

Twice Tolloed Tales



AGEHR AREA II

Spring 2004

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Mission and Education in Area II

For the first time, Area II has partnered with the AGEHR National Endowment Fund to jointly fund a project. The Ethnan School, a parochial school in the Homewood section of Pittsburgh, is the recipient of the joint grant. The upcoming issue of *Overtones* will have the complete story with more details and pictures.

The Guild's National Endowment set out to find projects that would reach children who might not ever have the opportunity to experience ringing in their schools without some financial help, deciding on this school and one in Chicago. Area 2 then offered a matching grant to allow the Ethnan School to buy the handbells that they were using.

The Ethnan School serves only 32 children presently, but already 15 of them in grades 3-8 are in the handbell choir. An amazing woman has made this possible. Dr. Willa Doswell is an assistant professor in the graduate school nursing at the University of Pittsburgh, not your "usual" credentials for a person starting a handbell program from scratch. She went "on-line" and soon discovered several places to get help: AGEHR and Schulmerich Bells. Through the joint efforts of many people, she has acquired a two-octave set of handbells for the school and has been mentored by several people in the Pittsburgh area. (The group has outgrown the set of handbells!)

Most recently, the National Board of Directors awarded her a scholarship to the Norfolk 50th anniversary Celebration as a way of honoring the memory of Willard

(Continued on page 4)

Your Contributions are Helping Others...

Participation fees for endorsed events have long been a bone of contention for many members who organize handbell events. While endorsed events include benefits such as payment of performance royalties, liability and borrowed equipment insurance, and advertising assistance, members often felt it was not money well spent. With the reorganization at the National level, these participation fees now go directly to the Area. In order to keep things simple, your Board voted to charge \$1.00 per participant per event. In addition, the Board felt they did not want these participation fees to just go into the general operating budget, but wanted to use them for something more specific and meaningful to others in the Area. At the February meeting, the Board voted to create a special grant fund to assist others in need. In addition to participation fees, monies collected this year from National for donations made in honor of the 50th Anniversary will also be placed in this special fund. (If you don't know, individuals across the country are making \$50 contributions to National.) Each area receives \$10 for every contribution made by members in their area.) If you are aware of a handbell/chime program in need of financial assistance, or for more information on the implementation of this new program, please contact Peggy McNamee, Chair.

AGEHR Area II thanks the following advertisers for their generous support:

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Ultimate Ring Binder	Page 12
Jeffers Handbell Supply	Page 16
Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble	Page 19

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www.area2agehr.org

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TWICE TOLLED TALES is published four times per year for the membership of AGEHR Area II. Publication dates are February, May, September, and November. The deadline for articles and photos is the first day of the month prior to the publication date; these will be included as space permits.

It is preferred that articles be sent in the format of Microsoft Office 2000 Publisher as an email attachment. Articles may also be sent in hard copy form, typewritten. Photos should be in black and white and be labeled on the back. A SASE should be included for those wishing to have their photos returned.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome all of our new members to Area II!

Gloria Adams
Alburtis, PA

Nathan Druckenmiller
Williamsport, PA

Patrice Kidd
Bethlehem, PA

Steven Racleck
Tonawanda, NY

Union Lutheran Church
Schnecksville, PA

Tobias Adams
Glenmore, PA

Shirley Firling
Southboundbrook, NJ

Gretchen Kolb
Yardley, PA

Harold Redline
Kutztown, PA

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Hawthorne, NY

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Lansdale, PA

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Moscow, PA

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Victoria Wells
Philadelphia, PA

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Ramsey, NJ

Susan Joan Grady
Skaneateles, NY

Suzanne Lane
Schenectady, NY

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Spring City, PA

Linda Williams
Hermitage, PA

Clara Boushner
Media, PA

Cherie Grant
Marcy, NY

Phyllis Lowe
Wattsburg, PA

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Glen Rock, PA

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Sylvia Carcadde
Levely, ON Canada

Courtney Harlan
Wynnewood, PA

Rev. Dr. K. McClellan
Levittown, PA

Dennis Smith
Alden, NY

Dr. Samuel Cosby
Philadelphia, PA

Vivianne Jones
Pine Forge, PA

Janice Mills
Middletown, PA

Eric Stover
Souderton, PA

Pictures from Ethan School Project





NATIONAL NOTES

Historical Display!

At AGEHR's 50th Anniversary Celebration in Norfolk in July, Area II will present a display representing the past, current, and future activities of Area II.

If you have any historic material (such as programs from Festival Conference, Director's Seminar's, pictures, newsletters, T-shirts, etc.) please contact Peggy McNamee as soon as possible. All borrowed items will be returned.

