

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

# Area XI Newsletter

[www.area11.org](http://www.area11.org)

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## RULES OF PROCEDURE AVAILABLE ON LINE

The approved (October 2009) AGEHR Area XI Rules of Procedure are now available at [www.area11.org](http://www.area11.org). This is the working document (64 pages long!) for the leaders of Area XI. It contains the rules by which they have agreed to do the business of Area XI. Along with the guidelines for carrying on the daily work of the area, the appendix of the Rules of Procedure contains many of the forms which will be helpful to you when submitting information to the board. Completing the forms will help you be sure you are giving all the necessary information needed.

These forms will also be available at [www.area11.org](http://www.area11.org) in connection with various programs. For instance, the chime loan program pages include the forms necessary for those applying to loan chimes. The Ring of Fame award pages, include the form necessary for nominating someone for that honor. The link to the Vouchers is available right on the web site home page if you need a reimbursement from the Treasurer. You will not have to wade through all the Rules of Procedure to find the one thing in which you are interested.

The Rules of Procedure will change from time to time especially as we adapt to our new structure of only two Sub-Areas and create new projects to serve the members. Some ROP's are under "construction" and being up-dated as you read this. The Sub-Area Chairs will help you, if you can't find exactly the information you need to move forward on a project or activity you have in mind, so be sure you keep their e-mails and phone numbers handy. They are your first contact if you have questions.

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**E-notes** - Sign up for your monthly national AGEHR news at [www.agehr.org](http://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.

# SUMMER HANDBELL EVENTS

Halloween has just passed and, although it seems like we've just started the 2009 - 2010 season of handbell activities, we're already into rehearsals for the Christmas season with all it's concerts and special music for worship services. There are also folks all over the world already planning exciting handbell events for the summer of 2010.



The first event of the summer is our own **AGEHR Area XI Festival/Conference** to be held at the El Conquistador Resort in Tucson, AZ. The dates are June 18 - 20, 2010. Our massed ringing director is Fred Gramann and there will be a Youth Track (age 10 by June 17, 2010 through age 17) led by John Pfeiffer, National AGEHR President. The massed ringing repertoire includes music for the Young Ringers. The featured bell choir of the conference is the Wesley Bell Ringers of Utah.

**Repertoire list** available at:

[www.areas11.org](http://www.areas11.org)

Check it out. You might be able to work some of the music into your 2009 - 2010 programming.

*Remember Christmas Concerts for fundraisers.*

**Registration** is now open. Forms are available at [www.areas11.org](http://www.areas11.org).

Registration is \$185 if dated by March 1, 2010 and \$235 if dated after March 1, 2010.

*March 1 will be here before you know it!  
Don't delay! SAVE \$50!*

## **AGEHR PINNACLE - July 18 - 21, 2010** "Reaching the Pinnacle of our Art Form"

This AGEHR national event will be all about achieving the best we can as ringers. Headliner concerts will be held each day. Sonos, Agape, the Raleigh Ringers and another "still to be chosen" group will appear.

Auditions will be held for 4 All-star choirs who will rehearse for five 75 minute sessions under marquis conductors, Arnold Sherman, William Griffin, William Payne or Hart Morris. These choirs will present a joint concert on the final day of the event.

If you enjoy lots of ringing, this event is for you. It will be held at Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tenn.

More details at:

<http://www.agehr.org/events/pinnacle10.asp>

(This replaces National Seminar for 2010)



## **INTERNATIONAL HANDBELL SYMPOSIUM - August 3 - 7, 2010**

This is the year for the International Handbell Symposium and it is the turn of the Handbell Ringers of Japan to be the hosts. The event is planned for Tuesday, August 3 to Saturday, August 7, 2010 in Osaka, Japan. Activities will take place in the "Grand Cube Osaka", the Osaka International Convention Center. For further details on the International Symposium, contact National AGEHR at -

<http://www.agehr.org/events/2010japanSym.asp>

## **PRE-SYMPOSIUM TOUR OF JAPAN - July 27 to August 2, 2010**

If you are planning to participate in the Symposium and would like to tour Japan before the Symposium, July 27 to August 2, contact Roy Blomquist, [rjblomq@qwest.net](mailto:rjblomq@qwest.net) or 480-998-5568 for details. The cost for the tour is \$5,399 per person from San Francisco. The tour is completely separate from the Symposium but it includes your hotel and breakfast during the symposium. It also includes your air fare from San Francisco to Tokyo (tour beginning) and back to San Francisco from Osaka after the symposium.

It does NOT include Symposium Registration which must be done through National AGEHR and is \$895 per person. Registration is by choir or individual. The AGEHR will be making up a choir of individuals who wish to attend. If you have questions regarding registration contact AGEHR national office- 800-878-5459.

## AREA XI TRADITIONAL “GRASS ROOTS” FESTIVALS

Area XI has several festival/conferences sponsored regularly by AGEHR, but there are also some events which have become a tradition but were started by individuals seeing a need and taking action to fill that need. One of these events is listed on our Calendar of Events as the 12th Annual Epiphany Rally Ring scheduled for January 10, 2010 in Tucson with Arlene Sturm in charge. This is a FREE event! You can't beat that for a way to have some handbell fun.

However, the 17th Annual Eastern New Mexico Fall Handbell Festival, an AGEHR endorsed event\*, beats that one by almost 5 years for longevity. Thanks to Dr. William Wood for this article about the event; it's beginnings and how it grew. He has been involved with the event since its inception. Perhaps this will give others ideas of how to start an event to meet a need which might exist in their small part of Area XI.



