



QUAVERS

AREA VIII: ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA
MAR, 2011

Handbell Musicians of America

In the last *Quavers*, I challenged you to make a New Years resolution to change the way you do handbells...to try something new to keep your level of interest fresh and exciting. And I heard back from several of you who were attempting new ideas this year – a new rehearsal idea, a new performance concept, a new worship strategy, a new way to deal with ringers.

You may have discovered in your reading or in your surfing of the web that the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers is looking to the future in a fresh and exciting manner. The guild is making a New Year's resolution to change...to move forward in new directions designed to help strengthen, grow and engage new ringers. AGEHR is rebranding itself, and as you may have noticed in the *Overtones* or on the web, they are transitioning to a new moniker, "Handbell Musicians of America." This particular name was selected by the AGEHR Board of Directors and area leadership to represent us into the future. A new logo has also been designed and you will be seeing it on newsletters, websites and promotional materials.

It is a major change that will take the entire year to complete. The official final switch over is scheduled for October 1, 2011, but for now, the old logo will be accompanied by the new logo – websites are being scrubbed and converted – old stationery will be used and newly designed – events will have a new name, "The Handbell Musicians of America Area VIII Festival Conference, an AGEHR event." Our area has already started the move and we wanted you to know that it was in the works. It's new. It's fresh. It appeals to new people. It indicates that we continue to move forward as an organization. It will be a challenge to change, but it is a new year, and new years are full of challenges. So here's to all of you Handbell Musicians of America!! Let's ring in a new chapter of our future together.

Take a peak also at the following logos, one old and one new. Pretty cool, I think.

Ed Rollins, Area VIII Chair



ELECTED OFFICERS

Chair

Ed Rollins

c/o 1st Baptist Church
1112 E Broadway
Columbia, MO 65203
rollins@bgc-columbia.org

Chair-Elect

Dolan Bayless

c/o Kirkwood UMC
201 W Adams
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314.966.8167 (w)
DolanBayless@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Karen Cadmus

6728 N Parkwood Dr
Peoria, IL 61614
309.691.4203
KCadmus@juno.com

Treasurer

Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal

295 Town Center Blvd
Gilberts, IL 60136
630.699.3802
Kristin880@gmail.com

Past Chair

Marilyn Lake

142 Terrace Trail S
Lake Quivira, KS 66217
913.302.1010
bolake@smsd.org
LQRngLdr@kc.rr.com



Allaman Covered Bridge, IL

Chair**Sharon Schmidt**

28 Oriole Ct
 Naperville, IL 60540
 630-369-9879
 Chair@il-agehr.org

Treasurer**Debbie Perisho**

Treasurer@il-agehr.org

Registrar**Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal**

Registrar@il-agehr.org

Librarian**Beth McFarland**

Librarian@il-agehr.org

Chimes Mentor**Diane Oster**

HandchimeMentor@
 il-agehr.org

Chimes Coordinator**Angela Chase**

ChimeLoan@il-agehr.org

Membership Chair**Fred Snyder**

MembershipChair@
 il-agehr.org

Food**Anna Pugsley**

FoodCoordinator@il-agehr.org

College Liaison**Ben Hafner**

StudentLiaison@il-agehr.org

Handbell Services**Debi Robey**

HandbellServices
 @il-agehr.org

Webmaster**Gary Dietschweiler**

garydgss@hotmail.com

Attitude vs Behavior

I asked my adult ensemble to list helpful and not helpful attitudes for ringers, which led to confusion about the difference between attitude and behavior. Google to the rescue! Basically, an attitude is how you feel, and a behavior is how you act. We're happiest and most harmonious when our actions are consistent with our feelings. The list turned out to be a combination of attitudes and behaviors, and, as you might expect, some items on the helpful list are the flip side of the not helpful. The list for ringers, from ringers:

Helpful	Not Helpful
A determination to get your part right	Having to have a "major" part or be the star
Promptness	Not being prompt
A good sense of humor	Too much talking/socializing/joking around
Cooperative, as part of an ensemble	Losing sight of the goal of the group
Cheerful, playing your part no matter how challenging or not challenging it is	Not being able to read/judge your director's mood
Adjusting to be in accord with your neighbor	Not paying attention
A willingness to help other less-gifted players	Trying to do the director's job
Looking for a cognitive (mental) challenge	
Friendliness, obviously!	