We will be showing a Power Point presentation of things going on currently in Area II as well as information on our Read and Ring Seminar and 2005 Festival Conference and Young Ringers Event at Bucknell. We will use on our new educational display and will surround the display with memorabilia from the past.

We're looking forward to seeing what Area II members can find from their hand bell achieves.

Those going to Norfolk, remember to stop by the display and sign the Area II register for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. The register will be added to the Area II archives for future displays.

Don't forget to stop by the Silent Auction and offer your bids. Proceeds go to the AGEHR Endowment Fund. Area II is organizing this and is still accepting donations. Details are on the website.

(Continued from page 1)

Markey. Say "hello" to Dr. Doswell when you see her in Norfolk and tell her you are also from Area 2!

Another example of Area II's Mission and Education

"My first real exposure to handchimes was three years ago at the annual North Hills Handbell Festival in Western PA. After attending the concluding festival concert, the following year I was convinced I should pursue the possibility of establishing a chime choir at my church, The Presbyterian Church of Prospect, PA. My daughter-in-law, Linda Boice, assured me I could handle the task of directing the choir. The church was going through a period of adjustment with no money to spare. I was prepared to try raising the money for a set of chimes somewhere, somehow. Linda put me in contact with Grace McClester to see if we could qualify for the AGEHR Chime Lending Program. We qualified to borrow a three octave set for a six month period. At the end of the six months, we were able to use some church memorial funds to purchase our own set of chimes.

This program has been a complete success. I have eighteen people taking part in the choir, ranging in age from six to sixty-nine. Only four of the eighteen have had any prior music experience. The members all look forward to Wednesday night rehearsals and any opportunity to perform. It has been a blessing to me to see these people discover their ability to make music. The choir has given our church a shot-in-the-arm at a time when things weren't especially healthy. I am thankful that God led me to the North Hills festival and to the AGEHR Chime Lending Program."

- Janice Boice

Area News!

NEW JERSEY STATE REPORT

For the first time since I have been on the board, New Jersey has all 9 districts represented. Our membership stands at 205 as of February report.

Central New Jersey Festival is scheduled for April 25th with Bill Payne conducting.

Medford Festival is scheduled for May 16th with four choirs participating. First Methodist Church of Moorestown, Glenn Rodgers - Faith Presbyterian of Medford, Marilyn Shenenberger - Easton Bible of Hainesport, Judy Dinkler - host church Shawnee Baptist of Shmong, Art Morgan.

Shelley Giaier will be hosting Bellfest III on October 9, 2004. Susan Berry will be the clinician.

New Jersey State Chair, Judy Dinkler

NEW YORK STATE REPORT

The bell choirs in New York State have been working hard to keep warm this winter. The Zion Lutheran Church and Community Ringers and the Schohari Presbyterian Church

Ringers combined for their 3rd annual concert. Bronzissimo! Rang in the New Year with a concert in Binghamton, NY. In February Kathleen Ebling-Thorn was the clinician for a workshop in Webster, NY. The workshop focused on musicianship for the experienced ringer. The ringers in the Finger Lakes area are looking forward to the Finger Lakes Handbell Festival in March. Judy Treisback, Bonnie Hollenbeck, and Dorothy Preston are conducting.

Many thanks go to Rene Hebert for coordinating our Silent Auction contribution for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. New York State will be donating a lovely Bracket Clock from the Stickley collection. This clock is valued over \$300. Thank you Stickley & Audi company for your donation.

New York State has two openings for District Coordinators. If you live in the Watertown/Potsdam region (district 13) or the Geneva area (district 14) and know someone who would like to be a District Coordinator, please contact Pam Spirko at pspirko@earthlink.net

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PENNSYLVANIA STATE DISTRICT COORDINATORS

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6. OPEN		NE PA, 182, 183, 184, 185, 187, 188
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8. Dottie Brown	610-582-8878, f5g5@aol.com	Reading, 195, 196
9. Shawn Gingrich	717-583-1922, smgingrich@blazenet.net	East of Harrisburg, 170
10. OPEN		Harrisburg. 171. 170
11. Laine Heltebridle	717-764-1562, laheltebridle@hotmail.com	York, 174, 173
12. OPEN		Shippensburg/Chambersburg, 172, 173
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15. OPEN		Somerset/Indiana/Johnstown, 155, 157, 159
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14. Judy Treisback	315-781-5398, jetmusic@lynnet.com
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7. Joyce Aiken	201-370-2265 bellbasket@att.net	Bergen, Passaic
8. Barbara Dippolito	732-240-7868 dippolito04@comcast.net	Ocean
9. Chris Neff	609-965-3379 cneff122@juno.com	Cape May, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic

PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORT

Greetings! I think that I see green! No, it is not St. Patrick's Day but I think that it is called...grass! Happy Spring! And with the coming of spring, so also are the spring ringing events throughout PA. See the bulletin board for the listings.

