



The Twelfth Tone

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

Claremont, CA

Volume XVIII Number 4

August-September, 2006

FROM THE CHAIR

Dave Ruder

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

David Ruder
423 Palo Verde Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-6762
(408) 732-0760
(408) 774-0737 (FAX)
chair@areaxii.org

Chair-Elect

William Kyle
72 Rudden Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112
(415) 586-4456 (H)
(415) 586-5454 (FAX)
chairelect@areaxii.org

Past Chair

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Kathy Arnold
1228 Isabelle Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040
(650) 962-0375
treasurer@areaxii.org

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Membership Chair

Larry Sue
1350 Phyllis Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040
(650) 968-3906
membership@areaxii.org

Twelfth Tone Editor

William L. Waggener
1631 Oxford Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711-3464
(909) 624-0236 (H)
(909) 626-8373 (FAX)
twelfthtone@areaxii.org

Event Coordinator

Lee Waggener
1631 Oxford Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711-3464
(909) 624-0236 (H)
(909) 626-8373 (FAX)
pastchair@areaxii.org

IT'S OVER!

Yes, the Area XII conference is over, but the memories will linger on for years. The Notre Dame de Namur campus proved to be a tremendous hit. As our esteemed conductor, Fred Gramann, our "American FROM Paris" put it, it "was like being in the forest, complete with deer walking below our little balcony each morning." The compact, forested campus with its large expanse of greenery served up shady alcoves for hot weather relaxing, terrific meals with tremendous variety, and a beautiful chapel for performance. Of course we had to put up with dorm rooms that were a bit removed from the Hyatt Regency, but that is the charm of a college campus and provided a terrific bargain on costs.

Shosh Meyer was an enthusiastic, loving, director for the young ringers. She constantly encouraged, prodded, and pushed her charges to great heights, despite rehearsing on the hottest day of the year. The classes led by Michelle Sharik and Dave Ruder were filled with new bell techniques and fun experiences. The bell/jazz combo of Strike 2 and the ice cream social were mentioned over and over as one of the highlights of their adventure.

As I reviewed the evaluations, the comments included raves about Fred Gramann (bring him back was their cry!), the wonderful concerts (count them, there were ten), and the great food. The audience could actually see the ringers at the final concert...they sat in bleachers. We could hear every solo and ensemble ringer, bass to treble in the beautiful chapel with its fine acoustics (Chanticleer has recorded three CDs here). All the major area community choirs had an opportunity to present a showcase performance for this select audience - Sonos, Velocity, Bay Bells, Canto Bello, Opus, and River Bells. And, they were superb with great variety!

The classes were excellent from the Stanford Carillon Tours to Rima's Better Than Coffee sessions. We even began a system to register for classes on-line, a wonderful addition to our registration connection to every ringer by e-mail. Terrific vendors; great shirts and pins; a group photo; outstanding clinicians; wonderfully prepared ringers; Ken Collin's shock at being selected for the "Honorary Service" award; participation by six former Area XII Chairs; a great brass group - Menlo Brass; a wonderful group of helpful, loving ringers made this a superb adventure.

As the Chair for the conference, my job was made very easy by a local planning team that took their assigned tasks and went far beyond the

(Continued on Page 8)

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Northern California

Diane Levorsen
313 Pattie Way
Napa, CA 94558
(W) (707) 254-7965
nocalf@areaxii.org

San Francisco Bay Area

Carol Smith
406 Mt. Sequoia Court
Clayton, CA 94517-1612
(925) 672-2920
bayarea@areaxii.org

Central California

Shirley Werner
1913 Bella Vista Court
Paso Robles, CA 93446
(805) 227-6412
cencalf@areaxii.org

Los Angeles Metro

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

Nevada

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

Hawaii

Karen Laflin
95-230 Auhaele Loop
Mililani, HI 96789
(808) 295-2107
hawaii@areaxii.org

Bells in Education

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

APPOINTED LIAISONS

Special Groups Liaison
Diane Bell
 735 Icarus Court
 Reno, NV 89512-1342
 (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

LA Metro/Rancho Palos Verdes Peninsula
Keith Shackelton
 30628 Tarapace Rd
 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
 (310) 920-3526

LA Metro/Greater San Fernando Valley
Keir Karzin
 26640 Bouquet Canyon Road
 Saugus, CA 91350
 (661) 297-3783

LA Metro/Inland Empire
Jean Will
 643 E. Washington Avenue
 San Jacinto, CA 92583-5431
 (909) 658-9953

LA Metro/Greater San Gabriel Valley
Linda Krantz
 3601 Sierra Vista Avenue
 Glendale, CA 91208
 ((818) 248-8918)

Nevada/Las Vegas
Dixie Bailey
 1515 W Charleston Boulevard
 Las Vegas, NV 89102
 (702) 384-4554

IN THIS ISSUE

From The Chair	1
Appointed Liaisons	2
Publisher's Information	2
New Members	3
Regional Reports	3
Scenes from Belmont	5
Getting (Less of) A Grip On Your Marts	7
Raleigh Ringers	8
Emerson Chime Soloist Series	9
Quality Handbell Repair	9
2006 Directors'/Ringers' Workshops	9
Conducting Issues For The Handbell Director	10
Emerson Music	11
WestCoast Handbell Supply	11
Cruise of the Bells IX	11
Handbell Services	11
Coming Workshop Events	12
Coming Performance Events	13
IMO: Are Evaluations Helpful?	13
Area XII Handbell and Handchime Loan Program	13
Cantabile Press	14
The Handbell Mart	15
Ultimate Ring Binder	16
Jeffers Handbell Supply	16
Membership Form	17
Malmark Handbells	17
Editorial	18

The Twelfth Tone **August-September, 2006**

To submit articles or for advertising information, please contact:

William L. Waggener, Editor

1631 Oxford, Claremont, CA 91711-3464
 (909) 624-0236 or twelfthtone@areaxii.org

The Twelfth Tone is published bimonthly by
 The American Guild of English Handbell
 Ringers, Inc. - Area XII
<http://www.areaxii.org/>

Next Issue Deadline: September 10, 2006

ADVERTISING RATES

	Single Run	Annual (6 issues)
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
Business Card Ad <small>(Up to but not larger than 3.5"W x 2.0"H)</small>	\$11.25	\$56.25

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/March issue is January 10).

