their ringers for these events. Consequently, the vast majority of this year's registrants were kept directly informed of the status of their group or of upcoming deadlines, which I believe has never happened before. If you are a ringer and received nothing from us, you might ask your director why you weren't included!

- (5) **information provided through the Area XII website can be obtained by anyone at any time:** The beauty of the website, of course, is that anyone can read what's posted literally at any time without having to request anything. If we have done our jobs effectively, then our website should provide the most current

information available. If you have not already done so, check out the Area XII website at www.areaxii.org. Our webmaster, Mel Tully, has created a number of pages that will provide you either with specific answers to your questions or with links to other sites that may have what you need.

The vast majority of this year's registrants reported electronic communication to be an effective way to prepare for these events. If you have any suggestions regarding how to improve the system, please share those with us. In all likelihood, future large-scale events such as these Ringers' Conferences will feature the Internet as the primary mechanism of communicating between the organizing committees and our registrants.

As promised on the Registration Form, any email addresses provided for these events will not be used for any other purposes. However, if you wish to be included in the once-a-month newsletters that are sent by each Regional Coordinator, email a brief message to your RC with a request to be added to her list. *ANYONE* – member or not - is welcome to be included. - *wlw*

BELLS FOR SALE

5 octaves of Schulmerich Handbells plus set of Peery tables. Asking \$10,000 for the package. Please contact Pastor Jerry Voss at Millbrook Presbyterian

Church, 3620 North Millbrook Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726, (559) 227-5355 or millbrk@pacbell.net.

REGIONAL REPORTS



Nevada Report Barb Walsh

nevada@areaxii.org

Howdy! Or should I say Aloooooha? I have just arrived back from the Area XII conferences in Ontario and Hawai'i. Wow! I was so impressed by how well-run things were. Many thanks to Lee and Bill along with their bell choirs for a job well-done. My group and I were SO impressed with David Davidson's ability to get the most out of us and the music that my kids would like to follow him around and attend all the events he's directing!

Speaking of well-done, a couple of my college-aged ringers got sun burned on the beach in Waikiki learning how to surf. It's a lot harder than it looks! It was really great of the Hawai'i ringers to put together cultural classes for us at the conference. My girls loved making the bracelets and leis, and my boys loved learning to hula! We had an absolutely wonderful, memory-filled time going to the Hawai'i conference. I honestly didn't think we'd be able to attend, but the kids proved me wrong. Where there's a will (and some organizational skills), there's a way. If you've never attended an event outside of your community, please consider attending one. These

events are the perfect excuse for becoming a better group both ringing-wise and as a place to get to know one another more personally and build a sense of community. If that's too much, start small and attend events and concerts in your area. Maybe you could start with the Ringers' Workshop in Sparks on October 2nd or the Twelfth Night Festival in Las Vegas on January 10 and 11th?



Central California Report Paulette McFarlin

cen_calif@areaxii.org

There are a couple of events coming up for Central California this fall and coming spring. A Directors Workshop led by William Kyle, director of Bay Bells and Chair-Elect for 2004-2006 will be held on Saturday, October 9 at the St. James Episcopal Cathedral, 4147 E Dakota Ave, Fresno, CA 93726. Contact me (pmcfarlin@ocsnet.net) for more information. Time is 9:00 AM till 3:30 PM or so. Cost is \$25. There will be a reading session as well as working on conducting techniques and various other topics of concern to new and experienced handbell directors as well as interested ringers.

A reading session in Hanford is planned for the fall;

REGIONAL REPORTS, continued

watch for the date with Mel Tully from WestCoast Handbells and a possible reading session on the coast. In 2005, a Spring Ring will be held in Bakersfield on March 12 with Lee and Bill Waggener as clinicians at the St. John's Lutheran Church. Contact Lori Barnett for more information (bellsofpraise@yahoo.com). The central coast (Atascadero area) is hoping for a Spring Ring III to happen, but no one has volunteered to oversee the ring. Anyone in the central coast want to see this event continue? Email me and we'll work on it together!



