

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Area XI Newsletter

www.area11.org

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From the Chair.....

598 Days and Counting!!

Yes, that's 598 days until the Area XI 2012 Festival/Conference which will be held June 21-24 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Time passes quickly these days and it will be here before we know it!!

I've been to many National Seminars and Area XI Festivals over the years and I always hear someone, if not myself, comment on how expensive it is to attend. But I've always come away from those events knowing that I did indeed get my money's worth. Now that I'm more actively involved in the planning process for a Festival, I am acutely aware of what it truly costs to put one on!!

Your Area XI Board just conducted their yearly face-to-face meeting in Salt Lake City. We were joined by our Festival Event Planners and were treated to complimentary accommodations at the Little America Hotel, the site of the 2012 Area XI Festival. We know you will all be very satisfied with the choice of location for our next Festival. Our Event Planners are presenting some exciting plans and we are eagerly anticipating the opportunities that we will all have to become better musicians.

How much will it cost, you ask? The final numbers are still being worked out, but your Area XI Board has a challenge which will allow everyone to attend the 2012 Festival. If you saved just \$1 a day from now, November 1, 2010 until June 20, 2012, you would have \$598!!!!!!! That would be MORE than enough to attend the Festival. As I was growing up I remember my mother telling me many times, "Watch the pennies, and the dollars will take care of themselves". And we are all familiar with the Benjamin Franklin quote, "A penny saved is a dollar earned". There are many ways I could save \$1 a day: take my lunch instead of purchasing the "fast food"; don't spend coins, but instead stash them away at the end of each day; avoid that trip to the "pop" machine or the Starbucks "treat". The list could go on and on, but I know that I can save \$1 a day and I hope you can find ways to do the same.

If you don't think you can save \$1 a day, here's another idea. Are you one of those "hard to buy for" folks who are always being asked, "What do you want for your Birthday, Christmas, etc.?" Your answer could be "I'm saving to attend the Area XI Handbell Festival in Salt Lake City in June of 2012. I'm really looking forward to it. If you'd like to add to the fund, that would be a great gift."

In closing, I encourage all of us to continue to listen for the latest **BUZZ** about the 2012 Area XI Festival and **BE THRIFTY** so you can **BE THERE!!!!** See you in 2012, if not before.....



Claudette



Deadline for next newsletter - Nov. 25, 2010

Inside this issue:

Youth Camp	pg. 2
New Member	pg.2
Spring Rings/Festivals	pg. 2-3
Advanced Ringers	pg. 3
Chime Program	pg. 4
Tips from Tom	pg. 4
Christmas Wish List	pg.5
Group of the Month	pg. 5
Info for Advertisers	pg. 5 & 6

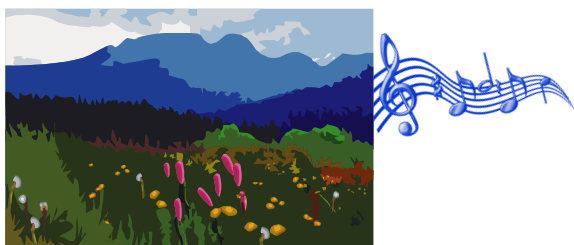
E-notes - Sign up for your monthly national AGEHR news or **ringEr-Notes** at www.agehr.org/newsletters/index.asp

You do not have to be a member of AGEHR to get E-notes or ringEr-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.

COMING SOON! - How can it be November already? **The Eighteenth Annual Eastern New Mexico Fall Handbell Festival** will be held on November 20th at First United Methodist Church in Portales, NM with Stephanie Wiltse as Guest Director. Registration **deadline is November 6** and this festival is limited to 12 choirs. Cost is \$12 per person with a lunch available for an additional \$6 per person. Reservations must be made for the lunch and payment should be made at the time of registration. Massed ringing rehearsal begins at 8:45am with a closing concert at 3:00pm. More details, including the repertoire list and a registration form are available at www.area11.org/dst.html.



COLORADO FRONT RANGE FESTIVAL

Easter is very late in 2011, so the bi-annual Colorado Festival is moving earlier in the season. Join us at this beautiful conference facility to ring with director Kevin McChesney and learn from some wonderful clinicians.

When – April 1-3, 2011

Where - Embassy Suites, Loveland, CO

Estimated total costs - \$200 – Includes 2 nights lodging (double occupancy), breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday and all festival registration costs.

What a deal!