NEW MEMBERS

New Members in May

Patricia Hecht
Laguna Woods, CA

Barbara Ann Long
Holy Cross Church
Santa Cruz, CA

Carol Patterson
North Las Vegas, NV

Bonnie Koch
Sherman Oaks, CA

Sharon Miller
San Leandro, CA

Stacy Thomason
Vista Grande Community Church
San Diego, CA

Mary Liao
Chino Hills, CA

Ashley Hughes
Citrus Hill High School
Perris, CA

Patricia Barnes
Bethel Lutheran Church
Buena Park, CA

Ruth Ballenger
South Pasadena, CA

New Members in June

Kathryn Dueker
Hemet, CA

Sue Hinrichs
Christ Lutheran Church
Costa Mesa, CA

Lauri LaFoe
United Methodist Church of Vista
Vista, CA

Leah Kimes
Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church
Oakhurst, CA

REGIONAL REPORTS



Bay Area Report Carol Smith

nocalif@areaxii.org

Belmont Area XII Conference from June 23-25 is now just a wonderful memory! 344 ringers converged on the beautiful campus of Notre Dame de Namur University to participate in three jam-packed days of outstanding concerts, classes, and mass ringing under the direction of Fred Gramann. The Conference Committee - chaired by Dave Ruder was overwhelmed by all the positive feedback from the registrants. Comments from the evaluations included: the "best conference ever", exceptional concerts, great clinicians, and an awesome conductor. The massed ringing under Fred's direction was sensational. His humor and style kept the ringers focused and his enthusiasm was infectious. The conference was definitely a "Ringing" success.

One of the highlights of the conference was the outstanding Community Showcase concert series presented by Velocity, Bay Bells, Canto Bello, Opus, Riverbells, and Sonos. The magnificent chapel with its marvelous stained glass windows and superb acoustics was the perfect setting for these concerts. The registrants were treated to original contemporary pieces, classical favorites, handbell oldies, jazz, Big Band selections, and Japanese folk tunes. The high level of performance by all these choirs amazed all the registrants.

The Young Ringers concluded their two-day event by ringing the opening concert for the conference registrants. They presented a delightful program under the direction of Shosh Meyer.

Another important aspect of the conference was the classes, which were organized by William Kyle. These classes, taught by experienced clinicians, offered a wide variety of subjects for both directors and ringers. More than 100 people took advantage of a special class, which offered a tour of the Stanford carillon and a mini-concert.

The final concert, which was preceded by a 15-minute concert by Menlo Brass, opened with a thrilling entrance of all the ringers from four different doors processing to "Procession of the Nobles" played by Menlo Brass. I was impressed with the precision the massed choirs achieved. It was an outstanding concert and all the ringers went home treasuring the experience of working under Fred. Congratulations Area XII on another great conference!

Over 80 middle school children attended the Bay Area School Handbell Festival April 6th at All Saints School in Hayward. Under the direction of Barbara Walsh, Reno, NV, the children had fun preparing four mass numbers and playing musical games under the leadership of Dian Ruder. The day ended in a concert for a very enthusiastic audience of parents and students.

Looking ahead to the fall, the Bay Area Handbell Seminar for Directors and Advancing Ringers will be held Saturday Sept. 23 from 9 am to 1 pm at Valley Church, 10885 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino. Bill and Lee Waggener will teach classes on Bass Ringing for Wimps, Music Interpretation, 4-H, conducting, ensemble ringing and bell assignments, and Tom Carter, stage director and author, will give workshops on Handbell Charisma. Contact Dave Ruder at daveruder@comcast.net for more information.

On November 4, 2006, the 3rd annual Methodist Mass Ring will be held at Lake Merritt UMC in Oakland. Methodist choirs from the Golden Gate District and Bayview District are invited to participate in this event which begins at 1 pm and will culminate with a concert at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$10.00 per ringer. Massed conductor will be Dorothy Straks from Twin Towers UMC in Alameda. The massed ringing selections will be "Canto de Esperanza" arr. Susan Nelson, GIA Publications G-6624, LindeLirinen by Tim Waugh AGEHR Ag3084, "Midnight Stars Make Bright the Sky" by Hart Morris.

REGIONAL REPORTS, continued

Chorister's Guild CGB359, and "Bwana Asifiwe" by Cathy Moklebust. Chorister's Guild CGB367. For more information, contact Bruce Pettit at goldengateumc@sbcglobal.net.

It's not too early to mark your calendars for next years Bay Area Spring Ring, which will feature Jason Wells as the guest clinician. This event will be held April 21, 2007 at Valley Church in Cupertino. For more information, contact Daveruder@comcast.net.

Have a great summer!



Nevada Report **Barb Walsh**

nevada@areaxii.org

Howdy!

As I'm sure you've heard a million times by now, the Belmont conference was great! It is such a wonderful experience to ring and learn from other ringers and directors (and to ring under Fred Gramann!). If you've never done so and are hesitant to travel very far, take advantage of events that may be closer to you such as:

September 29, 2006 in Las Vegas with Christine Anderson (the world renowned soloist) giving a 4 in hand workshop.

September 30, 2006 in Las Vegas with Christine Anderson directing a ringers' workshop.

October 14, 2006 in Incline Village (Lake Tahoe) with Mary Balkow directing a ringers' workshop.

January 6-7, 2007 in Las Vegas with Stephanie Scott directing the 15th Annual 12th Night.

Other events that I'd like to schedule are a directors' seminar in February or March and a Spring Ring in April or May. If you would like to host one of these events or have suggestions about topics, music, clinicians, other events, etc., please contact me.

We will have a Young Ringers' Festival again in May as well, and Jim Smith has again agreed to compose a piece for us and to direct us. Thanks, Jim!

Dr. Jim Smith, "the dude from Texas", as my students like to call him, has contributed greatly to our youth in Northern Nevada. Always looking for a challenge, he offered to help with the nagging problem of providing legal music for our young ringers. In Washoe County School District, we have chimes available to check out and some schools that actually own chimes or bells. Neither the county nor the schools have a budget for purchasing music, especially new music each year for over 100 students for the young ringers' festival. In addition, we school and church directors feel strongly that our special education school that has a chime choir be included in the festival. We teachers also wanted to include any other schools that didn't have access to chimes/bells to join us with percussion instruments. That's a lot to ask for in a piece of music!