The **Eastern New Mexico Fall Handbell Festival** had its roots in the early 1990's when choirs from several churches in Clovis and Portales gathered at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales for a Saturday ring culminating in a concert for family and friends. In 1993 Dr. William Wood, professor of music at ENMU, and several local directors decided to host a festival with a guest director. The event was sponsored by Eastern New Mexico University in order to provide mass ringing experience for the ENMU handbell ensemble and to offer musical outreach to handbell choirs in the region. Wood had been directing handbell choirs at First United Methodist Church, Portales since 1980 and his choirs had attended state, Area XI, and national events but many other choirs in the surrounding area had never attended a festival.

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To launch what became the first annual festival, Kevin McChesney was contracted as guest director, a community event center was engaged, mass ringing music was chosen, and registration forms were mailed to churches in NM, west Texas, and Colorado. The event was held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and was very successful. A brass ensemble from ENMU accompanied one or two numbers and provided music for the offertory. Unfortunately no records of the first festival exist but it is believed that eight to ten choirs from NM and west Texas participated.

With the success of the first festival, it was decided to repeat the event and this year (2009) marks the seventeenth year. Michael Mazzatenta, Area XI Chair, will serve as guest director.

Wood retired from ENMU in 1999. University affiliation was discontinued at that time but Wood has continued as event chairman. Jan Smartnick, Portales, and Ferrell Roberts, Clovis, have served on the steering committee for many years along with other directors from those two towns. Since 1995, locations for the festival have included the Portales Memorial Building, Central Baptist and First United Methodist Churches in Clovis, and First UMC, Portales

Directors through the years have had Area XI and national recognition and many later were invited to direct NM state or Area XI festivals. The festival has always been an AGEHR endorsed event. Joe Keith, owner of The Music Mart in Albuquerque has supported the festival from its inception and has brought a display of music and handbell related accessories to the event each year. Lunch is provided in the Fellowship Hall and a public concert concludes the day.

The festival continues to be held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and repertoire selections include music appropriate for Thanksgiving and the Advent-Christmas season. Up to six individual choirs may ring solos during the concert and solo instrument enhancement for mass ringing music often is provided by ENMU music faculty or students. The offertory is usually a non-handbell selection performed by the guest director or guest solo instrumentalist.

**\*Endorsed Event** - An event presented by a non-profit organization that is a member of AGEHR.

An event presented by an Area or Sub-section of AGEHR is a **Sponsored Event**.



## Reminder.....Ring of Fame Nominations Are Due!!!

Every two years at our Area XI Festival Conference we have the opportunity to honor up to four recipients from Area XI who have gone “above and beyond” in their service to AGEHR and especially to Area XI. Nominations for the **Ring of Fame Award** are *due by November 30, 2009*. Please visit the Area website, [www.area11.org](http://www.area11.org) to get details about nomination criteria and nomination forms. If you have any questions or need help with the nomination process, please e-mail or call Claudette Rothwell at [claudette.rothwell@community-umc.net](mailto:claudette.rothwell@community-umc.net) or 801-698-2728.

## PIKES PEAK RINGERS RECORD WITH YO YO MA

You may recall that back in February, the Pikes Peak Ringers were the winners in the Yo Yo Ma “Celebrate and Collaborate” contest. The prize was to record a collaboration with the world-renowned cellist which would appear on an upcoming commercial recording. (Read more about it in our newsletter archives at [www.area11.org](http://www.area11.org)).

The recording has now been made. Sony Music flew the members of Pikes Peak Ringers to their recording studio in Boston in the first week in November. The group spent two hours in the studio with Mr. Ma, creating glorious music. Photos of the trip can be seen on the PPR Facebook page. The track will be available on December 1, 2009 as a digital download only.

## CONCERT LISTINGS

If you enjoy listening to bell music (other than your own!) around the Christmas Holidays check out the Schedule of Events at [www.area11.org](http://www.area11.org). There are several concerts listed and one of them might just be near you. Or, if you hurry, you might be able to schedule YOUR holiday concert. Information must be received by your Sub-Area chair at least 30 days before the event. A form is in the making to aid this process but, until it is ready, just look at the Schedule of Events to see which things need to be included. You will also need to include your current AGEHR membership number.



## SUB-AREA CHAIRS AT WORK

The Sub-Area Chairs are at work contacting all the AGEHR members in their Sub-Area by mail to introduce themselves and give members a broad idea regarding their tasks. They will act as liasons between the membership and the board and stand ready to help you with questions you may have about how to conduct an event in your part of Area XI. Both are experienced in event planning. Area XI is quite spread out and it is hard to gather a large group for an event so it is hoped that more small events may spring up making it easier for members to attend. (See the article regarding the Eastern New Mexico Fall Festival.)



Michael Kastner



Sharon Sparlin

Included with their letter is a survey form for you to complete. This form lets you indicate what kind of help you need and also how you can help others - perhaps as a mentor. There is lots of talent in Area XI and it’s much easier to know who’s available if you volunteer. Return the form as soon as possible. Remember this year we have our Area XI Festival/Conference in Tucson. Area XI holds these Festivals only in the even numbered years. So there will be a two year period after June for lots of smaller events to take place.



## NEW AGEHR MEMBERSHIPS

AGEHR Area XI received 5 new members during the month of October. All are Regular Memberships and four of the five are connected with schools.

**JoAnn Emery** of St. Olaf Catholic School, is in Bountiful, Utah. **Lena Cotton** is with the Bar Nunn Elementary School in Bar Nunn, Wyoming. (There HAS to be a story about how the town got it’s name!)

The others are in Colorado. **Olivia Tremblay** is at Coyote Ridge Elementary School in Ft. Collins, CO and **Mark Holton** is at Pawnee School in Grover, CO.

**Beverly Curtiss**, the only one who does not list an organization connection, is from Federal Heights, CO.