

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

Area XI Newsletter

Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

www.areas11.org

According to the calendar, we haven't even celebrated Thanksgiving 2008, but already Area XI has been planning for an exciting event for Young Ringers - Summer Camp 2009. Summer Camp 2007 was a fun event for all and was planned by **Linda Maloney**, who will also be the director for 2009. Linda is one of the really hard-working appointed members of the Area XI board and most folks in Area XI are already acquainted with her. Linda served a two 2-year terms as AGEHR-New Mexico Chair from 2000-2004, followed by a two year term as Area XI Chair.



Area XI is familiar with Linda's leadership as she managed teams to plan and host the Area Festival/Conferences – Durango in 2004, Denver in 2006, and Albuquerque in 2008. The 2004-2006 Board approved the site and director selection for the 2010 Festival/Conference in Tucson. Fred Gramann has been “inked” in and the venue selected – the fabulous “El Conquistador” – offering excellent rates for accommodations.

Linda was the inspiration behind the founding of the Area XI “Ring of Fame.” “It's important to tell the stories and honor the people who have been so important to the growth and success of Area XI,” Linda said. “It's time we finally meet these “pioneers” and say “thank you,” Area XI now has a “tool” to honor those who have given so much of their time and talent to promote the art of handbell ringing in Area XI. Six members of Area XI have been recognized for outstanding service to Area XI.

There is a side of Linda that many in Area XI have not yet met. That of “youth advocate.”

Story #1 – Linda joined the AGEHR in 2000, not because she was a bell director. She was a PIANO TEACHER! Here is Linda's story:

“I had three high-school aged piano students! Slowly, they became more and more interested in soccer and jobs. Music in their lives was about to die. I couldn't let that happen. I taught them some basic organ skills. We played duets. They played duets. They played trios! But still, something was missing.

I saw an ad for openings in a “home school” handbell group. I took the three kids to a rehearsal. THEY LOVED BELLS! I bartered with the director – if she'd take “my” kids and teach them to ring, I'd take “her” 1st and 2nd graders and teach them basic music theory. IT WORKED! In fact, we traveled to the Tulsa National Festival and RANG under the direction of Beth Watson, Bob Ivey and Jim Smith! Pretty amazing!”

Story #2 – As it turned out, the director of the “home school” group, also served as the chair of the NM nominating committee. Linda tells another story:

“You've heard it, haven't you? I know you have! Just let us put your name on the ballot. You won't be elected. No one knows you. We just need another name. RIGHT! So, after less than 3-months of AGEHR membership, I became the NM Chair. I attended my first Area XI Board meeting. The Board was looking for someone to Chair the Young Ringers event at the 2002 Colorado Springs Festival/Conference. I love kids! I said ‘yes, sign me up.’ Then I

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Colorado Sub-Area information is available on their web site -

<http://www.coagehr.org>



found out that this event had not been held before...and there were no after-action reports to use. 'Just get us going, OK?' And off we went!" Linda served two 2-year terms as AGEHR-New Mexico Chair from 2000-2004, followed by a two year term as Area XI Chair.

Story #3 - When Linda became NM Chair, she learned about the CHIME Loan Program. New Mexico had a set – provided by Area XI. A home for the chimes could not be found.

Linda has a story about that, too:

"I scheduled a meeting with the elementary school principal – a good friend. I tucked the C6 in my purse along with a copy of "Overtones." I started to tell her what I had in mind. She said, 'let's do it!' I continued to explain how great this would be for the kids. She said, 'let's do it!' I explained that I'd volunteer to do the before-school program and that Area XI would provide the resources. She said, 'Linda! I want you to do this! Didn't you hear me?' The presentation had gone much too smoothly! Then she told me that she had rung in Gail Downey's choir at Kirtland Air Force Base Chapel and it was the greatest thing she had ever done. She knew exactly what I had in mind...and wanted to get it going! We did! We raised enough money to purchase two 2-octave and one 3-octave sets of chimes. We performed at the 2002 Young Ringers event and the 2003 Southern Colorado Young Ringers Festival. Those kids received a "private" email from Arnold Sherman (an answer to their email to him about "Grazioso"). They were a demo choir for Kevin McChesney. They performed massed ringing with Brian Downey. They work-shopped with Jim Meredith and SONOS!"



"One of the hardest 'good-byes' in my life was when I said 'good-bye' to South Mountain Crescendo when I moved to Kansas. It was a delight when three of 'the old gang' dropped in for a portion of the 2008 Festival in ABQ. They do grow up fast!"

