

# Twice Tolloed Tales



AGEHR AREA II

September 2007

## Message from the Chair

*Chris Braden*



Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? Usually we think of our New Year resolutions as the calendar turns from December to January. However, for many of us who work in schools, with church choirs, and even community groups, our "new year" began this fall. What resolutions have you made for your choirs and especially as they relate to Area II?

One of my resolutions as the new Chair of Area II, is to be in touch with all of you – personally and through our Board. Our State representatives and District Coordinators are a "local" way for you to be connected to Area II. Be in touch with them (contact information is elsewhere in this issue of Twice Tolloed Tales) and let them know what our Board can be

doing for you and your choir.

Here are some ideas of resolutions you might make for your choir and Area II for the coming year. Why not choose two or three?

Contact your District Coordinator or State Representative and say hello! Volunteer your special gifts to lend a hand

Attend a workshop, either as an individual or with another member of your choir

Offer to be a clinician at a workshop or mentor another choir

Send a donation to the Area II Endowment Fund in honor of your choir or in memory of someone

Invite another choir in your town to join you for a workshop

Attend a concert of another handbell choir (check the website for concerts around the area and make sure your own events are posted)

Renew your membership to AGEHR

Encourage a neighboring church, school or colleague to join the Guild

Offer to host one of our Spring Reading Sessions

Interested in starting a Director's Group in your region...give us a call; we can help

Post our website address in your bell rehearsal room and encourage your ringers to visit it often

Make plans now to attend our summer Read & Ring event next July. Encourage your ringers to join you

Above all, please share this newsletter and other Area II communications with your ringers. They are eligible to attend all our events as ringers under your membership number. All our events welcome INDIVIDUALS as well as choirs, so please let them know about opportunities to improve their skills and network with other ringers.

Your area board and I are here to help you with whatever you need. Do not hesitate to be in touch with any of us.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Chris Braden

# Light Up Your Holidays!

## SiteLiteII

We proudly introduce SiteLiteII, the great new light whose features and ease of use make it a must-have for any ringer!

- LED- no bulb to replace
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3194	Ten-Pack Replacement Bulbs	\$9.95



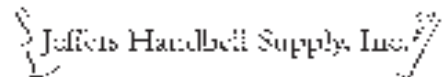
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## Welcome to the 2007-2009 Area II Board

October 1<sup>st</sup> began the new term of the Area II Board. We extend our deep appreciation to Kathie Bittenbender for the outstanding job done as Chair over the last two years.

The Area II Board for the next two years is a good blend of experienced Board members and new members. The board is represented by 5 members from each of the three states. Their photos and contact information will be on the website soon and their names and positions are listed elsewhere in this issue.

Introducing our new members:

Jim Rossetti, our Chair-elect, is from the Pittsburgh area. Christina Lenti joins the Board as the newly elected treasurer. She is associate director of music at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY. Shelley Giaier is our new New Jersey State Representative and Jon Hinkson is the N.J. State CHIME representative. Joining the Board in the newly created position of Workshops Coordinator is Jackie Anderson from Webster, NY. We welcome all our new members and extend a heart-felt thanks to those who are leaving the Board.



## AGEHR AREA II BOARD MEMBERS 2005-2007

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[www.area2agehr.org](http://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 March, June, September, and December. 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.

All information for publication and advertisements should be sent to the editor: Lynn Rapp 39 Honeysuckle Dr. Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 [klsrapp@msn.com](mailto:klsrapp@msn.com)

Dear Betty Garee Scholarship Committee,

I would like thank you for choosing me as a recipient of the Betty Garee scholarship for the Area II festival in Oswego. My choir and I had a great experience working with Tim Waugh, and I learned some valuable lessons in conducting, four-in-hand ringing, and bell maintenance. I even learned some things to use in my music classroom at school. The experience also helped me get to know my ringers on a more personal level, and that has helped us grow as a choir. Thank you again for such a wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

Melissa L Miller



It was a dark and stormy night. The wind howled through the trees as their branches beat incessantly against the sides of the house. Rain poured down in thunderous cascades when suddenly.....a light appeared on my computer monitor. It flickered and flashed, mocking me as I sat waiting for it to boot that I may then log on for my daily download of email. Down they trickled on my dial-up connection, 1, 2, 3. Then, lo and behold, an email from Area II letting me know that I was a winner of a Betty B. Garee Scholarship! Suddenly the sun came out as the clouds parted and I knew all was right with the world.

