



QUAVERS

AREA VIII: ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA
JAN, 2009

MEMBERSHIP

My mom always taught me that if you are going to do a job, make sure you do it right and not a half job. As I was reflecting on why you should have an AGEHR membership, I realized that this is exactly the reason to have one.

For those of us who are directors of choirs, we have the responsibility as a leader to bring to our ringers the very best we have to offer. This includes sharing information from *Quavers* and *Overtones* to encourage participation in both AGEHR sanctioned and other ringing events.

We are always looking to boost membership, not to just bring up the numbers, but to enhance the ringing experience for many people, to bring them into the handbell family, and to give them a support network.

Here are some ideas:

- Encourage Ringer Memberships especially if you have music students in your choirs.
- Does your church, school, or organization have their own membership so that they are getting information whether you are there or not?
- Are you mentoring a future director? They need a membership.
- If you attend a ringing event or put one on, please contact the National office for brochures to hand out, encouraging membership.

If you know of a choir in your community that isn't involved in the Guild, please send them a letter and a membership brochure.

Membership Chairpersons from across the nation recently met in Dayton and brainstormed ways to increase membership and also make sure we were being pro-active in what AGEHR has to offer. Watch for some exciting ideas to come from the National office in 2009. We will keep you posted!

Sandy Denton ~ Membership Chair

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Becoming a member of AGEHR can really expand your horizons in the handbell world. There are numerous publications and other literature that will come your way, either via snail mail or your email inbox. Here are a few of the *mail* benefits you'll come to enjoy!

Overtones: This journal is mailed to you every other month and is also available to members online. It contains educational articles for ringers and directors in any kind of group as well as information on people, groups, events and music from all around the handbell world.

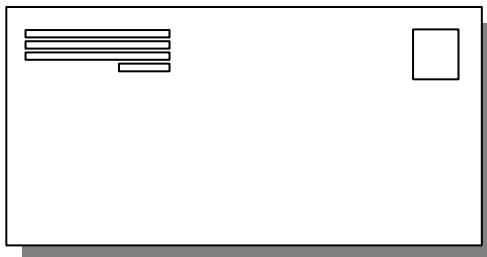
Quavers: Area VIII has their own newsletter that is also mailed to you every other month with information on events and topics more local to you. In an effort to go green, Area VIII is taking requests from those of you who would rather have this publication in your email inbox instead.

E-notes: AGEHR sends this newsletter to you via email each month. It is a quick overview of events, new members, and a few select topics that you can click on to learn more about.

Catalogs, CDs: Members of the Handbell Industry Council (HIC) use the mailing list from AGEHR to send you their latest catalogs and demo CDs a few times per year. These mailings are the easiest way to compare all the great new music that is published each season and see what products are out there that make life as a handbell ringer easier and more fun.

Mailing Lists: As an AGEHR member, you have access to the member list as well for a small fee. You can promote your own handbell and concert events in your area. Area and State AGEHR leaders also use these lists to send you information about upcoming events. You'll be sure to hear about events close to you.

Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal~ Illinois State Chair





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WHAT IS AGEHR?

Have you ever been wearing an AGEHR conference t-shirt and have someone ask you, "What is AGEHR?" I always laugh because I forget that not everyone knows what AGEHR stands for—American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. I can just barely remember when AGEHR was hard to say and it now just rolls off the tongue. The next question usually out of their mouth is, "What is a handbell?" I have learned that if they do not ask the second question, they do know what a handbell is and might even be a ringer or at least know a ringer.

The AGEHR organization is an endless network. If you want addresses for a mailing, AGEHR has that. If you want to find out an answer to a handbell question, AGEHR has someone who can help. If you want to get together with a bunch of other handbell ringers, AGEHR will help you find fellow ringers in which to network. AGEHR has a National level, Area level and State level so there are plenty of people out there ready and willing to help you however you need them.

National AGEHR sends out the *Overtones* magazine to all members which is filled with great information and keeps you in touch with what is happening nationally and internationally in the handbell world. *Quavers* is the Area VIII (Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri) bi-monthly newsletter that is filled with handbell info from the surrounding five states and gives information on upcoming events and also the names and numbers of your Area and State AGEHR representatives.

AGEHR conferences are just that, a conference for fellow AGEHR members. If you are not a member, you need to sign-up before attending. These conferences are a great place to learn just about everything about handbells, meeting and sharing with fellow handbell ringers and also playing and listening to some awesome music. Once you have attended one of these conferences you will look forward to the next one and connecting back with old friends.

