

Twice Tolloed Tales

AGEHR AREA II

Dec 2007

Message from the Chair

Chris Braden

A month or so ago, your 2007-09 Area II Board met for the first time. We spent a little time getting to know each other, time working on the budget and other business items, and time beginning to get an idea of what our jobs will be for the next two years. In addition, part of our meeting was spent talking about the direction we would like to see Area II heading in the next two to five years. The Board felt strongly that we need to come up with a 5-year strategic plan and are looking for someone who can help facilitate that. Here are some of the other ideas that were “put on the table”:

- Re-instate 1-day workshops for Young Ringers
- Youth “Jamboree” day – a venue for youth choirs to perform for each other
- Reaching Home-schoolers
- Offer Festivals for Level 1-2 choirs and/or include it as a separate “track” at our main summer festival conference
- Find the unused bell sets throughout the area
- Provide training opportunities for new directors

Your input is extremely valuable as we continue our planning. Our spring reading sessions began last spring because people asked for opportunities to read through repertoire. What opportunities/programs do you need to help you and your programs grow and improve? What would excite your ringers? Which ideas listed above appeal to you? We would love to hear from you! We can't promise that we can do everything, but we will listen and consider. Contact your local district coordinator or email anyone on the Board.

As I write this, we are a week away from Thanksgiving. By the time you read this, we will be into Advent, probably the busiest time of year for many handbell choirs. In this season of “thanksgiving”, I hope you will take the time to tell your ringers or directors how much you appreciate their time, talent and commitment to your program. Remember to thank all those “behind the scenes” people who support what you do: your pastor or music committee, those who help drive to programs or carry equipment, stuff envelopes for mailings or make posters for your concerts. I want to thank the members of the Board who are giving their time and talents to journey with me over the next two years.

I wish you joy and peace in the upcoming holidays. I hope to meet many of you at an Area event in 2008!

Chris



Westminster Ringers
a Maryland Community Ensemble
presents



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

Young Ringer's Festival Conference

Saturday, March 29, 2008

Cranberry Station Elementary School in Westminster, MD

9:30 AM - Set-up and rehearsals * 4 PM public concert

Full or partial choirs may attend

Clinician - Larry Henning

Fee: \$20 per director/ringer, \$7 per chaperone by February 16, 2008

Fee: \$25 per director/ringer, \$7 per chaperone by March 1, 2008

Fee: \$30 per director/ringer, \$9 per chaperone after March 1, 2008

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

please contact: Debbie Henning

410-848-5482 * director@thewestminsterringers.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



Area II 2009 Composition Contest

2009 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
- Intended Playing time: Not to exceed 3 minutes

2009 Festival Conference Composition

Prize: \$1000

- An Original handbell composition suitable for massed ringing
- 3-5 octaves
- Optional handchimes or other instruments may be used
- Intended playing time: not to exceed 4.5 minutes



DEADLINE: May 1, 2008

Contest Rules

1. **ONLY ORIGINAL, UNPUBLISHED WORKS MAY BE SUBMITTED.** Entries may not be under consideration by any other contest or publisher while being considered by Area II.
2. Please use AGEHR publication *Handbell Notation and Grading System* as a reference guide for all compositional notation.
3. Composers may enter as many manuscripts as they wish, but each one is to be sent under a separate cover.
4. Send six (6) copies for the original piece on 8.5" X 11" paper. Include title, category, bells used chart, optional instruments, and duration. **DO NOT INCLUDE THE COMPOSER'S NAME ON THESE COPIES.**
5. Prepare a cover sheet containing title, intended playing time, composer's name, address and evening phone number.
6. Decision of the judges are final. Area II reserves the right to select entries that, in its sole judgment, are suitable for its festivals' purpose.
7. Winning entries will be performed at the 2009 Young Ringers; Festival and Festival conferences.
8. Area II will request a suitable dedication line when the composition is published. Area II reserves the right to be the sole dedicatee.
9. Winning compositions may not be presented or played in any festival, neither area nor local, prior to the 2009 Area II Young Ringers' Festival and Festival Conferences.
10. Area II adheres to copyright laws. Copyright obligations and adherence to copyright laws is expected of all composers
11. **ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MAY 1, 2008**

mail to: Christine Braden, Area II Composition Contest 328 Queens Court, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Questions? For questions please contact Christine Braden (201) 447-2751 email: bradencl@aol.com

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Spring Read and Ring Workshops

Read and Ring Workshops are being scheduled for the spring of 2008. So far the following sessions are scheduled:

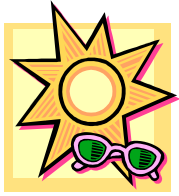
Saturday, March 29, 2008 First Presbyterian Church
Watertown, New York
Hostess: Lynn Morgan

Saturday, April 12, 2008 St. Stephens/Bethlehem United
Church of Christ
Amherst, New York
Hostess: Millie Fischle

Upcoming: Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church
Liberty Corners, New York
Hostess: Shelley Giaier
Date TBA



We are looking for other places for the spring Read and Rings. Anyone interested in hosting one of these sessions, please contact your State Chair or Jackie Anderson, Workshop Coordinator, at anderson@rpa.net.



