

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers
Uniting People Through A Musical Art

Area XI Newsletter

Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

www.area11.org

www.coagehr.org (Colorado)

A WORD FROM OUR AREA XI CHAIR



"For those of you that might not know by now, the National Seminar is coming soon to an Area near you! Yes, that's right, our own Area XI! I would very highly recommend attending a National Seminar if you never have before. Take this opportunity to develop and progress in your skills through a wide variety of classes, enjoy special concerts, shopping, reading sessions, not to mention mingle with some of the

biggest names in the handbell world. All events take place at the wonderful El Conquistador Tennis and Golf Resort in Tucson AZ, July 15-18. Please check out all the details at: www.agehr.org. Complete class descriptions are now available. I hope to see you there and to meet you personally in classes or at some of the great events that are planned."

"I am also very excited to announce that I was recently chosen winner of the Area XII Composition Contest! This is my 5th Area competition win since 2003 - Area I, II, III, XI, and now XII - almost half the total Areas in the country. (Maybe a record?!) The award includes a cash prize, publication through the AGEHR, and a massed ringing performance at the University of California, Davis, for their Conference in June 2010. There were 18 total entries, and the working title of my piece is "Renewed Spirit," for 3-5 octaves of handbells, optional 3 octaves of hand-chimes, level 2+."

-Dr. Michael Mazzatenta

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION to National Seminar ends on May 15. Registrations postmarked after May 15 are \$70 more. Don't forget the e-mail special for you and a friend if you received one. Remember to mark your registration form. Then get together as room mates and split the room cost. Go to <http://www.agehr.org/events/event1.asp#classes> for class descriptions. See what you'll be missing if you don't go. Start at <http://www.agehr.org/events/event1.asp> for all information regarding the National Seminar. You can get your registration information there. But hurry or you'll have to pay more. If you need registration assistance call Vicki Iverson in the National Office at 800-878-5459.

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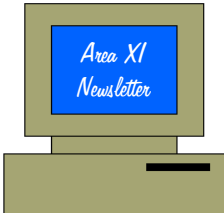
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E-notes - Sign up for your monthly national AGEHR news at www.agehr.org. You'll find the link under communications.

You do not have to be a member of AGEHR to get E-notes. Tell your friends.

Directors: Sign up your ringers for **RingEr-notes**.

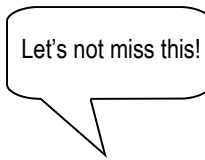
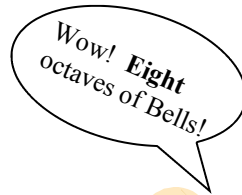
PLEASE
Keep your e-mail address current.



ANOTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR AREA XI! WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE CONCERT HANDBELL CHOIR IS COMING

The 14-member Westminster Concert Bell Choir is composed of undergraduate and graduate students from both of Rider University's campuses. Hailed for its virtuosity, the ensemble uses the largest range of handbells in the world – 8 octaves, from C1 to C9. Many of the bells are made of bronze and range in weight from four ounces to 11 pounds; the Choir also uses the large “Basso Profundo” aluminum-cast bells that are a new phenomenon in handbell ringing. The Choir supplements their handbell set with a six-octave set of Malmark Choirchime® instruments from C2 to C8 – the widest range in existence. This group was founded by Donald E. Allured and is now directed by Kathleen Ebling-Thorne, who rang with Don while a student at Westminster Choir College. This group is truly outstanding! Don't miss them if they are coming to a place near you. Tickets are:

- General Admission - \$15
- Seniors - \$12
- Students - \$10

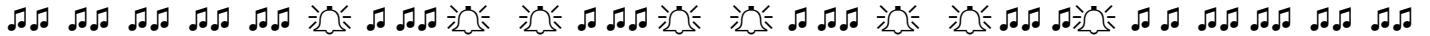


Dates and Locations in Area XI

Sunday, May 24, 2009 - 4:00 p.m.
Orangewood Presbyterian Church
7321 N. Tenth St.
Phoenix, AZ 85020
602-944-1508

Thursday, May 28, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.
Crossroads United Methodist Church
599 30 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81504
970-242-0577

Friday, May 29, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.
St. Peter Lutheran Church
9300 E. Belleview Avenue
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
303-770-9300

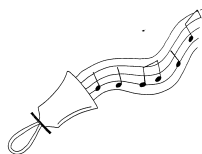


CAMPANILLAS DEL SOL, a community handbell ensemble based in Scottsdale, Arizona will be conducting auditions to fill 3 spots in their choir. Auditions are by appointment only. For an appointment call 480-998-5568. The formal audition consists of three parts:

- 1) Written multiple choice test on ringing techniques and notation
- 2) Hands-on, one-on-one demonstration of rhythm, safe ringing techniques, and independent motion of hands (rhythm and techniques)
- 3) Personality and attitude check

Parts (1) and (2) are covered during the audition appointment; part (3) is determined during group rehearsal.

