



QUAVERS

AREA VIII: ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA
NOVEMBER, 2006

AREA VIII EVENTS

Hi, everyone!

I am Debbie Llewellyn, the new chair of Area VIII. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the Area and all of you. I encourage you all to contact me with any ideas, comments, questions or concerns that you may have. Remember, this is **your** Area and we want to make it the best it can be for you.

Now is the time to be preparing for and attending state and area events. What an active Area we have! We have planned **lots** of fun ringing activities for all levels and ages...get your calendars out:

Young Ringers Festival

- For ages 4th grade through high school
- June 14-17, 2007
- Branson, MO **Yee haw!!!!**
- Ring on stage as a featured choir with the stars—opening for a show
- Celebration City—practicing and giving a concert there, enjoying the rides and attractions
- Other possible attractions: White Water Water Park, Silver Dollar City
- Special rates offered for families—make a vacation out of it while your ringer(s) learn and play
- Registration fee will include Celebration City, all meals, and hotel.

This festival is a wonderful opportunity for your young ringers to come together and ring with other kids. We hope that it will offer some challenges that will help them to grow in their ringing abilities and reach new levels.

Directors Seminar

- For directors and ringers
- June 29-30, 2007
- Platte Woods UMC in the Kansas City, MO area (very close to the airport)
- Performance and teaching by a nationally known guest choir
- Grad credit
- Classes taught in technique, directing, bass bells, treble bells, Orff Schulwerk, banners and much, much more!
- Preview festival music for 2008 in Peoria, Illinois

Start planning to attend now. This is a wonderful chance for directors to be on the “other side” of the table and do some ringing which you don’t always get an opportunity to do.

We will be posting more information on the Directors Seminar and Young Ringers Festival as soon as it is available. Please check our website, www.areaviii.org. Complete information and registration forms will be in the next issue of *Quavers*.

As you can see, we have two great Area events planned for next summer. We hope that you will plan to attend both events. Inside you will find out what events the states have planned. There will be many opportunities for your ringers, both young and old, to get together with other ringers and to learn and grow in their talent.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Directors Seminar and/or the Young Ringers Festival next summer!

Debbie Llewellyn ~ Area VIII Chair

ELECTED OFFICERS

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ILLINOIS EVENTS

We are very excited to have nationally known conductor/composer/clinician/educator Tim Waugh directing our **Young Ringers Mini-Festival** on Feb 3, 2007 at Santa Maria del Popolo School in Mundelein. Tim has been a music educator for nearly 30 years and has done oodles of adult and youth-oriented handbell festivals, including the Distinctly Bronze style Youth Event at Palm Springs and AGEHR's High Challenge conference for youth. Kids especially love Tim's high energy and his incorporation of rhythmic techniques into his teaching/conducting. They will have a fun day rehearsing prepared music with Tim, attending youth-oriented breakout sessions, and presenting the final massed performance at 3pm.

For the adults and more advanced high school groups, we have our annual **Spring Ring** on April 14, 2007 at Judson College in Elgin. Our director will be Monica McGowan, artistic director of the Twin Cities Bronze in Minnesota, leading us in a full day of rehearsals on prepared music, with a final massed performance at 5pm.

The public is invited to the free final concerts for both of these events. Registration materials and repertoire for these two events has already been mailed out to our membership. You can also find this information on our web site: www.il-agehr.org/events.

The Agape Ringers will be presenting another **Ringers Workshop** on February 17, 2007. Check back at our website for further details and registration information.

Several of you have asked if we're going to bring back some of the events we've organized in the past, such as reading sessions, skills clinics and director's workshops. Anyone interested in hosting any of these one-day events, please contact me.

Debi Robey ~ Illinois State Chair

MEET DEBI ROBEY

Some of you may have heard by now that our last issue introduced a different state chair for Illinois. As soon as the *Quavers* hit the mailboxes I received a phone call from Renee Simpson saying that she had just accepted a position as a general music teacher at a school in Indiana.

So in this issue, I would like to introduce to you the newest state chair—Debi Robey.

Debi hails from Naperville and considers herself a professional volunteer. She is a mother to two seniors; Alison (H.S.) and Kim (Bradley University). She is the seamstress for her daughter's color guard and was a former Girl Scout leader for many years. Her husband is her favorite schlepper at the state events. Before motherhood, she was a chemist.