Southern California Report

Micki Mennet-Martin so_calif@areaxii.org

The 2004 spring was highlighted by Southern California's first Spring Ring. Guest clinicians for the day were Dian and Dave Ruder. In addition to classes by Dian and Dave, Ginny Fleming and Mel Tully also taught. Classes included Four-in-Hand, Multiple Bell Techniques, Change Ringing and More, Handbell Articulations, Traveling and Touring with Handbells, The Healthy Instrument: Care and Maintenance of Handbells and Correct Malleting. The event was held at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in San Diego. Lunch

was brown bag with drinks and fruit provided. 112 ringers participated in the day. The 2005 Spring Ring will repeat at St. Mary Magdalene on April 16, 2005 - our hosts "The Bells of St. Mary's" and their director, Robert Carson.

June 5, 2004 found eight San Diego County handbell choirs ringing together at "Ring-A-My-Soul" - chaired by Ruth O'Neil and hosted by Mimi Puckett, director of the "Grace Notes" and held at Grace Presbyterian Church Vista. Nancy Jessup from Concordia University was the day's clinician. Together the choirs rang four selections together as massed ringing. Five choirs rang solo selections. Two duets and one soloist presented numbers as well. The theme of the day was the rich heritage of spirituals so all selections followed the spiritual theme.

Looking ahead in our area:

Directors Workshop September 18, 2004

Clinician: *Rudy Rodriguez*

Techniques Clinic October 16, 2004

Clinician: *Christine Anderson*

So California Spring Ring April 16, 2005

Clinicians: *Lee and Bill Waggener* Again, classes will be an integral part of this program.

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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AREA XII HANDBELL AND CHIME LOAN PROGRAM

How would you like the free use of a three-octave set of handbells or handchimes next year for one semester? The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Area XII, has a set of each available exclusive for public or private school use.

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THE JIM SCOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The first Jim Scott Memorial Scholarships were awarded for the 1986 Area XII Festival in Visalia. The award honors the memory of Jim Scott from Yuba City, who died in an automobile accident while serving as a District Representative on the Area XII Board.

Up to two scholarships can be awarded for each Area XII Ringers' Conference - usually to one ringer and one director.

Eligibility requirements for the awards are:

directors must: reside in Area XII, be attending their first Area XII Conference, be a member or associated with an organizational member of AGEHR, and be under contract to direct a handbell choir in Area XII'

ringers must: reside in Area XII, be attending their first Area XII Conference, and be a member or associated with an organizational member of AGEHR

The scholarships include registration fees, room, and board at the Area XII Ringers' Conferences.

Congratulations to our 2004 recipients!

Ontario

Carolyn York, West Covina, CA Ringer
Jann Duchacek, Fillmore, CA Ringer

Honolulu

Cindy Wilson Sabatini, Sparks, NV Director
Miki Yamamoto, Honolulu, HI Ringer

Area XII-Sponsored Fall Workshops

Directors/Advancing Ringers' Workshop

Cupertino, CA
September 18, 2004
Valley Church
Cupertino, CA

Cost:
\$20.00 per person

Fall Ringers' Workshop

Sparks, NV
October 2, 2004
Sparks UMC
Reno, NV

Rudy Rodriquez

Cost:
TBA

Central CA Directors' Workshop

Fresno, CA
October 9, 2004
St. James Cathedral
Fresno, CA

William Kyle

Cost:
TBA

Directors' Workshop and Reading Session

Claremont, CA
October 16, 2004
Claremont United Church of Christ
Claremont, CA

Lee and Bill Waggener

Cost:
\$30.00 per person

Fall Frenzy

Lakeport, CA
October 23, 2004
Clear Lake Baptist Church
Lakeport, CA

Barb Walsh

Cost:
\$12.00 per person

with clinicians:

For more information, contact:

David Ruder
chairelect@areaxii.org

Barb Walsh
nevada@areaxii.org

Paulette McFarlin
cen_calif@areaxii.org

Shirley Heckman
la_metro@areaxii.org

Louanne Marshall
no_calif@areaxii.org

and

see the Coming Events section of this issue.

