

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Area XI Newsletter

www.area11.org

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Deadline for next newsletter - March 25

Ring of Fame 2010 Inductee

The **RING OF FAME** award was conceived in 2006 to honor Area XI people who had gone “above and beyond” in their service to AGEHR and especially to Area XI. The award may be presented every two years at the time of the Area XI Festival/Conference.

Congratulations to Dr. William Wood from Portales, New Mexico who is the 2010 Area XI RING OF FAME inductee. He will be honored at the Area XI 2010 Festival/Conference in Tucson in June. For over 30 years, Bill has been active in the handbell world.

He has organized and directed handbell programs for all ages at First United Methodist Church in Portales and at Eastern New Mexico University. He started the Eastern New Mexico Fall Handbell Festival, which celebrated its 17th year this last November. He has been active in service to AGEHR, serving two two-year terms as Area XI Secretary/Treasurer and in various positions at the National level. Bill has several arrangements for handbells in publication and has authored handbell-related articles. He frequently presents and leads workshop sessions at Music Educator Conferences and Area XI and AGEHR Festivals and Seminars.

Read more about the award and find out how to nominate someone for it at www.area11.org. Check the nomination form. See what information is needed. Think ahead to 2012 when there might be someone YOU would like to nominate.

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

Resources>

E-Notes.

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

Tell your friends.

PLEASE

Be sure to keep your e-mail address current to receive up-to-date news of handbell activities in

Area XI.

RUBEN MENDOZA FREE SOLO HANDBELL CONCERT IN GOLD CANYON

The Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Performing Arts Series presents the nationally renowned solo ringer, Ruben Mendoza in concert on **Sunday, March 21 at 3:00 PM** in the church's 1200-seat Sanctuary, one of the finest acoustic spaces in Arizona.

Ruben began his handbell career in 1978 with the Knights of the Bell Table at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Los Angeles, CA. He has rung and taught at several events of the AGEHR, was a member of Campanile Handbell Ensemble and rang ten years with Handbell Ensemble Sonos in the San Francisco Bay Area. With Sonos, Ruben toured all over the United States, three tours in Japan, performed on A Prairie Home Companion, rang with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Kronos String Quartet and San Jose Taiko. Most recently, He was the featured soloist for the AGEHR National

Seminar in Tucson last summer. His program will be a mix of classical, sacred, popular, Broadway, and original music for handbells.

*Free will offering
plus a donation of 1
non-perishable food
item per person to
the Gold Canyon
UMC Food Bank.*

The concert is open to the public at no charge as there will be a free will offering. Everyone is asked to please bring at least one non-perishable food item per person for the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Food Bank. Come see and support one of the finest, professional handbell soloists in the country. Bring your family, friends, neighbors and ringers, especially those who might be inspired to become handbell soloists. You will only be sorry if you don't! The church is located two blocks north of Hwy 60 on Kings Ranch Road (Walgreens on the corner) in Gold Canyon, five miles east of Apache Junction, 2 miles west of the Renaissance Festival. For more information, call Doug Benton at 480-982-3776.

TAKE A TOUR OF THE AGEHR AREA XI WEBSITE

Is our Area XI Web Site a mystery to you? Do you find it difficult to find things there? In the next few weeks as we prepare for our Festival/Conference and various Spring Rings, you might be looking for some information, and our web site is loaded with it. So here are a few pointers for you. The home page is at www.areas11.org. (That's two number "one's" not two "L's") That's the stepping stone to the rest of the site.

Click on the words printed in the boxes below the colorful "Welcome to Area XI" box to go to a particular subject. Want information about Scholarships? Click on that word. Want to know who the Area XI officers are? Click on "Officers." A copy of the current monthly newsletter is at "Newsletter Feb. '10. (soon to be March '10) and the Archived Newsletters' link is just below it. Clicking on "Calendar of Events" will get you not only to the Calendar of what's happening, but you'll find the link there to get information on how to submit

YOUR information to be listed on the Area XI Calendar.

If you click on "Conference 2010", you'll go to the home page for all Festival/Conference information currently available for the Tucson event. There you'll see buttons for Registration, a link for Vendors, and a link with information regarding hotel reservations with a link to the hotel's Book-a-Room page.

We do our best to keep information current so changes to the web site happen frequently. However, things don't always work - especially the links which go to some other web site where we have no control. If you find errors, please contact the web steward at mrhontz@cox.net so corrections can be made.

Happy Surfing at
www.areas11.org



“STIMULUS” PACKAGE

Special for AGEHR Area XI

Registration date for Festival/Conference extended to April 15!

