



HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA

ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA

QUAVERS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2014

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OF AMERICA

HASTINGS COLLEGE

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THANK YOU

The leadership of Area 8 is transitioning to our newly elected and appointed board members. Patrick Gagnon of Iowa is the new chairperson leading the executive committee and board members of our Area.

As of October 1, I have completed a four-year term as chair-elect and chair. I now move into a two-year term as past chair.

I would like to take the opportunity to say **thank you** to all of the members of Area 8 who have given me the privilege and the trust to work in a leadership role with you during the past four years. I would also like to express my appreciation to those individuals who have served on the executive committee and the board with me.

I will continue to work at the local level and at the area level to help provide high quality educational and ringing experiences for all who live in Area 8. I look forward to seeing you in Springfield, Illinois, in two years as we *Ring in the Land of Lincoln*.

Dolan Bayless ~ Past-Chair, Area 8

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ELECTED	ELECTED	APPOINTED
CHAIR: Patrick Gagnon 211 S Victor (P.O. Box 314) Hubbard, IA 50122 641.373.2972 TREASURER: Sharon Schmidt 28 Oriole Ct Naperville, IL 60540 630.369.9879 PAST CHAIR: Dolan Bayless c/o Kirkwood UMC 201 W Adams, Kirkwood, MO 63122 314.966.8167	CHAIR-ELECT: Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal 295 Town Center Blvd Gilberts, IL 60136 630.699.3802 SECRETARY: Kathy Leonard 1st UMC 612 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502 785.317.0598  Like us on Facebook Visit us on the WEB	COMMUNICATIONS: Pat Latshaw QUAVERS: KC Congdon WEBMASTER: Wendi Calkins-Levitt FINANCIAL ADVISOR: Stephen Swanson MEMBERSHIP TEAM: Stephen Swanson / Beth Ann Edwards / Michael Allen EDUCATION: Debi Robey HISTORIAN: Open RESOURCE LIBRARIAN: Kathy Harrison

	ILLINOIS	IOWA	KANSAS	MISSOURI	NEBRASKA
Chair	Briana Belding-Peck 320 E 21st St Unit 615 Chicago, IL 60616 573.239.5182	John Cook Westminster Pres. 4114 Allison Ave Des Moines, IA 50310 515.274.1534	Staci Cunningham 21370 Harper Rd Chanute, KS 66720 620.433.7223	Cathy Benton 2739 Autumn Run Ct Chesterfield, MO 63005 314.640.7053	Linda Ashley 9107 Meadow Dr Omaha, NE 68114 402.320.5312 402.397.9551 (h)
Treasurer	Debbie Perisho	Mary Lee Parks	Karla Denton	Suanne Comfort	Janet Chiocchi
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
 phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: rringer@rr.org • web: www.rr.org

A community handbell choir

Official

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU!

It is an honor to be able to write my first *Quavers* article as your Area 8 Chair, and to have as my subject matter the abundant resources available to all of us on the Guild's national website: www.hanbellmusicians.org. I'm intimately familiar with some of these resources as I use the website often in my work on your board. I also serve on a Resource Task Force in the area of Education. The first thing that completely blows my mind is the **amazing** user interface with the "online book" version of these resources! You can turn the page with your mouse! Also, each resource has links to further items that are available as PDF downloads or live links to other documents.

These resources are available in three areas - Education, Faith-Based, and Community / Professional. Many of us live in all three of these arenas, so all of these resources are available to every member of the guild. Michael Glasgow and Kathryn Aspenwall are partners in music ministry in North Carolina, but their expertise and wisdom are available to every guild member. Paul Weller may teach in Minnesota, but his articles about composition and improvisation are available to the entire membership.

Do you struggle with programming? Are you putting off your articles of incorporation? Can we help you develop a membership handbook? All of these resources and more are available to you on the guild's national website. It should be said that there is more that could be offered (and will be offered in the future), but you are hereby challenged to read all of the current resources before the end of the year.

Your guild website is also a clearinghouse for every member of Handbell Musicians of America. By logging in, you can see information about people from your hometown, and about people from Hong Kong. We are a global community of ringers, directors, composers, clinicians, and Handbell Musicians. Though you are thousands of miles apart, you are as close as a click of the mouse to every member of the guild.

