



Area 8

HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA

ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA

QUAVERS NEWSLETTER

JULY, 2018

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA



10-Day Panama
Canal Cruise

January 2019



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MISSOURI n/a
NEBRASKA [5](#)
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ELECTED	ELECTED	APPOINTED
CHAIR: Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal 295 Town Center Blvd Gilberts, IL 60136 630.699.3802 TREASURER: Sharon Schmidt 28 Oriole Ct Naperville, IL 60540 630.369.9879 PAST CHAIR: Patrick Gagnon 211 S Victor (P.O. Box 314) Hubbard, IA 50122 641.858.7616	CHAIR-ELECT: Beth Ann Edwards 1810 NW 80th Ct Clive, IA 50325-5610 515.490.9408 SECRETARY: Pat Latshaw 5205 W 83rd Terrace Prairie Village, KS 66207 913.219.3643  Like us on Facebook Visit us on the WEB	COMMUNICATIONS: Laura Kopff QUAVERS: KC Congdon WEBMASTER: Wendi Calkins-Levitt FINANCIAL ADVISOR: Stephen Swanson EDUCATION: Lauran Delancy HISTORIAN: Open RESOURCE LIBRARIAN: Open MEMBERSHIP: Michael Allen

	<u>ILLINOIS</u>	<u>IOWA</u>	<u>KANSAS</u>	<u>MISSOURI</u>	<u>NEBRASKA</u>
Chair	OPEN	<u>Lori Fenton</u> 3213 45th St Des Moines, IA 50310 515.229.6712	<u>Kipp Willnauer</u> 117 W Main St Gardner, KS 66030 913.488.2295	<u>Jeff White</u> 2576 Pioneer Dr St Louis, MO 63129 314.803.6324	<u>Linda Ashley</u> 9107 Meadow Dr Omaha, NE 68114 402.320.5312 402.397.9551 (h)
Treasurer	Open	<u>Mary Lee Parks</u>	<u>Karla Denton</u>	<u>Suanne Comfort</u>	Open
Secretary	<u>Beth McFarland</u>	<u>Donna Sprague</u>	Open	Open	<u>Byron Jensen</u>
Website	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Linda Ashley</u>
Other	<i>Events</i> <u>Sharon Schmidt</u> <i>Registrar</i> <u>Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal</u> <i>Chime Mentor</i> <u>Diane Oster</u> <i>Chime Loan Coordinator</i> <u>Patti Mangis</u> <i>Food Coordinator</i> <u>Anna Piro</u> <i>Central Illinois Rep</i> Open <i>Western Illinois Rep</i> <u>Don Wood</u> <i>Handbell Services Rep</i> <u>Debi Robey</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>Chimes</i> <u>Shirley Myers</u> <i>Chime Chair</i> <u>Anne Miller</u> <i>Membership, St Louis</i> <u>Sherry Boland</u> <i>Christie White</i>	<i>Registrar</i> <u>Deann Nicolaus</u> <i>Chimes Coordinator</i> <u>Nancy Youngman</u> <i>Jessica Kite</i> <u>Mike Allen</u> <i>Joyce Miller</i> <u>Angela Wright</u> <i>Charles Cohen</i>	



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Kipp Willnauer**~ Kansas State Chair**

At our April 2018 concert, we performed *Prayer for Peace* by Michael Helman (AG36023) with the video shots from 9/11. This is a very moving piece for the audience, but often the ringers and director are so wrapped up in creating the best possible musical presentation that we may miss the emotional side affect. I must have watched the slideshow way too often in my preparation, for as the music notes passed by, my heart began to totally melt with every measure and phrase. Oh boy!

Of course, when a choir or person commissions a song, the composer attempts to incorporate as much connection and background as possible. I commissioned Kath Wissinger to compose a song in honor of my father who was an avid fisherman. She hit the spot with *Call of the Water* (RE8005). The song takes my breath away just as I recall this memory. Both are very approachable for L2, L3 and beyond.