In addition to establishing the "Ring of Fame," the 2004-2006 Area XI Board hosted the first Young Ringers Camp in 2007. Here is a final word from Linda: "I looked at the ringers on the massed ringing floor at several Area XI events – in the individual States and at the Festival/Conference. I don't know a polite way to say this – but, 'we're not getting any younger.' Where are the kids? Where are the opportunities for kids? Kids are the future of this organization. We've got to have them! We've got to have them as members, ringers, and leaders!"

I wish every e-newsletter reader could have been at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico on that Sunday morning almost two years ago as the Young Ringer Campers thanked us and said farewell. "

Now that you have met the "youth advocate" side of Linda, you understand why this e-newsletter is "re-introducing" her. Linda now resides in Kansas. She is no longer Immediate Past Chair of Area XI. But, she believes in kids and the opportunities that handbells bring to their lives..... that is why the Board approved Chair Mike Mazzatenta's appointment of Linda to be the 2009 Camp Director. The contract with Glorieta Conference Center is signed. Budget and registration numbers are being crunched. Activity planning is underway. It's rumored that Linda is already looking for her sleeping bag. She's ready!

YOUNG RINGER CAMP 2009



YOUNG RINGERS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Dates: June 3-7, 2009

Sign in for Camp begins at 3pm, June 3.

Campers head home after breakfast on June 7th.

Where: Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, NM

More about Glorieta - www.lifeway.com (click on conference centers and choose Glorieta)

Registration Opens in January 2009

Details in the December Area XI e-newsletter.

Camper Registration is limited to 70 ringers!

A waiting list will be established.

Registration closes April 15, 2009.

All fees must be paid in full no later than April 15, 2009.

**AGEHR
NATIONAL SEMINAR 2009
will be in Area XI!
Tucson, AZ
July 15 - 18, 2009**

It's never too soon to begin planning. Start fund raising. When 2009 budgets are set up, see if a line item can be included for the handbell director to attend this event. National Seminars do NOT include massed ringing but lots of workshops for Directors and Ringers to improve skills and learn all about what's new in the handbell world.

**AGEHR AREA XI
FESTIVAL/CONFERENCE - 2010**

This event WILL include massed ringing under the direction of Fred Gramann. It will be at the same location as the 2009 National Seminar. Go to National Seminar, 2009 to take the classes which will help you build the skills to enjoy participating in the massed ringing at the Area Festival Conference in 2010

With both of these events happening in Area XI over the next two years we have a great opportunity to attend without huge travel expenses.

A Lighter Moment in Kathie Fink's Legacy Tour in the Midwest

(Kathie's accompanist on the tour was Linda Maloney)



This happened at a Lutheran Church somewhere in MN.

Arriving early for the first service, Kathie discovered she did not have her accompaniment track for Prayer Medley. No problem! She decided to use her laptop and sound system instead of using the church sound system and sound man.

Things went extremely well for the first two services. The third service had some major surprises. It all began when the praise band needed to reset the stage. That required transferring the power cords to different outlets.

Glitch #1 – Linda discovers during the introduction for the Call to Worship - "I Will Enter" - that the piano is now amplified. "How quietly can I get this grand to play????"

Glitch #2 – Kathie is playing the offertory - "How Great Thou Art" - to an accompaniment tape from the laptop. The accompaniment cuts out in the beginning measures of the third verse....just before a key change. Kathie "recovers" nicely and finds a great ending spot! Just like a cat – landing on all fours! We discover that the laptop has been operating on battery mode as the outlet was "cold." The connections are changed out – and we're "live" for.....

.....the "Prayer Medley" during Communion. Absolutely beautiful!!!!

Then, **Glitch #3** – In order to operate the laptop, Linda is "hiding" in the enclosed pulpit. That's the only free space available after the praise band set up. Linda "believes" she has stopped the laptop BUT.... the laptop continues to run. There are about 10 seconds of silence between the chapters.....just enough time for the pastor to say a short prayer and announce the Benediction.

Before anything else can be said, the laptop, still running, announces through the church sound system "Well, I guess it's time for me to bring this to a close....." (Those of you who have seen the Legacy Tour will remember this narration as Bob is sitting at a desk writing a letter home – looking forward to snow for Christmas.)

We can only imagine what the congregation thought when they heard that "proclamation" from the church's sound system!

Christmas Treasures

2008 European Tour

Kathie and Linda will be heading for Europe in December. They have concerts in Germany at Kassel, Stuttgart, Kaiserslautern, Weisbaden (Hainerberg Chapel), Vilseck (Vilseck Chapel) and Nuremberg. Kathie will be performing numbers from the Legacy Tour along with some seasonal favorites. You can read more about Kathie's tours at www.KathieFink.com/



Ringling Tour to Scotland and England with Debbie Rice June 8 - 16, 2009 - Celebrate Big Ben's 150th Birthday!

