



November 2009

<http://www.area2agehr.org>

A.G.E.H.R. AREA II  
TWICE TOLLED TALES  
NOVEMBER 2009

## From the Chairman . . .

This is my first open letter to you as Chair of Area 2. I want to begin by thanking the entire Area 2 Board of 2007-2009, and particularly Kathie Bittenbender (Past Chair) and Chris Braden (Chair) for being such good mentors to me during the last two years. I think we are ready to continue moving forward with our new Board (mostly) in place. I say mostly because we are still in need of one more person in the Historian position to complete the 2009-2011 Area 2 Board.

Included later in this edition is a short description of what the Area 2 Historian does. Check it out and if you would like more information on how you can serve your Area in this way, shoot me a quick email. My email address is: [JDRMaestro@comcast.net](mailto:JDRMaestro@comcast.net) I'll get back to you pronto.

As I have been reflecting on what I want to say to you in this letter, I realized that it comes down to this -- We have some good news and some not so good news.

### ***Good News First.***

Our Festival Conference in Scranton made a profit. "Wait a minute," you may say, "aren't we a non-profit organization? What are we doing making a profit?" Here are **some** of the things that we're doing with that profit:

- We lend sets of handchimes (for one year) to deserving new bell choirs in schools and churches, promoting and encouraging our art;
- We help to support a youth handbell choir in Romania;
- We maintain a mentoring program to help new directors;
- We donated (10% of the profit) to the new Area 2 Mentoring Endowment Fund to support our mentoring program.
- We offer scholarships and grants from our Endowment Fund.
- We hold workshops (reading and technique) to promote and teach quality handbell ringing.
- We reimburse Board expenses to those who serve.
- We maintain a web-site to help keep you up-to-date and informed.

There's much more that we do, but I think you get the idea.

Also we have recently negotiated an agreement with Comfort Inns to hold our Board meetings at a 22% savings.

And speaking of savings, after a year of discussion we are ready to bring you the next Twice Told Tales in a new form. You are holding history in your hands, ladies and gentlemen.

**Continued on p. 3.**



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## Area II Board Members 2009–2011

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### EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### Chairman

Jim Rossetti  
[jdmaestro@comcast.net](mailto:jdmaestro@comcast.net)  
104 Woodberry Rd  
Baden PA 15005  
412-913-5728

#### Chair-Elect

Jackie Anderson  
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585-233-1451

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#### Past Chair

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[bradenc1@aol.com](mailto:bradenc1@aol.com)  
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201-447-2751

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

#### Membership

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[jdinkler@verizon.net](mailto:jdinkler@verizon.net)  
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609-386-5770

#### NJ State Representative

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75 Old Red Mill Rd.  
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518-368-6514

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114 Botanic Court  
Upper Darby PA 19082  
610-449-0681

#### CHIME Chair Bob Ward

[RJWardNY@optonline.net](mailto:RJWardNY@optonline.net)  
99 Sunny Brook Circle  
Highland NY 12528  
845-691-2124

Historian Vacant

#### NJ CHIME Chair

Jon Hinkson  
[tubateacher@gmail.com](mailto:tubateacher@gmail.com)  
64 Catesville Rd.  
Pemberton NJ 08068  
609-894-0682 (H)

#### NY CHIME Chair Open

PA CHIME Chair  
Eileen McIntyre  
[ehandbell@comcast.net](mailto:ehandbell@comcast.net)  
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Aston PA 19014  
610-494-3697

#### Mentoring Chair

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717-627-0196

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Plainfield NJ 7062  
908-226-9088

#### Financial Advisor

Peggy McNamee  
[peggymc@malachy.com](mailto:peggymc@malachy.com)  
5 Highland Dr.  
Pittsburgh PA 15202  
412-761-8910

#### Endowment Fund Chair

Margaret Zabo  
615 N. Meadowcroft Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
412-341-1356

#### Communication Coordinator

Kathie Bittenbender  
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292 Founders Way  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
717-697-6257

#### Webmaster

John Braden  
[j.braden@worldnet.att.net](mailto:j.braden@worldnet.att.net)  
328 Queens Ct.  
Ridgewood NJ 07450  
201-447-2751



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**Next TTT deadline is January 15, 2010**

## From the Chairman . . .from page 1

The next TTT will be available to you electronically! The plan is to post the February 2010 edition of TTT on our website, [www.area2agehr.org](http://www.area2agehr.org). At the time of posting all members will receive email notification that the TTT is available. Please make sure your email address is up-to-date with AGEHR!! You can go to the website and read it there. If you prefer, as do I, to read it on paper, you will be able to print it.