Jim took the challenge and created "Buffalo Gals' Chopsticks" (which has recently been published). Not only did he give us this piece, but offered to fly himself to Reno and conduct it at the festival! It was wonderful! Our ringers were thrilled to actually know the composer instead of learning about some "dead guy" like Bach. Even before I had the courage to ask if he would be willing to do this again (for free), he excitedly asked if we would LET HIM do it again! Being blonde, but not dumb, I of course said yes.

The following year, Jim wrote "Bingo's Travels" to include an Orff instrumentarium. He also emceed and conducted his "Israeli Tune" on our Tintabulations/BelCanto concert that night. The year after that Jim added "Joyful Procession" which featured our special ed chimers and Orff instrumentarium while the rest of us processed and sometimes rang. He also composed "A Texas Tune" to include a flute duet. On "A Texas tune", one of the schools, not having the lower 3rd octave of bells, added homemade boompipes. Jim loved the sound so much that he added a boompipe solo to this year's piece, "Nevada Rondo". Jim is so creative! I wonder what he's got up his sleeve for next year?

We all want to thank "the dude from Texas" for giving so generously of his time and talent to our Northern Nevada kids. Thank you, Uncle Jim!



Central California Report **Shirley Werner**

cencalif@areaxii.org

I'm reading and have heard all the great reviews and comments from the Belmont Conference. I appreciated the phone call I received from a ringer in Bakersfield, who attended this event. She added her compliments to the great team of people who planned this conference and thought the clinician was so good.

Congratulations to the Area XII New Officers. Micki Mennet-Martin, our new Chair Elect; Paulette McFarlin, Secretary and Kathy Arnold, Treasurer. These people bring years of experience to the board. Thanks to Dave Ruder for the great job he has done as our president for the past two years. William Kyle, who has served two years as Chair Elect, is now officially our Chair for 2006-2007.

October 7th, 2006, is the Directors and Interested Ringers Workshop to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Paso Robles, CA. Nancy Jessup will be the clinician. The cost of this event will be \$30 per person, early sign-ups and this will include lunch and the music we'll be working on with Nancy. The cost after the deadline will be \$35. The deadline will be 9/30/06. There will be three one-hour classes that will incorporate a variety of topics. Registration cards will be mailed out in August. If you want to be sure to have a spot at a table, please let me know.

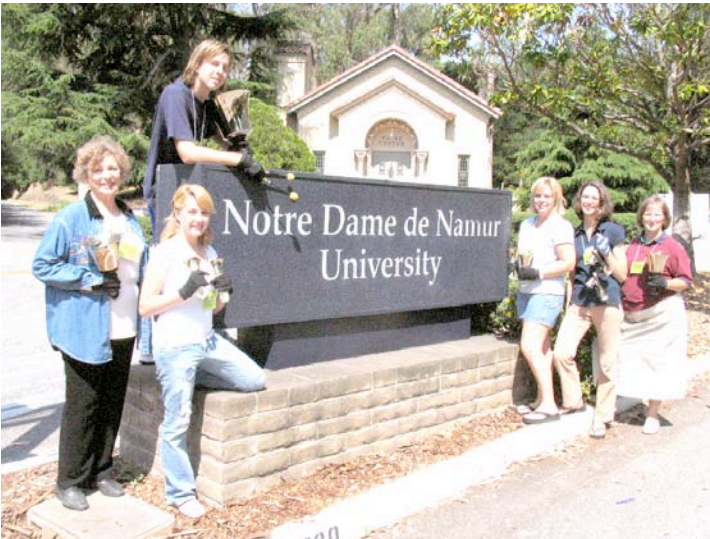
SCENES FROM BELMONT



The Area XII Ceremonial B#5



Debbie and Shannon Shaw



At the University Gate



Low Ding Zone



Lee Waggener with Conference Shirts



Phyllis Haines and company



YRC Ringer in concentration



A post-solo concert collective bow



Tammy Sigl giving assistance



Two loafers...



Young Ringers in rehearsal...watching the director???





Tower at Notre Dame de Namur University



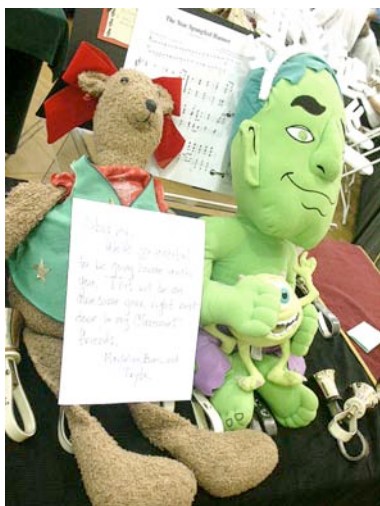
The Carillon at Stanford University



Carillonneur at play



Bells of the Stanford Carillon



Martelina, Boris, and Tryta Dampum



Shirley Heckman - Martelina's delighted new host for the next two years



Area Chair Dave Ruder receiving Silent Bell from Past-Chair Lee Waggener

(Images courtesy of Wil Mandac, Paul Hopping, and Lee Waggener)

GETTING (LESS OF) A GRIP ON YOUR MARTS (WITH A SHORT ADDENDUM ABOUT MALLETS)

Using the "sword grip" approach (firm thumb and index finger for grip, loose/flexible middle, ring, and little fingers for control and power) also works for martellati. The stroke is executed by raising the bell off the table. Allow the casting to rise a bit above horizontal, and as you (more or less gently) punch the casting into the pad, pull upward briskly on the handle with your fingers to complete the action.

Ergonomically, this is an improvement in how your wrist is treated because it doesn't require you to tip your wrist over as far as if you had a full grip on the handle. The amount of improvement depends on how much "tip" your fingers contribute to the motion, but my feeling is that every little bit helps.

