



## *Festival Anticipation On Hold For Now*

by Beth Ann Edwards, Area 8 Chair

Under other circumstances, I should be blissfully frantic, just weeks away from the Area 8 Festival in Overland Park, Kansas. Registration numbers were right where we had projected. New procedures were being implemented, including signing up for classes before the Festival. Clinicians were top-notch and ready to go with awesome rep. A8 Board and Festival Committee members were overachieving in all their respective volunteer responsibilities.

Instead, here we sit. Now what? Music is ready to be filed away, contracts and hotel reservations are cancelled, and registration fees have been returned. We have been working and planning for over two years to make “More Than Meets the Eye” a reality, and the process of dismantling the event is ongoing.

My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you:

- The Exec Committee worked with me every step of the way, planning and dismantling.
- The full A8 Board and Festival Committee are the absolute best. The 2020 Festival would have been over-the-top outstanding because of the enthusiasm and dedication they gave to event planning.
- Our A-list clinicians gave us full support and were ready to go the distance with us.
- The registrants proved to us that we were on track. Before March 15, the numbers were solid, and right where we predicted they would be.
- All of you who sent me notes of disappointment and support, please know that you warmed my heart. Thank you for thinking of us as we made all the difficult decisions these last few weeks.

We look forward to future handbell events when we can again gather and make music. Check the website, subscribe to Area 8 and state Facebook pages, and read the Quavers, our Area 8 newsletter, for more information.

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Please click here to visit the Area 8 website for contact information and bios.

# The Times They Are a Changin'

A Message from Incoming Interim Executive Director Ed Rollins



In a world changing by the minute, there are few constants left for us to hold on to carry us through hard times. One constant is the love we share with people all around us; family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers. It is amazing to watch neighborhoods gather in the evening outside to cheer our medical heroes. It is incredible to see people everywhere covering up and walking, greeting others with friendliness and camaraderie. We are sharing moments of history that may never happen again, and we are doing it with grace.

Another constant in our lives is music. We love to sing and ring and play – we love to share notes of hope and joy – we love to unite ourselves through music, and especially that of handbell ringing. Virtual musicians abound on the internet – musicians play and dance on their streets – musicians just carry a happy tune of hope.

Handbell Musicians of America is a group bound by hope and grace and music, and we, too, are experiencing some changes. Jenny Cauhorn, executive director for 13 and a half years, will be moving to a new position starting later this month. Congratulations to Jenny for her new opportunity and a world of thanks for the incredible job she has performed for our organization. Her tenure led the Guild through countless positive changes, and we will forever be grateful. I encourage you to send greetings of thanks to her at [jcauhorn@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:jcauhorn@handbellmusicians.org).

While this significant change will be difficult, the national board of directors is moving forward to address the future, and the amazing staff of Handbell Musicians of America will continue to help make our organization great. These groups will be a constant for our organization during this time. Please remember to encourage them and root them on. They are a terrific board and staff, and we are grateful that they are in place and working hard.

It is my privilege and honor to come on board as the interim executive director for Handbell Musicians of America during this time of transition. I am grateful to the board for the invitation to help during this time. Together, with the board and staff, we will continue to move forward for the common goal of uniting people through handbells.

In 1964, Bob Dylan sang the iconic song, “The Times They Are a Changin’.” We may not be able to change the world (but stay home – that will help), but we can continue to add notes of joy and hope to a changing world. Keep ringing folks. And we will all be changed.

Thanks, Jenny!

Blessings and safety to you all. Please feel free to contact me at [erollins@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:erollins@handbellmusicians.org).

*This article is reproduced with permission by Handbell Musicians of America and can be found at <https://handbellmusicians.org/news/e-notes-april-2020/>*

New A8 members  
Feb/March 2020

Wess Robotham  
Seward United  
Methodist Church  
Seward NE

# Future Area 8 Events

by Sharon Schmidt, Chair-Elect



What/when/where is the next event for Area 8? At this time, we just aren't able to answer your questions. Our tentative plans are to offer a festival based on the 2020 repertoire and schedule June 16-19, 2022, most likely in the Kansas City area. But we do not have contracts for those dates with any venue, clinician, or hotel. I'm sure you can understand that we are reluctant to enter into contracts not knowing which of our previous activities will be safe, wise, and socially accepted in the future. In the

interim, the board will be working to develop ways we can feed your hunger for making music with our wonderful community of handbell musicians. If you have ideas on how we can do that, please contact Sharon Schmidt at [chairelect.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chairelect.area8@handbellmusicians.org).

