

RINGING NEWS



INSIDE:

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2008 AREA IX FESTIVAL!! —A CAPITAL CARILLON—

Learn what Austin
has to offer outside
the Area IX festival

Pg 11

Teen Ring June 19~20

Clinician: Jane Anderson

Adult Festival June 20~22

Clinicians: Jane Anderson and Lee Afdahl

Pgs 7~8

Register for the
Central Texas Spring Ring
March 1st!
Austin, TX

Clinician: Stephanie Rhoades

Pgs 4-5

Area IX Board Election
Coming Up!

Pg 17

- Education : Preparing for festival (pg 9)
- Scholarship opportunities (pg 16)
- Letter from our Chair (pg 2)
- Chime Loan program info (pg 13)
- Much more —



The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc.
Area IX—Texas/Oklahoma

RINGING NEWS

Spring 2008

**Area IX 2006-2008
Administrative Board**

Chair

Bob Avant
2619 Brisbane Road
Austin, TX 78745
(512)442-3314
chair@areaix.org

Chair-Elect

Secretary

Susan Finnigan
6645 Whitmarsh Valley
Austin, TX 78746
(512)329-9446
secretary@areaix.org

Treasurer

Wilson Van Tine
617 N. Spruce Avenue
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918)331-2112
treasurer@areaix.org

Past-Chair

Stephanie Rhoades
4300 W. Park Blvd.
Plano, TX 75093
(972)596-6233 ext. 145
pastchair@areaix.org

Membership Coordinator

Ruth Seiwell
58 Hollyhock Court
Lake Jackson, TX 77566
(979)297-4232
membership@areaix.org

Education Coordinator

Sheryl Cory
P.O. Box 471068
Tulsa, OK 74147
(918)392-1199 ext. 473
education@areaix.org

Publications Chair

Pam Adams
5541 Stoney Glen Dr
Mesquite, TX 75150
(214)938-5412
publications@areaix.org

Oklahoma Representative

Mark Usrey
29401 East 70th St.
Broken Arrow, OK 74014
(918)906-1705
oklarep@areaix.org

North Texas Rep

Jean Harden
1717 Broadway
Denton, TX 76201
(940)565-2860
Ntxrep@areaix.org

South Texas Rep

Michelle Tejada
1105 Iris Crescent Dr.
Floresville, TX 78114
(830)393-7436
stexrep@areaix.org

WHAT IS MISSING?

Your Area IX Board has been working at creating a Festival to remember, yet it seems that there is something that is not yet complete.....but what can it be???? Maybe I should list everything that I know to help figure it out.

OK, here goes...

- **Two fantastic clinicians.....check.** Jane Anderson and Lee Afdahl are both amazing clinicians and have achieved acclaim in their leadership at other events around the nation. They will lead the Teen Ring and the Festival with great skill.
- **Tons of great classes designed to help everyone at all levels improve.....check.** There is a mix of lecture and hands-on sessions all aimed at improvement. These sessions are being led by some of the best presenters in our area.
- **Massed ringing opportunities.....check.** Everyone participates in the massed ring event and then an additional mass ring division may be selected to offer further challenges. In fact, for ring-a-holics, they may sign up for them all and stay quite busy with bells in hand.
- **New music reading sessions.....check.** There will be multiple music reading sessions to help evaluate some of the newest as well as time honored selections.
- **Some of the best and largest handbell vendors to shop with.....check.** Yes, the usual suspects will be in attendance and will offer many opportunities to shop. The vendors will be in the commons area just outside the massed ring and classroom space for easy and frequent access.
- **A top notch facility.....double check.** This year's event is being held in the DoubleTree Hotel which has lots of amenities and is laid out perfectly for a handbell event. Special discount rates make this very affordable for you and your group.
- **A great host city.....check.** Austin is full of so many kinds of music, food, sports, shopping and cultural opportunities that many people make it a vacation destination.
- **Central location with easy transportation to and from the airport or major highway.. check.** Austin has one of the best airports in the nation and there is transportation available for the 10-15 minute drive. For those that drive in, the hotel is right on IH-35.

Is that it? Wait!!! I just realized what is missing.....**you!** It is time to get organized and register for this fantastic event. Part of the fun of Festival is getting to visit with so many other ringers, directors and composers and this will certainly be the case this year. But if you don't register, you won't be part of the fun and learning experiences that will take place.

Take a look at all the materials and information found in this newsletter as well as the information found online at the Area IX website, www.areaix.org, to read more details.

I'm sure that you will agree that Austin is the place to be in June for Festival 2008. Come join us!