Application of the sword grip to marts also helps with volume control because the required vertical motion is shorter than that for a wrist-based mart. Less distance means less potential for variation, particularly in how much force can be applied, and so the upper limit on resultant volume will be more consistent between ringers and lower overall. This turns out not to be a problem because marts seem to be louder than rings (Dave Ruder and others use a rough benchmark of "four times") - the main issue is making them *not* be too loud in the musical context, all that's needed to manage this is to use as light a finger action as required.

Because the motion is also faster (remember, fingers are faster than wrists), it's easier to be more accurate... translate this as "less slop" if you like. The clapper impact occurs sooner after you start to move, so there will be less variation in when it occurs. Overall, this has the potential to eliminate your unintentional glissandi - or even to make it possible for your choir to do them on purpose!

There also is the issue of double-striking when executing martellati. This usually is due to not tipping the bell far enough or quickly enough to keep the clapper from hitting the casting again. With a full grip, the ergonomic program is that your wrist has to bend in a way which is not good (try it...); with a sword grip, the flexibility that allows the bell to tip is automatically there.

A further word about marts with larger bells: Rather than grasping the bell only by the handle, try putting your thumb and forefinger around the disk above the handle, and your other fingers (loosely) around the handle. This modified sword grip makes it easier to lift and mart the bell, and also results in a softer impact for larger castings.

Addendum to the previous article on using the sword grip with mallets: I did some experimentation and observation the other day, and found that my mallet stroke takes advantage of the sword grip as follows:

- The mallet starts with its handle against my palm. The mallet head is on or slightly above the casting.
- I lift the mallet head (but not my hand!) slightly away from the bell so that the handle tips upward. This puts the handle in a position where it's below and not in contact with my palm and my "loose" fingers can pull upward on it.
- My "loose" fingers pull up on the end of the handle, sending the mallet head into the casting.

Once again, using my fingers results in a faster and shorter motion than using my wrists, and so I can be more accurate with my timing and volume. In addition, because the vertical motion of the mallet head depends only on my fingers, my arms are free to manage - separately - the horizontal movement needed to shift the mallets from bell to bell. The result is a malleting technique which is very efficient and easily controlled. - *Larry Sue*

FROM THE CHAIR, continued

minimum. William Kyle, Carol Smith, Larry Sue, Kathy Arnold, Dian Ruder, and Bill Waggener were incredible. With them a second level of workers including Lee Waggener, Diane Levorsen, Carolyn Harnly, Paulette McFarland, Norma Rose, and Marilyn Perry headed other projects. Many of these leaders had another team of coworkers to help. Our thanks to all who made this conference a huge success.

This will be my last column as chair of Area XII. As of September 1, I will move into the Past-Chair position, and William Kyle will move into the Chairman's seat. He will be an awesome leader judging by his multitude of contributions to the recent Belmont event. The new Area XII Board will continue with Kathy Arnold serving as Treasurer, Paulette McFarland as Secretary, and newly elected Micki Mennet-Martin as Chair-Elect. I wish them God-speed and my full support as together we move forward with fresh ideas. - *David Ruder*

The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: rringer@rr.org • web: www.rr.org

A community handbell choir



4650 ARROW HIGHWAY, UNIT D-1
MONTCLAIR, CA 91763
800-518-7214
www.emersonmusic.com

Introducing the

CHIME SOLOIST SERIES

Music for solo handchime or handbell ringers (or small ensembles).
Arrangements of favorite hymns arranged by Tim Doran and Betty Price. Each piece includes a fully orchestrated CD with only the accompaniment - you play the melody.

Quality Handbell Repair

Cleaning - Polishing

Bill Castle

373 N. Cedar Street
Orange, CA 92868
Home (714) 978-2712
Cell (714) 292-5864
billcastle@aol.com

2006 Directors'/Ringers' Workshops

Read and Ring Levels 1 and 2

September 9 or 16, 2006
Nancy Jessup, Clinician
Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church
8180 Mira Mesa Boulevard, San Diego, CA
Contact: Micki Mennet-Martin socal@areaxii.org

Las Vegas Ringers' Workshop

September 29/30, 2006
Christine Anderson, Clinician
First Presbyterian Church
1515 W. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV
Contact: Dixie Bailey dxbail@earthlink.net

Directors' Workshop

October 7, 2006
Nancy Jessup
Trinity Lutheran Church
490 Creston Road, Paso Robles, CA
Contact: Shirley Werner shIPLEY712@charter.net

Ringers' Workshop

October 14, 2006
Mary Balkow
Incline Village, CA
Contact: Barb Walsh nevada@areaxii.org

Directors' Workshop

October 21, 2006
Lee Waggener, Clinician
Point Loma Presbyterian Church
2128 Chatsworth Boulevard, San Diego, CA
Contact: Micki Mennet-Martin socal@areaxii.org

Bay Area Handbell Seminar

September 23, 2006
Lee and Bill Waggener and Tom Carter, Clinicians
Valley Church
10885 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA
Contact: David Ruder daveruder@comcast.net

Ringers' Workshop

September 30, 2006
Wendy Waggener, Clinician
Neighborhood Church
301 N. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena, CA
Contact: Shirley Heckman lametro@areaxii.org

Ringers' Workshop

October 14, 2006
Bill Waggener, Clinician
First Congregational United Church of Christ
3041 N. Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA
Contact: Shirley Heckman lametro@areaxii.org

Workshop for Ringing Enthusiasts

October 21, 2006
Dave and Dian Ruder, Clinicians
First United Methodist Church
625 Randolph Street, Napa, CA
Contact: Diane Levorsen nocalif@areaxii.org

CONDUCTING ISSUES FOR THE HANDBELL DIRECTOR

#8 What Level is Important?

There are several ways of looking at "level" with respect to handbells: the *level of difficulty of the music*, the *level of musicianship of the ringers*, and the *level of performance of the music itself*. The focus of this article is where each of these levels fits into the larger handbell picture.

Level of Difficulty of the Music: When choosing repertoire, one of the most convenient tools is the leveling system that currently appears on the covers. However, one must use that scheme with a cautious mind: because pieces of music may not fit the leveling criteria precisely, publishers may have to make their best guess. Therefore, it is prudent when considering a new piece to give much stronger weight to the *music* on the printed page than to the level rating to which it has been assigned. On more than one occasion, we have discovered pieces with an elevated rating simply because there were one or two measures containing a higher-ranked technique.