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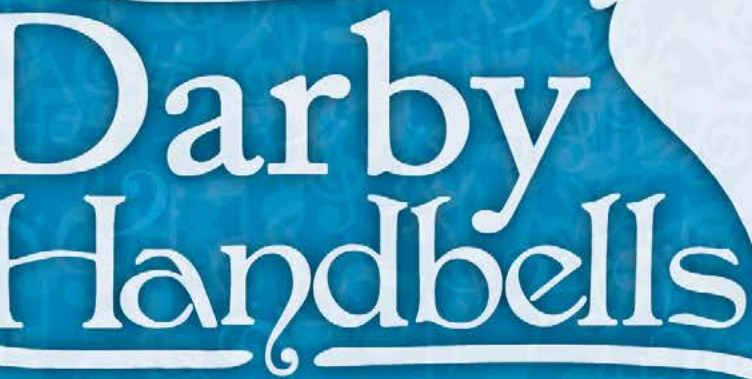
## Biennial Meeting

Friday, June 19, 2020, 5:00 pm

The Area 8 bylaws state that we are required to hold a biennial meeting for all members. This meeting has, in the past, taken place during the Area 8 Festival. Since our 2020 Area 8 Festival will not take place in June 2020, the biennial meeting will take place electronically, via Zoom. All Area 8 members are invited to join this meeting. Please check the website and the Area 8 Facebook page for invitations to the meeting.

*“There shall be a biennial meeting of Area VIII membership for purposes of receiving reports of the Area VIII Board and for transacting any other such business as may be brought before the membership by either the Area VIII Board or its members.”*

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Lee's Summit, Missouri

# Dealing with no rehearsals during Covid-19

Kirsten Hendrickson, Chicago Area Co-Chair

What does a handbell choir do with three or more months off and it's not summer yet.

Hello to everyone from Illinois, where we have been at home on a Stay at Home order from our Governor since mid-March. I am probably not the only one that is missing my handbell rehearsals and seeing my choir members and the conversations and making our spring music come to life.

So, I have been trying to think of great ways to keep bells in our lives during this time. Here are some of the ways that I have been using to get my handbell fix.

- **Listening** to handbell recording or videos of other handbell ensembles
- **Looking** for new music by going through recordings on handbell publisher websites
- **Sending** emails or notes to handbell friends
- **Connecting** with my choirs with emails and Video chats
- **Working** on festival music with recordings. Yes, this might be the best time to work at home and prepare your festival music.
- **Resting** and enjoying my family and appreciating all the people I ring with and my choirs I direct and interact with because of handbells.



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# *A Social-Distance Peal for Easter in Eldora!*

By Patrick Gagnon, Iowa Chair

Like so many of you, our church services have gone online since we cannot be in-person for the foreseeable future. While we were recording the closing hymn "The Day of Resurrection" (NCH #245), one of my ringers happened to show up in the sanctuary. She agreed to play a peal of four bells (C7, G6, A6, E6) during the hymn play-over, and then again on the final verse. We were able to successfully social-distance, and have the bells, piano, and microphone appropriately placed for a lovely closing hymn.

Handbell Musicians of America has two weekly RingCentral "Handbell Happy Hours" each week on Tuesday and Thursday. These are great ways to connect with ringers all over the country during this time: <https://handbellmusicians.org/handbell-happy-hours/>

Additionally, I will be hosting an Iowa Handbell Zoom! on Monday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join me for that, please send me an email ([ia.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ia.area8@handbellmusicians.org)) and I will send you the invitation. I will also post this on our Facebook page, but you will need to send me a DM for the invitation.

The Iowa Committee is looking forward to presenting two events this fall season, both featuring clinician Brenda Austin. She is conductor of the Detroit Handbell Ensemble, a prolific composer, a dynamic music educator, and is most recently the Handbell Editor at Hope/Agape publishing.

Friday, October 9 - Beer, Wine, and Bells will feature beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres provided by Des Moines Concert Handbells, and a reading session featuring tried, true, and new pieces for your handbell program.

Saturday, October 10 - 2020 Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival with Brenda Austin. This day-long festival brings together 80-100 of your handbell colleagues from central Iowa and will culminate in a public performance of five pieces.

I'm sure the final lyrics of the 1939 Vera Lynn song are not mistaken:

**"We'll meet again**

**Don't know where**

**Don't know when**

**But I know we'll meet again some sunny day."**

# Notes from Kansas

By Kipp Willnauer, Kansas Chair

(rewritten by Beth Ann Edwards, Area 8 Chair)

Kipp wrote a compelling article about the need for borrowing multiple octaves of handbells and handchimes, plus foam and other equipment, to be loaned for use at the Area 8 Festival. However, since the Area 8 Festival will not take place, we will not need your equipment in June. Kipp has been in charge of procuring this equipment for many state, area, and national events, and he has always come through with everything that was needed.

The success of most handbell events depends on the use of loaned equipment. We (meaning you) need handbells, chimes, foam pads, bell trees, music stands, mallets, boom boxes, and more, in order for every attendee to get the full impact of a handbell event. Loaned equipment is needed for almost every classroom and reading session room, and Area 8 uses borrowed bells for BronzeFest and YouthFest choirs. The handbell world is close-knit and very generous with equipment loans. Every class I've attended had enough bells, foam, and other equipment so that we can perfect our skills and learn new techniques.