She first heard handbells in a mall. Her co-worker's mother was a director in need of a sub and called her to see if she would be willing to come ring for her. And like most of us, she got hooked on the idea. The group's high point was when they performed at the White House and playing for chapel at an Area II festival in Kutztown. Her personal high point was a solo at a Festival in Greensboro, NC and playing a duet with her friend, Jackie, at the National Festival in Niagara Falls.

She has performed with community groups such as Malmark and The Agape Ringers. She is currently directing a beginning choir at her home church, Alleluia! Lutheran Church in Naperville. She has been unofficially serving on the state committee for several years as the *Handbell Services* rep until we made it official two years ago.

Since 1987, her summer vacations have been spent meeting her friend Jackie at Area Festivals. A couple of her favorite pieces to perform are *Materna* and *Silent Night* by Betty Garee as well as Joel Raney's *A Mighty Fortress*.

Please welcome Debi to her newest volunteer position as the Illinois State Chair.

KC Congdon ~ Outgoing State Chair



IOWA STATE COMMITTEE

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IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

Everyone seems to know this above statement and relate it to baseball, but why can't we relate it to bells? There are a lot of planned handbell events around Iowa throughout the year and I encourage everyone to try and attend one of these events.

By the time this is printed the Iowa Committee will have already hosted the Fall Workshop on **October 21** at First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa. I'm sure that there was a lot of bell ringing and fellowship at this event.

On **November 17 & 18** the 2006 Eastern Iowa Children's Handbell/Handchime Festival (co-sponsored by the Iowa AGEHR Committee) will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Iowa City. The guest clinician will be Venita MacGorman. For more info please contact Matthew Penning at matthewp@saintandrew-ic.org.

The Iowa Spring Ring is now in the planning stages and we will be having Marilyn Lake (Chair-Elect of Area VIII) as our guest clinician. We are looking to host this event in **February 2007**. For more information please check out the Iowa Committee website or contact Kathryn Jaeger at jkjdjaeger@juno.com.

On **March 29** there will be a Handbell Festival held at East High School in Des Moines. For more information contact Joan Strauss at tstrauss@alpinecom.net.

We are also hoping to have Trinity Presbyterian Church in Clarinda host a handbell event in the next year.

I hope that you can find an event that is close to your part of the state. Remember to check out any of the neighboring states

Check the Current Events on the Iowa Committee website at agehr-ia.org.

Kathryn Jaeger ~ Iowa Chair

The 8th annual
Sounds of the
Season Concert
presented by The
Agape Ringers
featuring the piano
organ duo of Joel
Raney and Jane
Holstein.



**Saturday, December 16th, 2006 at
First Presbyterian of River Forest.
Show times: 4 pm and 7 pm.
\$18 tickets, \$28 patron tickets.
Group rate available.
Contact KC Congdon (309) 365-2910.**

Please visit **www.agaperingers.org** for more information
on The Agape Ringers and upcoming concerts.



KANSAS STATE COMMITTEE

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SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN KANSAS!

Just the other day I was thinking about my early years of directing bell choirs. I remember thinking, "Oh, my! I don't know what I'm doing!" I had a music background, but not a handbell background. Where was I going to learn what I needed to know? At AGEHR national, area, and state events (of course). Actually, I learned so much from the ringers themselves. Where in the world did they get their knowledge?! You guessed it. At AGEHR national, area, and state events. **YOU CANNOT AFFORD NOT TO GO!**

What do you learn at these events? In a nutshell: whatever you don't know and want to know! Seriously, just being around experienced people, talking and sharing, ringing and learning, hearing new music—it's amazing what you take home with you. And, no matter how experienced you are, there is always someone that knows something that you don't. And, they are willing to share it! Remember: One festival day is equal to one month of rehearsal. Who wouldn't want that!

We just came off of two wonderful events: the Handbell Workshop in Hutchinson, led by SuAnn Comfort and the Hand Chime Festival led by Janet Carter. If you missed those events (or if you were there and want more of a good thing), take heart. There is a wonderful event coming up in the spring that you won't want to miss. It is an event for ALL LEVELS. This is your chance to work with Jason Wells and Janet Carter. Again, **YOU CANNOT AFFORD NOT TO GO!** Take the following information to your choirs and get them signed up!