What to do next summer? Come to Area II's Read and Ring Seminar!

Invite your Ringers!!!

This is the year we come together as ringers – picking our own level – or working in a solo/ensemble track. You can come by yourself or with friends, ring, go to classes and take new ideas back to your choir.

Dates: Saturday afternoon – Tuesday afternoon, July 12 – 15, 2008

Place: The Split Rock Lodge Resort, Lake Harmony, PA

Registration Cost: \$165 per person with a \$25 late fee after May 15, 2008

Accommodation Rates: from \$122 to \$135 for a double room per night – including breakfast and dinner daily. (Prices depend on where you reserve a room at the Split Rock Resort.)

Start thinking now about what Track you'll sign up for. A "track" is a series of several classes under the same instructor, where you get to ring music on your own level. At the end of the Read and Ring we usually have a short concert for ourselves where we show off what we've learned! Track choices will be:

Beginning Director Track – For those who are just starting a choir or who are thinking about starting a choir! - **Nancy Lutz** is back by popular demand as our clinician

Solo/Ensemble Track – If you are interested in ringing solos or ensembles, this is the track for you! Our clinicians this year will be the nationally known **Bell a-deux**, a bell duet ensemble composing of Ron Bellamy and Bobbi Schmid from Lancaster, PA.

Ringling Tracks – Arranged generally by levels of ability. I tell my ringers, go easy on yourselves and just have some fun ringing under somebody other than me! Our clinicians this year will be:

Donna Kinsey – from West Virginia – If you were at Oswego you may have met Donna!

Greig Ashurst – who some of you may know as a master percussionist from some of our festivals a few years ago.

Hart Morris – a handbell composer who likes to write "rhythmic fun" pieces! Hart was our Festival Conductor I in Geneva, NY.

David Harris – best known as the director of the Raleigh Ringers. David grew up in Pennsylvania and remembers coming to Split Rock Lodge as a kid!

So that it doesn't get lost in your holiday mail, look for your registration packet very early in the New Year. Then, plan to reserve your rooms early, as they are only holding them for us until May!

Please feel free to contact Kathie Bittenbender, past chair of Area II, with any questions.

Raising the Bar for Handbell Choirs

The music folder I'm carrying prompts him to ask, "Are you a musician?"

"Yes," I say, "I direct handbell ensembles."

With a knowing smile and an ever-so-slightly dismissive air, he nods and says, "What fun."

I respond, "I have a masters degree in flute performance, but have grown addicted to bells."

"Aaaaah," he says, now more respect on his face.

Why did I feel the need to defend my art with another? What can be done to elevate handbell ringing to a classically valued art form?

A successful ensemble requires multiple elements

1. **Orchestral musicians spend years perfecting technique.** Practicing, lessons and more practicing require thousands of hours of patient dedication.
2. **Rehearsals are efficient and productive.** Every minute is valuable. Hence, time is spent on unity of ensemble rather than on individual notes and rhythm.
3. **The conductor is well prepared with a vision for each piece.**
4. **The performers esteem each other.** Though we may not always agree, the atmosphere lends itself to mutual respect. Intense work, good communication and even laughter contribute to a cohesive performance.

It has been my heart's desire to see handbells reach this level. Thanks to choirs like Raleigh Ringers, Distinctly Bronze, Ring of Fire, just to mention a few, handbells are beginning to raise that bar.

Joyfully,

Martha Alford

Area II PA State Representative



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

Bulletin Board

Date	Event	Place	Contact Person	Details
Jan 6, 2008	The Rooke Chapel Ringers in Concert	Oakmont Presbyterian Church Oakmont, PA	Roberta Erickson 412-828-0693	Concert at 4:00 pm Dr. Payne conducting
Jan 11-14, 2008	Master Class in Conducting w/ Dr. William Payne	Bucknell University Lewisburg, PA	AGEHR National office 800-878-5459	
March 1, 2008	ACM Handbell Festival 2008	Bryn Mawr PA	Martha Alford 610-355-7683	Arnold Sherman Clinician
March 8, 2008	Ring to Spring 2008	Voorhees, NJ	Gail Posey 856-784-4441 Ext1158	Tim Waugh Clinician
April 4, 2008	Sonos Handbell Ensemble in Concert	Rochester, NY	Craig Knudeson 510-531-4780	
April 6, 2008	Sonos Handbell Ensemble in Concert	Ithaca, NY	Craig Knudeson 510-531-4780	
April 12, 2008	Western PA Handbell Festival	Community UMC Harrison City, PA	Susan Simmons 724-962-5125	Tracy McDuffie Clinician
April 25-26 , 2008	North Hills Handbell Festival	Wexford , PA	Peggy McNamee 412-281-4050	Monica McGowan Clinician
July, 2-5 2008	Ringling Link Canada's 5th National Handbell Festival	London, Ontario	Heather Keith 905-686-5676	
July 12-15, 2008	2008 Area II Read & Ring	Lake Harmony, PA	Kathie Bittenbender 717-697-6257	David Harris, Hart Morris, Greig Ashurst, Donna Kinsey, Nancy Lutz, Bell A Deux
August 4-8, 2008	AGEHR International Symposium	Orlando, FL	AGEHR office 800-878-5459	
August 6-8, 2008	Distinctly Teen Symposium	Orlando, FL	AGEHR office 800-878-5459	