A \$50 per person non-refundable deposit by April 15 will register you for the Festival/Conference in Tucson with Fred Gramann as clinician/director. Balance of \$135 per person is due May 1. Register early and avoid paying the late registration fee of \$235 per person. This event includes massed ringing AND classes. It's a great way to improve ringing skills in a hurry and get your choir to improve the possibilities of what they can accomplish. Area XI needs you to register ASAP so planning can go forward!

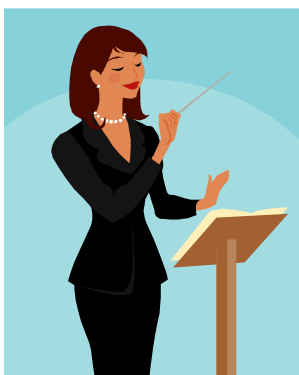
Remember there is also a Youth (ages 10 through 17) Track with John Pfeiffer. Youth will participate in the massed ringing.



ATTENTION: Area XI Members in the vicinity of Plain City, Utah and Casper, Wyoming. There are Spring Ring Concerts coming up in your towns. For the Utah concert, registration is over, but you still have the opportunity to attend the closing concert at 4:30pm on March 13 in Fremont High School. If you can't afford to attend events as a participant in these hard economic times, you can attend the closing concert and be part of the audience which supports ringers who have worked hard to present their music. Debbie Rice is the conductor/clinician for this event and you can learn a lot by watching her. AND you'll enjoy some wonderful handbell music.



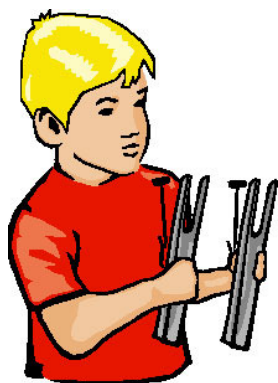
If you are in Wyoming, there is still a possibility that you can participate. They did not have a registration deadline because of the weather they usually experience at this time of the year. Contact Carolyn Deuel at artcorewy@aol.com. If you can't attend as a participant, you might want to attend their concert which is an early afternoon one on April 10 at 1:30pm at Frontier Middle School in Casper. The early hour leaves time for everyone to get home before driving conditions get bad if there should be stormy weather. In Casper, the clinician is Monica McGowan, who directed the Arizona State conference choir last year in Scottsdale. She's an excellent clinician and the participants are sure to present an enjoyable concert.



CHIMES AND HANDBELLS IN MUSIC EDUCATION

Area XI C.H.I.M.E Loan Program

AGEHR Area XI strongly encourages schools and churches to develop music programs that include handchime and handbell programs. To support the development of such programs, AGEHR Area XI offers a loan program to schools and churches in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Each academic school year the Area loans out 6 sets to schools and one set to a church. Applications, which can be found on the Area website, www.areas11.org are submitted no later than June 1st and the selected recipients are notified no later than July 1st. Area XI provides one 3 octave set of handchimes for one school year along with a set of teaching materials. A mentor is assigned to assist in the development of a beginning ringing program. And Area XI purchases a one-year membership to AGEHR for each recipient.



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GOLD COAST MUSIC CO.

The school/church must agree to include the handchime program as part of the regular school curriculum or church activities. The school/church educator agrees to implement the handchime program as part of the total music experience and make full use of the mentor pro-

vided by Area XI in order to learn about the use and care of handchimes. They agree to present the handchimes to the student body/church and parents during an event. They work to begin the necessary planning, such as fund raising to continue the Handchime Program following the grant period. A final report is submitted evaluating the project and the impact the project had on the school/church and the music program.

Here's a sample of some of the comments we receive.

"The chimes sound beautiful. We spent some time teaching the children about rhythm, note reading, and chords. We had 25 children sign up for the class and 18 were with us for the last performance. Pretty good during soccer and baseball season."

"As I set out to do my best to teach 28 fifth graders how to ring, we started small. I would have them ring chords as we went through songs. The students were excited from the start. I played them clips of bell choirs, played bell choir CD's and soon we started simple songs. I followed the steps laid out in the "Learning to Ring" book that came along with the chimes. We progressed through playing whole notes, half notes and finally quarters. I thought they would never get the hang of $\frac{3}{4}$ time, but we kept going, practicing and working. The day we played "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" it sounded like the actual song. I looked over at the aide that works in my room and we said the same thing, we had goose bumps! We were really making music, and the students felt the exhilaration of it. Without the chance at a loaner set of chimes this whirlwind of music never would have happened."

We can all be part of sharing the art of handchime ringing by spreading the word. If you know of a school or church that might be interested in the C.H.I.M.E Loan Program please pass on the information about how to go about applying for the chimes. Contact your Sub-Area Chair if you need additional information or assistance.

- Claudette Rothwell, C.H.I.M.E. Chair