Ring in the Spring,

an AGEHR Handbell Workshop for Beginners through Adults
Saturday, March 3, 2007

United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Avenue, Leawood, KS
Jason Wells and Janet Carter, Clinicians

For more information, contact Gwen Gepford at (913) 491-6461 or gwen.gepford@cor.org

We have a great organization in AGEHR. Everyone wants to be involved with something good. This organization is great. We take care of our own. Let's learn together. In the next few months, watch for more information regarding summer ringing opportunities. I look forward to meeting all of you in our quest to make our own little corner of the bell world better.

Happy Ringing.



COUNCIL BLUFFS
2006



MISSOURI STATE COMMITTEE

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Sally Johnson
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Website

**www.areaviii.org/
Missouri.htm**

MISSOURI MEETINGS

We're excited to offer a one-day ringing festival in Spring 2007. Repertoire and clinician info will be available soon, but mark your calendars and plan to attend. A festival is a great way to share a day of music making with friends across the state.

Missouri Spring Ring
Saturday, April 21, 2007
Dardenne Presbyterian Church
7400 Highway N
Dardenne Prairie (O'Fallon), Missouri 63368

We will be in the Christian Life Center (CLC), and the church is easily reached from both Interstates 40/64 and Interstate 70. Our host is Sally Johnson.

The annual **Ozarks Handbell Festival** is set for February 23-24, 2007, at Evangel University in Springfield. Area VIII Membership Chair, Kipp Willnauer, is the clinician. Beth McLellan is the site host. She may be reached at 417.865.2815 x7212.

Kathy Harrison ~ Missouri State Chair



AUDITIONS...

The Agape Ringers are looking for experienced, enthusiastic, and dedicated handbell ringers!

For more information, contact the director, David Weck: (630) 665-3200, X120 or david@hopepublishing.com

Auditions will be held on
January 6, 2007
9 am -12 pm or 1-4 pm

The Agape Ringers are a Chicago-based auditioned community handbell ensemble and has the privilege to share its joy of ringing with concert audiences across the US and abroad. The group's members have served as workshop educators at numerous handbell events across the country, and church musicians throughout the ringing world have enjoyed their artistry on promotional recordings released by Hope Publishing Company.

The Agape Ringers members commute to La Grange, IL for regular Monday night rehearsals and have monthly scheduled concerts featuring the group's set of 203 bronze handbells and 73 aluminum chimes.

www.agaperingers.org





NEBRASKA STATE COMMITTEE

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NEBRASKA SPRING RING

Mark your calendars for April 28th, 2007 for the **Nebraska Spring Ring** with renowned clinician Michael Kastner.

The event will be held at

Bethany Lutheran Church, 4200 North 204th Street, Elkhorn, NE.

Beside mass ringing the following classes will be offered during the day:

Bells in Worship
Bass Bells
Healthy Ringing
Young Ringers Roundtable
Treble Bells
Stopped Sounds
Malmark and Schulmerich Maintenance and Repair
Back to Basics
Solo/Ensemble Ringing
Reading Sessions
The Petting Zoo

Choirs will be asked to have one piece prepared and ready to ring. We will work on three other pieces during the day.

Watch for your registration forms coming soon in the mail.

Contact person: Joyce Miller at jmiller@tconl.com

Joyce Miller ~ Nebraska State Chair



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AGEHR SPONSORED EVENTS

2006-2007	EVENT	CLINICIAN	LOCATION
Nov 17-18, 2006	Eastern Iowa Children's Bell & Chime Festival AND Directors Seminar www.agehr-ia.org	Venita McGorman	St Andrew Pres 1300 Melrose Ave Iowa City, IA Matthew Penning 319.338.7523
Feb 3, 2007 9:00a-3:00p	Illinois Young Ringers Mini-Festival www.il-agehr.org	Tim Waugh	Santa Maria del Popolo 116 N Lake St Mundelein, IL Debi Robey 630.904.4028
Feb 23-24, 2007	Ozarks Handbell Festival www.areaviii.org/missouri.htm	Kipp Willnauer	Evangel University Springfield, MO Beth McLellan 417.865.2815 x 7212
Mar 3, 2007	Ring in the Spring Workshop for Beginners through Adults Home.kc.rr.com/kansasarea8	Janet Carter Jason Wells	UMC of the Resurrection 13720 Roe Ave Leawood, KS Gwen Gepford 913.491.6461 Gwen.gepford@cor.org
Apr 14, 2007 9:00a-6:00p	Illinois Spring Ring www.il-agehr.org	Monica McGowan	Judson College Elgin, IL Debi Robey 630.904.4028
Apr 21, 2007	Missouri Spring Ring www.areaviii.org/missouri.htm	tbd	Dardenne Presbyterian 7400 Highway N Dardenne Prairie, MO Sally Johnson
Apr 28, 2007	Nebraska Spring Ring www.agehr-ne.org	Michael Kastner	Bethany Lutheran Church 4200 N 204th St Elkhorn, NE Joyce Miller Jmiller@tconl.com
Jun 14-17, 2007	Young Ringers Area VIII Festival www.areaviii.org	various	Branson, MO Debbie Llewellyn Dal60525@sbcglobal.net
Jun 29-30, 2007	Director's Seminar www.areaviii.org	various	Platte Woods UMC Kansas City, MO Debbie Llewellyn Dal60525@sbcglobal.net