This fall, a new event will be held Sept. 25 at St. John's United Methodist Church in Williamsport, PA, for Level I & II choirs. The workshop will include ringing opportunities plus classes. Put this date on your calendar!

It is with regret that we accept the resignation of Shelley Reel as District

Coordinator for the Harrisburg, PA, area. Shelley and her husband will be moving to Virginia. Pennsylvania's loss is Virginia's gain. Shelley has been a long-time supporter of handbell/handchime ringing in PA. Best wishes, Shelley, with your move and may you find a new handbell family in VA!

Please note the districts in Pennsylvania for which we District Coordinators. DC are to contact new members and to continue to be in contact with the handbell choirs in their area. This is not a time-consuming job, but it is an essential one! Please call Anna Carol Buffington (814) 234-9069 or e-mail at acbuffington@yahoo.com to volunteer to help.

Message from the Chair

Peggy McNamee

Sharing and caring while uniting through the art of handbell ringing

Two weeks ago the Area 2 board met in Lewisburg, PA. I came away from that meeting with a positive feeling about the direction of Area 2. I'd like to share some things that transpired at that meeting as well as things that are happening in our area.

- We toured Bucknell University where our 2005 Festival Conference is going to be held. The campus is beautiful, everything is air conditioned, the food was excellent and the enthusiasm of the board for the 2005 festival is exhilarating! (read more about the festival in the article in this newsletter)
- We have started a new grant fund that can be used at anytime at the discretion of the board. The fund was started with the **\$10.00 rebates** given to Area 2 from National from the \$50.00 donations made by AGEHR members for the 50th anniversary celebration. In addition, the Board decided that **all monies received from the \$1.00 participation fees paid for endorsed and sponsored events will be put into this fund!**
- The first mission grant from the new grant fund was approved **that very afternoon. Area II will provide the Learning to Ring books for Ron Hann's (Church of the Covenant in Washington, PA) mission trip to Taiwan!** (please read the article written by Ron in this issue.) **Now we need YOU to let us know of others who may benefit with a grant from this new fund!**
- A matching grant was approved earlier this year by the Board. We matched the National Endowment's grant of \$1500, giving a total of \$3,000 to the Ethnan School to purchase bells **now being used** by the students. (read the article written by Nancy Lutz in this issue).
- I attended the AGEHR Advisory Council in Dayton, Ohio in January. The Advisory Council is comprised of the chairs or a representative from each of the Areas. The National Board of Directors were also invited to attend and several of them did. I liked discovering what is going on all over the country. We each shared what we are doing in our areas and we had the opportunity to share our concerns and needs with the Executive Director and the Board members. I look forward to meeting with this group again.
- Area II has added an additional feature to the mentor program we currently offer. Each new member will be contacted and offered a one-time workshop to help a new choir with ringing techniques and skills. There will be **no charge for the workshop, Area 2 will absorb the clinician's expenses!** (read more in the article written by Chris Braden on Page 1)

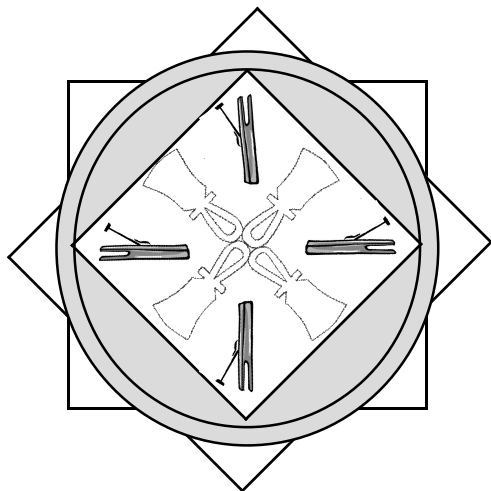
North Hills Handbell Festival

Howard Moser, Conductor

Concert: Sunday, April 25, 2004, 4:15 Marshall Middle School

Classes: Friday, April 23, 2004 7 PM to 10 PM

Conducting (2 part class) Bass Bell Techniques Maori Stick Games	Upper Bell Techniques Rhythm and Movement Music for Your Eyes (Reading Rhythms and notes)
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2004 Read & Ring Seminar

August 12-14, 2004

Read and Ring Seminar 2004

(In a nutshell)

RINGING TRACKS

Level 1 & 2 Charles Kelley
 Level 2 & 3 Jeffrey Honore
 Level 3 & 4 Michael Helman
 Level 5 & 6 Deborah Rice

Choose your level of ability
 Choose your ringing spot
 Order your music from your local dealer
 Learn, learn; Have fun, fun, fun.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE TRACK

Bobbi Schmid and Ron Bellamy

Rehearsal space is doubled this year - many more ringers can be accommodated in this track. Have fun, fun, fun.