If you're a ringer, which side of the list do you see yourself on? What does your director see?

One ringer also sent me a list for directors. On the **helpful** list: a good sense of humor; not settling for less than the best; patience; the ability to improvise and to make ringing enjoyable, worthwhile and challenging; and remembering there is a social aspect to ringing. The **not helpful** list: being too serious; too much scolding; not praising accomplishments; and settling for less than their best.

If you're a director, which side of the list do you see yourself on? What do your ringers see?

I'm writing this on my way home from the AGEHR Conducting Master Class, where we were video recorded. Nearly all of us strongly dislike being captured that way, but recording your rehearsals from both the ringer's and conductor's viewpoints might be illuminating. As you view the behaviors, consider what attitudes might be in the background, and how they contribute or detract from your group's goals. Changing attitudes might be difficult, but, as we talked about last issue, change is good for ringers (and directors)!

Sharon Schmidt ~ Illinois State Chair



Hallowell Covered Bridge, IA

*Chair***Patrick Gagnon**

211 S Victor
 P.O. Box 314
 Hubbard, IA 50122
 641.373.2972
 pga1820@gmail.com

*Treasurer***Mary Lee Parks**

marylee@future-systmes.net

*Secretary***Laurie Stock**

laurelstock1@aol.com

*Historian***Tina Gehrke**

elwoodgehrke@hotmail.com

*Chimes***Aaron Hansen**

Aaron.hansen@wsr.k12.ia.us

*Eastern Rep***Terri Hodge**

phlute1@mchsi.com

*Western Rep***Patrick Gagnon**

pga1820@aol.com

*Webmaster***Bob Sternowski**

Bobs@softronicsltd.com

Accountability

Accountability can be defined as "the state of being accountable, liable, or answerable." Further, it can be said that accountability has something to do with being able to justify yourself and your actions. Even further, it can be said that accountability has to do with accepting responsibility. All of the choices we make as handbell musicians are ultimately things for which we will be held accountable.

As a ringer, I am accountable to my fellow musicians and to my director by joining a group, attending each rehearsal, practicing, learning to maintain my bells, and being a wonderful colleague to the members of my choir. I need to take my director's and my fellow ringers' suggestions, and put them into action. My mind moves my arms, which ring my bells, which make me part of the whole, which plays its role in transference: from the composer, through the musician, to the listener.

As a director, I am accountable to my ensemble by being prepared for rehearsal with a clear plan, a clear mind, a strong work ethic, a comprehensive knowledge of the instrument, and an expectation that I will encourage my ringers and enjoy what I am doing. I am accountable to the listeners in my congregation, my classroom, and my audience, all of whom expect a great musical product. I'm also accountable to myself, as I'm the one who knows each ringer, where they started, and how far they have come.

As a guild board member, I am accountable to the membership for supplying member benefits such as guild events, mentoring, and enhanced communication. If my members feel disconnected, it falls to me to connect them. If my members feel that their member benefits are not worth the cost of joining, it falls to me to make those benefits attractive and worthwhile. If my members fall away from membership, it falls to me to bring them back to the guild, back into the fold, back to our collective future in this transformative organization.

As a guild member, I am accountable for taking full advantage of my member benefits. Without my participation I cannot learn what the teachers have to teach, cannot be a part of the music making, and cannot be a part of the "fellowship of the ring-ers." Together we stand on a foundation built brick-by-brick by our predecessors who put out, set out, and joined up! I am accountable to all those who have come before to organize, educate, and join together those handbell musicians in America.