Receiving the Betty Garee Scholarship was indeed a Godsend. I am thankful and honored to have received such an award and, once I started hearing about who Betty was, humbled by the one for whom it is named. I would like to thank the Endowment Committee, the Area II Executive and all the members of Area II for putting such a tremendous resource in place. It allowed me to attend an extremely wonderful event that, up until 6 weeks prior, wasn't even a consideration on my part. It allowed me to also meet more of the best that life has to offer...handbell ringers and directors! Since getting into handbells just over two years ago, THAT has been my greatest treasure to discover in the musical world. Terrific people came to this event and I had a ball. Everyone I talked with was extremely helpful, friendly and welcoming. The musicality of everyone was phenomenal, surpassing any expectation I could have imagined. The workshops were great and a lot of fun, as were the exceptional workshop leaders. The vendor area had lots of variety for one's handbell shopping, which was wonderful to see. And our clinician for the event...where does one start?! Tim Waugh was amazing to say the least. I'm already getting my choir to draw Squares and Triangles in the air! (a start to putting the Scholarship to good use I suppose!).

The Massed ringing concert was tons of fun. A wonderful variety of musical pieces and expression. My (unexpected) highlight was "Battle Hymn of the Republic"! I had been dismissing it as a cute patriotic piece in lieu of July 4 and was just concentrating on being on top of playing my notes with my eyes glued to the music (which no one else does and ALWAYS watches our directors ;-> ). Well, it didn't come until the end---the last page, and we were building up to those sets of double marts, when, just like Tim said it would, it came. I felt an energy change! And build. And after that first double mart, I knew. Those people would be out of their seats! I guess you could say those of you who selected the music knew your audience! WOW! Amazing and exhilarating!!!

I almost forgot to mention the nightly concerts!!! Who could forget those! The Bronze Ambassadors were wonderful. Anacrusis was a riot! The Master Class, conducted by Debbie Rice, was absolutely stunning (I was speechless after they played Karen Buckwalter's 'Reflections'!) and Alex Mysliwiec truly put tears to my eyes (in a GOOD way) in a couple of his solo pieces!!! I was just telling Kathie Bittenbender that it puts me back on Cloud 9 every time I recall that weekend. Being that these are my 'formative handbell years, I'm sure Area II's 2007 Festival Conference in Oswego, NY will be one that I reflect on often in the years to come. Thanks for having me as a part of it. Thanks for showing me a degree of the height where handbell musicianship can be. IT'S INSPIRING!!!

Kenneth Gray

# Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

I wanted to take one last opportunity to publicly thank everyone involved with loaning equipment to Area II for our Festival Conferences in June at Oswego. Without your willingness to allow complete strangers to use your equipment, we could not have had a Festival at all, let alone the success that they both were.

A HUGE thank you to our two local bell liaisons, Jackie Anderson and Lynn Morgan, who made it all possible. They both volunteered their time, effort, equipment and choir members in order to make the Festivals run smoothly. We could not have done it without them. Also, if you transported equipment or helped move it around the Festival site, my thanks to you as well. You all made my job as coordinator very easy.

If you attended Festival Conference, please thank the following people the next time you see them. We rang and used their equipment in classes, on the ringing floor and in concerts. Thank you all one last time.

