



HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA

ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA

QUAVERS NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2015

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

TRIVIA

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." – Charles Dickens

"Indoors or out, no one relaxes in March, that month of wind and taxes, the wind will presently disappear, the taxes last us all the year." – Ogden Nash



What is the most popular jelly bean flavor?

Cherry

Where would you go to see the world's largest chocolate bunny?

[Click Here](#)



How many peeps get eaten in the US every year?

700 million

On Easter, what do you have to do if you want good luck in the coming year?

You have to wear a new piece of clothing. Women usually wore a new Easter bonnet.

Which flower is associated with Easter?

The lily is said to grow with its head down to honor Jesus.



Where is the world's largest collection of Easter eggs?

Easter Egg Museum is located in Poland with 1500 eggs from all over the world.

LOOK INSIDE

Ads	2, 8
Chair	3
Concerts	8
Events	8
IL	4
KS	5
MO	6
NE	7
Officers	2

Table of Contents

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Secretary	Beth McFarland	Donna Sprague	Open	Open	Byron Jensen
Web	Garv Dietschweiler	Wendi Calkins-Levitt	Wendi Calkins-Levitt	Wendi Calkins-Levitt	Janet Chiocchi
Other	<i>Events</i> Sharon Schmidt <i>Registrar</i> Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal <i>Handbell Services</i> Debi Robey <i>Chime Coordinator</i> Aimee Legatzke Shelley May Hutchison <i>Food Coordinator</i> Anna Piro <i>Chime Mentor</i> Diane Oster <i>Student Liaison</i> Ben Hafner	<i>Historian</i> Tina Gehrke <i>Chimes</i> Aaron Hansen <i>Eastern Rep</i> Cat Walker <i>Western Rep</i> Yvonne Johnson	<i>Past Chair</i> Cherryl Cox <i>Chimes</i> Shirley Myers	<i>Membership</i> Sherry Boland <i>Chime Chair</i> Anne Miller Kathy Harrison Christie White	<i>Registrar</i> Linda Ashley <i>Chimes Coordinator</i> Nancy Youngman Jessica Kite Vicky Vandervort Joyce Miller Angela Wright Natalie Radcliffe Charles Cohen Deann Nicolaus Mike Allen

The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613
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A community handbell choir

Official Website

Attending a Guild educational event is an important part of a Handbell Musician's professional growth. Whether you are striving to achieve Level 1 in the Guild's new certification program, or honing your skills at weaving or multiple bell techniques, all of these activities are about **more** and **better**.

Your Guild Level 1 certification classes will expose you to instruction by the best teachers in the nation and introduce you to others in a new generation of people learning what it means to be the "principal voice" for our instrument. Every year the Guild strives to bring this opportunity to **more** locations so that the membership can be **better** served by the program. To release an early secret, it is Area 8's goal to offer a "Level 1 Certification Weekend" during the summer of 2015. Watch your mailbox, your email, and Area 8's online presence (www.areaviii.org, and <https://www.facebook.com/Area8Handbells>) for more exciting information about this opportunity right here in Area 8.

We are also well underway with plans to:

Ring in the Land of Lincoln in 2016

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.
June 22-25, 2016.

You Me Your choir My choir

Monica McGowan Cathy Moklebust Michael Helman

Rezound! Bells in Motion

Handbell Musicians of America Heritage Banquet

Awesome Music and 500 of your best friends

While your board's focus in these next months will be on our "Level 1 Certification Weekend" and our 2016 Festival, you should make plans to celebrate with Rezound! of Kansas City. This wonderful Area 8 handbell ensemble was chosen by popular vote based on their YouTube video entry to perform this summer at Pinnacle in Dallas, Texas.

Perhaps your need has not been met by events at the state, area, or even at the national level. Perhaps your specific need is something that a Guild *mentor* could provide on an individual or small group basis. Perhaps you have even asked for this on a feedback form but we were unable to accommodate that singular request. Believe me that there is a guild mentor in Area 8 with the skill and knowledge to make you **more** skillful, **more** confident, **more** successful, and **more** able to feel **better** about your work as a Handbell Musician. Contact any board member with a question about mentoring.