Workshops and concerts are a great way to connect with fellow handbell ringers. Many of these activities are advertised in the *Overtones* and *Quavers* which give you one stop shopping when trying to find a handbell event to attend. Also, having the AGEHR address list can be a great asset when planning any type of handbell event or promotion and this is only available to AGEHR members.

I have found that wearing my handbell t-shirts—whether they are from a handbell conference, workshop or just a handbell graphic on a t-shirt—they are a great conversation starter. I have met many people through handbells and some I have met just from wearing a t-shirt. So the next time someone asks you, "What is AGEHR?" take the time to talk with them and if they are a ringer make sure they are aware of the awesome opportunities that AGEHR has to offer their handbell group. You never know, you may just make a friend for life.

Kathryn Jaeger ~ Iowa State Chair



**KANSAS STATE
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If you want to “blame” something for me ending up as Kansas Chair, at least one finger will point to my Ringer membership! (You could blame HANDBELL-L in part, as well, but that’s a different article.)

Both of these resources, one free (HANDBELL-L@ringem.org) and one inexpensive (\$30/year) alerted me, as a ringer, to up-coming events that I would have otherwise missed.

For whatever reasons, directors may not mention upcoming events or share articles published in the *Overtones*, *E-Notes*, and *Quavers* (all included in the Ringer’s Membership dues). Perhaps they have a schedule conflict and can’t attend themselves. Perhaps they didn’t think anyone would be interested. Perhaps they just didn’t think to mention the event. Perhaps their copy of the flier (or e-mail) got lost (or bounced).

Directors: let your ringers know this option exists. It’s not a threat to you, and may help increase your group’s attendance at events. Consider giving a Ringer Membership as a gift.

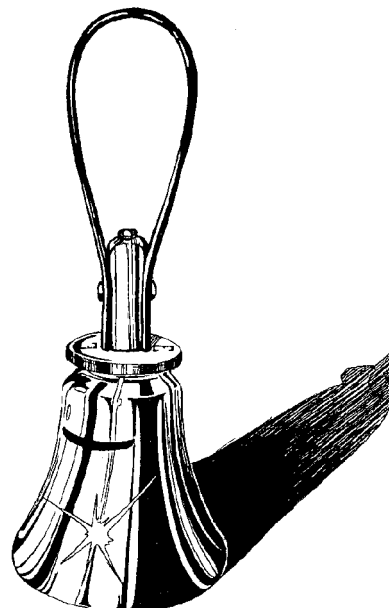
Who knows? There may be a future State or Area (or National) AGEHR leader out there waiting for the encouragement to really become active in our fine organization. We ARE a grassroots group, and need to continue to feed and water our root system.

See you in Topeka in 2010! In the meantime, help your choirs know what AGEHR is doing to advance the musical art of handbell/handchime ringing through education, community and communication.

Let’s continue to carry out our motto: “Uniting People through a Musical Art.”

Happy New Year!

Kathy Leonard ~ Kansas State Chair





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MENTOR PROGRAM

Mentor: a faithful counselor. This is one definition provided by *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. For many a counselor could have been a parent, a favorite teacher, a trusted friend, a colleague, or (insert your person here.)

In the world of handbell arts, many of us know directly who shaped and influenced our handbell ringing and conducting. Your mentor may have been a teacher, conductor, or class session instructor at an AGEHR event or your school or church. Who had a profound impact on your handbell ringing? Without naming names, I can identify more than two outstanding conductors of handbells who taught me the skills of working with bells. Even though many miles separate us, we are only an email away!

One of the greatest attributes of the handbell community is that we know the composers and the conductors in our art form. It is not uncommon for us to be on a first name basis with directors who have led us at festivals and conferences. The composers/arrangers of handbell music are real, living personages: ones whom we know and with whom we can feel a bond. If I began to name drop, the pages would be filled to overflowing! You can name them also.

In our own Area VIII there are many directors who function as mentors. Herein lies what I believe is another of our greatest attributes as handbell musicians: all of us are together in this young art form. Certainly we uphold outstanding conductors and composers, all of whom are approachable. Having participated for many years in AGEHR events, I have never seen first-hand nor have I heard of anyone being "ignored" or spoken to in a condescending way by those we hold in highest esteem in the handbell world. To me that is the true mark of a mentor. A mentor will take the time to teach and to be a counselor to the "mentee."

Would it not be comforting to know that there is a director in the next city has valuable experience in handbells and would be willing to share their knowledge with a rookie director whose school just purchased a set of bells? A valuable tool in Area VIII would be to setup a network of mentors across each state. Recruit and provide a list of those directors with their email addresses who have experience and are willing to share it. Directors, and ringers, yes even ringers, could then be encouraged to make contact, ask questions, and learn all that can be learned about bell and chime ringing. This is one of many ways to promote the art of handbell ringing, by making connections between those who have the knowledge and skills, and those who desire to increase their knowledge and skills.