RUDY'S ROOST

The Care and Feeding of Ringers Part 11: *Are you really ready to conduct that piece in public?*

A few years back, the National Office of the A.G.E.H.R. offered a series of Master Classes on conducting with emphasis in conducting handbells. I took all three, multi-day classes over the course of a couple of years. They opened my eyes to many faults I had in my conducting skills and challenged me with many new ideas on how to improve.

In the class on conducting massed choirs, our final exam was to conduct a "rehearsal" in a simulated massed choir setting. Imagine if you will a large auditorium about 75 feet by 75 feet with open floor space. The student/conductor was located at the center of one wall on top of a small stage. Along the far opposite wall was one handbell choir. On your left against that wall was another choir facing the center of the room and on your right along that wall was a third choir also facing the center of the room. Your assignment (exam) was to conduct a ten minute rehearsal of a piece that you had been rehearsing with one of the choirs all week. Sound easy? Here was the kicker: We were to use NO audio cues while conducting! When the bells were not ringing we were allowed to tell the choirs where we were going to restart, but while conducting we were to clearly indicate all tempos, tempo changes, tenutoes, fermati, and ritards by using visual cues only.

The logic behind this challenge was simple. In a real massed choir setting in a huge convention hall, you would not be able to give effective audio cues to the ringers because of the size of the room and the sheer volume of ringing bells. In the class, the choirs at the three different walls simulated those choirs in the convention hall who are really a quarter of mile away from you. Your conducting had to be adjusted so that it could be clearly seen and understood from a half mile away.

We student/conductors, some with many more years experience than I, learned of the conditions of the final exam early in the week of classes, so during our class rehearsals we prepared ourselves for THE FINAL EXAM. There were 13 of us in the class. That way, when we took turns conducting the class, there would still be a full choir to produce the music. It was very interesting to watch my fellow student/conductors prepare themselves for THE FINAL EXAM.

Then shock of SHOCKS! In the middle of the week, it happened! One of the student/conductors led her 15 minutes of rehearsal WITHOUT MUSIC in front of her. True, we had all been assigned only one piece each. True, we had the music in our hot, little hands weeks before arriving for class. True, we had no social life while at class because we were always either in class or trying to sleep in monk-style beds.

But to lead rehearsal for 15 minutes without music was unheard of to me!

This master conductor without her music not only had the phrases of the music memorized, she also memorized the bar number at the start of every musical phrase, every bridge and at every fermata! Dynamics? Sure, the first one is a crescendo to a mf beginning at Bar 10 and extending for two bars, then the next dynamic marking is at . . .

With The Bar raised another notch higher, the rest of us student/conductors scrambled to catch up. I would like to say that in the next 2 days I was able to memorize the music as well as that Master Conductor, but I didn't. But I was amazed at how much I did memorize and how much that helped me when I stood before those three choirs at my final exam. I was confident enough to place my music stand with the music to my left and conducted with no music in front of me.

Since that fateful Final Exam, I have placed a personal challenge to myself to memorize each piece that my choirs perform before performance time. I still have the music in front of me during performance, but I only turn the pages when I have memorized it is time to turn the page and to assure the ringers that I am still "with them."

It is amazing the difference this has made in my conducting. I am more confident. I can look at my ringers in the eye. I know when to cue the high bells and then the bass bells. I know who is ringing the melody.

Be truthful. How many times have you seen a handbell choir perform like this: Before the music starts, the ringers are looking at the conductor and the conductor is looking back at them. As the first downbeat comes, both conductor and ringers bend at the waist and bury their faces in the music with the conductor looking like they are swimming in the thin air? And how well have those choir sounded? How musical have they been?

Let me challenge you to memorize your music. You don't have to memorize bar numbers, but you can memorize where the ritards and fermati are. You can memorize that the musical bridge at the end of the "first verse" is four measures long followed by a key

change to 4 flats, yes, Ringer you need the D_b now.