If you do not have such email capabilities, then you can notify Kathie Bittenbender that you would like to receive a paper copy and we will mail it to you. In the past our yearly cost for printing and USPS bulk mailing of TTT has been in excess of \$2000, and a lot more work for the editor, printer and mailer. This will save our volunteers (editor and printer) time and substantial money for our Area. Some of us may find this a bit less convenient and the Board spent much time over this decision, so I am asking everyone to give it a try a few times before passing judgment. We expect to have a higher quality product for less cost. It's your Area 2 money that we're saving!

### Now for the not so good news.

In a nutshell, membership is down. Both in Area 2 and nationally membership is declining. No one is quite sure why and the same is true for other similar types of organizations.

If this trend is allowed to continue, then AGEHR will eventually cease to exist as a viable organization. Then where would we be? No more workshops or

mentoring. No more chime lending or endowments and scholarships for festivals, because there would be no more festivals! No more Overtones. Composers and publishers would not be encouraged to write new music. Let's not allow this to happen. Our organization needs our help!

In order to attempt to reverse this trend Area 2 State Representatives will soon be contacting the District Coordinators in their respective states. A comment I have heard regularly since my election to the Board has been that the District Coordinators want to help but they did not know what to do. So, DCs, you will be receiving an official "job description." Your first contact for questions and comments will be your State Representative. Be in touch. Get to know each other. You will be asked to contact members in your districts who have not renewed their memberships. Maybe they just forgot. Maybe they are not aware of the benefits of their membership. Work together to have some workshops or festivals, even just a few choirs getting together for an afternoon of playing for each other and a couple of massed pieces.

Encourage directors and ringers in your area to be creative and help each other. The Guild was founded for the purpose of promoting quality handbell ringing. Let's get back to our roots.

Jim Rossetti  
Area 2 Chair

**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.

All information for publication and advertisements should be sent to the editor with TTT newsletter in the subject area:

Kathie Bittenbender  
292 Founders Way,  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
rbittenben@comcast.net  
717-697-6257 (H)

Next Newsletter Deadline  
is January 15, 2010

717-805-2954 (C)

*The Raleigh Ringers*

*David M. Harris, Director*

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

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

*A community handbell choir*

## Historian Board Position

As you probably noticed on the page of Area II Board positions there remains one vital seat open, that of Historian. The Area Historian is the keeper of all historical records of Area II.

The only qualification is the ability to keep safe our four boxes of notebooks that have been thoroughly organized and categorized and then add to those notebooks when new events occur. Being the Historian does NOT mean that you must have lived through all of Area II history!

This is an appointed Board position, so you must be able to work well with others. (That's not usually a problem for bell ringers.)

If this sounds of interest to you and you would like more information, contact Jim Rossetti at [JDRMaestro@comcast.net](mailto:JDRMaestro@comcast.net) and he'll be in touch.



## Area II Breakfast at National Directors' Seminar, Tucson AZ



In July at the National Directors' Seminar in Tucson, Area II members met for breakfast before beginning a long day of classes and ringing.

From left to right around the table: Eileen Laurence, Jim Rossetti, Matthew Schukis, Georgia Roelof, Helen Anthony, Marilyn Semmel, Jim Semmel, Jessica Gorman, Deb Heine, Leon Whilden, AnnaCarol Buffington, Gail Richey, Chris Braden, Judy Dinkler, and Connie Lacey.