UTAH SPRING RING - 2011 - This event is scheduled for March 5, 2011 at Murray High School, 5440 St. State St., Salt Lake City, UT. With Tim Waugh as the Guest Clinician it's sure to draw a crowd. It begins with set - up at 7:30am, rehearsal begins at 8:30 and continues until 4:00pm with a 4:30pm closing concert. Registration is \$15 per ringer. There will be an hour for lunch. A box lunch is available for an additional \$10 per person (when ordered at the time of registration) or you may make your own luncheon arrangements. More information, including the Repertoire list is available at www.area11.org/mtarea.html#spring.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Cynthia Hardenbrook of Littleton, CO is with the Smithtonians.



Young Ringer Handbell Camp

July 27-31, 2011 - Pingree Park, Colorado

Nestled in a beautiful, secluded mountain valley at an elevation of 9,000 feet lays Colorado State University's mountain campus and conference center, Pingree Park. As a site for conferences, workshops, meetings, and retreats, Pingree Park offers a unique opportunity to step back in time. Leaving the hectic pace of urban life behind, visitors are immersed in the natural world of the Rocky Mountains.

Pingree Park is the perfect 'campus' for Young Ringer Handbell Camp!

Ringing	Concert
Campfires	Hiking

Ropes Challenge Course

Fellowship with ringers of all ages

WANTED NOW - Three Area XI Youth to serve as Camper Liaisons! These youth will help plan the 2011 Handbell Camp. How? Just send a short essay – not more than 300 words – to Linda Maloney (linda.maloney@live.com) explaining why you would like to be a Camper Liaison. Have you attended Camp before? What was your favorite part of Camp? What would you like to accomplish at the 2011 Camp? Your goals? The **deadline to submit essays is November 23, 2010**. Be sure to include your first/last name, age, director's name, city/state. Camper Liaisons will be announced in the December e-Newsletter.

Plan now to attend! It's time to start fund-raising activities. It will cost about \$300 to attend Handbell Camp. Watch for final registration fees and forms in January 2011. **Camp space is limited to the first 70 registrants.**

FUN FACTS ABOUT UTAH

Do you know what Salt Lake's culinary claim to fame is? Ever hear of fry sauce? It's the sauce comprising mostly of mayo and ketchup that you dip french fries in. Up until a few years ago you could not get it outside of Utah, now all the fast food chains carry it. How about a Pastrami Burger....Only found in Utah!



ADVANCED RINGERS' WORKSHOP IN UTAH

On October 9th, we met in Springville, and set up. I wondered who could be the friendly looking guy with the pony-tail? Oh, that's Dr. William Payn! I didn't know much about him, but if I had been prepared and looked up his bio, I would have been impressed. He's been playing handbells for longer than I have been alive! He plays, directs, composes, teaches... he does it all. He has a calm quiet countenance, and he directs like he loves the music. Even as we played his piece, "Psalm of Peace", he was not critical or demanding, but positive and encouraging.

Throughout the day, Dr. Payn taught us techniques, tips, and tricks. He was hands on, and took the time to demonstrate



what he was talking about. He was engaging and energetic. Even during the most difficult of passages, he was full of praise, applauding our efforts. It made me want to play even better. Yes, it was a long day. But even though we were tired, it was worth it. After we had worked the four pieces we had prepared, we sight read about 5 pieces. Some were new, some were more familiar. It was refreshing to just play those pieces as well as we could. Not rehearsing for a



performance, but just to play. Sometimes we may forget that playing a song together should be a joyful experience.

I hope that everyone in attendance felt as involved as I did. I was on the front row, really close to Dr. Payn, but I think he brought us all in. The group was not huge, so we all had a chance for personal interaction. Dr. Payn even sat among us at lunch, answering questions, laughing and talking. And lunch. Did I mention that lunch was GREAT! A variety of sandwiches, fruit and salads—it was all so yummy. Thanks, Karen for the super lunch and the nice snacks.



When the workshop was over, I felt like I was leaving a better ringer than I had come. The instruction, and the day full of ringing together made that happen. Yes, my back was aching. And I was feeling my age, but I was happy. It felt good to be with fellow ringers who were there not to compete or to perform for each other, but to learn together. Thank you, Dr. Payn,

These are a few comments from a participant in the Advanced Ringers Workshop held recently in Springville, Utah. The workshop was organized and facilitated by Karen Eskew-Wyllie, the director of Utah Valley Handbells. Karen had a vision and asked for help from Area XI board members. And VOILA, we had a wonderful event.

Recently a group of ringers from the Denver area had a vision. They wanted a director's workshop and they wanted it taught by Stephanie Rhodes of Texas. The instruction by Stephanie, Michael Kastner and Paul Gentry was full of insight, one of the requirements to be a successful director. There were lots of hands on experiences to facilitate the learning process. Thanks to Sue Hahn and her large committee of planners for helping make the Directors Workshop a success.