UPCOMING CONCERTS

2006	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Nov 5 5:00p	Autumn Vespers Hastings College Music Groups	1st Presbyterian Church 621 N Lincoln Hastings, NE	Byron Jensen 402.461.7361 Bjensen@hastings.edu
Nov 26 4:00p \$\$	Bells in Motion Christmas Concert	St John's Lutheran 2477 W Washington St Springfield, IL	Mike Lamb 217.632.3153 www.bellsinmotion.org
Nov 30 7:30p	Holiday Festival of Music Featuring The Rhapsody Ringers	1st UMC 612 Poyntz Manhattan, KS	Judy Scharmann 785.341.2300 Scharmann4@yahoo.com
Dec 2 2:00p \$\$	Christmas with Chicago Bronze	Friendship Park Conservatory 395 W Algonquin Rd Des Plaines, IL	Stan Dunleaf 847.298.3500
Dec 3 2:00p \$5.00	Kansas State Univ Glee Club Christmas Concert w/The Rhapsody Ringers	All Faith's Chapel Kansas State University	Judy Scharmann 785.341.2300 Scharmann4@yahoo.com
Dec 3 3:00p SS	Christmas with Chicago Bronze	Ela Library 275 Mohawk Trail Lake Zurich, IL	Terry Meyer 847.438.3433 x 171
Dec 7 10:00a	Chapel Ringers Women's Concert Bell Ensemble	Torrey Gray Auditorium @ MBI 820 N LaSalle Blvd Chicago, IL	Arnold Rawls Arnold.rawls@moody.edu
Dec 9 2:00p \$\$	Christmas with Chicago Bronze	Indian Trails Library 355 Schoenbeck Rd Wheeling, IL	Michelle Shapiro 847.537.4011 x 226
Dec 10 1:00p \$\$	Christmas with Chicago Bronze	Wauconda Library 801 N Main St Wauconda, IL	Terry Suda 847.526.6225 x 218
Dec 10 4:00p \$\$	Bells in Motion	1st Presbyterian Church 1702 Iowa St Davenport, IA	563.383.0657 x 201
Dec 10 4:00p \$\$	Christmas with Chicago Bronze	St Martha Church 8523 Georgiana Ave Morton Grove, IL	Kevin Wood 847.967.1990
Dec 10 7:30p	Raytown Christian Bells	Raytown Christian Church 6108 Blue Ridge Blvd Raytown, MO	Suanne Comfort 816.358.0292 Suecomfort@kc.rr.com
Dec 16 4:00p / 7:00p \$\$	Sounds of the Season Featuring The Agape Ringers, Joel Raney & Jane Holstein	1st Presbyterian Church 7551 Quick Ave River Forest, IL	KC Congdon 309.365.2910 Kc@stmatthew-ucc.org



APPOINTED CHAIRS

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AREA VIII TRIVIA

In the early days of AGEHR (1954-1958), the country was divided into nine areas. Area VI consisted of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota and Colorado. The National Board consisted of the elected and appointed officers. In the winter of 1969 – 1970 they were asking Area Chairs to join them to secure input from the grass roots. In 1970 our Chair, Pennie Smith, could not attend, so she asked me as Chair-Elect to attend. The Area Chairs did not meet with the Board but were assigned to another room to realign the areas into eleven areas. After working on all aspects, the group suggested the twelve areas, which we know today. Area VIII consisted of five states: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. This change required other changes including an Area Chair for each and finances had to be proportionally distributed. Much later, when I was serving as National President, we added the Canadian provinces to the Areas bordering our northern states.

