

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

Area XI Newsletter

Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

www.areas11.org

INTRO - We'll give our two new elected Area XI Board members more time to experience the job before asking them to introduce themselves. This month I want to share some information about our web site, electronic newsletter and my job on the board. - Marcy Hontz, Web Steward and Newsletter Editor

WEB STEWARD



The position of web steward on the AGEHR Area XI Board is an appointed, non-voting one. The length of a term for this position is open-ended. Making it a non-voting one assures that someone doesn't dominate the board year after year. Most of the time it is not necessary for this person to attend board meetings or participate in conference calls as long as someone from the group that participates remembers to fill the web steward in on what transpired.

However, board members need to keep feeding news of their areas to me.* No info, no need for a web site or newsletter.

Having a Festival in your state? Let the web steward know. If you don't have all the information, at least get the date and the name of the clinician on your state's web page. Send in the time, place, driving directions (if needed), and closing concert time as soon as you decide on them. Send in your repertoire list as soon as it's chosen. It can be posted on the web site and your directors and ringers can access it whenever they need to. We can put your registration form on the web site so your directors can print it out when they are ready. If they make an error in filling it out, they can always print another. Get your people in the habit of visiting the web site for this sort of information. We also have a calendar of activities and the event can be listed there. If we put things on the web site, other groups in Area XI can see what's happening. We are so spread out here in the west that this is a good way to keep in touch with AGEHR activities. Have someone take pictures during the event. Send them to the web steward to post in the scrapbook. If you use a digital camera, you can send them as .jpg files attached to an e-mail. If you have only prints, make copies of the best ones and send those. They can be converted to .jpg files and used.

Are your choirs doing anything special? Playing for some special event like the dedication or anniversary of a church or maybe at the opening of a sporting event.

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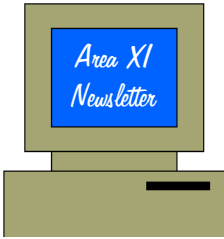
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Colorado Sub-Area information is available on their web site -

<http://www.coagehr.org>



(Web - cont. from page 1)
 Maybe your group rang at a Salvation Army kettle location. Send a picture to the web steward! If you don't have a picture, write up the event, or do both. If you have a kids group, have the kids write an article for the newsletter about their impressions. Want to put out a

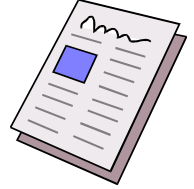
news special for your sub-area? Send it to the web steward and put it on the web site. Notify your directors that it's there and they can access it and share it with their friends who may not be part of AGEHR.

Now, what are my qualifications for this job? Well, nothing formal. A need was expressed, I volunteered, I'm available, I do things promptly and the price is right. I taught myself the basics while doing a few family type web sites. I own some small books like "Web Pages that Suck", "Building Really Annoying Web Sites", "HTML for Dummies" and a 2 1/2 inch thick book on using HTML. Using the first two lets me know what NOT to do and the others will help me figure out how to write the code. Yes, I know that there are programs available to do web sites, but, for now at least, I prefer to write my own html code.

AREA XI ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Being Newsletter Editor is something that "just happened." People said "We should have an Area XI Newsletter", but no one jumped in to do it. Electronic seemed the way to go. Finally I retired from my "day job" as bell choir director and just decided to make up a few sample newsletters and run

them by some of the board. Next thing you know, I had another job! Again, I have no formal training in this area, but lots of experience. My first church volunteer job was doing a church newsletter in North Syracuse, NY. That was more years ago than I want to share! After moving to Arizona, I voluntarily worked on school newsletters, sometimes writing them and sometimes helping with large bulk mailings. Eventually I ended up volunteering to work on the newsletter at my Arizona church. Subsequently, I was hired as one of the church secretaries and, among many other things, was responsible for a weekly newsletter, and church bulletins so I have lots of experience in that field. I just had to figure out how to mail it electronically and make up the list of e-mail addresses for an electronic distribution. Electronic distribution beats bulk mailing any day!



I would be happy to get new ideas for things you'd like to have included in the newsletter. Feel free to submit articles. Just be sure they are news articles and not just advertising. Newsletter deadline is the 10th of the month. It is sent out on the 15th of the month. Allow plenty of time if the news is date sensitive.

