

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

# Area XI Newsletter

Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

[www.area11.org](http://www.area11.org)

[www.coagehr.org](http://www.coagehr.org) (Colorado)

## THE AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL WORKING TOGETHER TO FURTHER THE MISSION OF AGEHR

(Editor's Note: Thanks to Jenny Cauhorn, AGEHR Executive Director, for this article.)

Twice each year representatives from each of the twelve Areas meet with the AGEHR executive director, others from the national office staff, and members of your national board of directors. This group is called the **Area Advisory Council (AAC)**. The exact membership of this council changes from year-to-year as Area officers come and go and as each Area Board selects different people to represent them at the table, but the goal is always the same; working together to further the mission of AGEHR and improve the way we operate and serve our membership.

The two annual meetings (one in the fall and one in the spring) each have a specific purpose and goal. Both meetings begin on a Friday with lunch and conclude the next day at lunch-time. AGEHR national covers the costs of meeting space and meals and the Areas cover travel and lodging costs for their representative(s). All Areas are encouraged to send at least one representative and have the option of sending more if they wish.

The fall meeting is targeted to training your Area leadership and providing them with the tools they need to do the job they were elected to do – serving the membership of their Area. At this meeting we review specific job duties, provide training on the skills required to complete those duties, and hold discussions about how the national office can better support the efforts of the Area Leadership. Each year this fall meeting focuses on different job roles within the Area board – chair, treasurer, membership, etc.

The spring meeting focuses on the future of AGEHR. The AGEHR National Board meets concurrently with the Area Advisory Council, usually starting the day before Area leadership arrives. The Friday afternoon portion of the meeting brings together both groups and focuses on intense visioning and brainstorming sessions about the future direction and focus of AGEHR. These sessions are moderated and facilitated by national board members who continually encourage input and com-

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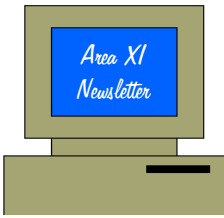
**OPPORTUNITIES** for Bell Directors available in Mesa, AZ and North Scottsdale, AZ. Read [more](#).

**E-notes** - Sign up for your monthly national AGEHR news at [www.agehr.org](http://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**. Contest ends in August

**PLEASE**  
 Keep your e-mail address current.



(AAC cont.)

ment from all Area representatives in attendance. Ideas are presented and discussed, challenged and reviewed in detail until all sides are presented and

the national board has a good understanding of the desired outcomes. Under the Policy Governance system by which AGEHR operates, the national board uses the information gathered during these sessions as one of the main factors in determining the goals and results that AGEHR should achieve over the next year. These goals and results (called "Ends" in Policy Governance) then become policy for the executive director and staff to implement.

The spring meeting continues the next day without the national board. This meeting is lead by the executive director and other national staff and discussion is focused on specific challenges and concerns that have been raised by Area boards in the months leading up to the meeting. The national staff attempts to present solutions and provide additional tools that

Area boards can use to solve these challenges and continue to improve their operation.

The Area Advisory Council is an important part of AGEHR's operation. I particularly look forward to these two opportunities to meet with Area leaders and discuss the challenges facing them at the grassroots level every day. It is very gratifying to see such dedicated people willing to volunteer their time and work so hard to make AGEHR a healthier organization that will better serve the needs of its members. These meetings provide one more opportunity for your voice to be heard at a national level. Of course you can always contact anyone on the national staff or national board directly, but know also that those that serve on your Area and State boards are willing to listen to your concerns, answer your questions and help find answers by bringing your ideas and suggestions to the attention of AGEHR national through the Area Advisory Council.

- Jennifer Cauhorn  
AGEHR Executive Director

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## SUGGEST FESTIVAL MUSIC

The next AGEHR **Area XI Festival** will be held June 18, 19 and 20, 2010 in Tucson. This event includes massed ringing. Our Clinician, Fred Gramann, has asked that we suggest the repertoire. In order to keep the cost down, we would like to use some previously used music along with the newly published pieces. So we are asking YOU to suggest some favorite festival pieces from the past which you and others may already have in your music library.

Send your suggestions to [linda.maloney@live.com](mailto:linda.maloney@live.com). Please include the following information:

- Title:
- Composer/arranger:
- Publisher:
- Number of Octaves:
- AGEHR Difficulty:
- Starting Key:
- Closing Key:
- Meter:
- General "Feel" of the piece:

If there is a new piece that you would like considered, send the same information to Linda regarding the new music.