Finally, **as a customer,** I am accountable to the composers and arrangers who are constantly creating new music for handbells! I am accountable for the purchase of sufficient copies of each piece I play. Moreover, I am accountable to the *law* on this matter, as copying it is not only wrong, but it is illegal! Luckily, if I follow through on my responsibilities as a member of The Guild, I will probably attend an event where a class is being taught on copyright law.

I don't take any of these aspects of my *handbell accountability* lightly as each is important. Perhaps I have missed something here that you would like to add. Help me as a board member! Send me a message at PGa1820@gmail.com, and let me know how I can help you maintain accountability as a Handbell Musician of America.

Patrick Gagnon ~ Iowa State Chair



Kansas Covered Bridge

Leadership

Chair

Cherryl Cox
8906 Ryan Circle
Wichita, KS 67205
316.729.9728
CherrylCox@gmail.com

Past Chair

Kathy Leonard
Kleonard
@fumcmnhattan.com

Treasurer

Karen Blakeslee
Kblakesl@oznet.ksu.edu

Secretary

Open

Chimes

Shirley Myers
mymusicmakers@
hotmail.com

Workshop

Brenda Heard
Brenda@ehumc.org

Webmaster

Wendi Calkins-Levitt
WendiL@
CalkinsElectric.com

I hope I haven't already lost you. I've always thought one doesn't have to lead in order to join or play in a handbell choir. For most handbell choirs, the leader is usually the director, but your choir doesn't have to be that way. Leadership can come in many forms. One person may run the rehearsal, but others can demonstrate leadership by arriving early to put out bells, organize music or remind the ringer next to them to play on count 3. These people may not feel like leaders, however without them, practice doesn't run as smoothly.

Most choirs that have a regular schedule in place usually have leaders. If your choir rehearses and performs on a regular basis but doesn't attend workshops, host other choirs, or do something to reach beyond your choir, then is your leadership working? Only you and your choir can answer that question, but have you thought about the leadership? I believe if you do the same activity over and over again without sharing it with others, your skills will not improve. Sharing your music with others takes planning, time and leadership, and directors aren't always the ones with those skills. If your group hasn't ventured out to a nursing home or held a workshop, it could be because your director doesn't have the time to plan an event and needs a temporary leader to serve as planner.

If you want to take on more leadership in your choir, start small with a concert at a nursing home. Find a facility to which someone in your choir has a personal connection; that way, the concert will be more meaningful for your choir. Before you get too far into planning the event, contact the facility to make sure they allow outside groups, what their schedule is, and any rules they may have. Once you have set up a couple of concerts outside your comfort zone, expand your planning to a possible next step – a workshop.

Planning a workshop doesn't have to be scary. Start your research with your state and area websites (www.agehr-ks.org or www.areaviii.org). We are here to help you get your event sponsored or endorsed by AGEHR. Having your event sponsored or endorsed will afford you some advertising that you wouldn't have on your own. Inviting vendors will add a great deal to your event without any headache for you. Vendors, like HIC (Handbell Industry Council) members are listed on the AGEHR website at <http://www.agehr.org/handbellNetwork/BGlist.asp> and range from large music publishers to small, one and two person businesses. All HIC members are responsible for their own business entity (sales tax, etc.). If you ask one to be at your event, they will show up, set up, take payments, visit with your ringers, and do what they love to do: sell, sell, sell. Don't be afraid to contact a vendor with questions.

As I hope you can see, being a leader in a handbell choir doesn't require you to be a director or even the best musician. Leadership in a choir is a willingness to share your love of handbells with those around you. Share your leadership ideas with me at www.agehr-ks.org.