## New Members

**Next TTT deadline is January 15, 2010.**

### New Jersey

Eastern High School  
Gail Posey  
Voorhees NJ 08043

Sacred Heart Church  
Carol Ng  
North Merrick NY 11566

Asbury United Methodist Ch  
Marianne Maza  
York PA 17403

Central United Methodist Ch  
Janice Hill  
Wilkes Barre PA 18702

### New York

Master Singers  
Les Hadsel  
Cortlandt Manor NY 10567  
  
Our Lady of the Snows Ch.  
Lisa Kelly  
Floral Park NY 11004

### Pennsylvania

Barbara Dearing  
Mechanicsburg PA 17055  
  
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
Daniel Gresh  
Johnstown PA 15904-3035  
  
Etta Lyons Decesare  
Elizabethtown PA 17022

### Church of St. Benedict

Andrew Angstadt  
Mohnton PA 19540  
  
Katie Menhorn  
Berlin PA 15530

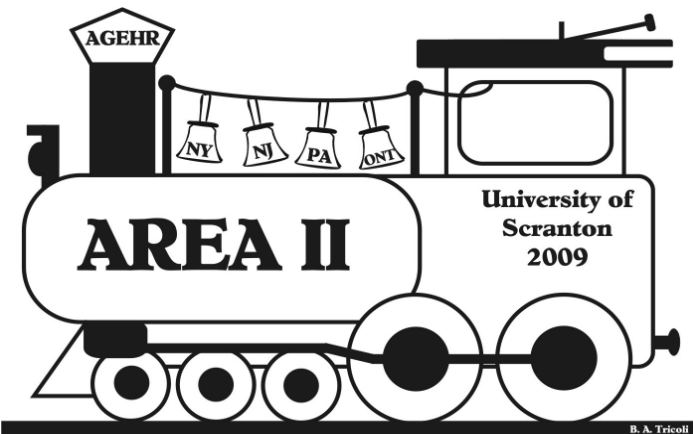
Spruce Hill Christian School  
Ruth Floyd  
Philadelphia PA 19104

### Ontario

Tracy Lewis  
Toronto ON M6S 3R6

**Welcome!**

## Wonderful Memories of Scranton!



Many who attended the Festival Conference in Scranton have shared great memories of our time together. Perhaps you would like to contact some of the folks who provided such memorable concerts for both the adult and the young ringers. Here is their contact information for your convenience:

The Raleigh Ringers - [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org) ; [rringer@rr.org](mailto:rringer@rr.org);  
(919) 847-7574

Susan Carscadden-Mifsud and the Bellissima Quartet -  
[www.handbellgraces.com](http://www.handbellgraces.com); [susan@handbellgraces.com](mailto:susan@handbellgraces.com);  
1-800-704-4997

Southminster Ringers directed by Richard Pinkerton -  
[rich@spchurch.org](mailto:rich@spchurch.org)

Sue Garton – [www.handbelltapestry.com](http://www.handbelltapestry.com); or  
[suegarton56@gmail.com](mailto:suegarton56@gmail.com);



Kathleen Wissinger - [longwalk3@aol.com](mailto:longwalk3@aol.com)

## Spring Reading Workshops



As I write this article, I'm just starting to wear my fleece jackets, sweaters and sweat-shirts. Seems like I'm just getting ready to settle in for a "long winter's nap" – and yet, here I am writing about Spring time.

Area 2 offers two types of workshop opportunities. The Spring workshops are intended to be reading sessions and are geared toward directors and ringers who like that 'hands-on' experience of playing through a variety of new music. Our Fall workshops are geared more toward techniques.

Consider hosting a reading session in your area. Others who have either hosted or attended have told us how much fun it was and that they look forward to doing it again. Why miss out on the fun! You can host a Spring Reading Workshop too.

We are currently putting together our workshop schedule. Please contact your Area 2 Workshop Coordinator for more information about hosting one of these sessions.

Jeanne Elmuccio -  
Workshop Coordinator  
(908) 229-9088  
[musicpoodle945@verizon.net](mailto:musicpoodle945@verizon.net)

### Quotes

"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."