In addition, one should have the potential use of a piece in mind before purchasing it: is it something that the intended group can sight-read perfectly for emergency use, a piece that is within the capabilities of the ringers given ample rehearsal time, or a work that will challenge the group while teaching higher level techniques and musicianship and *may not* necessarily be used in the current season? All three are important, and your library should reflect an appropriate balance.

Level of Musicianship: The level of ringing skill of your ringers is obviously another critical issue in selecting repertoire. However, one should NOT allow the skill level of the lowest ringer to dictate the highest level of music your choir should be playing. While that may seem a paradox to some, we have found it possible (within reason) to modify a position for a lesser-skilled ringer by reassigning bells in the more difficult passages. Furthermore, if that lesser-skilled ringer has sufficient ringing skill to be moved around, placing him/her in the least demanding position in each piece is also a realistic option.

Enhancing the level of your ringers' handbell musicianship should be one of the primary goals of *every* rehearsal; raising the musicianship of your least-skilled ringer is one of the most effective ways of elevating the overall capacity of your group.

Level of performance: There is a direct relationship between the level of the *music* and the level of *musicianship* of the ringers and their product: the level of the *performance* that results, which falls into a rather wide spectrum.

At the bottom end is the basic "stumble-through-it" at the sight-reading level in which the ringers -

regardless of how much rehearsal time has been spent - are so dependent on the score that they are in a state of constant terror and can hardly wait until it's over.

Somewhat higher but well below the middle is what all too often passes as a typical handbell presentation; "...we practiced this piece so that most of the people get most of the notes most of the time with our eyes glued to the pages of music..."

At the highest level of performance, the music is at or near memorization with 100% accuracy with 100% musical response and 100% watching. Professional musicians strive for this top level - not necessarily with complete memorization but most certainly with 100% accuracy, 100% musical response, and 100% watching. Their musical training and past experience are so deep that they can sight-read nearly anything at this level.

Honestly now, where does *your* choir fit along this spectrum? This may be a telling question, but: have you accepted mediocrity or do you strive for perfection?

There *are* ways to get your ringers to ring at the highest level possible. As the one in charge, it's up to *you* to teach your ringers to:

- **ring the full range of dynamics** - this includes knowing when a bell is part of a melodic line and when it is part of an accompanying figure;
- **use the proper techniques for precise ringing** - this includes all stopped sounds, special effects (such as *echo*), and all normal ringing and damping strokes;
- **shape phrases musically** - eventually, your group's ringing should rise and fall with the phrasing of every melodic line without anything more than your conducting cues;
- **maintain eye contact at all important points** - these include but are by no means limited to the beginning, all transitions, and the end.

The latter is important to you as the conductor but in a more subtle but equally important manner it is critical for establishing a connection with your listeners - regardless of whether your group is participating in a worship service or in a full-blown formal concert. Clearly secure and comfortable eye contact between director and ringer conveys a sense of the group's confidence to the listeners that supports the musical effort in process.

The rehearsal setting is where the final level of performance is determined: what you get in performance is a direct reflection of what you demanded of your ringers in rehearsal. - William L. Waggener



4650 ARROW HIGHWAY, UNIT D-1
MONTCLAIR, CA 91763
800-518-7214
www.emersonmusic.com

HANDBELL & CHORAL MUSIC FROM ALL PUBLISHERS

NOW ALSO THE EXCLUSIVE
DISTRIBUTOR FOR:

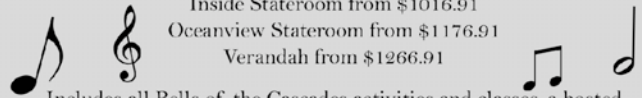
C.A.N. Enterprises
Flagstaff Publishing
Golden Music Publishers
Laurendale Associates
National Music Publishers
Stained Glass Music
Voice of the Rockies



Baja Bound
January 6-13th, 2007

Bells of the Cascades presents a
7-Day Mexican Riviera cruise
aboard the *ms Oosterdam*
featuring guest clinician Jason
Wells, founder of Ring of Fire.

*Ports of call include Puerto
Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas &
Mazatlan!*



Inside Stateroom from \$1016.91
Oceanview Stateroom from \$1176.91
Verandah from \$1266.91

Includes all Bells of the Cascades activities and classes, a hosted
cocktail party, most meals and entertainment aboard the ship and
all taxes and port charges!

PLUS - When deposited by March 31, receive \$20 shipboard
credit per person for an inside stateroom, \$30 shipboard
credit per person for an oceanview stateroom and \$40
shipboard credit per person for a verandah!

Azumano Travel
Est. 1949



Cruises By Azumano
503-294-1718
800-395-5578



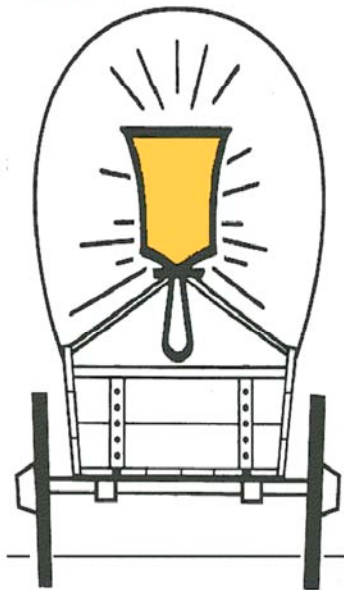
**Holland
America Line**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO
WWW.AZUMANO.COM/BELLS

Prices are per person based on double occupancy and subject to availability. Port charges
and government fees are included. Airfare is additional. Other restrictions may apply.

WestCoast Handbell Supply

**For
Handbell
Music
Supplies
and
Service**



Call (559) 625-5111 Fax (559) 741-7346
Toll Free (888) 755-WEST (9378)
E-Mail BellMusic@WestCoastHandbells.com
P.O. Box 4361
Visalia, CA 93278-4361

HANDBELL SERVICES, INC.