*Bob Avant
Chair-Area IX*

www.areaix.org

Schedule of Upcoming Handbell Festivals and Events

IX-S=Area IX Sponsored Event * IX-E=Area IX Endorsed Event * N=National Event



Date	Event	Site	Clinician	Contact
Feb 22, 2008	FebFest (Friday) (IX-E)	Memorial Drive Christian 11750 Memorial Dr Houston, TX	Anna Laura Page	www.houstonhandbells.com
Feb 23, 2008	FebFest (Saturday) (IX-E)	The Stafford Centre 10515 Cash Rd Stafford, TX	Anna Laura Page	www.houstonhandbells.com
Feb 23, 2008	TulsaFest (IX-E)	Tulsa Convention Center Tulsa, OK	Hart Morris	Sheryl Cory (918)392-1199 x473 Education@areaix.org
Mar 1, 2008	Central Texas Spring Ring (IX-S)	Westlake UMC Austin, TX	Stephanie Rhoades	Wilson Van Tine Treasurer@areaix.org
Mar 8, 2008	Ponca City Area Handbell Festival (IX-E)	Northern Oklahoma College (Tonkawa, OK)	Michael Bedford	Marta Sullivan (580) 765-2763 www.cordbells.org
Mar 29, 2008	Brookhaven Intermediate Handbell Festival	Brookhaven College Dallas, TX	Hart Morris	www.dallashandbells.org
Apr 12, 2008	Brookhaven Advanced Handbell Festival	Brookhaven College Dallas, TX	Hart Morris	www.dallashandbells.org
June 19-22, 2008	Area IX Festival/ Conference (IX-S) A CAPITAL CARILLON	DoubleTree Hotel, Austin, TX	Jane Anderson & Lee Afdahl	Sheryl Tomlinson (918) 392-1199 Education@areaix.org

Are you planning a handbell event in your neck of the woods?

Let us know and we will be happy to add it to this page and post it on the Area IX website. For an event better deal, consider having your event endorsed by AGEHR. Endorsed events will receive additional coverage in this newsletter. Also, ASCAP licensing fee coverage and liability insurance coverage is available for endorsed events. For more information, call the AGEHR office at (800)878-5459

Central Texas Spring Ring 2008

Saturday, March 1st, 2008

Westlake United Methodist Church

1460 Red Bud Trail

Austin, TX

Clinician: Stephanie Rhoades

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Area IX, is pleased to continue our tradition of "Spring Ring". This one day event is designed to enhance your choir's ability level by working through pieces in a massed ring setting with an accomplished clinician. In 2008 Stephanie Rhoades (former Chair of Area IX) will be leading our event.

As part of this year's event, in addition to the massed concert, there will be a short concert by the Austin Handbell Ensemble, and we would like to invite 3 attending choirs to perform a piece as part of the concert.

Contact info below.

About our Clinician:

Stephanie Rhoades was named conductor of Concert Bells of Ft. Worth in February 2003. In May 2003 she began as Director of Children's Music at Grace Presbyterian Church in Plano, TX after serving for over six years as Director of Music Ministries at First United Methodist Church, Coppell. During her tenure at FUMC she directed multiple vocal and handbell choirs and supervised a large varied music ministry. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Yale University and Master of Sacred Music degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.

The daughter of two musicians, Stephanie began playing violin and trumpet at a young age, has been active in handbell ringing for over twenty years (including solo/ensemble ringing), was a member of the Dallas Handbell Ensemble, and Interim Director of the Concert Bells of Forth Worth (Christmas 2000). Her experience included directing children's, youth and adult handbell choirs, and she has served actively in the Dallas Handbell Association, the Dallas Chapter of Choristers Guild, as well as the Area IX Board of AGEHR including her tenure as Chair.

Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Registration/Set-Up
9:00 a.m. Rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. Rehearsal
Noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Rehearsal
2:15 p.m. Break
2:30 p.m. Concert (open to public)
3:30 p.m. Load out

For registration questions, please contact Wilson Van Tine

Central Texas Spring Ring 2008

Repertoire:

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (Cathy Moglebust)
3-5 Octaves, Level 2+, CGB452

Exuberant Joy (Arnold Sherman)
3-5 Octaves, Level 2, CGB427

Kyrie (Cathy Moglebust)
2-5 Octaves, Level 3, CGB480

Rondo of Praise (Michael Helman)
3-6 Octaves, Level 3+, CGB310

REGISTRATION FORM—DEADLINE Friday, February 15, 2008

Director's Name _____ AGEHR Membership # _____
Organization/Church/School _____
Mailing Address _____ State _____ Zip _____
Contact Phone # _____ Email _____
Choir Name _____