Jeremy

Abel Searor, West Baptist Church, Oswego, NY	Alex Mysliwicz
Anna Carol Buffington	Trinity United Methodist Church, Grand Island, NY
Carol Roman, Warwick Reformed Church, Warwick, NY	Chris Braden
Chris Lenti, Third Presbyterian, Rochester, NY	Daniel Aune, St. Mary's RCC, Rochester, NY
Eiko Cornelius	Elaine Pierce, Sandy Creek UMC, Sandy Creek, NY
Erin Ells, Seneca Nine Presbyterian Church, Stanley, NY	Jackie Anderson, Webster Presbyterian Church, Webster, NY
Jackie Anderson, Bethany Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY	Janice Peters
Jennifer Wihtenack, First Presbyterian Church, Watertown, NY	Jessica Bowerman, Syracuse University
Jim Wynne, Ridgewood UMC Ridgewood, NJ	Judy Dinkler
Karen Robards	Kim Durst, Webster UMC, Webster NY
Kyle Ramey, Trinity Episcopal Church, Watertown, NY	Lee Morgan
Lynn Morgan, Asbury UMC, Watertown, NY	Marietta Kitto, First United Methodist Church, Watertown, NY
Marilyn Scheneberger	Marion DeLeo
Mary Alice Westerlund, Holy Cross RCC, Rochester, NY	Nancy Lutz, Mt. Lebanon UMC, Pittsburgh, PA
Natalie Sturr	Faith United Methodist Church, Oswego, NY
Peter Woolschlager, Beaver River CSD, Beaver Falls, NY	Rene Hebert, St. Peter's Church, Cazenovia, NY
Rene Hebert	Rev. Naomi Annandale, First UMC, Oswego, NY
Rev. Will Baez, First UMC, Gouverneur, NY	Ron Bellamy
Ron Milliman, UCC of Webster, Webster, NY	Sally Yocum, St. John's UCC, Boalsburg, PA
First United Methodist Church, North Tonawanda, NY	Thomas Peters
Tom Reagan	Wade Wheelock, Unitarian Universalist Church, Canton, NY



## Coming Events

- *March 1, 2008* Endorsed Event *ACM Handbell Festival Paoli, PA* Arnold Sherman, conducting . Contact Martha Alford (610) 355-7683 for information
- *Ring to Spring 2008*, sponsored by the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble, to be held *Saturday, March 8, 2008*, at *Eastern Regional High School in Voorhees, NJ*. Mr. Tim Waugh will be our guest conductor for the one day festival. Gail Posey is the contact person at [gsposey@comcast.net](mailto:gsposey@comcast.net) or 856-784-4441, ex. 1158.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There are many benefits in being a member of AGEHR. Here are just a few:

- Subscription to *Overtones* - a bi monthly professional magazine
- Subscription to *Twice Told Tales* - a newsletter from Area II
- Participation in all AGEHR events
- Participation in the election of national and area officers
- Being placed on the mail list from music publishers, receiving a CD of the newest releases of handbell music.

When I became a director of a Jr. High - Sr. High program, not knowing a thing about handbells, someone gave me the greatest advice that they could have possibly given; that was to become a member of the guild. Those first years, I read every article in *Overtones* and went to as many workshops sponsored by Area II that I could attend.

One of the Area II board concerns is the fact that we are losing members. Five years ago our membership was 1046. As of September 2007 the membership is 823. This is a loss of 219 members. We know that part of our losses is retaining the members that are given a gift membership from the manufacturers when they buy their bells. A free mentoring workshop is offered by Area II to help those churches or schools get started and to educate them as to how being a member would benefit their choir. In the last year we have added 94 new members but 115 members were dropped from our membership. Other areas are having the same problem so we are not alone.

We would like to enlist your help in helping us. If any of you have any ideas as to why we are losing members, please let me know. Feel free to share your suggestions as to how we can once again become the second largest area in membership.

Judy Dinkler

Membership Chair

[jdinkler@verizon.net](mailto:jdinkler@verizon.net)



## NEW MEMBERS

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



Larry Allen		Kristi Loper	Elaine Pierce
Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church	Kathy Hartke	Zion Lutheran Church	Lacona, NY
Pittsburgh, PA	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School	Clarence Center, NY	Brian Seeman
	Berline, NJ		Whitehouse Station, NJ
Jessica Bowman		Linda Lorgue	
Charles F. Johnson Elem. School	Jon Hinkson	West Chester, PA	
Endicott, NY	Pemberton, NJ		Lisa Truskolawski
		Sarah McCraley	Kearny, NJ
Betsy Choate	Robyn Hyland	Christ Presbyterian Church	
West Sayville, NY	First United Methodist Church	Elwood City, PA	Michael Wutzke
	Amityville, NY		New Life Christian Church
John Day		Becky Oman	Newtown, PA
Littlestown, PA	Sally Lauer	National Park School	
	Selingsgrove, PA	National Park, NJ	
Evelyn Emminger			
Hummelstown, PA			

## Read and Ring Seminar Coming Summer 2008

**Next Summer** Area II will once again be hosting our bi-annual **Read and Ring Seminar**. The dates are Friday through Tuesday, July 12 – 15. This event is directed towards individual ringers, different from last year's Festival which was aimed towards entire choirs. Come, choose your own level of ringing, and be taught and conducted by nationally known clinicians! You won't want to miss it – mark your calendars now!