Everything for handbell/handchime ringers and
directors. Gifts, music, services, supplies and more.

www.handbellservices.com



1213 Mason Street
Dearborn, MI 48124-2841
phone: (800) 37-BELLS
fax: (313) 278-5229
e-mail: info@handbellservices.com

COMING WORKSHOP EVENTS

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinician</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
International Handbell Symposium XII	August 1-5, 2006		Brisbane Convention Center Brisbane, Queensland Australia	AU\$950.00	www.ihs2006.org or www.agehr.org
Read and Ring Levels 1 and 2	September 9, 2006	Nancy Jessup	Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church 8180 Mira Mesa Blvd. San Diego, CA	Members: \$40.00 (includes registration and music) Nonmembers: \$50.00	Micki Mennet-Martin socal@areaxii.org
Bay Area Handbell Seminar for Directors and Advanced Ringers	September 23, 2006 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Bill and Lee Waggener Tom Carter	Valley Church 10885 N. Stelling Rd. Cupertino, CA	\$20.00 for AGEHR members \$25.00 for non-members	David Ruder daveruder@comcast.net (408) 732-0760
Las Vegas Ringers' Workshop	September 29 - 30, 2006	Christine Anderson and Barb Walsh	First Presbyterian Church Las Vegas, NV	\$20.00 for both days	Dixie Bailey dxbail@earthlink.net (702) 431-9759
Four-In-Hand Workshop	September 29, 2006 Evening	Christine Anderson	First Presbyterian Church Las Vegas, NV	\$10.00	Dixie Bailey dxbail@earthlink.net (702) 431-9759
Ringers' Workshop	September 30, 2006	Wendy Waggener	Neighborhood Church 301 N. Orange Grove Blvd. Pasadena, CA	\$15.00 for AGEHR members \$20.00 for non-members	Shirley Heckman lametro@areaxii.org
Distinctly Bronze	October 5-8, 2006	David Davidson	New Bern Riverfront Convention Center New Bern, NC	\$265.00 per person	AGEHR - Distinctly Bronze (800) 878-5459 www.agehr.org
Directors' Workshop	October 7, 2006	Nancy Jessup	Trinity Lutheran Church 490 Creston Road Paso Robles, CA	\$30.00 per person (includes lunch and music) \$35.00 after 9/30/06	Shirley Werner cencalif@areaxii.org
Ringers' Workshop	October 14, 2006	Bill Waggener	First Congregational - United Church of Christ 3041 N. Sierra Way San Bernardino, CA	\$15.00 for AGEHR members \$20.00 for non-members	Shirley Heckman lametro@areaxii.org
Ringers' Workshop	October 14, 2006	Mary Balkow	Incline Village, CA	TBA	Barb Walsh nevada@areaxii.org
Directors' Workshop	October 21, 2006	Lee Waggener	Point Loma Presbyterian Church 2128 Chatsworth Blvd. San Diego, CA	\$30.00	Micki Mennet-Martin socal@areaxii.org
Workshop For Ringing Enthusiasts	October 21, 2006	Dave and Dian Ruder	First United Methodist Church 625 Randolph Street Napa, CA		Diane Levorsen nocalif@areaxii.org
Golden Gate/Bay View United Methodist Church Districts' Bell Festival	November 4, 2007	Dorothy Straks	Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA	\$10.00 per ringer	Bruce Pettit goldengateumc@sbcglobal.net
15 th Annual Las Vegas Twelfth Night Festival	January 6 - 7, 2007	Stephanie Scott	Las Vegas		Dixie Bailey (702) 431-9759
Master Class in Conducting	January 12 - 15, 2007	William Payn	Bucknell University Lewisburg, PA	\$450.00 per person	Vicki Iverson assistant@agehr.org (800) 878-5459

COMING WORKSHOP EVENTS, continued

Master Class in Composition	January 12 - 15, 2007	Arnold Sherman	Bucknell University Lewisburg, PA	\$400.00 per person	Vicki Iverson assistant@agehr.org (800) 878-5459
Fourth Annual Handbell Workshop	March 10, 2007	Dr. Herbert Geisler	St. John's Lutheran Church 4500 Buena Vista Rd. Bakersfield, CA		Roberta Kessinger, rgkessinger@sbcglobal.net
Riverbells Sponsors a Day with Tim Waugh	April 14, 2007	Tim Waugh			www.riverbells.org
Bay Area Spring Ring	April 21, 2007	Jason Wells	Valley Church Cupertino, CA		Dave Ruder daveruder@comcast.net
Central Coast Spring Ring	April 28, 2007	TBA	TBA		Shirley Werner cencalif@areaxii.org
LA Metro Area Spring Ring	April 28, 2007	Christine Anderson	Grace Church of Glendora 1515 S. Glendora Avenue Glendora, CA		Shirley Heckman lametro@areaxii.org
Spring Ring	May 19, 2007 11:00 am - 6:30 pm	TBA	St Eugene's Montgomery and Farmer's Lane Santa Rosa, CA		Tricia Welter Diane Levorsen diane@areaxii.org
A Ringers Feast	June 23 - 24, 2007	Monica McGowan	Pomona College Claremont, CA	TBA	Lee Waggener Events Coordinator

COMING PERFORMANCES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Bells At The River	August 13, 2006 2:00 pm	Forestville UMC 6550 Covey Road Forestville, CA	\$10.00	
United Methodist Bell Festival Concert	November 3, 2006 6:30 pm	Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA		Bruce Pettit goldengateumc@sbcglobal.net

IMO: ARE EVALUATIONS HELPFUL?

An article like this needs to start with a disclaimer. Something that says, "no matter what is written in this essay, evaluations of events are very important, and we welcome them." Many folk enjoy giving personal evaluations face to face, and 99% of the time these are very positive. Written comments give ringers an opportunity to rejoice on paper as well as vent a frustration or two. That is important, even if the planners can do little to mitigate those feelings. At the recent Belmont Conference, nearly 50% wrote some kind of evaluation. That is great, and we thank you!

Over the years, I have had the privilege of organizing many handbell events. Comments following these affairs usually fall into four categories, which I will share below.

1. **GUSHING ENTHUSIASM.** Folks who think everything was great. Great conductor, great classes, great music, great facility, great.... These kinds of comment make the committee feel really good about what they have produced and provide a buffer from the less-than-enthusiastic comments.