FEES:

\$15 per participant (ringer or director) if NOT an AGEHR member x _____ = \$ _____
(As long as either the organization or a member of the organization
Is a regular member of AGEHR, then all attendees from that
Organization receive the member rate)

OR join the AGEHR now for \$65 and pay the member rate = \$ _____

\$10 per participant (ringer or director) for AGEHR members x _____ = \$ _____

Table rental (\$1.25/linear foot *) x _____ = \$ _____

Lunch \$5 per participant x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (Please make check payable to AGEHR Area IX) \$ _____

- Please indicate the number of linear feet of floor space you will need, WHETHER OR NOT you are renting tables or bringing your own: _____ ft.
- Please indicate if you would like to play a piece during the concert: _____
First 3 choirs only—first come, first serve!

If your registration form will not be received prior to February 15, 2008, please fax your registration form to 918-662-6841. You may then follow up with the payment to the address indicated below:

Send registration form & payment to:
Wilson Van Tine, Area IX Treasurer
617 N. Spruce Ave., Bartlesville, OK 74006

The Ultimate Ring Binder



Creative solutions to organize everything in your handbell world:

- Pre-loaded with a searchable database of the Publisher's Demo CD's
 - Your Own Music Library
- Your Favorite Internet Handbell Links
- A Global Calendar of Handbell Events
 - And many more resources

Proud Member of HIC

Get Organized...Stay Connected

TheConductor@UltimateRingBinder.com
www.myURB.com

HANDBELL SERVICES, INC.
Everything for handbell/handchime ringers and directors. Gifts, music, services, supplies and more.
www.handbellservices.com

1213 Mason Street
Dearborn, MI 48124-2841
phone: (800) 37-BELLS
fax: (313) 278-5229
e-mail: info@handbellservices.com

Handbells in North Texas

The 2007-2008 year's handbell events in North Texas started last summer with the AGEHR National Seminar, which took place in Dallas. In the fall there were two Rookie Ringers events sponsored by Area IX, one in Rusk (clinician: Stephanie Rhoades) and one in Arlington (clinician: Jean Harden). Shortly thereafter came the Greater Dallas Handbell Association's Seminar, held just north of Dallas.

After a gap for all the fall holidays and December madness (every musician knows what that is!), Choristers Guild held its Mid-Winter Workshop in January in Plano, with a large faculty including handbell clinician Venita McGorman. Handbell activities scheduled for this spring include the GDHA Youth Festival (clinician: Kathleen Wissinger) in Dallas, and the Brookhaven Intermediate and Advanced Festivals, both directed by Hart Morris, in Farmer's Branch.

Jean Harden
North Texas Representative

AGEHR Area IX Festival/ Conference 2008: A CAPITAL CARILLON

June 20-22, 2008
Austin, TX

With Teen Ring, June 19-20, 2008



About our Clinicians:



Jane Anderson: Teen Ring & Adult Festival

For the past 25 years she has served as Organist and Director of Music at Topeka First Baptist Church. There, she directed nine of the church's 15 choirs. She has also directed over 80 handbell workshops and festivals throughout the United States and three National Handbell Festivals of the Bahamas. Jane is a graduate of the University of Kansas where she is frequently called upon to teach handbells in the Masters in Church Music program at the University of Kansas. Jane's articles in Creator magazine entitled "It's Never Too Late" and "Activating the Potential of Your Bell Choirs," offer creative methods of enhancing handbell choir experiences. She has also written articles entitled "Expressive Conducting Techniques" and "How Do You Change Your Conducting Motions to Indicate Changes in Emotion?" for Overtones Magazine. Under Jane's leadership, the Exaltation Ringers of First Baptist Church, an auditioned high school handbell choir, and the Exaltation Collegiate Ringers, an ensemble of college age Exaltation Ringer alumni, performed at various AGEHR Festivals and denominational conventions throughout the United States. Jane is married to William Anderson, and they have two children and six grandchildren. Her husband is the composer of six published children's sacred musicals: "Daniel", "The Trou-

babble of Zerubbabel", "Elijah", "A Stable Fit For A King", "Bones", and "Let's Go With Mo". She has also served as President of the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians.