BEGINNING DIRECTORS' TRACK

Nancy Lutz

Are you a new Director? Do you need help? This is step- by- step learning of everything you need to know.

READING FOR NON-READERS

Gail Posey and Mike Joy

Do you have some ringers who don't have any idea how to read music? This is the place. Top notch teaching - top notch learning.

Class Offerings:

Advanced Conducting; 12 Bells; Bells in Worship; Beginning Techniques; Bell Maintenance; All 8th notes are not Equal; Bass Bell Techniques; Working with Elementary Level; Demystifying Changing and Asymmetric Meters; Mallets, Marts, and More; Round Table Discussions; Rhythm Games; Conflict Resolution; Meet the Composer; Handchimes; Working with Middle School; Four-in-Hand; Movement; Bell Change Techniques; How to be Your Director's Favorite Ringer. In addition there will be Reading Sessions of New Music, Reading Session of music for Area II Festival 2005 (Bucknell University). Hear a Special Needs Performing Group, meet and enjoy working with fellow ringers, be challenged. Come to the Read and Ring Seminar 2004 at the Host Inn, Lancaster, Pa. August 12-14, 2004 Additional Information and Registration forms at www.area2agehr.org

2004 READ & RING SEMINAR MUSIC SELECTIONS

LEVEL 1 - 2		Charles Kelley, Conductor
Procession and Bell Chime	Margaret Tucker	Choristers Guild CGB 319
Trampin'	Martha Lynn Thompson	Alfred 21857
Great is Thy Faithfulness	Arr. Martha Lynn Thompson	Agape 2268
Ring Joy	Kirsty Mitchell	Jeffers JHS9345
LEVEL 2-3		Jeffrey Honore, Conductor
A Prayer on SLANE	Arr. Jeffrey Honore	Concordia CPH #97-6846
Go To Dark Gethsemane	Arr. Jeffrey Honore	Concordia CPH #97-6976
The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy	Arr. Jeffrey Honore	Concordia CPH #97-7024
Now We Offer (Te Ofrecemos)	Arr. Jeffrey Honore	Augsburg-Fortress ISBN#0800674898
Ring Out Your Joy!	Karen Schneider-Kirner	World Library Publications #3407
LEVEL 3-4		Michael Helman, Conductor
Rondo of Praise	Arr. Michael Helman	Choristers Guild CGB 310
Metamorphosis	Michael Helman	AGEHR AG35214
In the Beauty of Holiness	Arnold Sherman	Red River HB0038
CWM Rhondda Festal	Anna Laura Page	Jeffers MRO3239
How Can I Keep From Singing	Arr. Michael Helman	Alfred 21850
LEVEL 5-6		Deborah Rice, Conductor
Transfiguration	Michael Keller	AGEHR AG57002
All Glorious Above	Fred Gramann	AGEHR AG37002J
Remembrance	Cathy Moglebust	Lorenz 20/1131
For As the Rain Comes Down	Lee Afdahl	Augsburg 11-10981
Te Deum	H. Dean Wagner	Red River BL5027
Dorian Dance	Michael Joy	Jeffers
Solo/Ensemble Track		Bell a deux, Clinicians
Music will be provided by Bell a deux		

FESTIVAL CONFERENCE 2005

Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

Make your plans NOW to attend the Area II Festival Conference in July of 2005 at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. This is a festival that you and your ringers will not want to miss. Here are some highlights to entice you to attend.

The Festival conductor will be the eminent Dr. William Payn who is also director of handbells at Bucknell University. To ring handbells under his direction is a wondrous experience! Complimenting Dr Payn at the helm of the Young Ringers will be Jason Wells of Ring of Fire fame. Jason's outstanding team of young ringers are known for their extraordinary technical wizardry and their amazing skill at memorizing all of their music.

Other outstanding clinicians include Christine Anderson and Nancy Jessup who will teach the solo and ensemble tracks at FC. Arnold Sherman will be on hand to teach classes in composition.

The Lewisburg area provides many opportunities for family fun so why not make this your 2005 vacation destination? Located 50 miles north of Harrisburg, Lewisburg is a beautiful town filled with exquisite examples of Federal and Victorian architecture.. The Lewisburg farmer's market on Wednesdays is not to be missed. Hershey Park is less than 90 minutes away and Knoebel's amusement park and campgrounds in Elysburg are even closer. This area of central PA is an "antiquer's" delight as well as providing opportunities for camping and hiking galore. The nearby State College area offers many amenities including the annual crafts fair that is traditionally held in early-mid July. If you have never visited the Penn State Creamery for the world's best ice cream cone...the time is at hand!