2. **CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS.** Nearly always, folk with helpful suggestions have loaded the front end of their feedback sheet with positive comments. These ringers look at the event from the planners' point of view and offer thoughtful suggestions for the future. This might include suggestions for future classes, helpful program information, possible teachers, microphone needs, possible venues, etc. When planning future events, the Board seriously considers these ideas.

IMO: ARE EVALUATIONS HELPFUL, continued

3. VENTING FRUSTRATIONS. Often these are impulse critiques or preferences that the committee would have difficulty putting into practice, but they make the writer feel better by expressing them. Different people's preferences may be mutually exclusive, like the farmer who wants rain for his crops, but the bride wants a beautiful day for her outdoor wedding reception.

We all would like things just a little bit better, easier, and nicer. College dorm...how come we didn't have fitted sheets? Why did you place us behind those tall ringers? We couldn't see. I didn't like Piece A; I loved Piece A. Piece B was too hard; Piece B was too easy. The schedule was perfect; we needed more time to shop, sleep, talk, socialize, get to classes, etc. I loved the idea of a photo; the photo was a waste of time. The conference was too long; it was too short. With diversity of people comes diversity of opinions and needs.

Some negatives may come from only one or two people. However, the same frustrations expressed by

many can indicate a need that the committee can act upon. They are valuable comments, even if not expressed in a constructive manner, which can be difficult. Not everyone can think of ways to fix the problems. Event planners need a sense of how important certain issues are to attendees.

4. SUGGESTIONS THAT REQUIRE AN ACT OF GOD. We were too hot (bass ringers); we were too cold (treble ringers). Cooler weather, please. No rain. No earthquakes. You can bypass the planning committee on those requests!

Bottom line, the planners love the gushing enthusiasm, appreciate the constructive suggestions, and understand the need to vent those frustrations and will do something about any problems when they can. The committee can pray for cooler weather, with a mild breeze and sunny skies, but unfortunately someone else's prayers may be answered and...it rains. Oh well, keep the critiques coming. - David Ruder

AREA XII HANDBELL AND CHIME LOAN PROGRAM

When Area XII developed its handbell loan program, the goal was to help start bell choirs in educational settings, generate enthusiasm for the art of bell ringing, and aid schools in teaching music in new and unique ways. This past year, International High School in San Francisco has had the loan of 3 octaves of bells. However, their application was a little different than usual. The request for the loan was not from a teacher, it was from a student! Lee Kusmer was told he had only to get a teacher "sponsor" and follow the regular procedure. This motivated young man very quickly did everything required and was sent the bells a few weeks later. The following are excerpts from the most extensive report I have ever received. Enjoy!

"I'm writing to thank you for loaning us your set of bells for this past semester. A year ago at this time, the idea of a student-run handbell choir at International High School was just barely entering my mind, but since then much of what I had conceived of has come into being thanks to your loan...the ringers we recruited were, in terms of experience level, exactly what we wanted, mixed!...this was what we wanted, a chance to teach!"

The bell choir performed three pieces at the Christmas Concert. Sanctus, a vocal canon, with a bass part written by Lee to flesh it out. The entire piece was taught on solfege. The ringers never saw actual music, and it was rehearsed in different keys each rehearsal for several weeks before settling on one key for the concert. The Wallace and Grommit Theme Song, written by Julian Nott, was arranged for bells by Lee. It was a very good piece to play: fun, fast, and unbelievably catchy. And lastly, Lee and his friend and co-bell addict Cliff performed the melody for a jazz piece entitled Bell Epoch, while the rest of the choir played rhythm on bass, with electric bass and drums. In traditional jazz mode, the boys incorporated improvisation into their

performance. When contacted in early June, they were in final preparation for their Spring Concert.

Lee also writes: "On a very practical level, we would like to give back to AGEHR Area XII by servicing the bells you have loaned us so they can continue to be loaned around for years to come. We plan on spending a day polishing the bells, tightening screws, and adjusting clappers so future ringers can get the best possible sound of the set.

All of our current group of ringers have become quite dedicated to the choir. Thanks again for your generosity. Speaking for myself, I know that this has been a wonderful opportunity to develop my own pedagogical and musical ability. Speaking for the bell choir, I think I can thank you for helping to create a new community of friends at the school which did not exist before. And speaking for the music department, I can thank you for giving us the opportunity to bolster our program with this unique ensemble."

Applications are now being accepted for our bell/chime loan program. We have two sets of bells and three sets of chimes. Don't miss your chance to have an unforgettable experience with your students!
- Karen Curry

Cantabile Press

Solos • Duets • Trios

Quartets • Sextets

Less than a full choir

Genesis Press

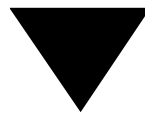
**Makes directing
beginning choirs
a joy!**

HEAR & SEE!

www.CANTABILEPRESS.com • Catalog: 1-800-545-6204



The Handbell



Mart



866-RING BEL

562-653-0055

562-653-0051 fax

Thehandbellmart@aol.com

www.handbellmart.com

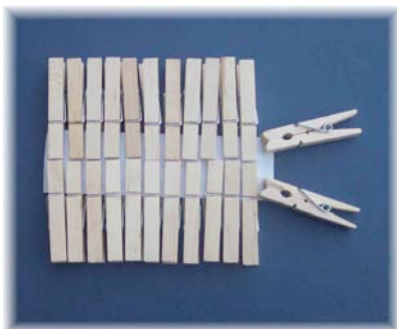
Call today

for a list of Sale Titles

25% to 50% off

Put an end to torn music...

This heavy duty paper punch makes a 13/32" hole for easy page turns!!
And it is a great deal at \$70.00



Page turns giving you trouble?

These mini clips will give you some extra help.
24 clips per pack \$3.00

Need your music to stand up?



