

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

Area XI Newsletter

Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
www.area11.org

Introducing AGEHR Area XI Arizona State Chair, Anne Cotter



Although Anne has a background in music with piano and cello, she did not use it until she retired and began playing bells with the Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona, as a hobby. A few years later, she and Sheryl Bertelson decided to try duet ringing to have a little more fun with the bells, and their duet partnership “Go Bellistic!” was born.

The first two years were extremely difficult with about five hours of practice twice a week to learn a repertoire, all of which was memorized. This year the practice was cut to once a week, still about five hours, to keep the repertoire in mind and develop new programs and learn new pieces occasionally. Anne and Sheryl now are booked throughout the year both teaching and performing, with AGEHR and community organizations and churches all over the United States. It was a struggle, but they are very pleased with the results of their labors and the fun they have and bring to others with their exciting and energetic concerts.

Anne was Vice President and Manager of Barclays Bank of California in her working life, and she and her husband Vern, raised and showed Maine Coon cats for years. Those days are over, but they still have nine of the beautiful Supreme Grand Champion cats that were international winners when they were showing. They are just their babies now, and bring them so much joy! Anne and her husband have eight children and 17 grandchildren between them, so if they ever get bored the relatives keep them busy! Anne’s 88 year old mother lives about a mile away in Sedona, as well, so she keeps an eye on her, or is it her mother that keeps an eye on Anne!

Anne’s motto is **“Don’t forget to have FUN ringing!!”**

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AREA XI FESTIVAL/CONFERENCE 2008 “RISING TO NEW HEIGHTS” BITS AND PIECES



Sharon Sparlin
Festival Registrar

Linda Maloney
Past Chair and
Conference Organizer

In these pictures Dr. Michael Mazzatenta, AGEHR Area XI Chair is thanking Conference Registrar, Sharon Sparlin and Conference Organizer, Linda Maloney for all of their hard work. He also let everyone in on the secret that when he agreed to run for the office of Area XI Chair, he made it a condition that Sharon and Linda would organize the Conference that he would be responsible for during his term as Chair.



Dr. Michael Mazzatenta

Little did he know that he would be succeeding to the Chair earlier than expected due to a resignation and would be responsible for TWO conferences. So this team will also be planning for the 2010 AGEHR Area XI Conference at the El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort in Tucson, AZ June 18 - 20 with Fred Gramann.

Once it got started, the Area XI Festival/Conference “Rising to New Heights” ran smoothly. The venue was perfect for the event. Many classes were in rooms right next to the massed ringing room or just across the hall, so it was very easy to transport bells from one room to the others for the BYOB (Bring Your Own Bells) classes. BYOB classes and creative scheduling make it much easier to prepare for a ringing event with classes, because there is less equipment needed and everyone keeps track of their own bells when they bring them to class. This way everyone is also assured of the opportunity to have a “hands-on” opportunity to try techniques explored in the classes. There’s no waiting for a turn to get at the bells - you’ve brought your own!



David Weck

There were a few bumps on the way to the Festival. They included redoing the schedule a couple of times after it had been finalized and published. This was due to the fact that Jason Wells our clinician lost a very close friend in an airplane crash just a few days before the festival was to begin. Jason was able to be there on Friday and part of Saturday to lead a memorization workshop for all ringers using some of the concert music. Then AGEHR National Board member, David Weck (director of the Agape Ringers), led the ringers through the remaining rehearsals on Saturday and Sunday and conducted the Sunday concert. **FLEXIBLE** became everyone’s mantra and with that in mind, there were smiles and cooperation and everyone had an enjoyable time. (It was suggested that the word, “Flexible”, be added to our mission statement!) The closing concert was one of the best ever. Ringers profited from learning from TWO outstanding leaders in the handbell world. The audience was large and there were several folks present who had never been to a handbell concert before. What a treat it must have been for them!

++++ ***Some Stats from the Closing Concert*** +++++

There were almost 250 ringers participating

They represented 32 choirs

They rang over 1000 bells and handchimes

They used 695 feet of tables with foam pads

They represented 14 states.

“RISING TO NEW HEIGHTS” RING OF FAME LUNCHEON 2008



The 2008 “Ring of Fame” awards were presented during the “Rising to New Heights” Conference at a luncheon honoring the recipients on Sunday, June 15. Tom Waldron of Utah and Gail Downey of New Mexico were this year’s honorees. Read more about them and the criteria for nomination at www.area11.org/ringfame/ringfame08.html.