You can memorize the last 3 measures that include a molto ritard ending with 3 bass notes. Knowing this in advance helps you to be able to conduct it better. You can look your ringer in the eye when you give them their cue and they will feel better and more

confident about ringing that note and they will love you for it.

Try it, then write to me and tell me how you did.

RUDY'S ROOST, CONTINUED

Next time, unless I receive some questions to discuss from you all, we will explore the question: "To baton or Not to Baton? That is the question." The answer may help you in "The Care and Feeding of Ringers." - *Rudy Rodriguez*

Pithy saying for the day:

"All men are self-made, but only the wealthy tell you about it." Anonymous

IMHO: SOME RULES FOR HANDBELL SUCCESS

When it comes right down to it, a few basic rules for getting along together will make a world of difference in how a bell team feels about each other and what they are trying to accomplish. IMHO, these tried and true rules for success will never grow old, and bear repeating.

their times of difficulty as well. The more we take a chance and try the better and more secure we will become.

ATTITUDE IS NUMBER ONE.

No matter how talented, experienced or intelligent we are, if we do not carry a positive attitude through the rehearsal door, we bring next to nothing. As a director, I'd rather have a ringer of moderate skill in my ensemble with a tremendous attitude than one with great talent and skill who carries a negative attitude. A negative attitude acts like a rotten apple that will eventually spoil the entire group. Problems, upsets and pressures of the day should be left outside the rehearsal room.

COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE.

How else are we to know each other's thinking and feelings? We should expect to be pushed to be our best. If, for some reason, we have extenuating circumstances, communicate. Not communicating usually creates more problems than the problem itself. Just communicate to the appropriate person at the appropriate time.

IT IS MUCH MORE FUN TO BE GOOD.

Ringing bells, like singing, can be a fun, life-long activity. Youngsters as well as oldsters can have fun ringing handbells. It will be more fun for all the group and our audiences if we are good at what we do. We should be pushed to be the very best that we can be. That is when we will have the most fun!

BE THERE AND ON TIME.

There's an old saying, "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is unacceptable." To be late is selfish and the essence of a handbell ensemble is team work, not self work. We should not make the entire group repeat something because of lateness or unpreparedness. (If one does have a problem, see above.)

NEVER BE AFRAID TO FAIL.

The only way to fail is to not try at all. If we try, we will do fine. Ringing can be hard at times. It can be hard to make mistakes when it seems like everyone else is getting their part. Remember, they will have

SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

One of the best ways to remove fear is to support each other as they try. When someone takes a risk, we should be there to provide support and encouragement and cheer them on their way. After all, this is the way we would like to be treated.

What are your rules for handbell success? - *Dave Ruder*

Area XII Workshop Registration Form

Event _____

Date and Location _____

Name of Director _____

Institution _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I/We are bringing _____ participants X \$ _____ /person = \$ _____ enclosed.

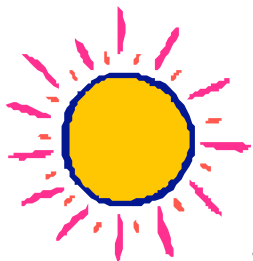
I/We are also bringing _____

Please photocopy this form as necessary and mail with your registration fees to the contact person listed for the event. You may have to communicate with the contact person to determine such details as the event's beginning and ending times, driving directions, what to bring, etc.

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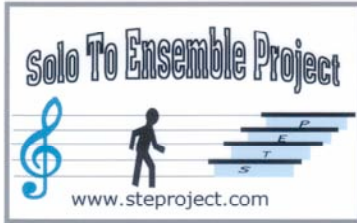
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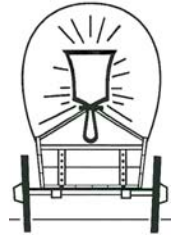
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COMING EVENTS