Let me offer that I am open to being a mentor, helping to teach and share so that others may learn and have a greater enthusiasm for ringing! Here are my email addresses: dolanbayless@sbcglobal.net or dolan@kirkwoodumc.org. I promise to respond to email messages within one day! I am always available to share with you as others have shared with me. I think there is a perpetual cycle—mentor to mentee who becomes a mentor to other mentees!

Who are your bell mentors? Can you be a mentor to others?

Dolan Bayless ~ Missouri State Chair



Submitted by

Kathryn Jaeger

WORD SEARCH

S	R	W	T	H	K	P	O	L	M	T	O	P	E	K	A	M	K	S	I	T
U	T	H	U	M	B	D	A	M	P	R	E	L	B	E	R	A	T	R	E	C
T	B	D	B	E	A	E	L	A	B	E	L	Y	A	L	E	D	W	A	R	D
K	D	I	C	I	E	R	L	L	E	B	L	I	O	W	A	L	I	R	I	E
A	G	E	H	R	W	B	T	L	K	L	S	T	O	K	V	L	N	E	P	B
T	D	W	E	A	D	D	S	E	A	E	P	E	S	L	I	E	A	H	D	B
H	R	F	R	L	W	N	H	T	L	R	O	A	M	K	I	P	P	S	N	I
Y	T	F	Y	E	A	A	E	F	H	L	R	L	P	S	I	T	T	A	I	E
N	B	T	L	I	K	H	L	O	S	B	O	E	U	M	D	M	S	L	R	G
M	C	B	B	G	R	H	A	U	E	T	A	H	N	I	S	T	A	I	S	D
O	P	U	S	H	A	K	E	N	T	B	E	M	A	L	M	A	R	K	N	E
K	J	R	E	R	I	L	S	R	D	L	L	A	A	S	I	H	E	A	L	A
F	O	U	R	I	N	H	A	N	D	B	M	C	S	R	P	U	A	T	K	B
F	Y	N	D	N	S	Y	H	I	L	U	E	Y	A	O	Y	M	D	H	E	A
G	C	E	N	G	Y	R	O	N	L	R	A	L	V	U	A	R	B	Y	T	G
S	E	L	Y	E	T	R	A	H	A	N	I	L	L	I	N	O	I	S	D	K
C	K	L	L	R	I	N	G	A	M	E	L	E	E	R	A	R	M	A	R	C
H	E	K	I	S	N	E	K	R	I	L	M	R	V	I	T	R	P	H	I	L
U	M	C	S	D	J	H	E	A	T	L	A	E	H	S	A	N	D	Y	N	U
L	S	C	H	U	L	M	E	R	I	C	K	Y	R	O	L	A	S	R	S	P
I	J	A	E	O	O	A	C	N	O	R	A	A	I	P	I	D	F	E	E	D
E	U	T	L	D	Y	R	L	D	L	K	N	S	L	L	E	E	A	G	C	O
J	R	H	L	W	C	I	A	M	M	I	S	S	O	U	R	I	L	E	N	L
R	T	M	Y	A	E	L	T	A	L	E	A	L	L	C	C	D	G	H	I	A
G	S	A	R	R	N	Y	A	R	B	A	S	S	I	K	R	I	S	T	I	N
K	A	T	H	R	Y	N	A	T	E	B	S	L	N	I	O	S	I	R	H	O

Agehr

Area VIII

Handbell

Schulmerick

Malmark

Iowa

Illinois

Kansas

Missouri

Nebraska

Topeka

Raleigh Ringers

Ring

Pluck

Thumb Damp

Martellato

Mallet

Shake

Echo

Gyro

Treble

Bass

Four in Hand

Shelly

Marilyn

Edward

Natalie

Cheryl

Debbie

Mary

Kipp

Sandy

Kim

Kathy

Burnell

Kristin

Kathryn

Kathy

Dolan

Joyce



WORD SEARCH ANSWER KEY

T O P E K A
 T H U M B D A M P R R
 A A E E D W A R D
 K C R L B I O W A E
 A G E H R T L L K V B
 T E A E E S I B
 H R L T L A K I P P I
 Y Y E L R I E
 L I H B O M
 G A E
 S H A K E N M A L M A R K
 J R D A A
 F O U R I N H A N D B R T
 Y N U E Y H
 C G Y R O R L Y
 E E N I L L I N O I S
 R I N G E A
 E S L T
 C S L S A N D Y
 S C H U L M E R I C K L
 E O A A P I D
 L R N L E O
 L I M I S S O U R I L
 Y L A C A
 Y B A S S K R I S T I N
 K A T H R Y N

Yes, we know that Schulmerich is spelled with an “H” and not a “K”. But we don’t have any Area VIII states that start with an “H”.