Area II's Read and Ring will once again be held at The Split Rock Lodge in Lake Harmony, PA, in the Poconos. Split Rock is a family resort, with a lake, golfing, bowling, and a new water park! It's easy to get to – only about 3 miles from Route 80 as well as the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Clinicians will be: David Harris – Level 4/5

Hart Morris – Level 3/4

Greig Ashurst – Level 2/3

Donna Kinsey – Level 1/2

Bell a deux (Ron Bellamy and Bobbi Schmid) – Solo/Ensemble

Nancy Lutz – Beginning Directors

Questions? Contact Kathie Bittenbender, past chair of Area II. Watch for a mailing before Christmas!



## Area II Conference Festival a Huge Success!!

The **Area II Festival Conference** and **Young Ringers Festival** held in Oswego, NY the last week of June were **WONDERFUL!** If you missed them – you really missed something special! Many of you have said these were “the best ever” and we thank you!

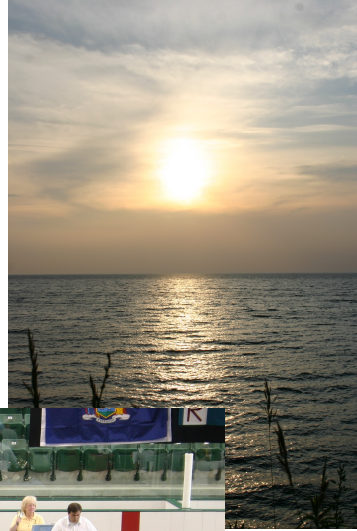
Howard Moser (Young Ringers), Tim Waugh (Festival Conductor), and Debbie Rice (Master class) were all very well received, along with our many other clinicians! The ringing was superb by all involved. We premiered two wonderful pieces: “Lament and Dance” by Eileen Lawrence, and “Joyful Variations” by Brian Childers (Young Ringers).

The concerts by the Bronze Ambassadors – a high school choir from Vermont, Anacrusis – an Ensemble whose home is Area III, and Alex Mysliwicz – a solo ringer from Slippery Rock, PA, were outstanding!

The food was wonderful! The comradery terrific! The setting was awesome. And the weather was great! We inaugurated a new building and a brand new ice arena floor!

If you have never been to an Area II Festival, you need to put this on you “To Do” List! This event happens every other summer at a college in Area II! You won't regret it!

# Fun in





# Oswego!



## Handchime Lending Program Update

It was another successful summer for the Area II Handchime Lending Program! Out of the nine handchime recipients last year, five decided to continue their programs by purchasing chimes. As a thank you for their commitment to ringing handchimes, Area II has purchased AGEHR gift memberships for each group.

Area II has also loaned out eight of the nine sets for the 2007-2008 church/school year. We still have one set available. If you, your choir, or someone you know might benefit from having a set of Malmark Choirchimes for a year, please go to our website and download the information for our Handchime Lending Program and get it to Jeremy Peters as soon as possible.

Below is a listing of our 2007-2008 handchime recipients. Congratulations!!

Roberta Erickson - City Music Center of Duquesne University - Pittsburgh, PA

Nicole Camilleri - Fairport United Methodist Church - Fairport, NY

Joan Wetzel - Garwood Presbyterian Church - Garwood, NJ

Raymond Bonnard - Lankenau High School - Philadelphia, PA

Abigail Gray - The Presbyterian Church - Mt. Kisco, NY

Mary Rita Rossetti - Saint Alexis Parish - Wexford, PA

Rex Holden - Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sayville, NY

Judy Smith - Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Saddle River, NJ



## Westminster Ringers

*a Maryland Community Ensemble*  
presents

### Celebrate The Journey

Saturday, November 17, 2007 \* 7:00 PM

Lancaster Church of the Brethren - 1601 Sunset Ave., Lancaster, PA

### Winter Concerts - 10th Anniversary Concerts

Saturday, December 8, 2007 - 7:00 PM

Winter Mills High School - 560 Gorsuch Rd., Westminster

Sunday, December 9, 2007 - 3:00 PM

Milford Mill UMC - 901-915 Milford Mill Rd., Pikesville

Advance Sell - \$10 Adults/\$8 for Seniors over 60 and Children 5 - 12/Under 5 Free