Cherryl Cox ~ Kansas State Chair



Locust Creek, MO

Chair

Suann Comfort
6108 Blueridge Blvd
Raytown, MO 64133
816.353.1708
music@raytownncc.org

Treasurer

Cathy Leiboult
Cathy_gcms@hotmail.com

St. Louis Area

Sherry Boland
bolandse@aol.com

KC Area

Kathy Ford
KathyJDF@aol.com

At Large

Marilyn Droke
ddroke@suddenlink.com

Kathy Harrison
Kathy917@aol.com

Burnell Hackman
Burnell@bhackman.com

Sally Johnson
BellLadySally@
Charter.net

Webmaster

Burnell Hackman
Burnell@bhackman.com

Responsibility

So many life lessons are learned and strengthened through commitment to a handbell choir. Among the most important is responsibility. A ringer soon learns the importance of regular attendance when others are absent and no one is covering the missing notes. The ringer learns that both the director and the other ringers depend on him for being there to cover his part. Indeed, the ringer's whole family has to accept the responsibility for prioritizing attendance at rehearsals. This may mean the birthday party has to be another day, or the shopping trip is postponed, or the family comes back early from out of town. There is also the responsibility (and common courtesy) to inform the director when absence is necessary so arrangements can be made for the part.

A good ringer soon learns responsibility for counting, for learning his part, for focusing and being disciplined in rehearsals, and for constantly improving, because the musicianship of the group depends on each individual. The success of the ringers around him depends on his performance, more so than in any other kind of ensemble. Because they work with thousands of dollars of equipment, ringers learn responsibility for respecting the bells for the fine instruments they are and caring for and maintaining all of the equipment. A good ringer takes responsibility for being punctual, respecting the use of time for the group. A good ringer accepts responsibility for excellence in performance and for their most worthy contribution to the worship service.

A few years ago a ringer invited her friend to church for choir and bells. Although the girl was a senior, I invited her to begin ringing with the intermediate group of ringers. There was soon an opening in the high school choir for her, but she continued to ring with the junior high group also. She lived with chronic health issues, headaches, and back trouble, but had a sweet, quiet spirit and never complained. One Wednesday evening it was evident that she didn't feel good. As I walked her down the hall at the end of rehearsal, I said, "You don't feel good tonight, do you? Thank you for being here." She replied, "Well, I thought they needed me." That's responsibility!

Suanne Comfort ~ Missouri State Chair



Bell Trees and More

Visit BelltreesAndMore.com
on a regular basis to **see** and
hear our entire list of published pieces.
The latest releases and other
website information will be featured
on the HOME page.
Please register on the website.

Louise Frier Composer/Arranger
813 293-5855 [Belltreesandmore@aol.com](mailto:belltreesandmore@aol.com)



Duane Carman, NE

Chair

Mike Allen

1414 20th St
P.O. Box 347
Aurora, NE 68818
402.694.3580 (H)
402.694.2044 (W)
402.631.3495 (C)
jmallen69@gmail.com

Secretary

Nancy Youngman

nyoungm@lps.org

Treasurer

Janet Chiocchi

janetch@neb.rr.com

Chimes

Kyle Smith

Ksmiff@gmail.com

Others

Gaye Schlichting

glschlichting@msn.com

Vicky Vandervort

paradox616@aol.com

Sarah Strawn

figment_86@hotmail.com

Angela Wright

angela.wright@
kearneypublic.org

Linda Ashley

Lsashley@inebraska.com

Natalie Radcliffe

Natalie_radcliffe@
hotmail.com

Kelsey Denton

DentonKelsey@yahoo.com

Byron Jensen

bjensen@hastings.edu

Joyce Miller

jmiller@tconl.com

Commitment

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away (western Nebraska), a farmer sat down with his 8-year old daughter, KC to a breakfast of bacon and eggs. They got into a discussion about what KC wanted to be when she grew up. Her dad, wise man that he was, made it clear she could be anything she wanted to be, if she just set her mind to it, which reminded him of the well-known Nebraskan parable of the Chicken and the Pig.

He said to achieve her goals in life she needed to make a commitment toward that end. This meant making the often difficult choice to do whatever it took to make her dreams come true. He said, "It was like this plate of bacon and eggs: after all was said and done, the chicken was involved, but the pig was committed." If little KC was going to succeed in life she needed to go beyond simply being involved in her life, she needed to be committed to her success.