Marilyn Lake**Past Area 8 Chair**

This is a toss up between *Grazioso* by Arnold Sherman (RRHB0042) and *Blessed Assurance with Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring* by Cynthia Dobrinski (LSHB90018). Having both rung and directed these pieces numerous times with different handbell choirs, I have found them both musically accessible. What I do for a living is so beautiful.

Both of these tunes have moved me to tears...they struck a *chord* in my heart.

Carol Fleege**Lawrence Community Handbell Director**

I was honored to direct *Meditation on Beautiful Savior* arranged by Cathy Moglebust (CGB175 or CGB763) for the funeral of Madeline Woodland, who was my mentor when I was first learning about handbells. I do not think there was a dry eye in the sanctuary after this piece was performed.

Madeline was so loved in our community that when we asked for ringers to participate in the service, I remember we had enough volunteers for three, 5-octave choirs. But we were limited by the available space for one choir in the sanctuary.

I am always telling my ringers, "This is the piece I want played at my own funeral one day."



Lori Fenton**~ Iowa State Chair**

I hope for all of us the act of playing bells brings us a great amount of happiness (most of the time, anyway). But the emotion that the music itself can elicit in us, and those who hear it, is just as important, if not more so. Those emotions can range from joy and gladness to reflective thought to sadness. It may not always just be the music itself but the story behind the music, the setting for which it's rung or the lyrics associated with the song.

My three personal examples are:

It is Well with My Soul, arranged by Cathy Moglebust (AP20206).

There are multiple reasons that this piece gets to me. First, this piece was commissioned in memory of 21 of the 230 lives lost on board TWA flight 800 in July of 1996. Second, the story behind the words of this hymn is heart-breaking, but at the same time exemplifies the strength our faith can have even in times of extreme grief. Third, Cathy's arrangement incorporates a violin solo, an instrument I played for much of my youth. The violin adds an element of haunting beauty.

Epilogue by Donald E. Allured (AG58001). This was The Don's *swan song*, commissioned for the Bay View Week of Handbells in 2007. I'm sure he knew it (thus the title) and those of us who rang it under him knew it. We always did a couple of dress rehearsals the day of the concert in order to get as many clean recordings as

we could. Don would settle for nothing less than perfection so I think we recorded that piece probably five or six times. And it's a **long** piece. But we all knew we were part of something we would never be part of again so no one complained.

The Stars Await written by Ron Mallory (AG47003). This was the winner of the 2010 David R. Davidson Composition contest. It was dedicated to the memory of David Davidson who had passed in 2009. David had directed Distinctly Bronze for a number of years, and while his passing was not unexpected, it was still difficult to have the event without him the first time in 2009. Then we were presented with a personalized copy of this piece in 2010 at Distinctly Bronze. You can't imagine a more emotional group of ringers.

Sometimes we get too wrapped up in the mechanics of learning a piece to recognize the heart of it. If you're a director introducing a new piece to your choir, have them listen to a recording of the piece before playing it and ask them how it makes them feel. You may want to avoid giving them any background on the piece ahead of time so as not to sway their feelings. Have them keep this emotion in mind as they are learning the piece as this is what they need to try to convey to, and illicit in, their listeners. If they can touch one listener with their music they will have truly learned why we do what we do.

Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal**~ Area 8 Chair**

It's July! And that means our 2018 Area 8 Festival Bring It! Ring It! has ended. So many of you joined us in Omaha to reconnect with old handbell friends and make lots of new ones. Did you miss it this year? We'll give you a recap of highlights in the next edition of *Quavers*. Don't want to miss it again? Stay tuned for more information as we start to plan the next biennial festival for June 2020.

Our Festival is a very important event for our Area, as is the upcoming Board elections. Be sure to check out the candidate bios in this issue and remember to vote online this August. All members will receive an email with more info on how to do just that. We need your help in selecting a dynamic board that will help us plan events throughout the Area and promote our art of handbell ringing.

