

Biennial Meeting
Area 8 ~ Handbell Musicians of America
Friday, June 19, 2020 - 5:00 p.m.
via Zoom Meeting

Beth Ann Edwards, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. with the Opening Bell and welcomed everyone to the first ever Zoom Biennial Meeting.
24 individuals were present online.

Minutes of the 2018 Biennial Meeting

Lori moved to accept the minutes as submitted.

Patrick seconded.

Motion carried.

Treasurer Report (Lori Fenton)

The report is in Drive.

Additional savings will be realized, since we won't be paying for any officers to attend National Seminar.

Report from the Chair (Beth Ann Edwards)

The report is in Drive.

Beth noted that all reports presented today will be posted on the Area 8 website.

She highlighted the points that Quavers has been updated and our website has been revised during the past two years. Wendi has done a wonderful job accomplishing this.

Report from Chair Elect (Sharon Schmidt)

The report is in Drive.

Sharon requested a (silent) round of applause for Beth Ann's efforts in organizing this year's Festival and in working through the cancellation process for the effort.

As incoming Chair, Sharon noted that we will have to wait and see as far as how we can proceed with events on an Area-wide level. We are hoping to have a 2022 Festival, if possible in the Kansas City area.

She would like to hear from Area members regarding comments/suggestions on how we could proceed and encouraged everyone to attend the virtual National Seminar.

Nominating and Elections (Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal)

The report is in Drive.

Thank you to Linda Ashley and David Weck for serving on the nominating committee. The committee spoke with approx. 25 people to fill out the ballot for elections.

Elections will begin August 1 electronically. Candidate bios will be in the July Quavers.

Ballot:

Secretary: Laura Kopff (IL) and Sara Washington (MO)

Treasurer: Lori Fenton (IA) and Linda Lunt (IL)

Chair-elect: Chris Peck (NE) Nancy Eisemon (IL)

If your membership is not active by mid-July, you will likely not receive an email ballot. Contact KK with any questions. Beth Ann thanked KK and her committee for their hard work.

State Reports

Illinois (Kendall Ladd, Beth McFarland, Kristen Hendrickson)

Report is in Drive.

Iowa (Patrick Gagnon)

Report is in Drive.

The 2020 fall events will depend on availability of venues.

The committee is hoping to engage with a handbell group in eastern Iowa in the future.

Kansas (Kipp Willnauer)

Report is in Drive.

Beth Ann thanked Kipp for his work for Area 8. He is planning to retire from his Chair position at the end of the summer.

Missouri (Cheri Leigh)

Report is in Drive.

Cheri noted that the four major metropolitan areas are active independently.

Cheri noted with interest the virtual reading session to be held in St. Louis on August 1.

She also noted their ringing garage sale that raised funds. Springfield's community group rings with the symphony. Columbia Handbells have been active with concerts. In Kansas City, Rezound! has moved to holding their Fall Ring every other year.

Nebraska (Nancy Youngman)

Report is in Drive.

Nebraska is hoping to hold a spring workshop with Dave Harris next year.

Appointed Chairs

Chimes (Nancy Youngman)

Report is in Drive.

Nancy asked for contact information for the Missouri chime chairs.

Kansas is the only remaining state that is due to receive a new set.

She noted that chimes might be a good substitute moving forward for programs that cannot resume vocal music.

She requested information from Lori regarding funding for the Kansas set.

Communications (Laura Kopff)

Report is in Drive.

COVID has impacted the frequency of the eblasts.

Education (Patrick Gagnon)

Report is in Drive.

Patrick noted that several classes had already been established for the 2020 Festival, many of which could transfer well to an online format.

The app continues to improve over time. It's possible that ticketing functions may be possible in the future.

Beth Ann noted that many of the changes that had been implemented will be useful going forward.

Membership (Sharon Schmidt)

Report is in Drive.

Sharon noted that membership has decreased by about one quarter in the last 2 years. The board has made over 200 contacts reaching out to lapsed members during this time.

Membership is the responsibility of all members. Personal contact is of utmost importance.

In response to a question comparing our numbers to other Areas, Sharon said she can reach out to National about this.

Resource Librarian (Charlton Pendry)

Historian (Christie White)

Report is in Drive.

Christie noted that the Timber Chimes noted in the report are a thriving program.

Please send any information about handbells / chimes in the news to Christie

Additional Reports

Website Manager (Wendi Levitt)

Report is in Drive.

Beth Ann said Wendi did a wonderful job on the website.

Also, anyone is interested in ordering the Festival 2020 shirt should contact Wendi.

Newsletter Editor (Beth Ann Edwards)

Report is in Drive.

Old/New Business

Beth Ann received an email from Ed Rollins reminding everyone to sign up for the National Seminar. Area 8 is represented by several individuals on the faculty.

The virtual option is an affordable, reduced rate.

The HIC has put together a good set of guidelines for starting back up with handbells. This can be found on the National's website.

Sharon closed the meeting with a closing bell and said "See you online / see you around... with this bell I wish you happy ringing over the next few months."

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55.

Submitted by Pat Latshaw

Area 8 Secretary