Questions about the Campanillas audition process may be directed to Ensemble Director Roy Blomquist at rjblomq@qwest.net or 480-998-5568.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

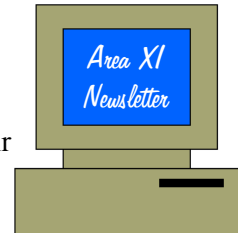
The recipients of the Area XI Nat'l Seminar Scholarships for 2009 are Sharon Sparlin (AZ), Cathy Bullock (UT), and Cathie Olds (UT). Congratulations!

Please refer to the "[Scholarships](#)" link on our Area website for further details, and spread the word of this wonderful opportunity for other members in the future.

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR POSITION OPEN

North Scottsdale (AZ) United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Handbell Choir Director. This is a paid position with the anticipation of adding a Children's Bell Choir in the future. Responsibilities include leading the Handbell Choir for Thursday evening rehearsals and providing music one Sunday per month at our 2 morning services (both traditional in style) September - May. NSUMC owns 4 octaves of Malmark Bells and 3 octaves of Chimes. For more information please contact:
Darin Read, Director of Music at 602-315-7347 or darinread1@cox.net.

SUB-AREA/STATE SPRING EVENTS COMPLETED



WYOMING SPRING RING

- by Carolyn Deuel, Sub-Area Chair

The Wyoming Spring Ring took place April 3-4 in Casper at Frontier Middle School. Fifty-six ringers performed from Casper - Highland Park Community Church Handbell Choir, Koinonia Ringers of First United Methodist Church, Phoenix Ringers community handbell choir, and the Shepherd's Bells of Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, the Sundance Community Handbell Choir, Sundance, WY, and the Ring Joycers of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Loveland, CO.

We were happy that our out of town choirs and our clinician, Cathy Moklebust, were able to get here, since several days of snow were forecast. We did have about six inches of snow over Friday and Saturday, and at lunch before the 1:30 concert on Saturday, Cathy said that if the event had been in her territory in Iowa, they would have concluded after the morning rehearsal, because the people simply wouldn't come out in the snow. Fortunately, our citizens defy the snow, so we had a nice audience. Cathy was pleased with the nuances she was able to conduct during the concert, due to the careful attention the ringers gave her during the rehearsals and the performance.

We had flute with "Celtic Farewell," brass sextet with "America, The Beautiful, and three percussionists for the Phoenix Ringers' solo of "Bwana Asifiwe." We enjoyed performing Cathy's "God, Who Stretched The Spangled Heavens" and "Calming Peace," and rounded out the program with Sherman's "Fantasy in F Minor" and the Wagner arrangement of Webber's "Pie Jesu,"

Other solos numbers were "Declare the Maker's Praise" arr. Waldrop, Helman's "Dance Before The Lord," and "Plink Plank Plunk" arranged by Thompson. Paul Searcey arranged Vaughan Williams' "All Creatures Of Our God And King" for Highland Park to ring solo, and Cathy suggested he try to get it published.

Our rehearsals were Friday evening, 7:00-9:00 and Saturday 8:00-noon with breaks. The 1:30 time for the concert was to allow for travel, though the Sundance group wisely waited until the next day, and when they left Casper, the Loveland group knew that I-25 was closed at Wheatland. We had a great time and learned much under the direction of Cathy Moklebust! In fact, we asked her to return for 2011?

UTAH SPRING RING

- by Barb Hartman, Sub-Area Chair

Utah Spring Ring was March 14, 2009. We do a one day festival as schools just bus in for the day.

We had 208 ringers from 16 groups. Nine groups represented churches; 2 community; 5 high schools.

We tried something new--we did a fundraiser by selling box lunches. About half participated. We earned more than \$400 for scholarships to Glorieta bell camp.

NEW MEXICO FESTIVAL/CONVOCATION

- by Joan Lewis, Sub-Area Chair

The New Mexico State Handbell Festival / Convocation was held April 25, 2009 at St. John's United Methodist Church Family Life Center in Albuquerque.

We had a wonderful day of ringing under the leadership of Tammy Waldrop of Houston, Texas.

There were 109 ringers representing 14 choirs on the floor. The concert that afternoon had 50 members in the audience.

Since Tammy is a New Mexico native, born and raised in Hobbs, it was a delight to have her direct the festival.