Finally, perhaps you are the person we are looking for. You are the teacher that we need. You are the conducting teacher that one of our members needs. You are the bass ringer that makes the 2's and 3's leap off the table. You are the treble ringer that makes it look effortless. You are a solo or ensemble ringer that can inspire a new generation of young ringers. You are a logistics expert who can design massed ringing floor layouts. You are a beast with Excel and can register 500 people for an event without breaking a sweat. Your church has a beautiful venue for massed ringing, classes, and a meal and you are the new host site for your state's Spring Ring. Consider filling out the Area 8 Teacher Database questionnaire: <http://goo.gl/7hDXs> and throwing your name into the ring for a future event. For if we really want to give our members **more** and to do it **better**? We might not be able to achieve this without you!

Patrick Gagnon ~ Area 8 Chair

www.areaviii.org

I always love a good conference. Before my daughter was born, I taught junior high and high school orchestra. One of my favorite events was our state music education conference. It was always an inspirational event to be a part of. This past summer, I attended my first Handbell of Musicians of America seminar. What a great experience! Continuing education is such an important part of being a musician, regardless of experience level. Why should you attend a handbell conference or workshop? Here are a few reasons.

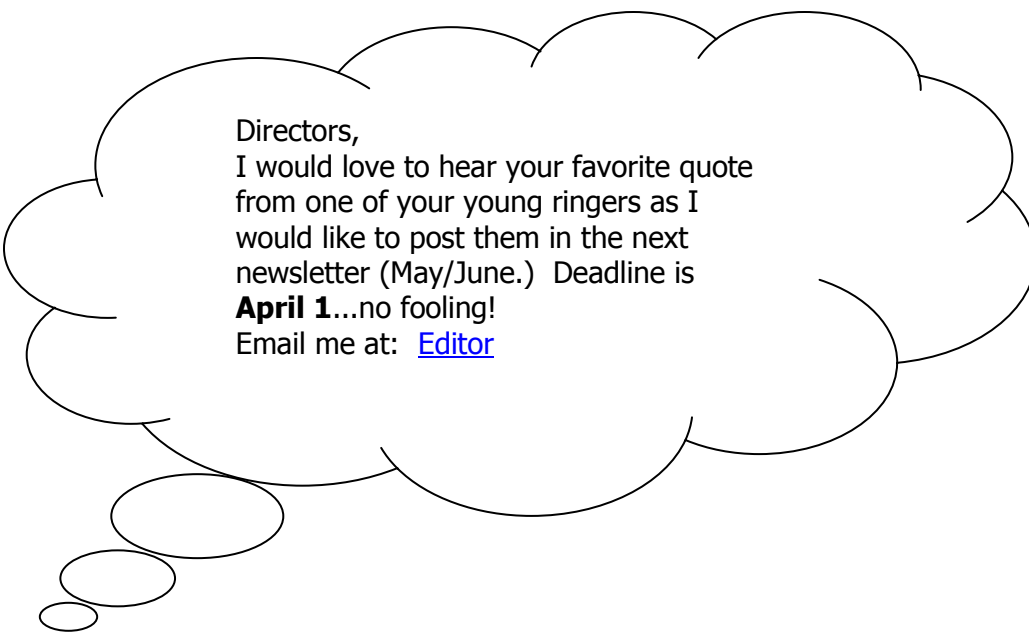
Networking: Networking is one of the most important parts of attending continuing education events. Who isn't interested in meeting fellow handbell ringers from different places? You never know when you might run into a potential ringer or director. That is actually how I got involved with Chicago Bronze! Conferences also give you the opportunity to meet composers and music publishers. It's always fun to put a face to a name!

Personal Growth: Handbell Musicians of America conferences and workshops are led by top notch ringers and directors. The classes and round table discussions offered can turn your thoughts and visions in new directions for your own musicianship and for your handbell program. Even simply chatting with fellow handbell musicians can change our outlook on our art form. There is a whole bunch of support in the handbell world; we can all empathize with the challenges of being a ringer or director!

Concerts: Area festivals and national conferences are always full of great performances. The level of musicianship that you will hear can be very inspiring and energizing. Concerts are also a great way to hear new repertoire. As a director, I always take note of pieces that I particularly enjoy, or those that would be good for my church ensemble.

I would encourage you all to attend a handbell conference or workshop sometime soon. You will leave with more confidence, knowledge, and enthusiasm for your musical endeavors. Hope to see you at Pinnacle this summer!

