



QUAVERS

AREA VIII: ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA
MARCH, 2005

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR

In this issue of *Quavers* you will find "Handbell Helps" from our State chairs. Be sure to read each State's report and hopefully you will find many tips from other directors that will help you in your quest for excellence and musical quality.

We are trying to not only bring you news of upcoming events but also helpful information to make your job as handbell director or ringer easier and more effective.

Let us know how you like our new "look" for *Quavers* and if the information has been beneficial to you. Got a subject you would like us to cover? Send your ideas to the *Quaver's* editor at kcdc@owc.net.

We have finally had a touch of winter in the Ozarks with a light dusting of snow and colder temperatures. The colder temperatures make it a little easier to stay inside, sit at the desk and get work done. It is also a great time for planning the year's events for our handbell choirs.

I urge you to plan to attend our upcoming Young Ringers Conference this summer, June 20-24, at Windermere Conference Center in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. We were able to keep our prices the same as two years ago which is a wonderful feat! The prices include all meals, lodging with maid service, music and gloves. The registrants from the first Young Ringer's Conference can testify to the great food and fabulous fun that was had by all. Windermere is a great place to have the youth for a conference. Take a few minutes and check their website, www.WindermereUSA.org, to see the beautiful facilities, the lake to play in, the cave to explore, the Olympic-size swimming pool where we will have our own private party, the lodging, hiking trails, chapel, and the many forms of leisure-time activities available. It all adds up to FUN. Not only does it provide wonderful times, but your ringers will realize musical growth, increase bell knowledge and skill levels, and master new challenges. If you hurry you will still be able to take advantage of the early bird special rates. Hope to see you at Windermere this summer.

Marilyn Droke ~ Area VIII Chair

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ILLINOIS

HANDBELL HELPS

Many of us as bell directors have been recruited because of our dedication to the music department of the church. We have rung in the choir and can read music, so surely, we must be able to direct a bell choir! But if you are new to the conducting field, where can you go for help? Here are some places and items that are great resources:

1. *Overtones* has great helps on new and old items. The column, *Ask Marta* is extremely helpful—even if it only makes you feel that you are NOT the only one dealing with certain issues.
2. Contact your Director of Music and ask him/her to give you any articles about handbells that show up in the choral catalogs. I saw one in *Choristers Guild* just the other day.
3. Keep your State Rep on your speed dial or *instant messenger* to get quick and easy answers.
4. Attend National (www.agehr.org), Area (www.areaviii.org) and State (www.il-agehr.org) conferences. Besides valuable hands on training, networking offers the support that we all need as bell directors.
5. www.handbellworld.com is one stop shopping. Batons, music recordings, educational materials, equipment—even shoes! Who knew bell ringing would become a sport?
6. www.handbellservices.com is a great gift shop of bell related items.
7. Handbell-L isn't just a chat room, it sometimes has some very good suggests as well.
8. Attend concerts of professional choirs.
9. Sit in on a choir rehearsal of a bell director that you respect. You can learn what might work for you choir as well as what might not work for you choir.

KC ~ Illinois State Chair

One particularly helpful option I've used a lot lately is to trade workshop or rehearsal time with directors of other groups. Because each group and each director has certain unique strengths, having them exchange time with each other allows us to grow and learn new ways of doing things and concentrate on other areas we aren't as good at.

Another very important resource we've used is to bring in clinicians to work privately with our group. While we do this with more advanced directors, it can be done at any level. And certainly the pricing will vary based on the experience level of the director being brought in. But having a private session with a talented clinician is an experience that overall is less expensive and much more productive than in a massed ringing setting. It is also shorter and much more concentrated on specific areas. Plus, we generally find that more people can participate since no travel is involved for the ringers.

Michael Lamb ~ Bells in Motion



IOWA

IOWA STATE COMMITTEE

There are two handbell web sites that I really use on a regular basis: www.agehr.org and wwwhandbellworld.com. The first enables me to find links on everything handbells, including handbell choirs' personal websites. The second I use when I'm looking for new music. It has a link to "Music Selection Assistant" where I can plug every criteria that I'm looking for in a piece of music. As far as finding solutions? I go e-mail or talk to other Area VIII and State Officers, my own committee members, as well as other handbell directors.