News of all kinds (Web Site and Newsletters) should be e-mailed to mrhontz@cox.net *

* Please note that the Colorado Sub-Area maintains an excellent web site www.coagehr.org listing all Colorado information. If you want to publicize Colorado activities, contact the web master at lpatten@gmail.com.

MARCY'S "OTHER LIFE"

Health reasons finally forced Marcy to retire after twenty-two years as handbell director at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, AZ. She sort of "fell into the job" just like her Area XI newsletter experience. Someone wanted to give handbells to the church as a memorial gift, but they needed someone to organize and direct the group. Although she had no real qualifications, God works in mysterious ways and Marcy has learned to accept that. With the bell package came some instructions - Don Allured's "Joyfully Ring". That became the basis for beginning the group. She soon came into contact with helpful AGEHR people who were willing to give her advice. She also attended several Handbell Explorations. There she was impressed by how approachable handbell composers and instructors are. She has worked and taught classes at several Arizona State and Area XI events. She is currently involved as a ringer in the program she started.

Marcy and husband, Norm, had 3 sons and have 5 grandchildren. None of the children were very interested in music although one played viola and another was a middle school trumpet player and a drummer in high school. One of her grandsons is an excellent pianist and keyboardist..

Her 2 remaining sons have encouraged her in her web site work since they both make their living with computer related businesses. Besides, it keeps her busy and out of their hair!

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 quite so much travel expense.

Utah Youth Planning for Young Ringers' Camp 2009

Young Ringers' Camp will be held at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico from June 3 - 7, 2009. Here's what Utah youth have to say about their experiences at camp in 2007 and how they are getting ready for camp in 2009. The article was submitted by Claudette Rothwell who will be bringing ringers to camp for the second time.

Glorieta Here We Come.....AGAIN!!!!

There's excitement and laughter in our midst. Fond memories are being recalled and shared with others. A feeling of great anticipation is in the air. Yes, it's almost time for Christmas, but this exuberance is all about Glorieta and the 2009 Youth Bell Camp!!

Yes, UTAH RINGERS ARE COMING – in fact we hope we will have 15 youth attending the June 3-7 camp in Glorieta, New Mexico. Even our adult chaperones (some who attended in 2007) are eager and excited to get on the road!!!

We had 12 Utah youth attend the 2007 Youth Bell Camp. It wasn't easy getting there but in many ways that effort and hard work is a big piece of the many memories we share. Since Glorieta was quite a distance away there were plane reservations to be made and a van had to be rented for our travel from the Albuquerque airport to Glorieta. We only had a few months to get ready and fundraising activities were always on our mind.

The Utah AGEHR stepped up and started our fundraising campaign by giving each youth a \$100 scholarship to attend Youth Bell Camp. And each youth participant had to put down a \$100 deposit as their sign of commitment to the project. We had rummage sales and car washes. We sold gas cards from a retail gas station and grocery cards from a major grocery store. We had a Parent's Night Out at church where our youth babysat for a donation so parents could have a night out. We had teams of youth and parents go out and do odd jobs – lawn mowing, housecleaning, window washing, etc. We sold *Lolli-Notes* lollipops after church. We served a

dinner before our Spring Bell Concert and took a love offering. One set of grandparents even donated their airline travel gift cards to help with our airfares!

So what are we going to do this year??? Besides some of the activities we did in 2007, new ideas are popping up – Super Bowl subs or pizzas for sale; box lunches or a meal of some sort for our 200+ Utah Spring Ring participants; Valentine's Day, Easter, and Mother's Day projects; small potted plants to be used as starter plants for our gardens and flower beds; Sunday Breakfast Burritos once a month at church; providing music and giving bell concerts for a donation at area churches that don't have a bell choir. We may get brave and try something really *NEW* for us – A RenFaire Dinner. At last summer's AGEHR National Seminar in Orlando I attended at class on "How to Produce Your Own Renaissance Festival" by Tim Waugh. He claims that "this makes a GREAT fundraiser and is lots of fun!" He also said it really isn't that hard to do!!! (*Tim, if your ears are ringing, I may be calling you!!!*) And of course, Utah AGEHR is committed to providing scholarships again. If you have a good fundraising idea that has worked for you – share it with us. You can e-mail me at claudette.rothwell@community-umc.net

Will it be easy – ABSOLUTELY NOT!!! We have lots of work ahead, but we look forward to the memories still to be made. Is it worth all of this time and effort? You bet!!! Read the youth quotes below about the 2007 experience.