Lee Afdahl: Adult Festival

Lee J. Afdahl is the Director of Music and Organist of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester, Minnesota. Mr. Afdahl is a church musician with many years of experience in leading active programs of choral and handbell ensembles in Michigan and Minnesota. Currently he and his music associate, Jennifer Taylor, are responsible for four vocal and five handbell choirs, a choir school program, an elementary instrumental program, a church orchestra, and he advises the church's annual concert series. Lee Afdahl is frequently a conductor and clinician for handbell conferences, choral workshops, and church music conferences internationally. He has conducted American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Conferences at the local, area, and national levels, and international handbell events in England and Australia. In 2006 and 2007, Mr. Afdahl conducted handbell festival conferences in Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota (Area VII Festival Conference), Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Vermont. Mr. Afdahl has served the AGEHR as Michigan Chair for Area V, and Chair of Area VII. Lee is an active organ recitalist and published composer and arranger of handbell and choral music with over

fifty compositions and arrangements in print. His arrangement of the tune 'Jerusalem' entitled "O Day of Peace" was rung at the 2006 International Handbell Symposium in Australia.

A Capital Carillon Awaits in Austin!

Area IX is very excited to bring the biennial Festival/Conference to Austin, the “Live Music Capital of Texas”. Based on the success of our Oklahoma event in 2006, we will continue the tradition of a Teen Ring (June 19-20) and an Adult Festival (June 20-22). Activities for the Teen Ring will begin with registration at 9am on Thursday, June 19 and conclude with the Teen Ring concert at 3:00pm on Friday. The Festival Conference will begin with registration at 9am on Friday, June 20 and conclude with the Festival concert which takes place at 3:00pm on Sunday. A full schedule will be available on the Area IX website (www.areaix.org).

In addition to massed ringing sessions, there will be many classes for both Ringers and Directors, providing a rich learning environment to improve handbell leadership and ringing skills. The massed ring will feature a new composition by Lee Afdahl which Area IX commissioned for the Festival/Conference. The Showcase concert on Friday evening will feature the Austin Handbell Ensemble. Additionally, there will be some of your favorite vendors present to help you shop for music and other items.

To make this the complete travel experience, Austin has many, many opportunities that make this the perfect destination with varied styles of music, food, sports, shopping, 6th street, comedy clubs, museums and even bats! More information on the City of Austin can be found at www.austintexas.org. As always, you will have some time to enjoy what the city has to offer or you may want to stay an extra day to enjoy Austin. You could also choose to just relax in the luxury of the DoubleTree Hotel with the great amenities they offer. We encourage entire choirs or individuals to attend and experience this fabulous event.

Repertoire for Teen Ring, June 19-20

Massed Ring:

CWM Rhondda Festal, A.L. Page—Ring Out Press, RO3239, Level 3
God, Who Stretched in the Spangled Heavens, Moglebust—Choristers Guild, CGB452, Level 2+

Division A (Less Difficult):

Giocoso, McKlveen—Jeffers, JHS9374, Level 2
Prayer, Warzyn—AGEHR, AG35264, Level 2

Division B (More Difficult):

Be Thou but Near, Kinyon—Beckenhorst, BEBH153, Level 3+
C Jam Mood, Davenport—Composers Music, CP7027, Level 2

Repertoire for Adult Festival, June 20-22

Massed Ring:

When in our Music God is Glorified, Sherman—Hope, 2414, Level 3-
Prelude to Te Deum Laudamus, Thompson—AGEHR, 35253, Level 3
Blessing, Sherman—Beckenhorst, HB245, Level 2+

Area IX Festival Commissioned Piece: Awake My Heart, Afdahl—From the Top Music, MFM20182, Level 3+
(Each participant will be provided a copy of the commission piece for use at the festival by the participant only.)

Hymns Division:

Guide Us O God of Grace, Keller—AGEHR, AG35257, Level 3
Ding, Dong, Merrily on High, Gramann—Choristers Guild, CGB508, Level 3
Grace and Thanksgiving, Page—Alfred, 25348, Level 2

Division A (Level 2-3):

Easter Joy, Benke—AGEHR, AG35260, Level 2+
Will the Circle Be Unbroken, Page—Alfred, 25367, Level 3
Kyrie, Moglebust—Choristers Guild, MCGB480, Level 3

Division B (Level 3-4):

Allegro Spiritoso, Underwood—AGEHR, AG35261, Level 3
Contemplation on Ubi Caritas, McMichael—AGEHR, AG36036, Level 3+
Beside Still Waters, Starks—Hope, 2394, Level 3/4

Let's Go to a Festival

By Ruth Seiwel, Membership Coordinator

"Say a little prayer for you" sang Aretha Franklin in her classic song. Recently, while talking about two upcoming festivals with the handbell choir I direct, I heard one of my ringers softly sing this song, changing the word 'you' to 'me'. Everyone broke into laughter and agreed it was appropriate.