Now, I know I said we would recap Festival next issue, but since this edition of *Quavers* focuses on handbell pieces that have touched us emotionally, my most recent experience is from just that. I was beyond proud of all our musicians who opened the concert with *Festal Dance*—Timothy Waugh (CGB520) and closed it with *Bound for South Australia* arr. Alex Guebert (unpub), under the direction of Tim Waugh and Barbara Meinke respectively. The vivacity and musicality from the handbell musicians in the room left me energized and speechless, and of course, wanting more!

Linda Ashley**~ Nebraska State Chair**

As you read this, many of you are still relatively fresh from the Area 8 Festival in Omaha. We are so glad that you *Brang It and Rang It*.

One of the reasons we play this instrument is to share something with our audience and hope that we stir some emotion in them.

One of my most memorable emotional experiences was when I attended the National Seminar in Tucson in 2009. Desert Bells gave a concert that included two numbers that were performed with the Tucson Symphony. The first was Arnold Sherman's *Grazioso* with orchestral accompaniment. The other was Dr. William Payn's *Heart Melodies*. The performance of these two numbers literally left me speechless. I could not form words to express how deeply this music touched me.

The most emotional piece I think I have performed most recently was the premier of a new composition by Cathy Moglebust, *Let Everything that Breathes Praise the Lord*. This was a piece commissioned by the River City Ringers to honor Joyce Miller for her 30 years with the River City Ringers and 45 years of involvement in the art of handbell instruction and performance. I believe it touched many in the audience as well.

Always strive to touch someone with your musical gift.

Happy Ringing!

AREA 8 CANDIDATES

CHAIR-ELECT



BURNELL L. HACKMAN

currently serves as Director of Music Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. He previously served as Director of Music Ministry at

St. John's Lutheran Church in Arnold, Missouri. At Peace he directs a multi-faceted music program which consists of a chancel choir, chamber orchestra, handbell ensembles, children's vocal and handbell choirs and "Concerts at Peace", a highly successful concert series bringing local and nationally known musicians to perform at Peace. He also directs the St. Louis Archdiocesan Handbell Choir.

Prior to coming to the St. Louis area, he was involved in music ministry at several Jacksonville, Illinois churches, serving as organist, vocal choir and handbell choir director. Burnell was a public school music teacher before entering music ministry full-time.

His handbell ensembles have provided worship leadership on six occasions for Handbell Musicians of America Area 8 conferences and had the honor of leading a worship service for the AGEHR National Directors Seminar at the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France (the

Old Cathedral) in 1995. He served Area 8 as treasurer from 1992-1996 and Chair from 2002-2004. He was awarded the Outstanding Service Award from Area 8 in 2000.

Hackman is a member of the American Guild of Organists and serves as Dean of the St. Louis Chapter, Association of Lutheran Musicians, Handbell Musicians of America, and Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis.



SHARON

SCHMIDT's active involvement with Handbell Musicians of America began in 1994 when she joined the Illinois State Committee. She's still on that committee, having

served several terms as chair and treasurer.

At the national level, Sharon was faculty coordinator for the 2003 National Seminar, chair for Distinctly Bronze events from 2004-2013, co-chair for the 2007 Distinctly Bronze European Tour, served on the 2008 International Handbell Symposium Committee, and was recently appointed as national Certification Program Coordinator. In 2013, she received the President's Award in appreciation of her service to the Guild.

After learning to ring in the 1970s, Sharon began directing at Gary UMC in Wheaton, Illinois, in 1985, where she

continues to direct Altar Bells and Sanctuary Ringers. A current and charter member of The Agape Ringers, a Chicago-area community handbell ensemble formed in 1992, Sharon was its first president. She has taught many aspects of the art of handbell ringing at the state, area, and national levels since 1995.

Educated as a chemical engineer with BS & MS degrees, Sharon worked at the Amoco Research Center as research engineer, economics analyst, supervisor, and project manager. Since leaving in 1999, she's studied music theory and accounting, and exercised her project management skills on Guild events and church projects in addition to operating a small business serving the handbell community.