"It was awesome working with so many choirs. You work a lot but there is a lot of fun."



"We learned a lot and made so many new friends from other states. I still keep in touch with a few of them."



"Bell camp is totally up the whazzoo! Going to this camp made me want to come to bell practice everyday! I never got bored at camp. We learned many new techniques and we still use them now, too. I recommend everyone go to this bell camp. It's a wonderful, life changing experience. I cannot wait to go again!"

"It was great. It wasn't just all ringing (which was really fun), but there was also paintballing and horseback riding."



So.....GLORIETA, HERE WE COME!!!!
WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!!!!



HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

William H. Griffin and **Karen Leonard** received this award at the National Seminar 2008 in Orlando, Florida.

William Griffin has known involvement in every level of AGEHR. He has served as chair of Area V, president of the national board, and held all the elected offices of the Handbell Industry Council. He responded to a critical call for service as interim executive director amidst the most trying circumstances.

Bill established successful handbell programs at two high schools and one university and in 1991 founded the community group, Symphonic Handbells of Columbus and served as their conductor until 2003.

He is also known for his transcriptions of advanced classical works for handbells. He served as music director of AGEHR and is currently handbell editor for Beckenhorst Publishing.

Bill has chaired Distinctly Bronze and two International Symposiums hosted by AGEHR (1996 and 2008). His contributions to the guild are evident in nearly every facet of the organization.

Karen Leonard is known throughout AGEHR for her service, leadership and commitment. She has been a Guild member for 26 years and has never tired in her dedication and hard work.

She began her work as at-large board member in Area I in 1985, then served two terms as area secretary, followed by the six-year area chair cycle. She went on to serve nationally as president of AGEHR.

She was a founder of the Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival nearly 20 years ago and has helped lead the event every year through 2005, when it became the Massachusetts Spring Ring, a model for many of the Spring Rings now held in many areas.

Since leaving the national board, Karen has organized the National Festival conferences in 2005 and 2006 and has helped create and execute the Master Classes in Conducting and Composing annual events. She has also chaired the Distinctly Bronze event.

We are all fortunate that we have the benefits of the leadership and hard work of these two individuals.

They have made, and continue to make, wonderful imprints on our organization and art form.

Information for this article is from Sept./Oct. Overtones Magazine. Read "Legacies and Service" by John Pfeiffer, President, Honorary Life Chair.

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.

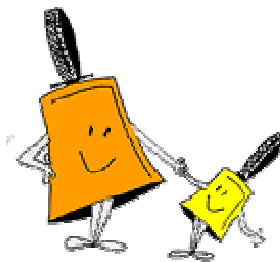
♪♪ ♪♪ ♪♪ ♪♪ ♪♪ ♪♪ ♪♪ What's Happening in AGEHR Area XI?? ♪♪ ♪♪ ♪♪ ♪♪ ♪♪ ♪♪

CONGRATULATIONS!

New handbell music releases from AGEHR and Agape include compositions from AREA XI composers.

Doug Benton's arrangement of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" for SATB voices and organ with optional handbells, brass and congregation is first in the book of new releases by Agape.

Michael Mazzatenta's Area I Composition Contest winner, "With a Bold Voice", is an original composition in honor of handbell pioneer, Elizabeth Bradford. Published by AGEHR.



NEW AGEHR AREA XI MEMBERS IN NOVEMBER

Welcome to Colleen Wismer and Morning Star UMC church of Las Cruces, NM who received a membership along with their new set of bells, and James Rigdon of Castle Rock Community Ringers, in Castle Rock, CO. James signed up with a regular membership. These groups became members of AGEHR during November 2008.

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

ARIZONA SUB-AREA AGEHR SPRING FESTIVAL

April 25, 2009

Monica McGowan, Clinician

Time and Place TBD

More info when available at

www.area11.org

(Click on the Arizona flag)

NEW MEXICO SUB-AREA AGEHR SPRING FESTIVAL/CONVOCATION

April 25, 2009

Tammy Waldrop, Clinician

St. John's UMC Church

Albuquerque, NM

Repertoire list available at

www.area11.org

(Click on the New Mexico flag)