Festivals are a great way to build a handbell choir both musically and in group spirit. In order for the festival to be the most positive, the group needs to be well prepared. The director begins by selecting a division that is a good fit – neither overly difficult nor too simple. Look carefully not only at the difficult level on the cover of the piece but by examining the music itself. You may also want to consider the type of music in each division and decide which is usable in your situation, appropriate to your worship style or school setting.

One of the most important things to teach or reinforce is to watch the conductor. Everyone has to look at their music, but the head shouldn't constantly be down – disregarding the person conducting the music. This is a skill which should be taught in every rehearsal, whether or not preparing for a festival.

Give the ringers information about the music before beginning by talking about the mood, setting and idea of the overall piece of music. Then ring through the music. Finally, pull apart and rehearse the music by sections.


Correct notes are important but are only the beginning of making music. Below are some ideas to assist in preparation:

1. Help the ringers develop a workable approach to making bell changes smoothly.
2. Teach dynamics from the first run-through of the music. Dynamics will never be a part of the music if you wait until the piece is learned to instill them. (Editor's note: AMEN!)
3. Show the location of the melody and harmony lines. Many choirs need the director to outline this. In many cases, an individual ringer may be moving constantly between melody and harmony and may not know to ring the notes with a different emphasis.
4. Define the phrasing of the music. This is also essential to making music from the notes on the page and ringers often need director guidance to understand phrasing.
5. Give careful attention to transitions. Transitions will include key changes, time signature changes, ritards, accelerandos, fermatas and a variety of other situations. These places are treacherous! Eyes need to be on the conductor. Ritards and accelerandos cannot be successful if the ringer's eyes are on the music and not on the conductor. What a great opportunity to memorize.
6. Secure the beginning measures of the piece of music. The first few measures played correctly give a solid foundation. It is crucial for the ringers to watch the conductor.
7. The ending is also important to teach fully. Ringers need to be prepared to watch the conductor and follow carefully so the final measures of the selection, with perhaps hundreds of ringers, end together.

A lot of information has been packed into a short article. One of the most often used words is "watch." Teach your handbell choir the notes, the phrasing, the dynamics. Pay attention to key and time changes, ritards and accelerandos. Above all, teach them to watch the conductor. Say a little prayer for us all as we prepare to make music together and have a great time at the festival!


AREA IX FESTIVAL SESSIONS

So, what can you expect from this year's festival? A great experience, for one thing. We have two top-notch clinicians coming in to tempt you into tintinnabulation, move you into musicality and free you from fracas! Not only that, but we have a wide range of fun and educational classes to choose from. Want to learn how to work that Finale software? From beginner to advanced, we've got you covered! Can someone actually hold 2 bells in one hand? What, 3?? Come see how it's done! We've got reading sessions for everyone, to help you find just the right repertoire for your choir. Find out the tricks for making an ensemble work. What do I do if no one else shows up for rehearsal? Learn how to ring solos at the festival. But wait! There's more! Do you want to become a certified director, but you're not confident about passing the exam? We've got a Certification Track just for you, that will take you through materials covered in each section of the exam, and then we'll let you take the test, too! From bass to basic techniques, from score study to conducting...we've got something for everyone at this year's event. We'll even throw in some cups, and other fun stuff, too. OK, stop waiting...*register now!*




Electronic Carillons • Handbells • Mosaic Chime® Instruments • Cast Bell Carillons
www.SchulmerichBells.com

When It's
Time to
Talk Bells,
Give Us
a Ring!



TARA K. LEWIS
Regional Representative
Handbells
Texas
(except Fort Worth/Northern Counties)
580 C.R. 4517
Honda, TX 78861
866-311-1780 (toll free)
210-601-0130 (cell)
tlewis@schulmerichbells.com



SILVER WOODBURY
Regional Representative
Carillons and Handbells
Oklahoma, Western Arkansas, North Texas
10012 Carrie Circle
Yukon, OK 73099
888-735-5407 (toll free)
405-519-0331 (cell)
lwoodbury@schulmerichbells.com

Karen Eastburn

Sales Representative
Phone: 469.585.0212
Fax: 972.985.9740
TexasMalmark@yahoo.com



Malmark

BELL CRAPUSMEN

www.Malmark.com



HOWDY Y'ALL!

