



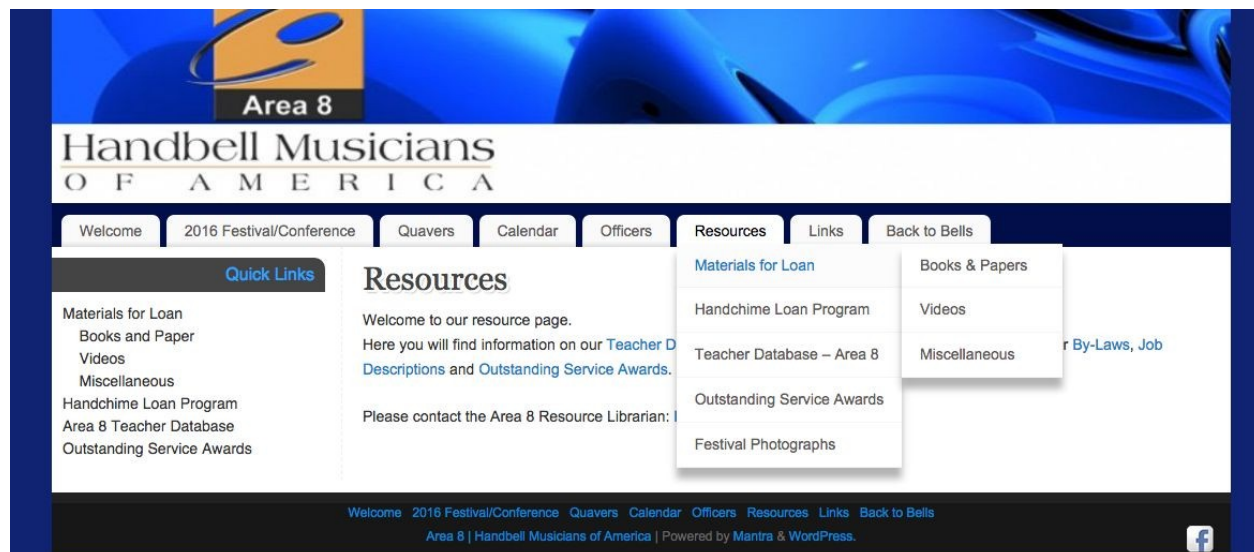
HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA

ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA

QUAVERS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2015

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA



AREA 8 RESOURCE LIBRARY

The lending library is available to handbell directors and ringers, as well as educators and students. Materials may be checked out for 30 days for only the cost of postage.


Check out DVDs and CDs of festival concerts and performances of handbell ensembles on the national and international stage. The Tempo Setters series features interviews with top handbell clinicians and composers. Instructional DVDs are also available.

The publications library includes books on conducting, score study, technique, rehearsal tips, and many other topics to help you and your choirs reach their potential. See the full listing on the Area 8 [website](#).

To request materials, contact [Kathy Harrison](#), or call 417.888.0089.

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ELECTED	ELECTED	APPOINTED
CHAIR: <u>Patrick Gagnon</u> 211 S Victor (P.O. Box 314) Hubbard, IA 50122 641.373.2972 TREASURER: <u>Sharon Schmidt</u> 28 Oriole Ct Naperville, IL 60540 630.369.9879 PAST CHAIR: <u>Dolan Bayless</u> c/o Kirkwood UMC 201 W Adams, Kirkwood, MO 63122 314.966.8167	CHAIR-ELECT: <u>Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal</u> 295 Town Center Blvd Gilberts, IL 60136 630.699.3802 SECRETARY: <u>Kathy Leonard</u> 1st UMC 612 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502 785.317.0598  Like us on Facebook Visit us on the <u>WEB</u>	COMMUNICATIONS: <u>Pat Latshaw</u> QUAVERS: <u>KC Congdon</u> WEBMASTER: <u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u> FINANCIAL ADVISOR: <u>Stephen Swanson</u> MEMBERSHIP TEAM: <u>Beth Ann Edwards</u> / <u>Michael Allen</u> EDUCATION: <u>Debi Robey</u> HISTORIAN: Open RESOURCE LIBRARIAN: <u>Kathy Harrison</u>