-J.S. Bach

# A.G.E.H.R. AREA II BELLETTIN BOARD



11/14/2009

Greater Pittsburgh Fall Ring  
Pittsburgh, PA

Host: Nancy Lutz  
Tel: 412-341-1404

Clinician: David L. Weck



04/17/2010



Western PA Handbell Festival  
West Mifflin, PA

Host: Kathy Hayes  
Wilson Christian Academy

Clinician: Donna Kinsey



02/ 27/2010

Ring to Spring 2010

Voorhees, NJ

Host: Gail Posey  
856-784-4441 x 6025  
gsposey@verizon.net

Clinician: William Alexander



*Westminster Ringers*  
*A Maryland Handbell Ensemble*

## "Season's Greetings by Special Delivery"

*An evening of seasonal music and memories*

Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.

Tickets available at Coffey Music or Carroll Arts Center  
in Westminster, or by calling 410-848-5482.

Scott Center at Carroll Community College  
1601 Washington Rd., Westminster, MD

*Discount with advance purchase!*

## Young Ringer's Festival - New Format! \*

**Register Now!**

Saturday, Mar. 20, 2010  
Westminster, MD  
Clinician: Larry Henning

9:30 am - Set-up, rehearsals, classes  
4:00 pm - Music sharing  
**No required repertoire.**

*Trying to raise interest in a youth choir? Bring your young non-ringers and turn them into young new ringers!*

The Westminster Ringers are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining,  
please contact the director to set up an audition. [westminsterringersdirector@gmail.com](mailto:westminsterringersdirector@gmail.com)



**\*For more information and additional concert dates, please visit our website or contact:**

Debbie Henning 🎵 737 Holland Lane Westminster, MD 21158 🎵 410-848-5482 🎵 [www.thewestminsterringers.org](http://www.thewestminsterringers.org)  
The Westminster Ringers, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

# Truckin' Bells to the Area II Festival

by Bob Ward

Area II has a long history of providing great festivals, with talented directors, clinicians, classes and activities. And yet, seldom do the participants even think about where all the equipment comes from or how it gets there.

And where do they come from? Well, they come from churches mostly, members and non-members alike, who generously entrust their bells and other equipment to the Area for the period of the festival. The festival budget includes an expense for a truck rental to bring the bell sets to the festival site for the various classes. While in the Area's care, all this equipment is insured by AGEHR Inc. Each lender receives from the Area, a remuneration that is equal to a year's membership in AGEHR. Without the generosity of these people and churches, those unseen and unsung heroes, our festival would only have been a partial success.

Our thanks go to:

A.Cynthia Weber, Northampton, PA; Brighton Community Church, Tonawanda, NY; Church of the Apostles, Lancaster, PA; Convent of the Sacred Hart, Greenwich, CT; Corpus Christi Parish, Chatham, NJ; Emanuel Lutheran Church, Pleasantville, NY; Faith Lutheran Brethren Church, Briarcliff Manor, NY; First Reformed Church, Fishkill, NY; Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church, Lagrangeville, NY; Friedens Lutheran Church, Bernville, PA; God's Love Lutheran Church, Newtown, PA; Grace UMC, Millersville, PA; Katonah Presbyterian Church, Katonah, NY; New Hackensack Reformed Church, Wappinger's Falls, NY; Risë Kagen, Ivyland, PA; Sacred Heart RCC, Monroe, NY; St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, NY; St. John's-Newberry UMC, Williamsport, PA; St. Mary's RCC, Rochester, NY; Tom Reagan, Perry, NY; The Reformed Church, Poughkeepsie, NY; Warwick Reformed Church, Warwick, NY; Myrtle Street UMC, Scranton, Pa; Clarks Green UMC, Clarks Green, PA; Moscow UMC, Moscow, PA; Windsor UMC, Windsor, NY; First Presbyterian, Clarks Summit, PA; and First Presbyterian of Lackawanna, Peckville, PA.



Moral of the story, if you or your organization can lend your equipment to the area for an Area event, please do not hesitate to contact an Area board member.

## Interesting Facts:

Total mileage to bring and return bells to Festival: 1118 miles

Gas: \$285.15 Tolls: \$17.

Wednesday July 1 was wide load day on Interstate I-84!