The Bucknell campus is nestled compactly on a lightly rolling hill right on highway 15. The facilities are outstanding for our event. ALL of the dormitories that we will be using are air-conditioned! A recently constructed field house will provide the best ringing floor ever! It is fully climate controlled and can accommodate as many as 1000 ringers!

Let's make the outstanding clinicians and wonderful facilities the reason for having the biggest Festival Conference in Area II history!

And if you need help with fundraising for this event, attend the Area 2 Read and Ring Seminar this coming August in Lancaster. We'll have classes in just how to do effective fundraising!

FESTIVAL CONFERENCE MUSIC LIST

MASSED DIVISION

Vibrations	William Payn	L 2-4	Bronzes FX BFX013F	Full Score
		L 2	BFX013A	2-3 Octaves
		L 3	BFX013B	4-5 Octaves
		L 4	BFX013C	5-7 Octaves
Built On A Rock	John Behnke	L 3	Concordia CPH 97-6916	3-5 Octaves
Processional	Arnold Sherman	L 3	Agape HP 2195 HP 2196	3-5 Octaves Full Score
2005 Area II Composition Winner		OR		
A Jubilant Psalm	Thomas Simpson	L 2 +	Agape HP 1901	3-4 Octaves

TINS DIVISON

Lord of the Dance	Vicki Smith	CPH 97-6619	3-5 Octaves
A Prayer on Slane	Jeffery Honore	CPH 97-6846	2-3 Octaves
Toccata in A Minor	Mary McCleary	CGB 23	3 + Octaves

COPPERS DIVISION

Rondo-Passacaglia	Cynthia Dobrinski	Agape HP1237	4-5 Octaves
Elegy	William Payn	Agape HP1277	4-5 Octaves
Psalm Nine	Carl Wiltse	AGEHR AG 3053 AG 45021	3 Octaves 4-5 Octaves
Change Ring Prelude on Divinum Mysterium	Fred Gramann	Lorenz 20/1239 L	3-6 Octaves

BRONZE DIVISON

God With Us For All Time	Betty B. Garee	Shawnee HP 5099	5 Octave
Toccata Ritmica	Michael Joy	Red River RRG 5004	5 Octaves
Requiem	William Payn	AGEHR AG 45048J	4-5 Octaves Oboe and flute and opt percussion
Prism	William Payn	Shawnee HP 5030	

Westminster Choir College to appear in Washington

Ron Hann loves Handbells and Handbell concerts. His church has hosted the WPA festival for 4 years, he's traveling to Taiwan to share his love with the Church of the Covenant's sister church as shown in the article above and..... they are hosting the **Westminster Choir College Handbell Choir** on Friday May 28th. Kathy Ebling-Thorne is the director of this choir and this is the first time in several years for the group to appear in Western Pennsylvania. A handbell treat for everyone! Visit the website or e-mail Ron for concert details. Ministermusic@hotmail.com (724) 229-0190.



COMMITTEE FOR HANDBELLS AND HANDCHIMES IN MUSIC EDUCATION

You know how a bit of responsibility helps each of us grow ... by recent board action we are placing a bit of responsibility in the hands of would-be borrowers of our 8 handchime sets as well. Beginning this spring (2004), borrowers are asked to purchase a year's AGEHR membership as part of the process so that we can encourage even greater growth - both for the borrowers and the for our organization. The borrowers will be receiving a year of the invaluable Overtones issues, festival privileges, resource publications, mentoring and networking, just to name a few of the automatic benefits of joining AGEHR. We encourage your participation in this program - Schools, Churches, Community Groups and Special Needs Groups may apply to use one of our Three Octave Handchime sets for a summer, or a school year (one time only). Be sure to apply soon, a limited number of sets are available.

A C.H.I.M.E. Lending Application and a Handchime Lending Agreement are both necessary forms to be returned before handchimes will be awarded. (See pages of this brochure or download from our website). With further questions, contact Grace McClester (AREA II CHIME Chair) kegm@access995.com or 724 375 5584 evenings or 800 553 8742, ext. 604 daytime.

Our State CHIME representatives have been busy this year - and not just with their school jobs, but also representing us at the educator conferences. AREA II Board has recently purchased new publicity equipment. Gail Posey (NJ) was able to make use of our new display unit at the NJMEA conference in February! Debra Kettering will represent us at the next educator conference - we plan to use that unit in addition to a slide projection at PMEA in Erie. Pennsylvania Teachers - stop by our booth and say hello next month! Let us tell you about all the educator tools we have to share. And don't forget to tell your fellow teachers about our programs we've developed to help THEM and their students!