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



Directors,
I would love to hear your favorite quote
from one of your young ringers as I
would like to post them in the next
newsletter (May/June.) Deadline is
April 1...no fooling!
Email me at: [Editor](#)

Have you ever wondered how a person can ring with *four* bells in their hands? How about those big, heavy bells? How can they ring those without hurting themselves, and have *so many* in front of them? How do they keep them all straight? Or...ever wondered how *one* person can play all those bells-with no other ringer helping them?

Maybe you know these things but you want—no-*need*—to know more. Where can you get answers to your questions? Well, you could always YouTube it, but what fun is that? Did you know there are several opportunities for you to find the answers to your questions AND have some fun at the same time? No matter what State or Area you belong to, there are festivals, workshops, or classes that you can take. Go to www.areaviii.org, browse the site, then click on your state site and see what is available. But don't stop! There are many opportunities in other states as well. See what they have to offer. Step a little further and take a trip to another Area. The possibilities are endless!

Back here in good ol' Kansas, we have some wonderful ways to answer your questions and improve your ringing skills. We just had an event for our youth that taught them how to ring hand chimes. The Chime Festival is a yearly event held in Oct and just celebrated 10 years! Also celebrating its 10th year is **Ring in the Spring** held in the southern Kansas City area. The day includes massed ringing, mini classes, vendors, and bronze and copper level break out choirs. This is definitely a do-not-miss event.

Handbell Camp is a five day ringing blitz that is celebrating 25 years this year! It is actually a Missouri event, but is run by Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois folk. Located at Heartland Presbyterian Center north of Kansas City, this camp has three levels of choirs, massed ringing, sight ringing sessions, and several classes to choose from. There are also chances to take advantage of the challenge course, horseback riding, and swimming. A concert finishes the week on Thursday evening. Camp is usually held on the first full week after the 4th of July. We have had people from Texas, Alabama and several other states come and spend the week with us! It is a great way to make new friends and stretch your ringing ability. We ring through the church calendar, and even celebrate Christmas! It is a great place for directors to come and not only get a chance to ring, but to hear pieces that they might be able to use with their own choirs.

Embedded in Handbell Camp is a one day sight ringing event called **KC Rings**. Held one day during camp, attendees get a chance to take part in the sight ringing and classes that are offered on that day. This is a wonderful way to "sample" camp if you aren't able to attend the full week.

Another event being planned as you read this is the **Flint Hills Handbell Festival**. Located at the beautiful Camp Wood YMCA camp, this festival is a great way to sight ring through upcoming festival music and even purchase the music! Keep an eye on the Kansas website, www.agehr-ks.org, to find the date and available classes for that day. This event will be held in the fall.

Handbell Camp, KC Rings and Flint Hills Festival all give you a chance to buy music and items you can purchase from various vendors. Lots of good stuff can be found at these events! For more information, go to www.handbellcamp.org.

Of course, there is always the **Area 8 Festival**! The next festival will be in Springfield, Illinois and will be held June 22-25, 2016. As always, these three days will be packed with all sorts of wonderful classes and plenty of ringing to satisfy every need!

As you can see, there are a lot of opportunities for your questions to be answered. And your State and Area board are always looking and planning for other great events to help improve what you already know. Have any questions as to what is available? If you can't find what you are looking for on the websites I've mentioned, send me an email and I'll do my best to help. Hope to see you at one (or more) of these events!

Staci Cunningham ~ Kansas Chair

As I write this article, the Missouri Music Educators Association has just concluded its yearly conference. This is a 3-day conference attended by hundreds of music teachers and students throughout the state. There are workshops and teaching sessions on a variety of topics. There are concerts presented by music groups of all ages - from elementary age through adults. There are special sessions for collegiate members. There are All-State bands, choirs, orchestras, and a host of other music-related activities. Music teachers look forward to this event every year as it's a time to connect with other music teachers, hear inspiring performances, meet with other music professionals, visit an exhibit hall filled with music, instruments, the newest in technology, college exhibits, and the list goes on and on. This is such an important event in Missouri that most school districts provide financial assistance and substitute teachers so that their music teachers can attend this annual gathering. After an event such as this, you will see all kinds of comments on social media sites from attendees who were inspired and felt renewed and ready to head back to their respective teaching positions.

So why should we attend conferences and workshops? I think a better question might be "why **wouldn't** I attend a conference/workshop?" Often, the biggest decision one might face is which one to choose! There are national conferences, state conferences, and local and regional workshops. Many of these are for specific areas of specialty: choral, instrumental, piano, handbells, strings, organ. Many are for specific age ranges: elementary, high-school, collegiate, etc. There are workshops for beginning teachers, experienced teachers, beginning performers and more experienced performers. There are publisher-sponsored reading sessions and composer showcase sessions. There are guest performances and opportunities to work with well-known professionals in the music business. You will be challenged, inspired and motivated.