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HOW RINGING HAS IMPACTED MY LIFE

As I looked at the title for my *Quavers* article for this issue many ringing events came to mind where I have been a ringer. I thought about all of various reading workshops, area conferences, Director's Seminars and best of all, Distinctly Bronze where I have had some of the best ringing experiences in my handbell life.

I believe the one thing that has most impacted my life in all of those events are all of the marvelous directors under which I have had the opportunity to ring. Their experience as directors has helped me become a much better ringer, but more importantly, a better director for my own choirs.

Their knowledge of every piece has helped me instill in my ringers a truer understanding of the music and what the composer wants from the choir. Being on the *other side of table* is a learning experience for those of us who are mainly directors. Ringing has helped me understand what members of all of my choirs experience when we are working on any piece of music, new or old.

I urge all choir members to try and attend as many ringing events as possible within their states as they do *make a difference*. Working together as a ringing team helps to make the music become musical; not just so many notes on a page. Gaining insight into all of the various nuances offers ringers the opportunity to create something wonderful for the listening audience. Our goal as choirs is to keep stepping up the ladder as we improve our ringing skills. That is why I love being able to attend Guild events where I can ring and then bring what I have learned back to my choirs.

I can honestly state that all of my choirs have made vast improvements over the past several years from the knowledge that I have gained from being a ringer at Guild events. Seeing them continue to improve because of what I am learning as a ringer has made all of the hard work at rehearsals worthwhile.

Joyce Miller ~ Nebraska State Chair





RESOURCE VIDEO LIBRARY

APPOINTED CHAIRS

- Advanced Solo Ringing and Handbell Techniques.** Demonstration by Erin Downey
- Alive!** Featuring the Echo Handbell Ringers under the direction of Katsumi Kodama.
- Area II Massed Ringing, 1991.** Wayne, NJ. Bill Goff and Dick Frey, organist. Howard Moser and Hart Morris conducting.
- Area VIII Massed Ringing, 1992.** St. Joseph, MO. David Davidson conducting.
- Area VIII Massed Ringing, 1994.** Cedar Rapids, IA. Hart and Marty Morris conducting.
- Bell Basics.** David Weck and Susan Berry walk us through the ringing skill demonstrations. An excellent tape for the beginning ringer or director.
- Bell Lore.** Ellen Jan Lorenz. Historical bell facts. (1986)
- Celebration: The Story of Handbells.** (35 mm film strip with cassette)
- Christine Anderson in Concert.** Solo ringing concert.
- Developing Skills for Solo and Ensemble Ringing.** Jessup and Calkins.
- Facing the Music: Seven minutes that will change the way you think about copyright laws.** Produced by the Church Music Publishers Association. This short video gives clear information about copyright laws in an entertaining format.
- Intro to a Handbell Festival.** Produced by AGEHR, Inc. This video provides a glimpse of what a handbell festival is all about.
- Masteringers Festival, 1988.** Allentown, PA. Filmed by PBS. Massed ringing and solo concerts plus commentary on techniques and history of handbells.
- Music Makes the Difference: Action Kit for Music Education.** National Coalition for Music Education. Complete with booklets and two videos, this kit will assist the music educator with supportive material for the arts in education.
- Ring of Fire.** Videotaped at the United Church of Christ in Claremont, CA. This tape will bring you to their May 2000 concert when they played 12 of their most popular songs.
- Songs for the Solo Ringer.** Instructional with David Weck and Christine Anderson. Video with accompanying music text.
- Songs for the Solo Ringer.** Christine Anderson in concert.
- Sound Advice from Malmark.** Care for your Malmark handbells.
- Tinkling Handbells.** A CBS/Sony, Inc. video production featuring the Echo Handbell Ringers under Katsumi Kodama's direction. Produced in Japan in 1987, this video, visually blended with pictorial settings of European culture and countryside, is a new experience in visual handbell performance.
- Woodson Handbell Choir.** Demonstration of a program for special needs ringers.
- Tempo Setter Videos.** Interviews of prominent handbell folks throughout handbell history.