Grace

Grace McClester
Area II CHIME Rep

Gail

Gail Posey
NJ CHIME Rep

Andy

Andy Stengrevics
NY CHIME Rep

Debra

Debra Kettering
PA CHIME Rep

area II 2005
composition contest
Young Ringers' Festival Composition
Prize: \$750

An original handbell composition suitable for Young Ringers' massed ringing.
2-3 octaves, AGEHR Level 2 or 2+
Optional handchimes or other instruments may be used.

Festival Conference Composition
Prize: \$1000

An original handbell composition suitable for massed ringing.
3-5 octaves, AGEHR Level 3 or 4
Optional handchimes or other instruments may be used.

DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2004

Mail to : Peggy McNamee, Area II Composition Contest, 5 Highland Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15202. Contact: (412) 761-8910 or mcnameebpik@aol.com.
For additional contest rules, go to
http://www.area2agehr.org/conference/composition_contest_2005.pdf

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AREA II of AGEHR, INC. HANDCHIME LENDING PROGRAM APPLICATION

TO BE LOANED: Three 3-octave set of handchimes.

LOAN PERIOD:

One (1) school year (September 1 through June 1) with return of handchimes to Area II by June 15

OR

One (1) summer session (July 1 - August 15) with return of handchimes to Area II by August 22.

OR

As specified by the board for the Special Needs Groups.

ELIGIBILITY:

Public or Private Elementary or Secondary school, Church, Community or Special Needs Group within Area II of AGEHR. Handchimes will be loaned only once to a particular school, church or group.. Preference will be given to a new school district before another school within the same district. Preference will be given to schools with existing music programs.

CRITERIA:

1. Reason(s) why handchimes are being requested (20%)
2. How handchimes will be used for school music program (20%)
3. Estimated percentage of students and age levels who will be using handchimes (10%)
4. Name of teacher responsible for handchimes and their use including evidence of teacher training in handbell or handchime education (10%)
5. Strategies for continuation of program when loan period is over (20%)
6. Does school have handbells or handchimes/ If yes, how they are presently used and how will loaned handchime set support existing program (10%)
7. Evidence of support of music program and handchime program from school or school district administrator , church or sponsor (10%).
8. Purchase by organization/institution of current year's membership in AGEHR Membership # _____

HOW TO APPLY:

Send letter of application, on official school/church stationery, addressing all criteria above and indicating time period for which handchimes are requested to current secretary of AREA II AGEHR, INC. Grace McClester. 2068 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001. Telephone (724) 375-5584 kegm@access995.com Include, on separate sheet of official school/church stationery, letter of support from school or school district administrator/church pastor, or sponsor.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:

May 1 postmark of year of summer session or traditional fall start of school.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

School or school district/church/community group. pays shipping or transportation fees for handchimes to and from. School or school district/church/community group assumes responsibility for repairs or replacement of handchimes if need is determined after loan period. A Summary letter explaining how handchimes were used during the loan period is due no later than thirty (30) days following the end of the loan period.

QUESTIONS? Grace at 800 553 8742, ext 604 Tues through Sat or evenings (724) 375 5584. email: gmcclester@volkweins.com or kegm@access995.com.

NEW FEATURE AT 2004 READ AND RING SEMINAR

BEGINNING DIRECTOR'S SEMINAR

**If you are a beginning handbell director or a potential handbell director,
here is an opportunity for you!**

Area II AGEHR has a new learning experience for beginning handbell/handchime directors and those who are considering assuming this position. A Beginning Handbell Director's Track is being offered at our Read and Ring Seminar this summer. The track will consist of five hours of classes in the basics of directing a handbell program with options to take an additional class in conducting and in handbell basics.

Topics to be covered include:

Equipment: What do I need and how do I take care of it?

Ringers: What skills do new ringers need?

How many ringers do I need?

Music: Where do I find the music?

How do I select from among all these titles?

How do I "prepare" the music I have selected?

Rehearsal: How do I prepare myself for the first rehearsal?

How do I teach the music to my ringers?

How do I run an effective rehearsal?

What happens after we learn the notes?

Techniques: What exactly are handbell/handchime techniques?

How can I learn them? How do I teach them?

Education: Where and how can I learn more?

Are there books that can help me?

If you need help in answering more than a couple of the above questions, please consider registering for the Beginning Director's Seminar.

The seminar clinician will be **Nancy Lutz**. She is director of handbells at Mt Lebanon United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh where she has a graded children's program, a youth choir and two adult ensembles. Nancy serves on the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR) National Board and is also membership chair of Area II AGEHR.

AGEHR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership in AGEHR come in a variety of levels that reflect the intensity of the involvement in handbells. The following information is also available on the AGEHR website:

General Information

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers is a non-profit association providing valuable educational resources and events for handbell/handchime ringers and directors. The organization currently represents over 9100 members, including churches, schools, community organizations, and individuals.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the art of handbell/handchime ringing.