Debbie Rice, former AGEHR president, will be partnering with Harmony International, a new member of the Handbell Industry Council, in conducting this ringing tour to the UK. Debbie will serve as Artistic Director.

The group will begin in Scotland and go down the west side of England finishing in London. Along the way members of the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (HRGB) have been invited to join the group. There may also be commitments from a few international groups.

Repertoire is planned to be "accessible" as opposed to advanced. One example includes "Big Ben's Birthday Waltz" by a UK composer to be part of the recognition for Big Ben's 150th birthday in '09.

A UK friend of Debbie's has offered to loan her a 7 octave set of bells and chimes. So a full set will be available. The same friend is also trying to arrange for the group to go up in Big Ben's tower.

At least one Area XI ringer has already

said, "Count me in!". Sharon Sparlin, former Secretary/Treasurer will be heading "across the pond" with the tour.

Cost is \$2,990 divided into multiple easy payments. (This is based on today's air fare and is subject to change.) Air carrier will be scheduled from a MAJOR US international departure city. Space is limited to 250 ringers.!

For more details contact Debbie Rice at DRiceNC@triad.rr.com



Check out the new AGEHR web site-www.agehr.org

The July/August Overtones included an article on how to navigate the web pages and just what you might find there. You can find out who has recently joined the guild and welcome them, see what special events are scheduled - A Master Class in Conducting and Composition, Distinctly Bronze West, and the dates of the next National Seminar.

You'd find that the National Seminar is July 15-18, 2009 right here in Area XI - Tucson, Arizona. There's a link to the El Conquistador Resort (the location of National Seminar) and the beginning registration date. As an AGEHR member you can search the member database for a member e-mail address you need. You have access to articles that might help you solve some of the problems you are having as a director or give you ideas to put a spark in your program.

There are resources for Music Educators, Community/Professional groups and Church Musicians and Ringers. All this just barely "scratches the surface". Check it out! But give yourself plenty of time to surf.

E-notes is another communication tool of National AGEHR. While you're surfing the web site check it out and sign up to get up-to-date news and AGEHR store specials every month. You'll find the link under Communications.

OVERTONES MAGAZINE - This bi-monthly magazine contains a wealth of information for those involved with handbells in any way. Articles written by National Staff and Elected officials as well as members well-versed in a particular skill fill the magazine with helpful tips and sometimes humorous points of view.

Advertisers support the guild with the ads placed in Overtones, but their services provide members with needed products - bell tables, bell cases, bell refurbishing, bell related gifts and, of course, music from various publishers. Not things you would find in just any magazine.

Beginning with the July/August 2008 issue there is a special insert called "Tips and Tools" which will include things like a one or two page piece of music, some basic ringing lessons, hints for Music Educators, program notes, etc. The Tips and Tools pages are available on-line and may be printed out and duplicated for use with your choir. This feature is accessible to members only.

You can join AGEHR on-line. Several types of memberships are available. Information is available at www.agehr.org under membership. Keep your membership current. Tell others about membership benefits.

Overtones "Tips and Tools" pages are also available on-line as .pdf files to AGEHR members .

♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ What's Happening in AGEHR Area XI?? ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

HOLIDAY HANDBELL CONCERT

Bronzeworks
 Scottsdale English Handbell Ensemble
 Arizona Bronze (Bronzeworks Alumni)
 All Desert Bells Int. Youth bell choirs
 Saturday - **December 20, 2008**
 2PM and 7PM
 Sunday - **December 21, 2008**
 5PM
 Camelback Bible Church
 3900 E. Stanford Dr.
 Paradise Valley, AZ
 Ticket Info - www.desertbells.org

**ARIZONA SUB-AREA AGEHR
 SPRING FESTIVAL**

April 25, 2009
 Monica McGowan, Clinician
 Time and Place TBD
 More info when available at
www.area11.org

**NEW MEXICO SUB-AREA AGEHR
 SPRING FESTIVAL/CONVOCATION**

April 25, 2009
 Tammy Waldrop, Clinician
 St. John's UMC Church
 Albuquerque, NM

Repertoire List

Level 2/2+
 Joy and Elation - Cynthia Dobrinski
 Because He Lives - Tammy Waldrop

Level 3-/3
 O The Deep, Deep, Love of Jesus - Derek Hakes
 The Prayer - Sandy Eithun
 Down by the Riverside - Tammy Waldrop

Level 4
 Praise His Name in the Dance - Derek Hakes

More info at www.area11.org