	ILLINOIS	IOWA	KANSAS	MISSOURI	NEBRASKA
Chair	<u>Briana Belding-Peck</u> 320 E 21st St Unit 615 Chicago, IL 60616 573.239.5182	<u>Lori Fenton</u> 3213 45th St Des Moines, IA 50310 515.229.6712	<u>Staci Cunningham</u> 21370 Harper Rd Chanute, KS 66720 620.433.7223	<u>Cathy Benton</u> 2739 Autumn Run Ct Chesterfield, MO 63005 314.640.7053	<u>Linda Ashley</u> 9107 Meadow Dr Omaha, NE 68114 402.320.5312 402.397.9551 (h)
Treasurer	<u>Open</u>	<u>Mary Lee Parks</u>	<u>Karla Denton</u>	<u>Suanne Comfort</u>	<u>Janet Chiocchi</u>
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Web	<u>Gary Dietschweiler</u>	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Janet Chiocchi</u>
Other	<i>Events</i> <u>Sharon Schmidt</u> <i>Registrar</i> <u>Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal</u> <i>Store</i> <u>Debi Robey</u> <i>Chime Coordinator</i> <u>Aimee Legatzke</u> <u>Shelley May Hutchison</u> <i>Food Coordinator</i> <u>Anna Piro</u> <i>Chime Mentor</i> <u>Diane Oster</u> <i>Student Liaison</i> <u>Ben Hafner</u>	<i>Historian</i> <u>Tina Gehrke</u> <i>Chimes</i> <u>Aaron Hansen</u> <i>Eastern Rep</i> <u>Cat Walker</u> <i>Western Rep</i> <u>Yvonne Johnson</u>	<i>Past Chair</i> <u>Cherryl Cox</u> <i>Chimes</i> <u>Shirley Myers</u>	<i>Membership, St Louis</i> <u>Sherry Boland</u> <i>Chime Chair</i> <u>Anne Miller</u> <u>Kathy Harrison</u> <u>Christie White</u>	<i>Registrar</i> <u>Deann Nicolaus</u> <i>Chimes Coordinator</i> <u>Nancy Youngman</u> <u>Jessica Kite</u> <u>Mike Allen</u> <u>Joyce Miller</u> <u>Angela Wright</u> <u>Natalie Radcliffe</u> <u>Charles Cohen</u>



What can *Quavers* do for you? This newsletter reaches hundreds of your best handbell friends from across the Midwest, and is available to anyone looking for handbell information as it is available on our website. It is one of twelve regional newsletters that serve the members of Handbell Musicians of America and it takes a whole village of board members as authors and contributors as well as an editor to craft each edition.

Your ensemble, your special event, your auditions, and your products could be featured in our next edition of *Quavers*. You should also know that we have, just for YOU, such a DEAL! If you run the same advertisement five times, we will run it for FREE in a sixth edition of *Quavers*.

Visit our online referral form [here](#) and let our membership know what you are all about.

Many thanks to our regular advertisers who have supported our newsletter through the years with ads, audition announcements, concert announcements, and all of the "stuff" of "doing handbells really well."

~Patrick Gagnon, Area 8 Chair

The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: rringer@rr.org • web: www.rr.org

A community handbell choir

**Worship Track with:****BETHANN EDWARDS**

New specialized worship track! Create the Festival Worship Service with BethAnn Edwards. Funky and fresh; tried and true. Lead worship with 500 of your best handbell friends in the Land of Lincoln.

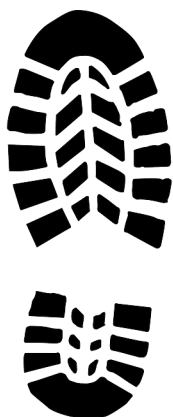
Division 1 Ringing Track with:**MONICA MCGOWAN**

Formerly the "Tins" division, this is a new track specializing in Level 1 and 2 music for newer choirs and ringers wanting a different Festival experience. Division 1 does not ring massed music, but will present divisional music in the closing concert. This track is limited to the first **22** registrants.

Bronze Festival Choir with:**CATHY MOKLEBUST**

This specialized ringing track during the conference is designed for those looking for a concentrated, advanced ringing experience. Limited to 36 qualified ringers. Apply after you've registered for the Festival.

OR

**Pre-Conference Directors' Track!**

Taught by experienced directors, this four hour track for current & future directors covers topics critical to your success as a director & to the musical accomplishments of your ringers. The 2016 topics will include: Conducting, Ringing with Few, Rehearsal Techniques, and Selecting Music and the Level System. Register after you've registered for the festival.

Join us June 22-25, 2016, at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Prairie Capital Convention Center so we can put you on the right track!

IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS....

Social Media

Big news on the technology front: check out and like our [Facebook](#) page! This will be a great way to communicate with each other and promote handbell events and concerts throughout the state. If you have a concert or event in Illinois that you would like us to promote, feel free to post it on the Facebook page.

Young Ringers Festival

The Young Ringers Festival will take place on Saturday, February 6, 2016, at St. Martha's Catholic Church in Morton Grove, IL.