TREASURER/REGISTRAR



LORI FENTON

started ringing handbells 35 years ago. She currently rings at Plymouth Congregational Church in Des Moines as well as with the Des Moines Concert Handbells. In true bell-addict

fashion, she has participated in several ringing events over the past 15+ years including the Bay View Week of Handbells, Distinctly Bronze East and West and twice with Virtuoso, an advanced ringing event sponsored by the Raleigh Ringers. She toured in Italy with Desert Bells and

attended the Vancouver International Symposium in 2016.

Lori is also a vocalist and sings with the Plymouth Choir and Chorale, the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble and the St. Paul's Episcopal Howell's Scholars. Lori is currently serving as the Vice President for the Des Moines Concert Handbells and previously served as Treasurer and President for the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble. She co-chaired her company's United Way campaign for two years.

Her day job is as a Finance AVP with Global Atlantic Life & Annuity in Des Moines. In addition to handbells, she is addicted to Disney, wine, and cats, currently sharing her home with five of them.



JOYCE

MILLER has been active in handbells for over 30 years. She currently directs the River City Ringers Community

Choir and the St. Wenceslaus Youth Choir. She was the chair of the Hartford National Directors Seminar and serves on the Nebraska State committee of the Handbell Musicians of America. She is a Distinctly Bronze and Classic Bronze ringer. She has traveled to Italy, France, England, Scotland and Switzerland for handbell tours. She currently is the handbell director at Concordia Junior/Senior High School, Music teacher for the

Montessori Co-op School and is a private piano teacher.

SECRETARY



PATRICIA LATSHAW, a ringer since 1986, enjoys performing small ensemble and solo handbell music. She studied flute at the University of Kansas while earning a BA in German. Pat is the handbell

director at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Prairie Village, Kansas, and has served as clinician and instructor at regional handbell workshops. She is a ringer member of Rezound! Handbell Ensemble in Kansas City, serving the group as Publicity Director.



EMILY DALTHORP's ringing adventure began 20 years ago when she joined her church's youth bell choir, and she has been actively involved with ringing and church music ever since. She

currently rings with the handbell choir of Memorial Lutheran Church in Nevada, Iowa, and enjoys participating in small ensembles, bell trees, and solo ringing. Emily assists with the direction of the kids and youth handbell choirs and loves watching new ringers get excited about

bells! She also serves as one of Memorial Lutheran's accompanists for worship services, as well as choir accompanist.

Emily has a BS in Journalism and Mass Communication from Iowa State University, with an emphasis in Visual Communication. She currently works as Publications & Content Manager for a nonprofit organization in the water certification industry, where she writes and designs print and digital marketing materials for campaigns and events.



Upcoming Events

2018	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Jul 8-12	Handbell Camp	Heartland Center Parkville, MO	Janet Carter
Jul 14-17	Master Class in Conducting & Composition	Grand Rapids, MI	National
Jul 17-21	National Seminar Various	Grand Rapids, MI	National
Jul 19-21	Distinctly Teen	Grand Rapids, MI	National
Aug 18	2018 Reading Session	Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Ladue, MO	HAGSTL
Sep 22	Autumn Leaves & Handbells Please!	Southminster Presbyterian Prairie Village, KS	Heartland
Oct 4-7	Distinctly Bronze East Lee Afdahl	New Bern, NC	National
Oct 20	14th Annual Handchime Festival	Knox Presbyterian 9595 W 95th St Overland Park, KS	Heartland
Oct 20	Show-Me Ring Rezound! Handbell Ensemble	1st UMC Blue Springs, MO	Rezound!
2019	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
1/6-8	College Ring-In Carolynne Mathis	Minneapolis, MN	Coming soon
1/6-16	Panama Cruise XV	Aruba, Bahamas, Costa Rica, Panama	BOC
2/28-3/3	Distinctly Bronze West Bill Payn	Welches, OR	Coming soon
7/16-20	National Seminar	St Louis, MO	Coming soon
10/10-13	Distinctly Bronze East Stephanie Rhoades	New Bern, NC	Coming soon