Now that may be a bit of a stretch for handbell players, but I challenge each ringer that without a serious commitment, the true potential of their choirs will never be achieved. Commit to excellence!

Some ringers go through the motions of playing, but they really don't have their hearts in it. They are involved, but not really committed to ringing. They are often late for or miss a lot of practices. They, more than others, seem to have more conflicts with performance dates so they are absent for a lot of performances. They are involved, but can't seem to make ringing a top priority for themselves.

We need to make it easier for our ringers to find and then to make that commitment to put in the time to practice and then, to perform well. How about your practice venue? Is it a comfortable place to rehearse, good lighting, comfortable temperatures, and a convenient time for rehearsals? We used to have to set up and tear down for each rehearsal. We then moved to an empty classroom where we could set up and leave things up from week to week. This did a lot to increase our joy of ringing, lessen stress, and increase our commitment to producing good music.

It is important to have opportunities to play good music, melodically as well as technically. We try to play a variety of music: some pieces are technically easy, and fun to play, yet sound harder than they really are, with different ringing techniques that listeners enjoy hearing. Other pieces are more technical, perhaps not so "pretty", but showcase the skills of the ringers which listeners also appreciate. It is amazing that often we get our listener's best comments after playing the "pretty" stuff. Other examples of "fun" pieces that increase the desire of ringers to play are some of the skit pieces by Tammy Waldrop. My ringers actually get into acting out various sections within the music, with costumes, props, choreography, etc. The music isn't necessarily challenging, but fun to do and when the congregation or audience responds accordingly, it reinforces the ringers' commitment to providing a joyful experience to the listeners. Reinforcement of ringers' commitments is crucial to keep them coming back to practice.

If they don't enjoy themselves or feel appreciation for their efforts coming from the listeners, it is easy to lose heart and decide to drop out. As most ringers are volunteers, we can't give them a raise in their salary, so that pat on the back and a well-placed "thank-you" or "job well-done" goes a long way in reinforcing their commitment to their choir and to performing.

There are a number of other ideas to help ringers develop an appreciation for the art of playing such as attending local, Area and National ringing events, special workshops by traveling professional choirs, having your choirs perform concerts out of their comfort zones (other churches, charity events, Christmas concerts at retirement and assisted living facilities, at service club meetings, etc.), or even taking your choirs on tour.

Commitment to "ringing" is directly related to the effort you put into it, so take some time, sit down with your ringers and discuss what can be done to increase the commitment by all towards bringing beautiful bell music to the masses. And then strive to be more like the Pig than the Chicken!

Mike Allen ~ Nebraska State Chair



Upcoming Events

2011	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
3/26	23rd Annual Handbell Festival w/ Bob Bidewell	Northfield Inn Springfield, IL	Marilyn Hirschman 309.928.2067 mjhir@aol.com
3/26	Kansas Ring in the Spring Tim Waugh, Marilyn Lake, Amy Pierce	Church of the Resurrection 13720 Roe St Leawood, KS	Gwen Gepford Gwen.gepford@cor.org 913.491.6461
4/8-9	Nebraska Spring Ring w/ Kevin McChesney	St Mark's UMC 8550 Pioneers Blvd Lincoln, NE	Mike Allen 402.694.3580 Linda Ashley 402.320.5312
7/8-9	River City Radical Ring	St Andrew's UMC 15050 W Maple Rd Omaha, NE	Linda Ashley LsAshley@inebraska.com 402.320.5312
7/14-17	National Seminar	Hilton Minneapolis, MN	www.agechr.org