Welcome to Austin, the capital of Texas, and the host city for the Area IX Festival: A Capital Carillon! Austin is the gateway to the scenic Texas Hill Country, known for rolling hills, meandering waterways, and small-town charm. While here, take an opportunity to visit the State Capitol or the Bob Bullock State History Museum. If you're looking for great barbecue, fabulous Tex-Mex, or even a yummy vegetarian restaurant, we've got it all! And if you're not too tired after ringing all day, you're just a short drive away from Sixth Street, which is where we get the reputation of being the Live Music Capital of the World. Who knows, you might just run in to some local celebrities like Lance Armstrong, Ray Benson, Willie Nelson, or "Leslie"! If you like the outdoors, Austin is surrounded by three lakes, and right near downtown is the local "swimmin' hole", Barton Springs, along with beautiful Zilker Park. Also downtown is the Congress Avenue bridge, home of 1.5 million bats that fly out every evening at dusk.

We hope you enjoy your time in Austin!

<p>Cantabile Press Solos • Duets • Trios Quartets • Sextets Less than a full choir</p>	<p>Genesis Press Makes directing <u>beginning choirs</u> a joy!</p>
--	---

HEAR & SEE!
www.CANTABILEPRESS.com • Catalog: 1-800-545-6204

MOVING?

Let AGEHR know when your contact information changes by signing in with your member number at www.agehr.org



Area IX has great opportunities, and we'd love to keep you informed!



SPRING CONCERT LISTINGS

Date	Event	Site	Admission	Contact
May 2, 2008	Houston Bronze Ensemble	St Mark's UMC Houston, TX		Ben Harris (281) 290-0255 Bharris@oplink.net www.houstonbronze.com
May 3, 2008	Houston Bronze Ensemble	Lakewood UMC Houston, TX		Ben Harris (281) 290-0255 Bharris@oplink.net www.houstonbronze.com
May 10, 2008	Combined Concert: Austin Handbell Ensemble & Concert Bells of Fort Worth	TBA (Waco, TX)		www.austinhandbells.com www.concertbells.com
May 17, 2008	Combined Concert: Austin Handbell Ensemble & Concert Bells of Fort Worth	TBA (Dallas, TX)		www.austinhandbells.com www.concertbells.com
May 23, 2008	River City Ringers (San Antonio)	TBA		Keri Robertson Keridenise@hotmail.com www.rivercityringers.org
May 30, 2008	River City Ringers (San Antonio)	TBA		Keri Robertson Keridenise@hotmail.com www.rivercityringers.org
May 31, 2008	Combined Concert: Austin Handbell Ensemble & Concert Bells of Fort Worth	TBA (Austin, TX)		www.austinhandbells.com www.concertbells.com
June 6, 2008	Houston Bronze Ensemble	FUMC Little Rock Little Rock, AR		Ben Harris (281) 290-0255 Bharris@oplink.net www.houstonbronze.com
June 8, 2008	Houston Bronze Ensemble	Kirkwood UMC Kirkwood, MO		Ben Harris (281) 290-0255 Bharris@oplink.net www.houstonbronze.com
June 9, 2008	Houston Bronze Ensemble	FUMC Bartlesville Bartlesville, OK		Ben Harris (281) 290-0255 Bharris@oplink.net www.houstonbronze.com

***If you would like to have your event listed on this page, please contact
Pam Adams
Area IX Publications
publications@areaix.org
Or (214) 938-5412***

Getting to Know You...

Interviewing our Festival Conductors

Stephanie Rhoades, Past Chair

Jane Anderson

How did you get involved with handbells?

I was working as a music director in a Presbyterian church in Salina, Kansas, during the early 1980s and discovered a three octave set of handbells. I knew that the Methodist church had a choir so I wanted to figure out how to start a choir at our church. I took the bells home and set them out in my living room to see what I had and figured it out on my own. I bought some handbell music (back before middle C was standardized in the bass clef!) and started a choir. I was ringing and directing at the same time.

What is one of the most interesting places you have rung or conducted bells?

Many years ago I was invited to lead a festival in the Bahamas and was really looking forward to spending time on the beach. When I arrived, however, I discovered that one of the three participating choirs had just received their bells and had never played them! Most of the ringers in that choir could hardly read music and none had ever held a bell, but they were so excited. I ended up placing all three ringers of each position next to each other (rather than the standard configuration) so that if one of them missed a note the other two might have a chance. I didn't end up on the beach much because we spent so much time rehearsing the music. After two full days they presented a concert and it was a big deal in the community. I have been back to the Bahamas twice since then and the festival has grown.

What is one thing that people might be surprised to learn about you?

That I am married to a wonderful composer, William (Bill) Anderson, who has written several choral works and musicals. Many people tell me that they have done one of his musicals with their church choir.

Have you ever conducted a festival/event in Texas?

Yes. I have conducted the GDHA Youth Festival, the GDHA Winter Festivals, GHHA Feb Fest, and the Texas Choir Clinic at Lakeview.