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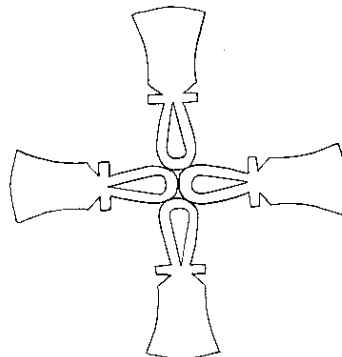
UPCOMING EVENTS

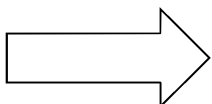
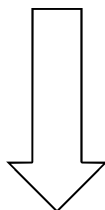
2009	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Jan 9—12	Master Class in Conducting & Composition	Lewisburg, PA	www.agehr.org 800-878-5459
Jan 16—17	Handbells are for Everyone Specifically for people with functional disabilities & aging population	Brookshire, TX	Linda McKechnie 713-932-0280 linda@lindamckechnie.com
Jan 31 9a—4p	Ringer's Workshop Clinician: The Agape Ringers	Gary UMC 224 N Main St Wheaton, IL	Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal www.il-agehr.org
Feb 7 9a—3p	Young Ringers Mini-Festival Clinician: Janet Carter	St. Patrick's Catholic School 15000 Wadsworth Wadsworth, IL	Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal www.il-agehr.org
Feb 12—15	Distinctly Bronze West	Bremerton, WA	www.agehr.org 800-878-5459
Feb 28 9a-3p	Children's Handbells & Chimes Festival Beth Ann Edwards	Lutheran Church of the Resurrection 3500 29th Ave Marion, IA	Carolyn Sternowski www.agehr-ia.org/ coming_events.htm
Mar 7 8:45a—4p	Ring in the Spring 2009 Clinician: Hart & Brad Morris	Church of the Resurrection 13720 Roe Ave Leawood, KS	Gwen Gepford 913-491-6461 http://home.kc.rr.com/ kansasarea8/
Mar 21	Nebraska Handbell Workshop Clinician: Janet Carter	St Mark's UMC 8550 Pioneers Blvd Lincoln, NE	Joyce Miller www.agehr-ne.org
Apr 17—19	Colorado State Festival Clinician: John Hooper, Jubiloso	Keystone, CO	Anne Miller 970-302-1903 AnneMiller_handbells @yahoo.com
Jun 8—16	International Festival of Handbells	Edinburgh, Scotland London, England	Debbie Rice www.harmonyinternational.com/ Festivals.html#Handbells
Jun 18—21	Area VIII Young Ringers Camp	Branson, MO	www.areaviii.org/YR/2009/ 2009YRC.htm
Jul 15—18	National Seminar	Hilton El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort Tucson, AZ	www.agehr.org 800-878-5459



UPCOMING CONCERTS

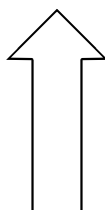
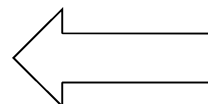
2009	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
2/22 7:00p	The Agape Ringers	St Mark's Lutheran Church 675 N Mulford Rd Rockford, IL	Marti Bein 815.985.6941 www.agaperingers.org
3/1 6:00p	The Agape Ringers	Ascension Lutheran Church 1415 Dopp St Waukesha, WI	Heidi Bischmann 414.305.7812 www.agaperingers.org
4/17 8:00p	Chicago Bronze	South Park Church 1330 S Courtland Park Ridge, IL	Cheryl Ondratschek www.chicagobronze.com COndratschek@gmail.com
4/18	Capital City Ringers of Lansing Chicago Bronze Kalamazoo Ringers	Kalamazoo, MI	Cheryl Ondratschek www.chicagobronze.com COndratschek@gmail.com
4/26 2:30p	Chicago Bronze	Friendship Village of Schaumburg 350 W Schaumburg Rd Schaumburg, IL	Cheryl Ondratschek www.chicagobronze.com COndratschek@gmail.com
4/26 4:00p	Gateway Ringers	1st Presbyterian Church 100 E Adams Ave Kirkwood, MO	Bill Stein 314.965.0326 bstein@kirkwoodpres.org
5/3 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	St John Lutheran Church 215 S Lincoln Lombard, IL	Fred Hoebel 630.975.3733 www.agaperingers.org
5/30	Bells in Motion with The Jane Hartman Trio	Springfield Hilton Rendezvous Room Springfield, IL	Mike Lamb www.bellsinmotion.org
5/31	Bells in Motion with The Jane Hartman Trio	Decatur, IL	Mike Lamb www.bellsinmotion.org
6/28 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	St Mary's Lutheran Church 2001 80th St Kenosha, WI	Linda Schmidt 262.658.3555 www.agaperingers.org





Want to join Area VIII in *Going Green*?
Then email Sandy Denton and ask to be put
on the *Going Green* list.

dentonsandy@ymail.com



AREA VIII

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