Dr. Michael Mazzatenta, Tom Waldron, Gail Downy, Linda Maloney



See more Festival pictures at www.area11.org Festival/ Conference Pictures



MUSIC EDUCATORS TRAINING SEMINAR (tell your Music Educator friends about this)

This seminar is being held on September 13, 2008, at the Q Center in Chicago, Ill. AGEHR is addressing the need for assisting music educators with bringing handbells and handchimes into the classroom.

The one-day seminar will address ways to incorporate handbells and handchimes into the music classroom at all levels -- elementary through high school--while meet-

ing the national standards. The event is presented by members of AGEHR’s Music Educator Advisory Council, a group of experienced music educators who are using these techniques in their classrooms today.

Topics include:

- *What You Need to Get Started
- *Using Handbells & Handchimes in General Music - Middle School
- *Choral Applications for Handbells & Handchimes
- *Handbells and Handchimes with Special Needs Groups
- *Performance-Based Applications and Adjudication
- *How to Make the Pitch to School Administrators
- * How to Assess Program/Results

Registration is \$85 for one day and \$200 for overnight and includes; hard copies of all class materials including curriculum and classroom hand-outs; a CD with PDF versions of all class materials, including PowerPoint presentations on each topic; buffet lunch for one-day registrants; Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, plus on-site sleeping accommodations for overnight registrants.

More information and registration materials are available on the national AGEHR website at www.agehr.org or by calling the national AGEHR office at 800-878-5459.

Hey Jane! Check out the Music Educators’ Seminar. Pick up ideas for your music classes.



Don’t forget the Chime Loan Program! Check out www.area11.org. Contact the C.H.I.M.E. chair for information about borrowing a set of chimes to use. There may still be some available.

CALLING ALL NEW SUB-AREA (STATE) CHAIRS

Please be sure to send your contact information to the Web Stewards so the web site can be up-dated when we begin our new year in September 2008.

Colorado contact information should be sent to Lynn Patten, llpatten@gmail.com for the Colorado sub-area page.

Contact information for the other sub-area pages in Area XI as well as the information for Area XI officers

should be sent to Marcy Hontz, Area XI Web Steward, mrhontz@cox.net.

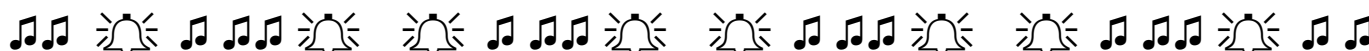
We need a complete snail mail address (street with house/apt. number or p.o. number, city/town, state, zip-code), a phone number (home, work, cell - whichever you prefer or use all 3 if you want), and the ever popular e-mail address.

To see the information needed, just check out the web site - www.area11.org/officers.html to see



what information is there now.

The terms change September 1. It would be nice to have the info ASAP so the web sites can be up-to-date.



NEWS FROM ARIZONA - WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR SUB-AREA?

The Arizona State sub-area board will meet soon to finalize the plans for a workshop scheduled for September 20th at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 1500 W. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ. It will be held from 9am to 1pm. (Lunch is not included.) Cost is \$12 for AGEHR members and \$15 for non-members. A registration form is available at www.area11.org/azevents.html

This workshop is held every fall to begin a new season. It's a way for all directors to catch up on what's new in handbells and to encourage their new ringers to attend classes which will give them much needed information and help them develop skills for a new year of ringing. Classes will

be available in such things as Bass Bells, Proper Ringing Techniques, Ensemble, 4-in-hand, directing, bell maintenance, chimes and others.



Elizabeth McNab teaching 4-in-hand.

The Arizona Board will also be choosing music for the Spring Festival in 2009 when Monica McGowan will be the clinician.

ARIZONA EVENTS 2008-2009

FALL WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 20, 2008
9AM TO 1PM

SPRING FESTIVAL
MONICA MCGOWAN,
CLINICIAN.
APRIL 25, 2009

Send us your sub-area's plans for the 2008-2009 season. (mrhontz@cox.net)

SOME AREA VIII BELL PROGRAMS SUFFER FROM FLOODING OR STORMS

Floods and damage to bells and other equipment are probably far from the minds of folks in Area XI, especially sunny, hot, dry Arizona. But colleagues in the Midwest, like Area VIII (Illinois, Iowa, Kansas,



Missouri and Nebraska) have had to deal with flooding this year. If you know someone from this area who has experienced a loss of their equipment (cases, bells, music and other accessories) during the past month due to the extreme flooding situation, please have them contact

Kathryn Jaeger, AGEHR Iowa Chair, and she will try to get them in contact with some people who can help.
Kathryn Jaeger,
Iowa Chair AGEHR
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