Membership

Kathy Leonard
bells@fumcmanhattan.com

Historian

Natalie Radcliffe
Natalie_Radcliffe@
hotmail.com

Education

Open

Resource Librarian

Kathy Harrison
kathy917@aol.com

Financial Advisor

Cheryl Abney
Cheryl.Abney@att.net

Quavers Editor

KC Congdon
kcongdon@agaperingers.org

Webmaster

Wendi Calkins-Levitt
WendiL@
calkinselectric.com

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



Upcoming Concerts

2011	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Mar 20 6:00p	The Agape Ringers	1st Congregational 766 Graceland Ave Des Plaines, IL	Ellen Alde 847.299.5561 www.agaperingers.org
Apr 10 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	St John's Lutheran 305 Circle Ave Forest Park, IL	708.366.3226 www.agaperingers.org
Apr 10 7:00p	Raytown Christian Church Handbell Choirs	Raytown Christian Church 6108 Blue Ridge Blvd Raytown, MO	Suanne Comfort 816.358.0292 music@raytowncc.org
Apr 29 7:00p	Manchester UMC Vesper Bell Choir Spring Ring Outreach Concert	Friendship Village of West County 15201 Olive Blvd Chesterfield, MO	Sherry Boland 636.256.7961 bolandse@aol.com
May 1 3:30p	Chicago Bronze	St Mark's Lutheran 27 S Edgelawn Aurora, IL	www.chicagobronze.com
May 1 7:00p	The Agape Ringers	Northfield Community 400 Wagner Rd Northfield, IL	Judy Hertelendy 847.446.3070 www.agaperingers.org
May 7 7:00p	Bells in Motion <i>Bronze Vibrations</i>	Wesley UMC 502 E Front St Bloomington, IL	Angi Chase 217.287.7244 www.bellsinmotion.org
May 8 4:00p	Bells in Motion <i>Bronze Vibrations</i>	St John's Lutheran 2477 W Washington Springfield, IL	Angi Chase 217.287.7244 www.bellsinmotion.org
May 15 7:30p	The Alleluia Ringers of Concordia University Wisconsin	Bethany Lutheran 1550 Modaff Rd Naperville, IL	630.355.2198
May 16 7:30p	The Alleluia Ringers of Concordia University Wisconsin	St Paul's Lutheran 352 Wood St Decatur, IL	217.423.6955
May 17 7:30p	The Alleluia Ringers of Concordia University Wisconsin	King of Kings Lutheran 1701 NE 98th St Kansas City, MO	816.436.7680
May 18 7:30p	The Alleluia Ringers of Concordia University Wisconsin	St Paul's Lutheran 40291 NE 40th Ave Preston, KS	620.672.5354
May 21 7:30p	The Alleluia Ringers of Concordia University Wisconsin	Redeemer Lutheran 2852 S Dayton Ave Springfield, MO	417.881.5470
May 23 7:30p	The Alleluia Ringers of Concordia University Wisconsin	Blessed Savior Lutheran 2615 Shackelford Rd Florissant, MO	314.831.1300



New Members

Merry J.—Holdrege, NE

Anna R.—Emporia, KS

Most Pure Heart of Mary—Chamois, MO

Rose Hill UMC—Rose Hill, KS

Mary Frances B.—Evergreen Park, IL

Bradford A.—Lenexa, KS

John B.—Olathe, KS

St. John Lutheran Church—St. Donatus, IA

St. Paul UMC—Omaha, NE

St. Mark's Lutheran—W. Des Moines, IA

Lysette D.—Lawrence, KS

Linda A.—Omaha, NE

Lost Members

Susan G.—Crystal Lake, IL

Bethlehem Covenant Church—Waverly, NE

I Am Temple of Chicago—Chicago, IL

Chester R.—St. Louis, MO

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church—Jacksonville, IL

Christ Church Presbyterian—Cedar Rapids, IA

1st Presbyterian—Glen Ellyn, IL

St. Mark Catholic Church—Independence, MO

Brigid C.—Prairie View, IL

St. Francis of Assisi Church—Orland Park, IL

Shirley H.—Shorewood, IL

St. John Lutheran Church—Ely, IA

1st UMC—Emmetsburg, IA

Janet E.—Derby, KS

Anita W.—Dubuque, IA

Central Bible College—Springfield, MO

Hazel A.—Beatrice, NE

Briana B.—Columbia, MO

Alice M.—Oak Park, IL