Event	Date	Clinician	Location	Cost	Contact Information
11th International Handbell Symposium	August 3-7, 2004		Westin Harbour Castle Hotel and Convention Center Toronto, Canada	Call to see if space is even available	http://www.agehr.org
Summer Ring Workshop	August 4 - 6, 2004	Carolynne Mathis, Herb Geisler, Nancy Jessup	Concordia University, Irvine, CA	Call for information	Nancy Jessup (959) 854-8002 ext. 1522
Directors/ Advancing Ringers Workshop	September 18, 2004		Valley Church 10885 N. Stelling Road Cupertino, CA 95014	\$20.00 per person	David Ruder 408) 732-0760 chairelect@area.xii.org
Southern California Directors Workshop	September 18, 2004	Rudy Rodriquez	TBA: central to northern San Diego County	\$15 new or nearly new directors in am; \$15 experienced directors in the pm; or \$25 for the entire day.	Micki Mennet-Martin so_calif@areaxii.org
Fall Ringers' Workshop	October 2, 2004	Rudy Rodriquez	Sparks United Methodist Church Sparks, NV	TBA	Barb Walsh nevada@areaxii.org
Central California Directors' Workshop	October 9, 2004	William Kyle	St. James Cathedral Fresno	\$25.00 per person	Paulette McFarlin cen_calif@areaxii.org
LA Metro Directors' Workshop and Reading Session	October 16, 2004	Lee and Bill Waggener	Claremont United Church of Christ, Congregational 233 W. Harrison Claremont, CA	\$30.00 per person (includes music packet)	Shirley Heckman la_metro@areaxii.org
Techniques Clinic	October 16, 2004	Christine Anderson	Emmanuel Faith Community Church, Escondido	TBA	Sheila Duluk, sdupont@efcc.org
Fall Frenzy 2004	October 23, 2004	Barb Walsh	Clear Lake Baptist Church Lakeport, CA	\$12.00 per person	Louanne Marshall no_calif@areaxii.org
A Handbell Directors' Weekend Workshop and Retreat	March 5-6, 2005	Wendy, Lee and Bill Waggener	Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center Oak Glen, CA	Fee TBA - will include music packet, lodging, and 4 meals	Lee Waggener lwaggener@aol.com or Bill Waggener waggwl@aol.com
Bakersfield Spring Ring	March 12, 2005	Lee and Bill Waggener	St. John's Lutheran Church 4500 Buena Vista Bakersfield, CA	TBA	Lori Barnett bellsofpraise@yahoo.com
Southern California Spring Ring	April 16, 2005	Lee and Bill Waggener	St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church 1945 Illion Street San Diego	\$85.00 / AGEHR member choir \$105.00 per non-member choir \$15.00 per individual or orphan ringer	Micki Mennet-Martin so_cal@areaxii.org
Santa Rosa Spring Ring	May 14, 2005	Jason Wells	Santa Rosa, CA	TBA	Louanne Marshall no_cal@areaxii.org
Long Beach Spring Ring	April 23, 2005	Lee and Bill Waggener	Grace First Presbyterian Church, Long Beach, CA	TBA	Shirley Heckman la_metro@areaxii.org
Riverside Spring Ring	April 30, 2005	Lee and Bill Waggener	All Saints Episcopal Church, Riverside, CA	TBA	Shirley Heckman la_metro@areaxii.org
A Ringers Feast	June 11-12, 2005	Jason Wells	Pomona College Claremont, CA	TBA	Lee Waggener chair@areaxii.org
Area XII Ringers' and Young Ringers' Conferences 2006	June 22-25, 2006	Fred Gramann Shosh Meyer	Notre Dame de Namur University Belmont, CA	TBA	David Ruder chairelect@areaxii.org

To submit your events, please email all relevant information to twelfthtone@areaxii.org.

The Area XII Ringers Conference 2006



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For more information, contact:

Lee Waggener, Area XII Chair
chair@areaxii.org

David Ruder, Area XII Chair-Elect
chairelect@areaxii.org

Bill Waggener, *The Twelfth Tone* Editor
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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Election Committee for 2004 is pleased to announce the results of this year's election:

The new Chair-Elect is **William Kyle**. William began playing bells fresh out of high school at the La Verne Church of the Brethren under the direction of Shirley Heckman. In 1996, during a move to San Francisco, he was introduced to Cheryl Baker and joined Bay Bells, with whom he rang for five years. William also served as President of Bay Bells for two years and was Administrative Director for two years. In 2002, the group recruited William as their Musical Director and he has made strides to further the group's mission from the other side of the table. He is concurrently director of the handbell program at Foothills Congregational Church in Los Altos. In addition to directing two choirs, William continues to ring and has been a member of Velocity Handbell Ensemble since its inception in 2001. William is self-employed; his professional time is divided between a thriving retail soap business and a home-based

contract design firm.