Bells Could be Used in Hungary

Marilyn Havekost, Director of Music Ministries at Bethlehem Lutheran Ministries in Lakewood, CO has a request. She would like to help a former student, Sarah Cusson, begin a handbell choir at a middle school/high school in Hungary. Sarah is an experienced ringer - 7th through 12th grade with Marilyn and then 4 years at Concordia University in Irvine, CA. She is currently on a long-term mission teaching English at the school in Hungary. Knowing well how ringing bells helps with school in general, Sarah would like to begin a bell choir for her students, but there are no funds for bells. If anyone knows of bells that might be made available to Sarah or has an idea where funds might be available to make this happen, please contact Marilyn at Bethlehem Lutheran Ministries, 2100 Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80214. Phone: 303-238-7676 ext. 134. E-Mail mhavekost@bethluth.net.



ARIZONA SUB-AREA SPRING FESTIVAL/CONFERENCE

The April 25, 2009 Spring Ring in Arizona is now in the history books. State Chair Anne Cotter, Treasurer Sue Robinson, and Roy and Jennie Blomquist, and all those responsible for putting on the event did a fantastic job and the choice of Monica McGowan as their clinician proved to be a great one. Fifteen choirs were represented by the 125 ringers attending. Participants share their experiences below:

As a former Area XI Board Member, I had the privilege of working closely with Monica as a clinician for the 2006 Area Festival in Denver. During that event Monica exemplified all the qualities you look for when you are considering a Workshop Leader or Clinician so I was very excited to learn that she had been selected as the AZ Clinician.

Monica is an extremely polished massed conductor. She was keenly aware of the task set before her and her preparation for the event was evident within the first hour of rehearsal. I found her very easy to follow with very clean and concise movements.

Her comfortable presence on the podium is immediately noticed as she weaves humor and visual pictures into her teaching style. She speaks with authority in a very clear and succinct manner and her use of some visual aids added to her charm. (Loved the finger puppets Monica) Monica's gregarious personality is contagious and if your Area is considering a clinician for an event you can't go wrong with Monica.

- Sharon Sparlin

WOW! What a great experience to ring under the baton of Monica McGowan! I had that privilege once again, at the Arizona State Festival! I have not had the opportunity to see a conductor "grow" as I have observed with Monica. I first saw Monica conduct at Bill Wood's Eastern New Mexico event in the fall of 2003(?). In 2006, Monica shared the directing podium at the Area XI Festival "Three Times the Fun!" with Michael Helman and Cathy Moglebust!

For this Arizona event, Monica did a fantastic job evaluating the group of ringers during the first set of rehearsals in the morning.....then tweaking some of the challenging spots in the second set. After the lunch break, it was all about making music....yes, even in a massed setting. What a great teaching director! What an image creator! A little story about skipping a slick, smooth rock across the still quiet waters of a Minnesota lake taught a handbell technique! Rather than talk about "how to execute," Monica told a story!

Congratulations to the ringers who attended the AZ Festival. They were well prepared and Monica led them to make music.

- Linda Maloney

HANDBELL RINGERS' SALUTE

The closing concert of the Arizona Sub-area festival/conference was dedicated to Cristy Newport, a member of Campanillas del Sol, a community choir in Scottsdale, AZ. Cristy died suddenly on March 31 and the salute was the idea of ringers in her choir at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Phoenix and was used at her memorial service as well as part of the closing concert. It might be an idea worth keeping, so here are the directions courtesy of Roy Blomquist, director of Campanillas.

Simple Form of Handbell Ringers' Salute

Pick up any two bells in the C major scale. (all white handles if using Malmarks). On cue begin random ringing the bells as loudly as possible. Continue random ring until second cue (about 60 seconds later) when all bells except C, E, G (major tonic chord) will be damped. These are allowed to sound until they fade away.

Variations:

1. Begin ringing **softly** and crescendo over the course of about 60 seconds.
On second cue damp as above.

2. Use Bells in the major scale of one of the main bells of the deceased/honored ringer.
Begin softly, taking about 60 seconds to crescendo to full volume.
On second cue damp all bells leaving the tonic chord as in the simple form version.
3. If there are a large number of ringers as at a festival, to assure a better crescendo start ringers in the back row, then add rows one at a time on cue until everyone is random ringing.
4. You can also try adding the following - after damping to the tonic chord, ring the bells in the chord again and then in a few seconds damp all bells except for one pitch (the deceased/honored ringer's main bell). Let that sound until it completely fades away.
5. Try striking all bells on cue at the end of random ringing before damping to the tonic chord.

Make up your own variations.