I polled our own Iowa committee for suggestions of helpful resources and this is what I received regarding handbells in an educational setting:

Meeting the National Standards with Handbells and Handchimes, McBride/Baldwin, Scarecrow Press

Ringin' Right! From the Beginning, Moore, AGEHR

Handchimes in General Music: A Curriculum Guide Grades 1-3 & Grades 4-6, Avery/Van Valey, AGEHR

Chime Magic, Miller, Linda, Jeffers

Teaching Young Ringers, Mathis, Carolynne, AGEHR

Musical Elements: A Classroom Method, Liske, Kenneth L., AGEHR

Chris Peck ~ Iowa State Chair

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APOLOGIES

In the last issue, I inadvertently left Faith UMC off of our list of 20+ years of AGEHR membership. CONGRATULATIONS.



HELP WANTED

Iowa is still looking for individuals to fill the positions of:

Treasurer

Chimes Coordinator

Western Rep



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KANSAS

Helpful Hints for Handbell Hogs

When asked to put together a list of helpful websites, you must know that mine are flavored by my interest in music education, and flat-out weird humor! Enjoy!

- home.kc.rr.com/kansasarea8
- www.musick8.com/boomwhackers
- www.jjonline.com/microSites/ringing/riddles.php
- www.angelfire.com/nb2/musicresources/index.html
- www.pbskids.org/zoom/activities/games/thecupgame.html

Marilyn Lake ~ Kansas State Chair

OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in starting a handchime program? Contact Kipp Willnauer at willnauk@hotmail.com. He's your man! He works with over 60 kids each day for an elective chimes class.



BELLS FOR SALE

3 oct Schulmerich bells
3 oct Chimes
Tables & Foam available

Contact:
Betsy Bower
102 E Lincoln
Normal, IL
(309) 452.6839

WANT TO SPREAD THE WORD?

Then send your info to:

Website: Burnell Hackman burnell@bhackman.com
Quavers Editor: Kim Congdon kcdc@owc.net

Kansas Spring Ring

Saturday, April 9, 2005

First United Methodist Church

612 Poyntz Avenue – Manhattan, KS

(3 blocks west of Town Center Mall) Manhattan is about 10 miles
North of I-70 on K-177. The exit number 313 off I-70.

Judy Scharmann, Host

9am – 3pm

Janet Carter, Clinician

Music selections:

Massed Repertoire ~ National Festival Conference

Aria for Handbells – Dale Wood – AGEHR AG34005

How Firm a Foundation/Simple Gifts Medley – arr. Susan Nelson – Agape 2183

Prayer for Humanity – Linda Lamb – Agape 2292

This Is My Father's World – arr. D. Linda McKechnie –
Flammer/Shawnee Press HP 5165

Music will be available for purchase, including music from sight-reading packets.

Cost: \$15 per ringer – includes lunch!

Checks payable to Kansas AGEHR Area 8.

Mail registrations to Marilyn Lake, 142 Terrace Trail South, Lake Quivira, KS 66217

Directors' Workshop

~ OR ~

Barefoot Bell Ringing on the Beach

BYOT*

Saturday, June 4, 2005

Lake Quivira Country Club & Beach

(Located just 1 mile east of 435 on Holliday Drive – on the Kansas side!)

\$15 per Director (includes Box Lunch)

Sight Reading for ALL levels

Music packets will be provided by WJ Music - a division of JW Pepper, and will be available for purchase following the workshop.