With your membership, you enjoy the following services:

Help to Get You Started

- Handbell Notation Booklet—each new member will receive this vital resource book.

- Local Support—Find out about local events and opportunities, and receive the newsletter for your area.
- Scholarships - Scholarships are available for area and national events.
- Chime Loan Programs (see Area II program on page 13.
- Mentors - Contact Judy Dinkler for more information

Support to Keep You Going

- National bi-monthly journal, Overtones - Every two months, you will receive Overtones, the nation's number one journal on handbell/handchime ringing.
- Members-Only Online - Access website content only available to members. Here you can search for contact information on fellow AGEHR members .

Membership Form—The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Membership Type

- Platinum Membership\$170.00
- Sterling Membership\$120.00
- Regular Membership\$60.00
- 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\$120.00
- Canadian Membership..... add \$10.00
to all membership categories to cover additional postage
- International Memberships

- A. Overtones at Printed Matter rate \$60.00 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.

AREA II BELLETIN BOARD

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	INFORMATION
March 27, 2004	Christine Anderson In Concert	Hillcrest Church Monroeville, PA	Hillcrest Church 412-824-5600	Workshop \$35.00
March 28, 2004	Christine Anderson In Concert	Trinity United Methodist Church, McMurray, PA	Peggy McNamee 412-761-8910	
April 4, 2004	Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble In Concert	First Presbyterian Church	Susan Penrose 732-492-1598	Info@philadelphiahanbellensemble.org
April 17, 2004	Nittany Valley Festival	State College, PA	Gail Ritchey GGRitchey@aol.com	Jefferey Hall Conductor
April 23-25, 2004	North Hills Handbell Festival	Marshall Middle School Wexford, PA	Marilyn H. Hines 724-794-8615	Howard Moser Conductor
April 25, 2004	Central New Jersey Festival	Rider University Alumni Gym	Susan Lippencott 908-526-4507	William Payn Conductor
May 16, 2004	Medford Festival	Shawnee Baptist of Shmong, NJ	Art Morgan 856-983-9217	
May 16, 2004	Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble In Concert	St. John's UMC Ivlyland, PA	Susan Penrose 732-492-1598	Info@philadelphiahanbellensemble.org
May 28, 2004	Westminster Choir College Concert	Church of the Covenant Washington, PA	Ron Hann Minstermusic@hotmail.com	724-229-0190
June 19, 2004	Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble In Concert	Jordan Lutheran Church Orefield, PA	Susan Penrose 732-492-1598	
July 22-27, 2004	Handbell Spectacular	Norfolk, VA	National Office	
Aug 3-7, 2004	International	Toronto, Ontario	National Office	
Aug 12-14, 2004	Area II Read and Ring Seminar	Lancaster Host Resort And Inn	Ken Kelley 609-924-0103	Deborah Rice Michael Helman
August 27-28, 2004	Solo/Ensemble Workshop	Grove City, PA Tower Presbyterian	Marilyn M. Hines 724-794-8615	Nancy Hascall, Sue Garton
July 5-7, 2005	Area II Young Ringers' Festival	Bucknell University Lewisburg, PA	Kathie Bittenbender 717-697-6257	Jason Wells, Conductor
July 7-10, 2005	Area II Festival Conference	Bucknell University Lewisburg, PA	Peggy McNamee 412-761-8910	William Payn, Conductor

Church of the Covenant's Handbell Mission Project

Washington Pennsylvania is home of The Church of the Covenant (Presbyterian, USA). Its history dating back to 1929 is full of extraordinary stories and mission and ministry. Completed during the height of the depression, the sanctuary is remarkably outfitted with stonework from Boston, magnificent stained glass windows, hand carved pulpit, lectern and reredos with symbols of faith everywhere. A magnificent Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ, five octaves of Whitechapel English handbells, Orff instruments, handchimes, pianos, keyboards, and praise band assist worship in a powerful way.

(Continued on Page 17)

Church of the Covenant (Continued from page 16)

The Church of the Covenant is widely known for its ministry and mission, both local and world-wide. During the pastorate of Rev. William M. Meyer, a much-needed addition including a 22,000 sq foot Covenant Center became a reality after nearly twenty years of dreaming about it. Coupled with this was a mission partnership (sister church) with the Ta-An Presbyterian Church, Taipei, Taiwan. Both churches participate in significant ways in mission in Malawi, South Africa, as well as praying for and supporting each other's ministry and mission.

What does this have to do with English Handbell ringing? The Ta-An (pronounced Dah-ahn) church was given a used set of handbells nearly nine years ago with some early editions of handbell training material from the Presbyterian church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. When Ron Hann came to The Church of the Covenant as minister of music in the fall of 1998, he had no idea he would become involved in a significant way to help a church in Taiwan develop a handbell ministry. When a group of 50 Taiwanese visited Southwestern Pennsylvania living, worshiping, praying, and dining together a close relationship between Asians and North Americans was being developed.