With the 1 year old re-structure of Area XI, we no longer have State Chairs to organize and see to it that events happen. The hope is that with your ideas, and the help of our Area XI Sub-Chairs, there will be an increased number of opportunities for AGEHR members to become better directors and ringers.

Do you have a vision of something that needs to happen in your part of Area XI? Run it past Sharon Sparlin, Desert Sub-Chair (ssparlin@dakotacom.net), or Tom Waldron, Mountain Sub-Chair (tmwal47@gmail.com) and start the ball rolling. Before you know it, you will be enjoying more of the benefits of AGEHR membership!



DR. PAYN COMING TO ARIZONA - He will be the clinician for the Spring Ring on April 9, 2011 at Chaparral High School, 6935 E. Gold Dust Ave. in Scottsdale. This is a one day event - 8am through a closing concert at 4pm. The repertoire list includes music from level 2 through level 4. Choose to play only the music which your group can play comfortably and which you can use in your program. Details can be found at www.area11.org/dstarea.html#spaz.

Where Are the Area XI Chime Sets ?

The Chime Loan program is alive and well in Area XI. Our goal is to introduce the use of chimes in educational and church settings where neither bells nor chimes have been in use. Six 3 octave sets are designated for school use and one set is placed at a church. Selections have been made based on our goal of introduction and proposed program descriptions provided by the applicants.

Locations for the 2010-2011 school year for our seven sets of chimes have been selected as follows:

Set 1 is at the Northern Rural Therapy Association, Flagstaff, AZ. Megan Callahan has written, "The handchimes are such an accessible instrument that the music therapy applications seem endless."

Set 2 is at St Charles Borromeo School, Albuquerque, NM, where the chimes will be used in grades 3-8 general music classes.

Set 3 is at Pennington Elementary School, Wheat Ridge, CO. This is a Title I school with 85% of the children from low income families. Classes before and after school will be offered for 3-6 graders and the chimes will provide an introduction to music in grades 1 and 2 during school time.

Set 4 is at Mills Elementary School, Mills, WY. An introductory program there will continue the interest in chimes for rural schools in Wyoming.

Set 5 is at James E. Moss Elementary School, Salt Lake City, UT. This is also a Title I school where over 25 different languages are spoken by the students. The principal has written, "Music is an international language that can bring (our students) together in a positive and friendly way."

Set 6 is at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, Sandy, UT, where 90 students will be involved in music classes using the chimes.

Set 7 (the church set) is at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Broomfield, CO. This congregation will be encouraged to purchase a set of chimes to be used in their well planned program of music experience for children.

AGEHR memberships for one year will be awarded to each director or school.

We invite interest in this generous program provided by Area XI. Those interested in applying for chime loans in the 2011-2012 school year should use the forms on the website (www.areasxi.org) to apply before June 1, 2011. Further information can be obtained from Cathie Olds, Area XI C.H.I.M.E Loan Program Chair (435-723-7031).

Tips From Tom (Waldron - Mountain Sub-Area Chair)

Question: My bell team has been asked to play at an outside event on Dec 19th. Is this safe for the bells? Could the chimes be used instead?

Response: I have played with bells outside in the cold before. I'm sure there is a slight risk and I have always stayed away from the mallets and martellato techniques simply to keep the bell casings away from any added stress in a cold environment. Chimes are a good option as well, but they too are made of metal. You will experience a condensation gathering on the bell when you place them back in the box. They will need to be wiped down the next day to avoid the additional oxidation. There is a very slight change in pitch with each bell, and it isn't consistent as each bell is a different size. The average person will never hear a thing but those with perfect pitch could be bothered by it.

I would say go for it. It is an enriching experience and unless you are really concerned about the issues I have mentioned, I think you will be alright.

In addition this was sent me from Kathy at Malmark:

It's safe to play outside in colder temperatures. The bronze does become brittle in lower temperatures. So in the 30's and below we would recommend that the hard setting of the clapper is not used as well as no stopped sounds. This should eliminate a casting from cracking! Hope this helps.

Best wishes,
Kathy

If you have questions concerning **care and maintenance** of your bells, here are two sites that will help you. The first is the site for care and maintenance of Schulmerich handbells.

<http://www.schulmerichbells.com/pdf/HB-CandM.pdf>

This second site is for those of you with questions concerning your Malmark handbells.