Clinicians: SuAnn Comfort, Kathy Ford,
Sarah Washington & Kipp Willnauer

9am—Registration—coffee included!
10am—Rehearse
12 noon—Lunch on Lake Quivira Patio
1pm—Rehearse
3:30pm—Dress (!) Rehearsal
5pm—Bells on the Beach concert

Marilyn Lake
Kansas Ringing Team
913.962.4005
LQRngLdr@kc.rr.com
*Bring Your Own Thongs

**Registration Form
Kansas AGEHR Area 8**

Church Name:

Director's Name:

Address:

Phone and E-mail:

For Spring Ring, Saturday, April 9, 2005

_____ # of ringers at \$15 each (includes lunch!)

_____ feet of table space needed

_____ feet of tables needed to rent at \$1 per foot

For Directors' Workshop, Saturday, June 4, 2005

_____ # of director's at \$15 each (includes lunch!)

Checks payable to: Kansas AGEHR Area 8

Mail to: Marilyn Lake

142 Terrace Trail South, Lake Quivira, KS 66217

Questions? Marilyn Lake, 913.962.4005 or LQRngLdr@kc.rr.com



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MISSOURI

So our topic in this issue is *HANDBELL HELPS*. I can certainly say that I've needed help many times over the years.

When I joined AGEHR in 1988, I was a new and inexperienced handbell director. I had actually only played handbells one time before becoming a director. My subscription to *Overtones* brings me timely topics discussed by the best in our field. I also get music reviews, a list of resource material available through the Guild, and, yes, even the advertisements are helpful. Each month the magazine provides me with an updated list of Area and National officers. Anytime I have asked a question of these representatives, they have either given me an answer or suggested someone who could answer my question.

Attending Area and National festivals and conferences is another tremendous resource. Meeting and talking with other directors always encourages me. I have discovered that the challenges I face are not unique, there's someone else who has been down this road before me. One of the great things about the handbell community is that many of our composers and arrangers attend these festivals and conferences. They have always been gracious to me and taken the time to share their insights and experiences whether discussing a specific piece of music, touring with teenagers, or fundraising.

One of the best things that helped my growth as a director was the opportunity I had to ring with a community handbell choir for five years. I pushed me out of the comfort zone of my own church and gave me a rich experience of a variety of music and performances that I would not otherwise have.

Serving on an organizing committee of a local handbell festival is a great way to meet local directors. Working with my colleagues to select music and clinicians introduced me to a lot of things that I might not have thought about adding to my group's repertoire.

I also value my relationships with my non-handbell musician friends. They help me hear the music, not just the bells. A jazz pianist and composer friend of mine has done a couple of arrangements for one of my ensembles. He has never played handbells, yet his arrangements have worked quite well for us.

Lastly, never discount the value of a little creative experimentation. After all, that's how we got some of those elements that are now considered standard handbell technique.

Kathy Harrison ~ Missouri State Chair

Missouri Chime Loan Available

The chimes are now available for loan. They can be used for a unit in the Spring semester or for a summer Vacation Bible School or music camp. Getting your request in promptly for the fall semester would be highly recommended. Contact:

Ed Rollins at rollins@fbc-columbia.org.



NEBRASKA

At our annual meeting back in September, we were asked to share some of our favorite *HANDBELL HELPS*. The places I have received the most help and learned the most have been at state, area and national conferences. The instructors and clinicians are always excellent and I have picked up many new ideas or techniques to pass on to my choirs. Be sure you take advantage of these opportunities.

There are many handbell websites and handbell businesses to help us make our programs better and our jobs easier. I'd like to share just a few of those websites with you.

Jeffers Handbell Supply has information from printed music, CD's and videos, equipment and supplies, director's aids, gifts and novelties, music education, chime information, bell maintenance, events and articles. And, any time I have called and needed assistance, the people on the other end of the phone have been very pleasant and helpful. Their website is www.handbellworld.com.

Another company I have found helpful is the Ultimate Ring Binder. If you're looking for the demo tape that you know you have that's in one of those boxes, URB will give you the year and volume number of the tape or CD. They also offer a program for organizing your music library and your rehearsals. Their website is www.ultimateringbinder.com.

Of course everyone needs to be acquainted with the National website of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers: www.agehr.org; the Area website: www.areaviii.org; and, of course, the State website: www.agehr-ne.org.

If you're looking for "fun stuff" then you'll want to check out Handbell Services. They have a wealth of handbell gift items. Their website is www.handbellservices.com.