**Deadline for suggestions is July 1, 2009.**

## AREA XI NEW MEMBERS

During May, 2009, Area XI enrolled the following new members:

Susan Shedgpe,  
Colorado Springs, CO  
and  
Lori Gaither, Tucson, AZ  
(Individual members)

Organization members are:

Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Mesa, AZ  
Jung Eun Csuy, director

and  
Dugan-Tarango Middle School of Lordsburg, NM.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no Area XI Electronic Newsletter in July. We hope to see and meet many of you at the National Seminar in Tucson.

# HAPPY CAMPERS - YOUNG RINGERS JUNE 3 - 7, 2009

## THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT CAMP

(Campers ages ranged from 11 to 17.)



I liked how on our 1<sup>st</sup> day we all cooperated and we had a great time.

I like the work in the morning, play in the afternoon mix. Loved it – tons of fun!

Bell Camp was great! This was the first time I've played a piece without coloring my notes! I can read music now! Yaya!!! I am so proud of myself.

I have never been to stay away camp before. I have made new friends and had new experiences.



This whole week was so fun I wish I could come back but by the time it comes around I will be in college and I will never remember any of the bad things – I'll always remember the fun things.

This experience has been great. It completely exceeded my expectations. I look forward to coming back!

Wow! This camp has been absolutely fantastic! I do not want it to be over so quickly. This really has been the experience of a lifetime. I will miss ya'!!!!

This was the first time I have been to this camp and it was PHENOMENAL!!! I really enjoyed meeting other youth bell ringers and learning new techniques. I enjoyed being challenged with the music and 4-in-hand and working with other directors. I will NEVER forget this experience, I had a BLAST!!

Just wanted to say thank you all for everything you did! You truly made it a trip to remember. I really feel like I am a better ringer than I was when I left home.

I had lots of fun, I met lots of friends!!!



Quote – Music has the power to change your life forever – Phineas & Ferb (TV show)



## SHARON SPARLIN MESMERIZES CAMPERS

Sharon Sparlin first encountered Solo ringing at a local handbell conference in 1980 and she was hooked. In her performance at

Young Ringers Camp on June 4, she presented a program which totally engaged her audience by presenting a show with great variety. Each piece featured different points for her audience to become aware of during the performance of the piece. Here is her program. Notice that some pieces are her arrangements and one is an original published composition! Also notice the comment in the box (below, right) from one of the adults who were at camp.

### Processional - Anderson/Sparlin

6 in hand technique  
Ribbons for visual effect

### It's A Small World - Anderson

Well known first piece  
Fairly easy for confidence building  
No special setup

### Glory Bound - Smith

Fun, upbeat  
Well known songs  
Can use percussion & props

### Somewhere Over the Rainbow - Sparlin

Visual stimulation thru slides  
All Chimes  
Can use props  
Used Karaoke accompaniment  
Vocal included for variety  
Lighting Techniques



### Dry Bones - Sparlin

Simple but fun piece  
Visual stimulation thru props  
Accompaniment downloaded  
Lighting techniques

### Be Thou My Vision - McChesney

Calming effect  
Sacred theme  
Diversity with chimes & belltree

### Daisy Bell Fantasy - Haskell

Fun upbeat after slow selection  
Can use props  
Well known songs

### Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - Sparlin

Original published composition  
Classical theme  
Uses 6 in hand and belltree techniques

### The Typewriter - Smith

Uses Percussion  
Fast and fun  
All mallets

### Symphonia On Hyfrydol - McChesney/Sparlin

Arranged from duet score  
Uses belltree  
More advanced skill level

### America The Beautiful - Anderson

Patriotic theme  
Great closing song  
Uses slides for visual stimulation  
Can use props  
Lighting Techniques



"Sharon's solo concert was truly outstanding and **VERY** creative! Kids talked a lot about that. Sharon had a multi-media presentation w/lots of props, etc. Very well conceived, executed and entertaining!"

-Doug Benton

Sharon tried out her program at Henry Elementary School in Tucson prior to her camp concert. Here are some quotes that made her smile from cards she received from fourth graders at the school.

"You are great at the bells. It was really cool when you put on that skeleton costume and how did you do that thing where you tied all the bells on that pole and played?" **Saul**

"I liked your costumes and bet you worked on that stuff for a long long time. The bells were so shiny." **Amy**

"All your costumes were awesome because they were creative and random and the computer graphics were cool." **Alex**

"You played a song called Dry Bones. I'm wondering how did you get changed so quickly and how did you learn to play bells like that. Do you have a real job?" **Michael**

"The concert was great. It sounded perfect. I wish I was like you. I play violin in orchestra so that means we both have beats and rhythm. I loved the awesome costumes. You can play so many bells at one time." **Zach**

"I really enjoyed you teaching me that music is fun."

**Andre'e**

"How many years did it take you to practice?" **Maileen**

"I want to be just like you but maybe it's gonna be a lot of work so maybe that will be my 2nd job or maybe my first."

**Kimberly**