<http://www.malmark.com/documents/Care.pdf>

ADVERTISEMENTS - Beginning with the Jan. 2011 issue of the e-Newsletter, we will accept advertising of handbell related items and services. This newsletter is published monthly and archived on our website so your business info will be put in front of our readers frequently, in a timely manner, and will be available when they are looking for handbell related services. Area XI has vast areas where there are no handbell related services as well as urban areas which have only limited services available. Eighth page, quarter page, half page and full page ads, ready for print in .jpg or .tif format will be accepted. Deadline for ads each month is the 20th of the previous month. (For January, the deadline is December 20th.) For costs and how to submit your ad, see page 6 of this newsletter. The full page of information will also continue to be available at [www.area11.org/forms/Advertising Info.pdf](http://www.area11.org/forms/Advertising%20Info.pdf).

"All I Want for Christmas is....."

Does this little Christmas song bring a smile to your face and perhaps a memory from your childhood? At our recent planning meeting, your Area XI Board compiled our own Area XI Christmas Wish List. While doing so, "All I Want for Christmas" came to our minds, smiles and all. Please consider a tax deductible donation to one or more of the items on our list. Any amount, \$5 to \$5000+, will be appreciated. Donors will be listed in the January Area XI e-newsletter.

Send your gifts to: Sharon Sparlin, Area XI Treasurer, 9151 E Showcase Lane, Tucson, AZ 85749

P.S. High on the Christmas Gift Wish List for the Area XI Board is the wish to see 400 members at the Area XI Festival in June of 2012. Come to think of it, that would cover Christmas 2010 and Christmas 2011!!!! So you have two Christmas Seasons to work on making THAT Christmas Wish come true.

Area XI Christmas Wish List

- **Contribute to the cost of educational materials to be used at our Area XI Young Ringers Camp in the summer of 2011**
- **A donation to help make possible a Composition Contest for our 40th Anniversary celebration at the 2012 Area XI Festival**
- **A monetary gift to the Area XI Scholarship Fund so that more people can attend AGEHR events**

HANDBELL GROUP OF THE MONTH

Sonoran Bells, founded in 1999, is dedicated to musical excellence and to the promotion of handbell ringing through exciting performance events and community outreach. Based in Tucson, Arizona, the ensemble is comprised of experienced handbell ringers chosen by audition. In addition to the large ensemble, *Sonoran Bells*, the organization boasts a small chamber ensemble, *Con Fuego*. The groups perform on a five-octave set of Malmark handbells, a five-octave set of Malmark Choirchimes, and a 3 octave set of Petit-Fritsen handbells.

Sonoran Bells is a strong professional and artistic asset to Southern Arizona and performs a wide range of musical styles. Repertoire includes classical pieces, dance music, Broadway show tunes, and Christmas selections along with traditional music of the Southwest. Sonoran Bells combines biannual concert events with educational workshops in churches and schools, musical contributions to church services, weddings, and parties, and participation in regional cultural events and special occasions. The group also invites regional artists as guest soloists. More information on Sonoran Bells can be found on their website: www.sonoranbells.org.



ADVERTISING IN THE AGEHR AREA XI e-NEWSLETTER

The Area XI e-Newsletter is dedicated to informing our membership about educational events, programs, and vendor information dedicated to the art of handbell and handchime ringing. The e-Newsletter is published twelve (12) times a year and is sent electronically to all AGEHR Area XI members that have provided an email contact. A copy is also available and archived on the Area XI website at www.area11.org

Advertising is accepted from vendors, performance groups and individuals as well as for performance and educational events not directly sponsored by Area XI. Rates and publication specifics are provided below.



Current Advertising Rates per publication:

Eighth page – horizontal (2.75" H x 4.25" W) \$12.50

Eighth page – vertical (4.25" H x 2.75" W) \$12.50

Quarter page – vertical only (5.50" H x 4.25" W) \$25.00

Half page – horizontal (5.50" H x 8.50" W) \$50.00

Half page – vertical (8.50" H x 5.50" W) \$50.00

Full Page – (8.5" W x 11.00" H) \$100.00

Schedule

All ad copy must be received by the 20th of each month in order to appear in the following month's edition.

Media

There are 2 options for submission. Ads may be submitted in either black/white or color and must be in either .jpeg or .tif format. Send your file electronically to ssparlin@dakotacom.net or 'snail mail' to Sharon Sparlin, 9151 E Showcase Lane, Tucson, AZ 85749. Your ad will be hyper-linked to your website. *Please Note: Ad size may need to be adjusted.*

Payment

Make checks payable to **AGEHR AreaXI** and mail to Sharon Sparlin, 9151 E Showcase Lane, Tucson, Arizona 85749. Questions can be sent to Sharon Sparlin at ssparlin@dakotacom.net or by calling at 520-760-0200.