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We are very sorry

CDs from our Festival Conference and Young Ringers' Festival in Oswego have taken so long to get to you! We have no good excuse except "due to extenuating circumstances with our supplier....." Hopefully you have received your CD by the time you are receiving this copy of Twice Tolloed Tales! So – I guess I will say Merry Christmas! Please let me know if you still have not received any ordered CDs. Again, thank you for your patience and understanding. We promise to work on this problem for 2009!

-Kathie Bittenbender

SORRY!

WANTED!

Wanted - We are still in need of a PA CHiME representative to serve on the Board. CHiME = Committee on Handbells in Music Education so we are looking for someone with knowledge and interest of bells and chimes in schools. For more information, contact the Board CHiME Chair, Jeremy Peters or Chris Braden.

NEW MEMBERS



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



Omaldo Perez

St. Raymond Elementary School
Bronx, NY

James S. Little

Calvary Episcopal Church
Summit, NJ

Peggy Boozle

Mt. Union Jr. High School
Mount Union, PA

Cindy Lindey

Grace United Methodist Church
Grove City, PA

Fred Briegs

First Presbyterian Church
Woodbridge, NJ

David C. Daugherty

First Presbyterian Church
Germantown
Philadelphia, PA

Joyce Cortese

Community Choir
Sewickley, PA

Norman Richard

Lancaster Presbyterian Church
Lancaster, NY

Andrew Seay

Pittsburgh, PA

Linda Bush

Flemington, NJ

Bob Bell

Paxton United Methodist Church
Harrisburg, PA

Mary Ellen Harris

St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church
Wayne, PA

William Berg

St. Augustine of Canterbury R.C.
Church
Kendal Park, NJ

Beth Bomberger

Middle Creek Church of Brethren
Lititz, PA



Steven Russell

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Manalapan, NJ

Rebecca Landon

Maple Glen, PA

Andrew Moore

Pingry School
Martinsville, NJ

Linda Machett

McDonald Presbyterian Church
McDonald, PA

Welcome!!!



Upcoming Christmas Concert

The Park Church Handbell Ringers and friends under the direction of composer and pianist Mark Schiffert will be presenting a Benefit Christmas Concert on Friday evening December 21st at 7:30 at Park United Methodist Church in Bloomfield. The program will feature music for handbells, original piano compositions by Mark Schiffert and traditional carol singing by all. The concert will benefit the church's "Giving Tree" mission project which helps families in need in the Bloomfield area at Christmas, and the bell choir ministry at PUMC. The church is located at 12 Park Street. For directions visit the Park United Methodist Church website at parkumcbloomfield.org or call 973-429-7745. There is a suggested contribution of \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, and \$1 for children under 12. Refreshments will be served.

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Happy Holidays
 from the Area II
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AGEHR Area II
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Candlelight Bell Card: A tranquil image, a burning candle reflecting in a bell casting, adorns this card. Inside: *May Your Holiday Season be Melodious and Bright.* Red envelopes.

5229 Candlelight Bell Holiday Card, pk of 12 \$4.95

Angel Bells Card: Original artwork of three angels singing to fill the air with music decorates this unique holiday message: *May the Voices of Angels Ring like Bells Throughout Your Holiday Season.* Gold envelopes.

5231 Angel Bells Holiday Card, pk of 12 \$4.95

"SleighBell" Card: This fun and playful card is definitely one of a kind! Santa rides on his "sleighbell" on his way to deliver toys to all the children! Inside: *When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But Santa riding a bell with his nine Reindeer! Merry Christmas!* Green envelopes.

5230 "SleighBell" Holiday Card, pk of 12 \$4.95

Handbell & Chime Ornaments

Our beautiful golden handbell ornaments are guaranteed to bring joy to ringers in the holiday spirit. Perfect as gifts as well! Handbell Ornaments ship and store flat, then can be opened into three-dimensional ornaments for your tree.

Chime ornaments do not open, but will make a fantastic addition to the festivities!

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Happy Holidays!

from

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