The new Secretary is **Paulette McFarlin**, who is the Music Coordinator for the Porterville FUMC. As such she is involved with the chancel choir and two handbell choirs. She also directs the Porterville Community Handbell Choir, which started in the fall of 2003. She has taught kindergarten and third grade as well as served as a music teacher. She also teaches dog obedience, computer software, guitar, and does stained glass as a hobby.

The new Treasurer is **Kathy Arnold**. Kathy lives in Mountain View with her husband, two children, a dog, a cat and other assorted animals. In the past 14 years, she has played as ringer or as a substitute in Los Altos Lutheran, Bethel Lutheran, Bay Bells Small Ensemble and Foothill Covenant. Her home choir is Sunnyvale Presbyterian. Her professional background includes project management and manufacturing operations.



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AREA XII'S FIRST HONORARY SERVICE AWARD



Ginny Fleming (L) receives her award from Area XII Chair, Lee Waggener



The First Area XII Honorary Service Award

At its Spring, 2004, meeting, the Area XII Board established an *Area XII Honorary Service Award* to be presented periodically to a member of Area XII whose contributions to handbell ringing have been significantly above the ordinary. Ginny Fleming was selected unanimously to be the first recipient and was presented the first Honorary Service Award at the Honolulu Ringers' Conference.

After serving on the Area XII Board in the early 1980s in several positions including Area Chair, Ginny went on to serve on the National Board of Directors - first as Secretary and later as President. She has continued to serve at the National level on numerous committees as well as to work tirelessly as a clinician here in Area XII. Area XII in particular as well as the Guild as a whole have benefited from her dedication and service. We are particularly delighted to celebrate her work as part of the 50th Anniversary of the Guild.

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A NOTE FROM THE KEYBOARD

We're now home from attending both Area XII Ringers' Conferences. It is interesting to note that even with the same repertoire, the same conductor, and - for the most part - the same leadership, each event had its own feel and "personality". Certainly the different locations contributed to this, but I suspect even two events held in the same spot would also have their own uniqueness just because the people participating were different.

If you were among those who were able to attend either event, the question now should be "*Where do I go from here?*" We hope that everyone who attended went home with at least some aspect of his/her handbell musicianship refined in some way, whether a better understanding of the nuances of the conference repertoire itself or enhancing a ringing technique. However, another crucial consequence of attending an event such as these is taking your group to their next higher level of musicianship *after returning home*.

Years ago (in fact, the year of our country's bicentennial), we attended our first Area XII Festival with just one active ringer and his father. Their enthusiasm for what they saw and learned fostered the subsequent participation of our entire choir at the next event in 1978. If nothing else, the

concentrated practice both before and during the Festival demonstrated that they were capable of learning more rigorous repertoire and whetted their appetites for a more active role in the musical life of the church. The result has been a nearly thirty-year tradition of meaningful contribution to our worship services.

So what can YOU do now that it's over? Among other things, think about our next Area XII major events and how to develop your ringers' current enthusiasm into future participation. Yes, it costs *real money* to go. [So does putting daily bread on the table...] However, it has seemed to us over the years that the cost of participation is well worth the reward - not only for the overall enhancement of our handbell program but also for the sense of camaraderie, fellowship, and personal accomplishment that come from the experiences.

In August, we're taking a group to an International Symposium for the fourth time. Our first group consisted of six; twelve years later, we're taking a group of 16 ringers plus roadies. Our first major piece in church this fall will be from the Symposium repertoire. What more can I say?

William L. Waggener
Editor

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