In February 2003 a group of 18, including Ron, were invited to Taiwan by the Ta-An church for two weeks. Teaching English is an imperative need, and teams of four were sent out to the church, community, Ushan Theological College and the community Senior Citizen high-rise complex to teach, while providing frequent worship leadership, and offering music at group meetings and banquets with the Ta-an congregation and staff.

(Continued on page 19)








Are your bells growing progressively harder to play?

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?**

Just one of these signs could mean your bells need servicing!

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Area II membership report

Membership

Area 2 membership holds steady at just above 1000 members. Sara Smith, our Membership and Marketing Director, has been aggressively seeking out “lapsed” members and has been successful in getting many to rejoin AGEHR. She is also systematically contacting all churches with handbell programs, searching for directors who NEED to become members! We each can do a lot to help Sara’s efforts by inviting others to join AGEHR. You are reading this newsletter because you are a member. You receive Overtones six times a year for the same reason. Don’t you think all handbell directors should have both of these wonderful tools?

And what about your ringers? Many of them would enjoy reading about handbell news in Area 2 and around the country. Invite them to join. What about a gift membership for a ringer each year?

Being a volunteer

As you know, we are an organization run mostly by volunteers. We have only three full time employees in the Dayton office. Part time employees take care of producing Overtones, overseeing music publishing and the taking care of the website. Matters financial are out-sourced to a CPA firm. Virtually EVERYTHING else that happens, happens because of you, the handbell volunteer! We depend on hundreds of people to produce wonderful events, not only locally, but at the national level.

Too often, we ask the question, “What does the Guild do for me?” when we could be thinking along the lines of, “What can I do for AGEHR?” Think about it. What are your gifts that could be shared with this wonderful organization? When you decide, let someone know. Write to one of the names on this Area Board to let us know how you can help. We are looking forward to hearing from you and your ringers!

Membership roster

If you have shared an email address with AGEHR, you have been receiving E Notes and already know this information, or perhaps you read it in Overtones, but in case you have not, you need to know about the new features on the website related to membership. Many of you will recall when the AGEHR sent out a printed roster to all members each year...back in the “good old days” when postage and paper costs allowed this. In 2004, we have the option to have access to our roster thru the website. Go to www.agehr.org for details. Register at the “members only” page to get your pass code. This will give you access to a searchable roster of all members. You may also update your own membership information here. Job change? Email address change? This data can be changed quickly on line. While you are there, check out the Area II website www.area2agehr.org for the latest in what is happening. Registration forms for all Area and many local events are available there.

Hope to celebrate with you in Norfolk in July and learn with you in Lancaster in August at the Read and Ring Seminar.

Nancy Lutz, Membership Chair

Church of the Covenant *(Continued from page 17)*

During that mission trip, it was clear that someone was needed to aggressively begin a handbell training program, where leaders could be trained to organize and direct ringing groups. After writing a simple three-part descant for one of the songs we presented at the farewell banquet using their bells, the elders, staff and hosts realized the capability of a music ministry that was in their capability and unique to Taiwan.

Planning a return visit in 2005 with at least four handbell ringers, Ron got busy exploring more up to date training materials and outlining the minimum equipment needs. Then, unexpectedly, an invitation arrived for us to join the Ta-An church for their 45th anniversary and celebration of their new building in **April 2004**. It energized the process and the need to quickly "gather and go." Ron was asked to represent the staff, elders and congregation by attending Ta-An's weeklong celebration. In emailing all Ron's AGEHR handbell buddies for suggestions of discounts on materials to take, Peggy McNamee replied asking Ron to make the requests specific. The Area II board voted to make a grant to The Church of the Covenant as an opportunity to provide materials and supplies to promote handbell ringing globally.

Ron will leave for Taiwan Wednesday, April 21 wonderfully heavy laden with first-rate materials and supplies helping that part of this world to experience the joy of music through handbells.

Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble



Kermit D. Junkert, Conductor / Artistic Director

Michael Joy, Composer in Residence

In Concert

Sunday, April 4, 2004, 4:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Ambler, PA

Sunday, May 16, 2004, 4:00 pm

St. John's United Methodist Church, Ivyland, PA

Saturday, June 19, 2004, 7:00 pm

Jordan Lutheran Church, Orefield, PA

Next Auditions:

June 12-13, 2004, 2- 5 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Ambler, PA

For more information see our website:

www.philadelphiahandbellensemble.org

For More Information Contact:

Susan Penrose

12 Clavedon Ct.

Middletown, NJ 07748

732-492-1598

info@philadelphiahandbellensemble.org



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