As historian, I was asked to upgrade a list of Area VIII Chairs and festivals. Because I had joined AGEHR in 1962 (as a neophyte), I was not sure of events prior to that. I was able to get in touch with Betty Jo Wilcox, the only one presently in Area VIII who was active in “old” Area VI, to help with those early years. Thanks, Betty Jo.

Mary Kettelhut ~ Historian

THE 1960'S (OLD AREA VI)

1960-1962: Frances Keck was in charge of handbells in this area and she had a festival in Des Moines. Betty Jo reported that this was loosely organized and not all choirs were informed about it.

1962-1964: Istvan (Steve) Gladies was Chair and the festival in '64 was held at Iowa State University with some events held at the Collegiate Methodist Church. Betty Jo was Festival Chair. The Fink Family Ringers presented a program. I learned a lot and made many friends. Wendell Wescott's choir was the featured choir.

1964-1966: Betty Jo was the Area Chair and the '66 festival was held in Manhattan, Kansas. The attendance was much great than the previous festival. The fee was \$28.00 per person including the festival, room and board. Marvin Reeher directed two numbers by the massed ensemble.

1966-1968: John Hoyt was Area Chair. The '68 festival was held at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota with Betty Fletcher as Festival Chair. Richard Litterst conducted the massed ringing. The ballroom had been reserved for massed ringing but the University decided to redecorate the ballroom. Adjustments had to be made quickly. Finances for the Area were not good and expenses were not met. Betty Fletcher borrowed \$100 from National and used \$250 of her personal funds. A guest choir from another state did not ring as well as many of our own choirs. Their technique was not as advanced as most choirs in the nation. One feature was a picnic at Lake Nokomis. There were five concerts by individual choirs.

1968-1970: Pennie Smith was Area Chair. Although the previous Chair had assigned several people to check out future festival sites, nothing was done. I had been asked to see what was available in Lincoln. One and a half years later they called to see if we had a site. They asked me to try again and told me to sign up for whatever was available. (I had 24 hours to do this.) In January 1970, Pennie asked me to be Festival Chair. I accepted because there was no one else except a new director who had just started. I asked him, Russell Blackmer, and Roger Arnold from Omaha to help. They gave me the entire treasury (\$26) to start on. We got Richard Litterst, National President, to direct the massed ringing. Sometimes things work well when you are only given five months to prepare a festival. We had excellent participation and the treasure grew when registrations came in. At the end I paid the bills, repaid the \$100 to National and \$150 to Betty Fletcher, part of what she had spent. Then I turned over \$800 to the Area treasury as the profit. Since then our Areas have been on a firm basis financially. The final concert presented individual choirs as well as massed ringing.



RESOURCE LIBRARY

The following materials are available to all Area VIII members and their choirs to be checked out. There is no rental fee; we just ask that you pay postage both ways and a small packaging charge. Materials should be returned within two weeks unless other arrangements are made or instructions sent. We hope that these materials will be another area of assistance for you and your Handbell Choir.

VIDEOS

- **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 Malmrk.** Care for your Malmrk 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.

SEND REQUESTS TO:

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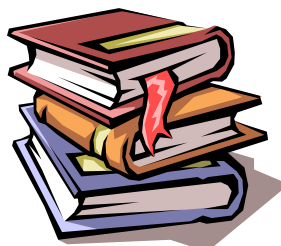


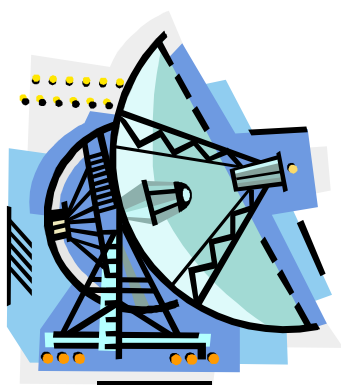
BOOKS AND PAPERS

- **Adaptive Notation for Handbells.** Letha McGrew
- **Bass Bells.** Various authors
- **Bell Lore.** Ellen Jane Lorenz
- **Conducting Technique for Beginners and Professionals.** Brock McElheran
- **Copyright: The Complete Guide for Music Educators.** Jay Althouse (1984)
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