**Misplaced:** one handbell cart labeled St. John's Lutheran; one carpeted dolly.

**Found:** 2 mallets





I am pleased to be serving as the board's Financial Advisor. I am a past chair of Area II and past Treasurer. My full time job is being the office administrator of Malachy Whalen & Co., Inc. in Pittsburgh, PA and I am the music co-ordinator at Trinity United Methodist Church in McMurray, PA. Of course, the

most important thing is that I am grandma to Connor and Addison! I look forward to the next two years in working with the board.

-Peggy McNamee

Report from the Financial Advisor:

The board has worked hard to approve a workable balanced budget for the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year. The budget is a little over \$30,000 and it allows for money to be spent to cover the expenses of Area II and fund areas the board feels needs attention. One of the areas money was allocated for was to provide money for networking from the board to the members of Area II.

Area II is in a fine financial situation. We have gone by the "rule of thumb" to be able to balance our budget and have

enough in the bank for the following year to cover the area expenses. Area II runs on the profits of the Festival Conference and any other events that earn a profit - such as Vibration Vacation!

Any additional monies in the account are invested in secure CD's so that we can earn interest to help the funds grow.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Area II's endowment fund was started six years ago with \$40,000 taken from Area II's reserves. Since then, we have given many grants and scholarships and Area II has continued to fund the endowment fund by contributing 10% of any profits from festivals and other events. In addition, many of you have contributed to the endowment fund through donations.

Area II will be 50 years old in 2010! Our goal is to get the base in the endowment fund over \$50,000! You will hear more about this! If you would like to make a donation to the endowment fund in the amount of \$50.00 in memory or in honor of a choir or an individual we certainly would appreciate it.

The endowment committee has been very prudent with the money in the fund. We've given out grants and scholarships, yet we have more than what we started with! The money is given to members of Area II - you can see more about the Endowment Fund on the Area II website.



AREA II PA. C.H.I.M.E. SURVEY RESPONSE

There were 110 responses from PA schools. Post card surveys were mailed to Elementary, Middle and High School Public, Private, Parochial, and Charter Schools.

- The majority of the responses were very interested in attending handbell and handchime workshops.
A large percentage are currently using handchimes and/or handbells as part of the classroom music curriculum and in performance.
99 percent of the music teachers or schools are presently not members of A.G.E.H.R.

Many responders who do not own handchimes or handbells are interested in purchasing chimes or bells to use them in the classroom and performance.

Congratulations!

Our \$250 J.W. Pepper's Gift certificate survey winner is Marie Miller from Easton Pa. She teaches music at the Cheston Elementary School. Congratulations!

As a result of this favorable survey I am interested in setting up workshops in several areas around the state to help educators, like myself, to plan and implement the use of bells/chimes in the schools. Also, I am willing to help music educators plan local and regional workshops and festivals to give students the opportunity to grow musically and have the experience to ring with other students in and outside the school setting.

Eileen McIntyre Area 2
PA C.H.I.M.E Rep
Committee on Handbells/ Handchimes in Music Education

ehandbell@comcast.net





# When It's Time To Talk About Bells...

## ...Give Us A Ring.

### Al Paul

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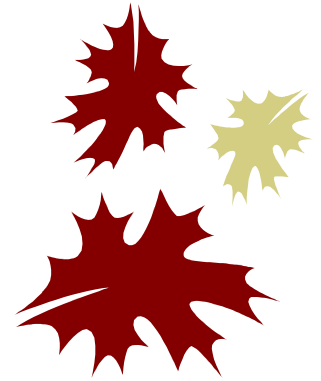
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## Vibration Vacation...



- Vibration Vacation -the new name for Read & Ring
- New Format
- 2 Locations
- Aug. 10 & 11 in Liberty Corner, NJ
- Aug 12 & 13 in the Altoona, PA area
- Lots of reading of music (no pre-purchase or preparation necessary)
- Classes coordinated to the music
- Preview of the 2011 Festival music
- Clinicians include:
  - Mike Joy
  - Donna Kinsey
  - Marilyn Shenenberger
- 2 Reading Tracks -
  - Level 2-3
  - Level 3-4
- Directors' Tracks (beginning and intermediate) with Nancy Lutz
- Details and registration forms available in early 2010



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