In many professions there are required certifications and required continuing education. But, even if we don't have a job or position that requires official validation of continuing education, it's still our responsibility to keep up with the most current literature and teaching methods. Listening to others perform can help us boost our own standards of performance. As a handbell director I love it when one of my ringers tells me about a performance they saw—it's fun to see them get excited about a specific technique they observed or a special piece of music that they want to ring.

Unfortunately, in the last several years there has been a decline in attendance at some conferences. I have seen workshops/events have to be cancelled due to lack of registrations. I have attended wonderful workshops that were, sadly, attended by a very few. To combat this, there has been an effort among some music organizations to especially promote membership to new teachers and directors and to our college students; a renewed challenge to get involved and participate! There has also been an effort to challenge long-time members of these organizations to "bring a friend" to a conference, a meeting, a concert, a workshop—anything, just get them involved!

So challenge yourself this year. Make it your plan to attend an event. Put continuing education on your yearly to-do list. *"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young."* (Henry Ford)

And one more thing—don't forget to invite a friend to join you!

Cathy Benton ~ [Missouri State Chair](#)

For many of us, in many different professions, continuing education is a very integral part of our lives. Those in the medical, legal and business worlds have to accomplish a certain number of learning hours each year to maintain their licenses/certificates. I believe that continuing education is important regardless of our chosen instrument. If we don't continue to educate ourselves, we risk becoming stagnant or complacent.

There is such a wealth of opportunities to learn more about this handbell instrument we so enjoy. From the local church or State-run one-day workshop or mini-festival, to the Area Festivals and National Seminars, Pinnacle and International Seminar, and the extended events such as week-long Handbell Camps, Distinctly Bronze and Bay View, there is something for everyone. These events are not just for the choir/ensemble directors or advanced ringers, they are invaluable tools for all ringers. I know that, as a director, I appreciate when my ringers attend classes and bring new music to me from a reading session or a new idea for a ringing opportunity in our community or worship service. These events give us exposure to the incredible variety of music that is being written and the amazing knowledge of our art from the instructors and clinicians directing us.

What I enjoy most from these events is the networking that happens. I find that I can always pick up something new from someone else's experiences. What worked, what didn't work, what might work if I try it a different way.

I asked some of my committee colleagues and ringers who have gone to events for their thoughts. Here is what they shared with me:

My best learning experiences come from attending National Seminar each year. The classes offered are always well presented and give me great insights for my community choir. I have taken several ringing tracks from experienced directors that also add to my learning to become a better director for my choirs.

About registering for an advance ringing track: Each time, I found myself really studying the music on my own time, making annotations and comments in the music, and of course, doing the same thing during rehearsals with the guest conductors. As someone who is primarily a conductor, I found it quite refreshing and revitalizing being an actual player in a "select" group. The insights I took from these sessions have always impacted my own time in front of a bell choir with regards to the music, performing, and conducting.

From one of my younger ringers: These classes have helped me try new techniques when it comes to rhythms, counting, sight reading, etc. Every "teacher" had a different style that they use, and after learning each one, I can try various ones that have been taught to me, and figure what works the best for me. I have also made new friends that without these events, I wouldn't have made. Every year, I look forward to renewing these friendships, and making more memories that will last a long time.

I encourage everyone to attend at least one event each year, whether it is a local workshop or a national level event.

[Linda Ashley ~ Nebraska State Chair](#)

2015	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
4/10	Spring Ring—Director's Workshop David L. Weck	St Mark's UMC Lincoln, NE	Nebraska
4/11	Spring Ring—Ringer's Workshop David L. Weck The Agape Ringers	St Mark's UMC Lincoln, NE	Nebraska
5/2	Resonate! with Rezound! Rezound! Handbell Ensemble	Faith Lutheran Church Prairie Village, KS	Rezound!
7/5-9	Handbell Camp—25th Anniversary various	Heartland Center Parkville, MO	Handbell Camp
7/9 2-8:30p	Kansas City Rings Reading session	Heartland Center Parkville, MO	KC Rings
7/15-19	Pinnacle (a National Seminar event)	Hilton Anatole Dallas, TX	Handbell Musicians Of America

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Concerts

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