Know that if you are lucky enough to work with a college handbell program, you can get a free on year membership for each of your ringers in the Handbell Musicians of America!

AGEHR Publishing is also represented on the guild's national website. There you can hear excellent recordings of guild published music, see PDF files of pieces, and even purchase and print downloadable music for your rehearsal tonight.

One thing that the guild would like to make available to every member is a Lifetime of Ringing. A member of a children's chime choir could be connected with a director of a Middle School handbell choir, then with a high school handbell choir, and possibly a church handbell program that includes high school-aged youth. This person then could find a college or university with a handbell program such as Wartburg College or Duke University and then locate a community handbell ensemble close to their first job, and even find a church or community handbell ensemble when a career move happened. Are you a handbell musician? If so, we want you. We need you. We want your arms, your fingers, your eyes, and your brain. We want your spirit, your soul, your energy, and your passion. Your guild's website is organized to help you find places to make the best music possible with the finest people available.

Finally, it should not be a surprise at this point that I am completely sold on the guild. You have my confidence and my word that Handbell Musicians of America is and will continue to be the primary voice for our artistic medium. I will do whatever I can as your Chair to make sure that Area 8 is at the forefront of that vision. We have the people, the resources, and the excitement necessary to make it happen here in Area 8. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as chair. Please make your plans to join me and 800 of your closest Handbell Musician colleagues while we all *Ring in the Land of Lincoln* in June 2016!

Patrick Gagnon ~ Area 8 Chair

www.area8iii.org

WHAT'S COMING UP IN ILLINOIS?

I'm excited to tell you about an entirely new format for our youth event on February 7, 2015—**Racing to Ring!** This event, in Naperville, IL, offers three tracks (based on age and skill), and you don't need to purchase and prepare any music. The racers (ringers) will attend classes on a variety of ringing topics, learn a processional during the day, and come together for a final sharing time that can include solo pieces by attending ensembles.

On February 21, 2015, we'll be offering a one-day workshop with The Agape Ringers in Cary, IL. The day begins with a massed sight-reading session with David Weck, and ringers then attend four classes. The classes cover topics of interest to beginning, intermediate and advanced ringers as well as directors. The day ends with a mini-concert by The Agape Ringers. Individuals are welcome; you don't have to come as a whole group. Here's what a past participant said about a previous workshop: *"All four of us enjoyed the classes very much. We liked the group ring and are planning on ordering two of the pieces. We liked the camaraderie of being with other bell choirs. All of the instructors were very encouraging, enthusiastic, and well prepared. The mini concert at the end was an inspiring experience."*

More information on these events and links to on-line registration are available at: www.il-agehr.org.

Sharon Schmidt—Past [Illinois](#) Chair

As I transition to a new role as the Area 8 treasurer, I'm most pleased to introduce **Briana Belding-Peck** as your new state chair.

Briana moved to Chicago with her family about a year ago. She serves as the handbell director at Fourth Presbyterian Church in downtown Chicago. She is a member of Chicago Bronze and Chicago Bronze Breve, and an alumnae of the Columbia Handbell Ensemble. Briana is a stay at home mom to her beautiful three year old daughter. In her free time, you can find her playing the cello, running, and exploring the city with her family. She told me she is very excited to serve as the Illinois state chair!

Thanks to those who have served on the committee over the years – it's been a joy to work with you, and I know you'll enjoy working with Briana.

Sharon Schmidt ~ Past Illinois Chair

What do you call a handbell choir that rings for television and radio commercials?

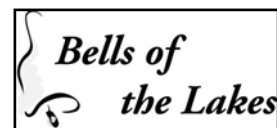
Jingle Bells

Invitation to BellFest!

BellFest! is an annual one-day ringing festival for handbell groups hosted by the Minneapolis-based ensemble *Bells of the Lakes*. It's a terrific way to perk up a long winter! Up to 40 choirs and all their equipment gather on a Saturday to ring under the direction of a guest conductor. The repertoire, learned ahead of time, is rehearsed in this massed setting, and a concert for the public is held in the afternoon. Participating groups are encouraged to ring a solo piece at the concert. Refreshments are offered at a mid-morning break and a lunch option is available. Food, bells, fun, a guest conductor, and a concert for the public — Fab-Bell-Ous!