I hope you enjoy exploring the websites and I hope to see lots of you at the Nebraska State Spring Ring in April.

Natalie Radcliffe ~ Nebraska State Chair

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DON'T MISS THIS LOCAL OPPORTUNITY!

Directors' Session April 8, 2005 7:00p—9:00p.

Spring Ring April 9, 2005 from 8:30a—4:00p.

St. Mark's UMC in Lincoln, NE with clinician TAMMY WALDROP

Natalie at 308.236.9815 or natalie_radcliffe@hotmail.com



AGEHR SPONSORED EVENTS

2005	EVENT	CLINICIAN	LOCATION
Apr 8 PM	Directors' Session	Tammy Waldrop	St Mark's UMC 8550 Pioneer Blvd Lincoln, NE
Apr 9 All Day	Nebraska Spring Ring		Natalie Radcliffe 308.236.9815 Natalie_radcliffe@hotmail.com
Apr 9	Kansas Spring Ring	Janet Carter	1st UMC Manhattan, KS Marilyn Lake 913-962-4005 Lqrngldr@kc.rr.com
Apr 16 5:30p Concert	Iowa Spring Ring	Kipp Willnauer	Faith UMC 2255 Georgia Ave Humboldt, IA Chris Peck 712.623.4096 iowabells@hotmail.com
Apr 23 5:00p Concert	Illinois Spring Ring	Bradley Morris	College of Lake Cty 19351 W Washington St Grayslake, IL Kim Congdon 630.665.8825 kcdc@owc.net
Jun 4	Directors' Workshop		Kansas City Area Marilyn Lake 913-962-4005 Lqrngldr@kc.rr.com
Jun 17—19	National AGEHR Conference	Susan Berry Tim Waugh Michael Helman	Southwest MO State Univ University Plaza Hotel Conv Ctr 901 S National Ave Springfield, MO www.agehr.org
Jun 20—24	Area VIII Young Ringers Conference	Various	Windermere Baptist Conf 205 Volunteer Dr Roach, MO (Lake of the Ozarks) Marilyn Droke 417.334.6411 www.areaviii.org
Jul 11—16	Intergenerational Handbell Camp 15th Anniversary	Various	Heartland Pres Conf 16965 NW 45 Hwy Parkville, MO Kipp Willnauer 913.856.2932 Willnauk@hotmail.com



AGEHR SPONSORED EVENTS

2005	EVENT	CLINICIAN	LOCATION
Jul 20—23	National Directors' Seminar	Various	Intercontinental hotel 15201 Dallas Parkway Dallas, TX Www.agehr.org
Oct 22	Reading Session		Clinton, IA Chris Pike lowabells@hotmail.com

UPCOMING CONCERTS

2005	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Feb 27 4:00p	Agape Ringers	Grace Lutheran 200 N Catherine Ave LaGrange, IL	Kurt Amolsch 708.352.0730 www.agaperingers.org
Mar 6 4:00p	Agape Ringers	St Matthew UCC 1420 S Gables Wheaton, IL	Kim Congdon 630.665.8825 Kc@stmatthew-ucc.org
Apr 10 4:00p	Agape Ringers	Glenview Community 1000 Elm St Glenview, IL	Marcia Van Oyen 847.724.2210 www.agaperingers.org
Apr 17 4:00p	Agape Ringers	St Peter Lutheran 111 W Olive St Arlington Hts, IL	Jean Mau 847.259.4114 www.agaperingers.org
Jun 5 4:00p	Bells in Motion	1 st Presbyterian 321 S. 7 th St Springfield, IL	Mike Lamb 217.899.2128 www.bellsinmotion.org
Apr 24	Missouri Spring Ring	Raytown Christian 6108 Blue Ridge Blvd Raytown, MO	SuAnne Comfort 816.358.0292 Suecomfort@kc.rr.com
Jun 13-25	Bells in Motion European Tour	Rome, Florence, Venice, Como, Italy, Luzern, Switzerland	Mike Lamb 217.899.2128 www.bellsinmotion.org



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Redeemer Lutheran
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