Agape Ringers Workshop

The Agape Ringers will host a day of workshops followed by a performance on Saturday, February 27, 2016.

Reading Session for Directors

A reading session for directors will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016, at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, IL. Phil Roberts will be leading the session and will also give some tips on rehearsal techniques and handbell ministry. We will showcase new music from several different publishers. I'm really looking forward to this new event. I think it will be very beneficial to our directors. Time TBA.

Down South

I have had requests to plan some events downstate, since our activities are typically in the Chicagoland area. I am looking into that, and for sure, we will have a state event outside of Chicago this year. I'm excited to reach out and get to know handbell musicians in another part of our region! If you are willing to host an event, in any part of the state, please let me know. I am still fairly new to the Chicago area and not all that familiar with churches outside of the city.

~[Briana Belding-Peck](#), [Illinois State Chair](#)



IN THE STATE OF IOWA....

Before I talk about upcoming events in my area I've been asked to introduce myself as the newly appointed chair for Iowa Handbell Musicians of America.

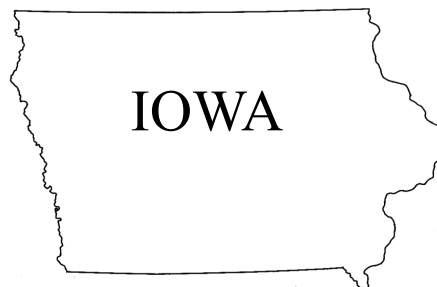
I have been ringing for close to 35 years, first ringing at Morningside Presbyterian Church in Sioux City under the direction of Eleanor Tasker. I rang all the way through high school, took a break during college, and quickly picked it up again in Des Moines at Westminster Presbyterian, where I still ring today. Ringing has taken me all over the county, and as far away as Italy. Next summer, I'm looking forward to attending my first International Symposium in Vancouver. Like many of you, with respect to handbells, I consider myself an enthusiast, addict, geek, nerd or any other endearing term. Simply put, I love handbells.

While it's rewarding to ring with my church choir in a worship setting, it's the various handbell events that have truly nurtured my love of handbells over the decades. I vaguely recall attending what I assume was an AGEHR event in Ames, IA, sometime in the mid-80s (I'm sure someone out there knows exactly what event I'm referring to). The events in my adulthood are more clear: multiple area and national ringing conferences with my church choir; ringer based events like **Bay View Week of Handbells**, **Distinctly Bronze**, **Master Conducting Class** and **Virtuoso**; and local events like the **Back to Basics** class I attended in September. All of these events hold special memories for me because it was an opportunity to immerse myself in handbells without apology.

I feel very fortunate to have attended the caliber of events that I have. But what really makes them so great? You might think it's the conductor, or the repertoire, or the level of performance. I wouldn't deny the importance of any of these elements to the overall greatness of these events, but at the end of the day, what will make or break any event, I believe, is the passion and love for handbells that the attendees, directors, and organizers bring to the event. Just the very act of coming together with other ringers for the sheer joy of ringing handbells is enough to guarantee the success and fulfillment for all involved. I believe that when you spend time and energy doing something you love, you will be justly rewarded.

So what does that mean for upcoming events in Iowa? As I write this, I have been on board less than two weeks so I admittedly don't have anything concrete in the works. I hope that by the time this newsletter hits your inboxes and mailboxes we'll have at least one event penciled in on the calendar. I have big dreams for handbells in the state of Iowa and would love to hear from you about any ideas you may have for an event or any help or support you could offer with an upcoming event. I'm hopeful that we can plan events across the state such that all ringers will have the opportunity to share their individual joy and passion with others.

~Lori Fenton, Iowa State Chair



Iowa - The Hawkeye State

IN THE STATE OF KANSAS....

Wow! Time has really flown by. Can you believe it is almost Christmas? Choirs across the state are practicing diligently for their Christmas services and perhaps those extra little concerts here and there. This time of year is pretty busy for all of us which is why Kansas is taking a break right now with events!

We just finished up with two of our fall events. Flint Hills Handbell Festival and the Chime Festival were both in October this year. They were both great events! Please plan to come next year as they will be around the same time as this year. We will keep you posted once the dates get set!

Our next big event will be Ring in the Spring at COR (Church of the Resurrection) in Leawood, KS, on March 5, 2016. Gwen Gepford does a wonderful job getting this put together and has two wonderful clinicians lined up. Tammy Waldrop will be the clinician for the Bronze level and Janet Carter will be the clinician for the Copper Level. For more information and to register please go to www.cor.org/ringinthespring.