The easel back binder is great!! With its 1-1/2" ring it will hold all of the music you need for performances. **\$9.95**

The Ultimate Ring Binder



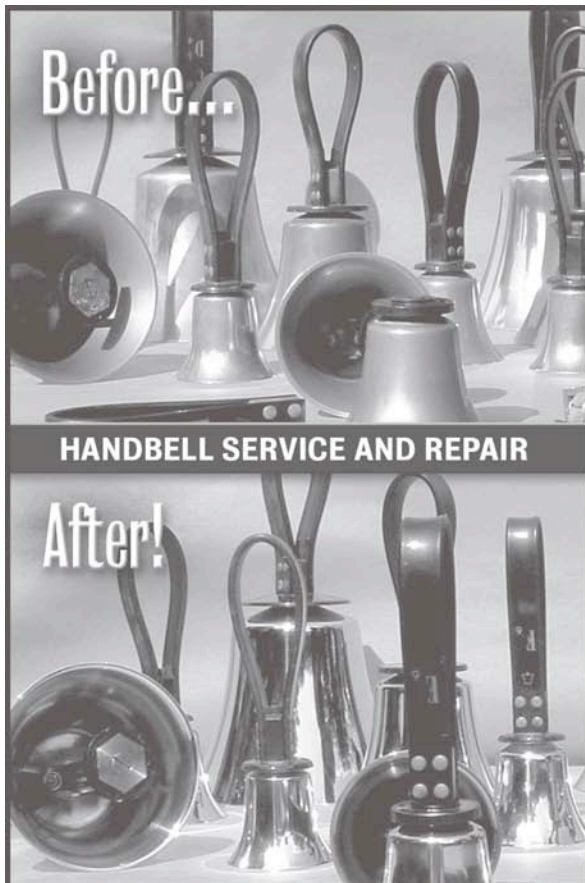
*Creative solutions to organize
everything in your handbell world:*

- Pre-loaded with a searchable database of the Publisher's Demo CD's
 - Your Own Music Library
 - Your Favorite Internet Handbell Links
 - A Global Calendar of Handbell Events
 - And many more resources

Proud Member of HIC

Get Organized...Stay Connected

TheConductor@UltimateRingBinder.com
www.myURB.com



The first name in handbell music, supplies and equipment should be your first choice for handbell service and repairs!

Why Your Handbells Need Servicing...

Just like any musical instrument, handbells play and sound better when they are properly maintained. Part of this maintenance should include regular servicing by trained professional technicians. Your handbells could need servicing if you answer yes to any of the following:

- Are your bells growing progressively harder to play?
- Are your bells 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 handles and handguards worn or difficult to read?
- Are their castings tarnished?

Why Choose Jeffers Handbell Supply...

You trust Jeffers Handbell Supply to provide you with quality handbell equipment and supplies. We have built our reputation on providing these in a timely, professional and friendly manner at a reasonable cost. You can expect no less when you choose Jeffers to service your handbells.

We fully stand behind our work and are not finished until you are completely satisfied!

For All of Your Handbell and Handchime Needs, call us at

1-800-JHS-BELL or visit us at **www.HandbellWorld.com**

Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.

Membership Form—The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Membership Type

- Platinum Membership\$175.00
 - Sterling Membership\$130.00
 - Regular Membership\$65.00
 - Ringer Membership\$30.00
Must be affiliated with a choir of a regular member.
Membership number of choir: _____
 - Senior Citizen Membership (65+).....\$40.00
Individual membership, may not represent a group
 - Full-Time Student Membership\$30.00
 - Business Membership\$130.00
 - Canadian Membership..... add \$10.00
to all membership categories to cover additional postage
 - International Subscription
 - A. Overtones at Printed Matter rate \$65.00 US
 - B. Overtones at First Class rate \$95.00 US
- Mail to: AGEHR, Inc.
1055 East Centerville Station Road
Dayton, Ohio 45459-5503
- Make check/money order payable to: The AGEHR, Inc.
- Payment enclosed \$ _____ (U.S. Funds)
- All returned checks will incur a \$25 processing fee.**

Mailing Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Is the above a (check one):

Personal Address or Organization Address

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Name of Business/School/Church: _____

Is this a New Membership Renewal (Member # _____)

Credit Card Information

Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____

Signature: _____

Expiration Date: _____

For credit card payments, please mail to the address provided at left or fax to 937-438-0434.

Your Local Malmark Representatives Personalized Service is Our Specialty!

Northern California Area: Dolores Rhoads
(510) 522-5000
e-mail: dolores@handbells.com

Central Valley Area: Christine Anderson
(661) 245-1899
e-mail: vbronze@pacbell.net

Greater Los Angeles Area: Cathleen Crone
(310) 390-1969
e-mail: cathleencrone@earthlink.net

MALMARK



HANDBELLS

◆ NEW BELL SETS, OCTAVE ADDITIONS, CHIMES, ACCESSORIES ◆

The Twelfth Tone

AGEHR Area XII
1631 N. Oxford
Claremont, CA 91711-3464

Please update your address, email, and phone number at www.agehr.org.

PRSR STD
U. S. Postage
PAID
Claremont, CA 91711
Permit No. 82

Return Service Requested

A NOTE FROM THE KEYBOARD

It is with somewhat mixed emotions that I am writing this, my last *A NOTE FROM THE KEYBOARD* column. As you know, I was a candidate for the position of President-Elect of AGEHR in the recent election. Although John Pfeiffer was elected to that position, I have been appointed to assume his vacated position on the Board for the next five years. The By-Laws of AGEHR require that Board members relinquish any positions they may hold on Area Boards.

Because this appointment came in the morning of the same day that this issue went to press, I have no idea at this time who will be taking over. However, I am confident that our incoming Chair, William Kyle, and the rest of the Area XII Board will maintain the level of communication with the membership that we have worked to establish in the last five years.

My tenure as Editor began with the October-November issue in 2001 and ends with this one - a window of five years exactly! Although I must give up my position on the Area XII Board, I still expect to be a willing and able participant in all other Area XII activities - I'm not going anywhere! In fact, I invite every member to share any ideas, concerns, or suggestions you might have that should be carried to the AGEHR Board any time we're together!

The success of this newsletter over the last five years has been dependent on the willingness of the membership at large as well as the membership of the Board to submit relevant and timely material for publication. No Editor can manufacture the material that appears on these pages. I hope that you will continue to submit your articles and information so that ***The Twelfth Tone*** will maintain its status as one of the better Area newsletters in AGEHR.

The Senior Pastor of our church where we have served for the last 34 years retired five days ago. He was fond of quoting Dag Hammarskjöld:

"For what has been, thanks. For what is yet to come, YES!"

For me, those sentiments are very appropriate here.

William L. Waggener
Editor