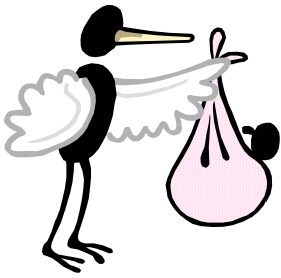
At the Door - \$12 Adults/\$10 for Seniors over 60 and Children 5 - 12/Under 5 Free

**For more information about any of the above workshops/concerts,**

**please contact:** Debbie Henning

410-848-5482 \* [director@thewestminsterringers.org](mailto:director@thewestminsterringers.org)





## The Birth of a New Ministry

The idea of organizing a handbell choir at the Good News Home, a comprehensive, spiritually focused, non-denominational treatment center for women seeking recovery from addiction to drugs and/or alcohol, first occurred to me when I interviewed for the position of Associate of Finance and Development. Visiting and touring the facility, beautifully situated on 55 acres of farmland in rural Hunterdon County, NJ, touched my spirit in a way that made me know this was the job I had been hoping to find. Also moved by the positive and nurturing atmosphere that seemed to prevail as I was introduced to other staff members, I was immediately excited to feel that the seeds had already been planted for my path to find a new direction at the Good News Home, a direction I knew would include music.

I very quickly received confirmation of the therapeutic value of music in the healing process of recovering drug addicts through attendance at corporate prayer every Wednesday morning. At this gathering, staff and clients stand in a circle and share praise reports and prayer concerns, with each person offering an individual prayer if she chooses to do so. The desire for expression through music as a means of fostering religious experience was very apparent, and I soon became the unofficial “song leader”. This provided me with encouragement for starting a vocal choir open to staff and residents, and I was given a time slot of an hour to hold a weekly music class. The enthusiasm with which this was received was very gratifying, and even the women who thought they couldn’t sing were excited to realize when I worked with them individually after class that they could indeed “match pitch” within a range that was comfortable. A sense of group pride developed, and the women, many of whom had no previous musical experience, learned to sing in 3 part harmony.

Greatly encouraged by the bonds I was forming with the clients and by the progress they were making, I felt the time was right to try to make my dream of organizing a handbell choir become a reality. I submitted my application to AGEHR Area II, and the home was blessed with a grant for the purchase of the handbells we needed to get started.

My greatest joy in working with the Good News Ringers has been witnessing the enthusiasm with which everyone who has participated has embraced her role as a pioneer in a new venture. Learning the basics of holding and ringing the bells, counting, and playing color-coded notes in just 3 lessons, the choir made its debut with a joyous rendering of “Jacob’s Ladder” at an Open House hosted in May by the Good News Home.

As women who have been marginalized by society struggle with issues of esteem, it is truly gratifying to see how this opportunity to grow through the art of ringing handbells has awakened both self-awareness and a sense of group unity. One of my greatest initial concerns was whether it would be difficult to maintain continuity with women periodically entering and leaving the treatment program which ranges in length from nine to eighteen months. Ironically, the fluidity in the choir’s membership has ended up being a source of strength. The “senior” residents take pride in welcoming new clients and helping them adjust and feel comfortable with the bells. Staff are also eager to assist when needed to “fill in”, but the choir definitely “belongs” to the residents. The women are inquisitive, full of a childlike wonder, and so moldable, as well as being very appreciative of such a special opportunity for creative self-expression through music.

Are handbells an effective vehicle for promoting personal growth and healing among recovering drug addicts? Absolutely!! Strengthening the ability to focus is a major challenge the client faces as her body begins to adjust to life without drugs and alcohol. Handbells are exceptionally effective therapy in this process. It is extremely satisfying to watch the clients develop in their ability to concentrate and learn to play their parts well from week to week. Recognizing their own progress, they are eager to provide support and encouragement to others.

From the Good News Ringers and its director, as well as our entire staff, a most heartfelt thank you is due to all from the AGEHR Area II team who have made this exciting ministry possible. Your investment in the future of the Good News Home for Women and its clients continues to brighten and enrich lives. The handbell choir has only just begun its journey, but as we prepare for guest appearances at churches, a charity concert, and the home’s 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Banquet, we celebrate our special call to “ring” to the community our message of faith, hope, love, and joyous thanksgiving for the work God is doing to reshape and restore the lives of His children walking in their recovery.





AGEHR Area II  
TWICE TOLLED TALES

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