Intergenerational Handbell Camp celebrates 26 years in 2016. Did you know that 4 of the 5 states in Area VIII are represented in the management of the camp? Come and enjoy some wonderful ringing experiences and classes at the Heartland Presbyterian Center in KC, MO, July 10-14, 2016. For more information you can visit the website at www.handbellcamp.org.

And of course, don't forget Ring in the Land of Lincoln, Springfield, IL! Area VIII is planning some great classes and the music and clinicians will be wonderful to work with as well! See you there!

~Staci Cunningham, Kansas State Chair



IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI..

Missouri was happy to host the first Area 8 Handbell Certification weekend held in St. Louis on July 31-August 1. We had directors from across the country attend this Level 1 training session.

I want to thank Anne Miller, our chimes chairperson, for her work placing hand-chimes in schools. For the 2015-16 school year, the chimes will be used by the St. Peter Catholic School in St. Charles.

While there were no state-sponsored events this year, there continue to be ringing opportunities in our state. St. Louis area ringers held a Bellfest training event for new ringers in September and the Kansas City area hosted their Show-Me-Ring, sponsored by Rezound, in October. St. Louis has also announced a Bell-a-bration massed ring festival for February 2016.

By the time you read this, Missouri will have its own Facebook page—please check us out and keep us posted on your ringing activities in our state.

Happy Autumn and Happy Ringing!

~Cathy Benton, Missouri State Chair



IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

We have some great Handbell programs going on in Nebraska. We are blessed to have two colleges with Handbell programs, along with two community groups.

Concordia University is the only university handbell program in Nebraska with two auditioned handbell choirs. Ringers are comprised of students studying music and also students studying diverse majors such as computer science, education, business, pre-med and pre-seminary. The handbell choirs perform in chapel services on campus, church services in the community and concerts. Concordia's ringers play 5+ octaves of Schulmerich bells and 3+ octaves of Malmark Choirchimes. The choirs are led by Jessica Kite.

Hastings College has a handbell program, led by Dr. Byron Jensen. Their ringers are from varying areas of study within the college. This last January, a 3-week course was offered to introduce non-ringers, some who were non-musicians, to handbells, both in their history and performance. This course was well received by the students who participated, giving them a new understanding of the instrument and music in general.

The **Bells of Holy Trinity**, in Lincoln, played on Sept. 27 for the dedication of the new bell tower for the Congregational Church in Hallam. Nearly the entire town of Hallam was destroyed in a tornado in May of 2004. The only thing that remained of the Congregational Church was the bell from their steeple. The church rebuilt, but lacked the funds to build the bell tower. Through a lot of fund raising, the tower has now been built and the bell is again ringing. The minister, a former teen ringer of Mary Kettelhut, wanted a bell choir to play for the dedication and contacted Nancy Youngman. The choir was honored to be able to play for this, especially since several members spent many days helping the town clean up after the tornado.

Bell-issimo, Lincoln's Community Handbell Choir, has been invited to be the special guests in Bossier, Louisiana (a suburb of Shreveport) for their annual Christmas extravaganza on December 6. The theme for this year is "Sounds of Christmas", and along with playing a couple of solos, the bell choir will also combine with voices and an orchestra in several Mormon Tabernacle Choir Christmas arrangements, notably, of course, "Carol of the Bells". Bell-issimo will also provide service music that Sunday morning at a local church.

River City Ringers, based in Omaha, under the direction of Joyce Miller, has a full fall season lined up. On October 18, they will perform a concert with the vocal choir of Grace University in Omaha. A full series of Christmas concerts begins on November 29 in Lincoln, followed by concerts in Blair and Avoca, Iowa, as well as in Omaha. The season culminates with the popular mini-concerts during the Omaha Symphony's Christmas program. They have been part of this traditional concert for several years. The spring concert series is shaping up for concerts in areas surrounding Omaha and in Aurora, NE. Dates and times for these concerts can be found on their website, omahametrohandbells.org

We are truly lucky to have all of the fine directors mentioned above on our Nebraska state committee. They bring a wealth of knowledge to the ringers who attend our workshops.

~Linda Ashley, Nebraska State Chair



Upcoming Events

2016	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Jan 14-16	College Ring-In Michael Joy	Gary UMC Wheaton, IL	<u>National</u>
Feb 28 2p	Bell-a-bration 2016	Peace Lutheran St Louis, MO	<u>HAGSTL</u>
Jul 12-16	National Seminar various	Hyatt Regency Rochester, NY	<u>National</u>
Jul 26-30	International Symposium	Vancouver, Canada	<u>IHS</u>

Upcoming Concerts