BellFest! 2015 will be held **Saturday, February 28th** at North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills, MN with **guest conductor David Weck**. This year's repertoire list includes *Clarion Call*, *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*, *Peal Con Brio*, *Hallelujah*, and *Down by the Riverside*. It is going to be a wonderful day of ringing!

Follow the links for BellFest! at www.bellsofthelakes.org for registration information and more details, or email registrar@bellsofthelakes.org / call 612-756-0467



WHO AM I AND WHERE ARE YOU?

Greetings from the Hawkeye State. My name is John Cook and I am the new chair for Iowa. According to Handbell law, I must divulge my qualifications so here goes. Basically, I owe Patrick Gagnon a sizable debt for an unfortunate and totally hilarious misunderstanding in Belize. Patrick (or Patty as he is known in South America) refused to take one of my kids as collateral so here I am. Originally from the Atlanta area, I have lived all over the country and three years ago, I moved to Des Moines to serve as Minister of Music and Fine Arts at Westminster Presbyterian. I have been ringing and conducting bells for about 17 years now and I actually met my lovely wife Lisa in a bell choir. I really enjoy the art form and I think it is truly the most challenging way to make music out there.

Over my term, I want to see Iowa and all of Area 8 continue their fine tradition of advancing the art of handbell ringing by educating ringers and conductors alike. To that end, I have a question for you: *Where do you ring?*

You see, one of our challenges in the guild is that we don't know everything. Now, one thing we do know is that there are lots of ringing choirs in Iowa, but not all of them are connected to the guild and therefore don't have access to the great community and deep musical resources that we have. To that end, I would like to propose an **Iowa Handbell Census**. If you are a guild member please email me any names, locations, phone numbers, GPS coordinates, emails, or whatever information that you have about choirs in your area. The Iowa board and I will follow up with them.

Now, I recognize that in an age where privacy is at a premium this might sound a little like "Big Brother." Please rest assured that no one's information will be shared publicly without their permission, and no list will be sold or used in any manner that the board deems inappropriate. Our goal is simply to build an internal roster to create, enhance, and/or grow local geographically-based communities of ringers who can support one another.

I look forward to meeting with you in the coming months. If you have any comments, suggestions, questions, please send me an email: ia.area8@handbellmusicians.org.

John Cook ~ [Iowa State](#) Chair

VIRTUOSO
An Extraordinary Performance Experience

CLINICIAN: Dr. William Payn

DATE: Friday, June 12, 2015 -
Sunday, June 14, 2015

LOCATION: Raleigh, North Carolina

Virtuoso was created by The Raleigh Ringers to be a unique opportunity for 29 advanced ringers to participate in a professional performance experience, under the baton of renowned conductor Dr. William Payn.

The three-day event will include all aspects of preparing for and presenting a formal concert, culminating in a featured performance on a concert stage as special guests during The Raleigh Ringers' Spring Concert at Meymandi Concert Hall.

Participants will be determined by an application/audition process. Deadline to apply is December 1, 2014. Email RRadmin@rr.org for an application packet. More information can be found at www.rr.org/events/virtuoso

The Raleigh Ringers, 8516 Sleepy Creek Drive, Raleigh, NC 27613 www.rr.org 919-847-7574

www.agetheria.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN KANSAS

There aren't any workshops in Kansas until February 28, 2015, but it is an event worth attending. **Ring in the Spring** at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, is celebrating its 10th year. The event coordinator, Gwen Gepford, has asked Jason Krug to be the Bronze clinician and to arrange a handbell piece, *Shall We Gather at the River*, to celebrate 10 years. Area 8's former Education Chair, Lauran Delancy, will be the Copper clinician. The workshop culminates with a **free** concert at 3 pm. If you are unable to make the workshop, plan on attending the concert. You can find all of the information at www.cor.org/ringinthespring.

Come **Resonate!** with Rezound! Handbell Ensemble on Saturday, May 2, 2015, at Faith Lutheran Church, Prairie Village, KS. This bronze-level ringing event presents the opportunity to spend a day ringing advanced music with members of Rezound! Handbell Ensemble. An emphasis will be placed on musicality and technique, integration of various handbell instrumentation, ensemble essentials and camaraderie.