What is your favorite type of food?

Salmon—I love seafood.

When you aren't doing something musical, how do you prefer to spend your time?

I have six grandchildren under the age of eight and I love spending time with them!



CHIME LOAN PROGRAM

HELP OTHERS!

Many of you know that Area IX has a Chime Loan Program, but don't need to take advantage of it. But did you know that you can refer someone to us? Any organization can apply, whether a member of AGEHR or not, whether a school or not (however, preference is given to schools) and whether a school year or a summer program. You, too, can help a non-existent, struggling or new music program to enhance its curriculum with chimes. We love it, so share that love with someone else! C'mon, it's easy!

Find the application on our website, www.areaix.org.



(cont'd from previous page)
Getting to Know You...
Interviewing our Festival Conductors
Stephanie Rhoades, Past Chair

Lee Afdahl

How did you get involved in handbells?

I became the Director of Music at a United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids and they had handbells. My background was in organ and choral music but I was eager to learn about handbells and began attending workshops and conferences. We had one handbell choir when I began and eventually grew to four choirs. I got my start as a handbell conductor when a bunch of local choirs joined together for a festival and I ended up conducting them all.

What is one of the most interesting places you have rung/conducted handbells?

While every place has its joys—meeting new people, learning about their community, hearing their stories—I think that one of the most memorable places I have conducted was at the International Handbell Symposium in Australia in 2006. It was an honor to represent the United States and conduct my piece, “O Day of Peace.”

What is one thing that ringers might be surprised to learn about you?

That last summer I was on the crew for a 250 mile horse ride across Michigan. A friend of mine invited me to do it and it was fun. I drove one of the vehicles, set up camp, cooked, cleaned and so on.

Have you ever conducted an event in Texas?

Yes, I have conducted the GHHA Feb Fest and was a clinician for the Texas Choir Clinic at Lakeview (Palestine).

What is your favorite type of food?

Besides anything that ends with “pie”....I love Italian food.

When you aren't doing something musical how do you prefer to spend your time?

I like to cook and bicycle.



Paula & Rick Knapp
**Gold Coast
Music Company**
Handbell Music and Accessories
888-522-GOLD (4653)
Phone/Fax 360-834-7712
goldcoast@handbells.com
www.handbells.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCIAL RESULTS 2006-2007

Beginning Balance (10/1/2006)	\$37,121.19
Interest Income on Checking Account	\$17.70
Prior Year Transactions	\$(1,089.18)
Newsletters	\$81.58
Website	\$(95.00)
Fall 2006 Board Meeting	\$(2,869.97)
Spring 2007 Board Meeting	\$(3,577.55)
Area Related Travel	\$(2,015.44)
Central Texas Spring Ring 2007	\$(260.11)
Rookie Ringer	\$259.03
Endorsed Events	\$148.00
Scholarships	\$(1,000.00)
Miscellaneous	\$(303.18)
Expenses for 2007-2008 Paid in 2006-2007	\$(293.10)
Balance as of September 30, 2007	\$26,123.97
Net Change for 2006-2007	\$(10,997.22)

*** Join a Winning Team ***

The race is on at AGEHR! The national office is awarding a \$1000 prize each quarter to the Area with the largest increase in membership. This means more programs for the Area members! Area IX won the \$1000 one quarter in 2007 and let's try for winning again in 2008.

How can you help? Renew your membership in a timely way. There are individual ringer memberships available, so encourage your ringers or friends to join. Ask director friends if they are members of AGEHR. The organization is a great one because of YOU – the membership!





FREE, FREE, FREE!

How can I go to the Area IX festival in Austin for FREE??

Well, there are in fact TWO, count them, TWO scholarship opportunities which would provide financial assistance to someone wishing to attend this year's event. The Marvin E. Reeher Memorial Scholarship will pay the registration fee for the Area IX Festival, and is offered to an AGEHR member, director of at least one choir, residing in Area IX. The Mary Kay



Parrish Scholarship covers the cost of registration for a college student in Area IX, currently enrolled in a handbell choir or handbell methods class. And, hey, why can't I go to the National Seminar for free, too? Well, you can! The Kristopher Jon Anthony Memorial Scholarship is \$500 to go toward costs associated with the National Seminar (which, by the way, is being teamed with the International Handbell Symposium and Distinctly Teen this year). This scholarship is for an AGEHR member, director of at least one handbell choir for whom this is their first National Seminar.

Find details to these scholarships and the application forms on the Area IX website, www.areaix.org.