The event will conclude with a Rezound! concert, as well as with participants ringing the workshop pieces. Find out more at www.rezound.org.

Cherryl Cox ~ Past [Kansas](#) Chair

WELCOME to **Staci Cunningham** who took over the duties as Kansas Chair on October 1st. Staci grew up in a small town in central Kansas called Galva. She attended Bethany College and received a BS in Business/Accounting. While there, she met her husband, Scott. They have two girls, ages 11 & 8, and currently reside in Scott's hometown of Chanute, KS. Scott and Staci run the family business and are actively involved in the community. Staci is involved with the Chanute Community Theatre and runs the Chanute Elementary PTO Book Fair. She loves music and has played or sung since she was 5 years old. She has dabbled on other instruments such as bagpipe and french horn! She was introduced to handbells around nine years ago when the church needed some subs. About a year later, she took over as director and was the bell director for about eight years. Her hobbies are reading, sewing, and quilting. I hope you will take the time to welcome her to the Kansas board and help her with anything she needs. She is a wonderful person and I can't wait to see how she leads Kansas.

I want to thank Shirley Myers, Chimes Chair, and Karla Denton, Treasurer, for working with me on the Kansas State Committee. These ladies **are** amazing and Kansas **is** blessed to have them.

Thank you to all the volunteers for the help you have granted me over these past few years.

The heart of Kansas continues ringing with the sound of handbells. The [Kansas](#) website and the Kansas [Chair's](#) email remain the same. You can still follow us at www.facebook.com/KansasHandbellMusiciansOfAmerica.

I will miss being the Chair of this great state, but I can't wait to see what's ahead.

Please volunteer to help, organize events and share your talents and time to continue *Uniting People Through a Musical Art*.

Cherryl Cox ~ Past Kansas Chair

Thank You

MISSOURI MUSINGS

The Columbia Handbell Ensemble just celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary with a weekend with Hart Morris, including a Director's Workshop, massed ring, and concert. Congratulations to that fine group for their distinguished 25 year history under the direction of Debbie Carr and Ed Rollins. Many students at the University of Missouri have gotten excellent ringing experience with that choir.

Missouri recently held its second **Fall Show-Me Ring** in Blue Springs with classes, a mini-massed ring and concert, all led by members of Rezound! Under Luran Delancy's direction, Rezound! is a group of creative, professional ringers who represent the handbell world very well. We hope to build on this event.

If you have concerts or events, please share them with Area 8 at Concerts@areaviii.org so we may all benefit from each other.

Suanne Comfort ~ Past [Missouri](#) Chair

WELCOME

CONCERT LISTINGS?

CLICK

BELOW

Concerts

I am pleased to introduce the new Missouri chair, Dr. Cathy Benton, Associate Professor of Music at Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis, where she teaches piano and directs the MBU Ringers. We heard her fine college choir at the Saturday luncheon in Davenport. They have rung at various venues around Missouri, and in 2013 were selected to ring at the Missouri Music Educators Conference. Cathy has a DMA degree in piano performance from UMKC and performs on piano, organ, and harpsichord. She is a frequent adjudicator and clinician for numerous keyboard festivals and workshops. In addition to her college teaching, she serves as organist/pianist and handbell director at Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church in St. Louis.

Dr. Benton is on the board of the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis, and she is finishing her term as president of the Missouri Music Teachers Association (MMTA). Cathy will be a fine spokesman for Missouri handbells.

The new Missouri board is:

Chair	Cathy Benton
Treasurer	Suanne Comfort
Membership	Sherry Boland
Website	Wendi Calkins-Levitt
Chimes Chair	Anne Miller
Other	Kathy Harrison
Other	Christie White

The best part of serving as Missouri Chair has been getting to know the members of the Area 8 board who are such caring, dedicated officers, and who work so capably to lead the area and present our fine festivals. They are talented people who represent you well.

Suanne Comfort ~ Past [Missouri](#) Chair

www.agehr-mo.org

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A BETTER RINGER, ...HAVE I GOT A DEAL FOR YOU!

The Nebraska Committee is putting the final touches on our next **Spring Ring**; set for April 10-11, 2015 in Lincoln, Nebraska, at St. Mark's UMC. We are hosting David Weck and The Agape Ringers as they lead us in a weekend of ringing, workshops and then culminating in a concert Saturday evening.