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

The Ringing News reaches over 600 handbell ringers and/or directors with each issue. If you would like to advertise your business or services, please contact:

*Pam Adams, Publications Chair
publications@areaix.org, or (214)938-5412*

Rates:

*\$ 12.50—Business card ad, \$ 25—Quarter Page
\$ 50—Half page*

Area IX Seed Money Grants for Start-Up Projects

Seed-money grants to encourage development of local handbell events are offered by Area IX in the amount of \$200. These grants are available to any AGEHR IX member church, school or other organization sponsoring a first-time handbell event within the area. To qualify, the event sponsor must submit in writing:

1. Type of event (festival, conference, training workshop, etc.) and it's purpose
2. Projected budget, including how the seed money will be spent (seed money is often used for publicity and other "up front" expenses, but is not limited to that use)
3. Name of clinician(s)
4. How event will be advertised, including "target area" for publicity (seed money cannot be awarded to an event that will conflict with another Area IX endorsed event).

Applications for seed-money grants should be submitted four to six months prior to event and must be approved by the Area IX Board. The event coordinator is expected to send a post-event report to the Ringing News editor for publication. These grants are awarded to first-time events only. The event must abide by the same guidelines as any other Guild-endorsed event. To obtain a copy of AGEHR event guidelines, please call the National Office at (800)878-5459. For more information, contact Bob Avant: chair@areaix.org, (512)442-3314.



Texas Conference Choir Clinic 2008



July 26–29, 2008

Lakeview Methodist Conference Center, Palestine TX

Join us to Ring, Sing, Dance and Worship
Programs available for age 3 through Adult

Sondra Tucker, Handbell Clinician

Lloyd Larson, Adult Choral Clinician

Ly Tartell, High School Choral Clinician

Mark Burrows, Middle School Choral Clinician

Bill Adams, Elementary Choral Clinician

Jerry Westenkuehler, Organ Clinician


David Meeker-Williams, Worship

“Ballet Grace”/Cookie Joe and Tran Pham, Dance Clinicians

This view could be yours...

Join Bells of the Cascades on January 3, 2009 for a 7-Day Eastern Caribbean Cruise aboard the *MS Statendam*, featuring guest clinician David M. Harris, Music Director of the Raleigh Ringers.

This roundtrip from Ft. Lauderdale includes calls in Grand Turk, Mayaguez, St. Thomas and Nassau!


 **Holland America Line**
A Signature of Excellence

- Inside from \$1,049 • Ocean view from \$1,214 •
- Verandah from \$1,849 •

Price includes all Bells of the Cascades' activities, classes, a hosted cocktail party, most meals and entertainment aboard the ship, and all taxes and port charges.

Deposit by March 31, '08 and receive \$20 shipboard credit for an inside stateroom, \$30 for an ocean view and \$40 for verandah!

For more information, visit www.azumano.com/bells or contact Cruises By Azumano.
825 NE Multnomah
Portland, OR 97232
800-395-5578
bells@azumano.com
www.bellsinthecascades.org

 **Cruise of the Bells X**
Caribbean Bound
January 3rd-10th, 2009



Rates are per person, based on double occupancy, subject to availability, and may change without notice. Rates do not include airfare unless otherwise noted. Other restrictions apply. Shipboard credits are per person. Participants must book their cabin through Azumano Travel to take part in any bell ringing activities.

GET OUT THE VOTE!

During this time of primary elections and party caucuses, please remember another important election. In even numbered years, Area IX elects officers to help guide our organization for the next two years. In April, all voting members of Area IX will receive a ballot and biographical information about the nominees for the offices of Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

I urge you to take the time to consider the candidates, select your choices, and return the ballot.

The future of Area IX is in your hands!

AGEHR Mission Statement:

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers is dedicated to advancing the musical art of handbell/handchime ringing through education, community and communication.

The AGEHR Needs YOU!

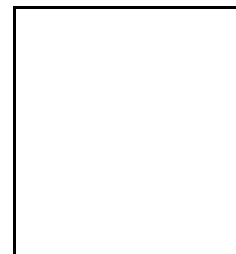
For Membership information, contact an area representative listed on page two, call the National Office (866) 878-5459, or visit their website: www.agehr.org, and click on "How to Join".

If you are an AGEHR member, please share this newsletter with new handbell directors you encounter or contact the area representatives so we can get information to them. Also, encourage your ringers to check out AGEHR. Ringer memberships area also available.
EACH ONE REACH ONE!



Don't forget to check us out on the
web: www.areaix.org

AGEHR Area IX Ringing News
Spring 2008
5541 Stoney Glen Dr
Mesquite, TX 75150



Attention: Postmaster—Time-sensitive Information Enclosed