The event kicks off with an evening session for directors on Friday, April 10, led by Master Conductor, David Weck. These two hours of intense instruction are geared towards making you a better director.

On Saturday, we will begin with a massed ringing session which will be followed by several hours of classes, led by Mr. Weck and members of The Agape Ringers. Multiple classes will be offered for all skill levels, from beginner to the advanced ringer, on a variety of topics. Whether you have only just begun to ring or have been ringing for years, I promise there will be something for everyone. In fact, there will be lots of *some things* for everyone.

In the evening, The Agape Ringers will be presenting a full, 90 minute concert, which is a treat you won't want to miss. Workshop attendees can enjoy the concert as admission is included in the registration fee.

So mark your calendars now and make plans to come to Lincoln and enjoy a wondrous weekend handbell experience, sure to raise your game to a new level.

For more information, contact Registrar [Linda Ashley](#) at or at our website: www.agehr-ne.org. More details forthcoming!

J. Michael Allen ~ Past [Nebraska](#) Chair

Let me take this opportunity to introduce the new Nebraska State Chair, Linda Ashley.

Linda fell in love with handbells in the early 80s when she was invited to join one of the choirs at her church. Linda worked her way through all the positions from C4 to the treble bells. When her director retired in 1990, she was asked to take over and now directs three choirs. Linda attended her first Area 8 festival in 1996 in Omaha, and hasn't missed one since.

Under the direction of Joyce Miller, she continues to grow as a ringer through her involvement with River City Ringers, , and is a regular attendee at both Distinctly Bronze and Bay View Week of Handbells.

She was recruited to join the Nebraska Handbell Committee in 2005 and has been very active since, taking over for our esteemed grand lady of handbells, Mary Kettelhut, as event registrar for the last several years.

Linda's other musical interests include various wind instruments. In fact, she was a founding member of the Nebraska Wind Symphony and she participated in the group for 17 years, serving on the Board of Directors for several terms.

Linda's professional life finds her as a Patient Care Pharmacist at Nebraska Methodist Hospital. She has been a Pharmacist for 35 years in retail, long-term care and, currently, hospital practice. She is married, has three grown children, three grandchildren, one border collie/mini-sheltie mix and two cockatiels.

Linda will do a terrific job as State Chair and I ask you to join me in welcoming her to her new position.

J. Michael Allen ~ Past Nebraska Chair

2014	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Nov 15 9a-5p	Illinois Fall Festival 2014 John Behnke	Barrington UMC Barrington, IL	Illinois

2015	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
2/7	Racing to Ring For Youth	Grace UMC Naperville, IL	Illinois
2/21	Handbells, Handbells, Handbells The Agape Ringers	Holy Cross Lutheran Cary, IL	Illinois
2/28	Ring in the Spring 10th Anniversary Lauran Delancy Jason Krug	Church of the Resurrection Leawood, KS	Leawood
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! Handbell Ensemble	Faith Lutheran Church Prairie Village, KS	Rezound!

Help me access my Handbell Musicians of America account – Online!

I have a current membership, and I provided an email address when I joined.

At the top of the handbellmusicians.org home page, it says: *Need Login Assistance? Click Here.* Go ahead and select *Click Here*. This will take you to the Login Help page where you enter the email address you used when you joined. You will receive an email that will help you recover a login or password that was used for the account, or it will give you steps to create a brand new login and password.

I have a current membership, but I did not provide an email address when I joined.

Not a problem! Our Central Regional Membership Coordinator will be at your service. Mary Willadsen can add an email address to your account. You can contact her via email at mwilladsen@handbellmusicians.org, or during her office hours by phone 937-438-0085 ext 908 (Mon 8a -12p, Tues/Thurs 12p-4p).

Oh no! My membership has lapsed and I would like to fix that and get online.

Mary will be able assist you in renewing your membership and accessing all the online benefits provided by Handbell Musicians of America.

What can I do once I am logged in?

Much more than this article space can name! You can manage your account and renew your membership, access the library of online resources for educators, directors, worship leaders and all handbell musicians and find handbell friends near you using the member directory. Enjoy!

Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal ~ Area 8 [Chair-Elect](#)