Our best and most important asset in the handbell world is the sense of community that we build when we gather. The networking and friend-making that takes place as we learn and ring side by side allows us to create a sense of family. We know how precious our equipment is to us and others, which in turn reminds us to treat each handbell and handchime with utmost respect, as if it were our very own.

When any of you receives the call to loan equipment for a handbell event, please be prepared to say yes. Chances are, you have rung equipment owned by someone else, and the knowledge and experience you take home has been enhanced by handbells that were borrowed. If my handbells could talk, I would love to hear who, and how many, have rung them at handbell events. And if we could list the owners of all the sets of handbells we have rung, I imagine our "degrees of separation" would be much less than 10!

Thank you, Kipp, for saying "yes" to finding equipment for the 2020 Area 8 Festival. I had been looking forward to walking through all the classrooms and rehearsal spaces, looking at all those beautiful handbells and handchimes. I am confident we will gather again soon and make beautiful music with "owned and loaned" handbells and handchimes.



## Kansas State Chair

Kipp Willnauer

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OPEN - Contact

Kipp Willnauer

## Chimes

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# And then there was the virus...

by Cheri Leigh, Missouri State Chair

As if preparations for the Area 8 Festival were not enough, we have the virus, eliminating in person rehearsals for the near future. A few weeks ago the members of our choir did the unthinkable, they took home their individual bells, gloves, music and mallets. This makes the director very nervous, but it was the best way to keep on practicing. Of course there is the "spoon method," but really nothing feels like a bell.

We have been meeting electronically with the help of Zoom. There are issues, the main one being the delay in sound so that we cannot really play together. After trying several options, this is what we decided works the best. Everyone mutes his or her microphone except for the director. The director plays the recorded music, courtesy of the Jeffers Handbell Supply website, on the smartphone, which can be hooked up to a speaker. The director then counts out the measures while the ringers ring. The ringers are playing up to tempo and not

getting lost. Of course the director cannot hear anyone playing, so she or he is happy too, thinking everyone is playing well. Seriously, this does not in any way take the place of a real rehearsal, but it

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*... it does allow everyone to be immersed in the music, and it is better than no rehearsal at all.*

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does allow everyone to be immersed in the music, and it is better than no rehearsal at all. The ringers know that they need to practice between group rehearsals, or they will be lost, and so the whole choir gains.

If you use Zoom for free, then there is a forty-minute limit per session. You could either pay a monthly fee for more benefits or string together more sessions. There are other on-line services as well, and there may be more benefits with other services. In the meantime, we will be continuing with our virtual practices. Another benefit of the stay-at-home orders is that we have had perfect attendance at our rehearsals.

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# *The Gift of Time*

by Nancy Youngman, Nebraska State Chair

I am writing this on Maundy Thursday, and, in a way, mourning the loss of being able to celebrate Easter with my handbell choirs. We should be spending time together, preparing absolutely joyous music to share with our churches and God. But, instead, we are isolating ourselves, unable to give our gifts as we love to give.

But, all is not lost. If we look at this time as a gift of just that---time---we can use it to better our handbell choirs. Here are a few suggestions I have that we can use the time to help us improve our choirs.

1. Get on the Handbell Musicians of America website---explore the articles and the information that is there, take notes on ways you can improve your rehearsals and ringing. If you have not yet paid your dues to the guild, please do. There is so much that this organization can offer!
2. In the same vein, if you aren't already a part of such a group on Facebook, consider joining Handbell-L or Handbell People. There are always great questions, discussions, suggestions, and videos of choirs.
3. Listen to the CDs that are sent by the various publishers. Pick out your repertoire for the next season (yes, this season is probably pretty well over!)
4. Get your music order in, so the music is ready to go when we can get together again.
5. Reorganize your folders. Take out the music from last year and file them. Once you get you your new music in, get it in the folders.
6. If you can get into your church to where your bells are, take the time to check springs, readjust the clappers, polish the bells, and check for parts that may need to be replaced.
7. Make an effort to contact all of your ringers. An email to the choir, a ZOOM meeting, or, to me as most important, give each one a personal connection. Text, message on Facebook, even call!! Catch up on feelings over the past few weeks and let them know that they are an important part of your life!

Instead of looking back at what we lost, look forward with anticipation to a new season of ringing and enjoying our special friendships!



**Nebraska State Chair**

Nancy Youngman

**Registrar**

Linda Ashley

**Scholarship Committee**

Janet Chiocchi

# Upcoming Area 8 Events

Please check the ensemble websites for updated information. Due to social distancing and COVID-19 requirements, events may be cancelled after this newsletter is distributed.

## June 2020

Friday, June 19, 2020

8:00 am moment of silence for Area 8 Festival, "More Than Meets the Eye"  
5:00 pm Area 8 Biennial Meeting via Zoom - please contact Beth Ann Edwards (chair.area8@handbellmusicians.org) for an invitation to join. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

## July 2020

Thursday, July 16, 2020 - Monday, July 20, 2020

Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar: Orlando, FL

## October 2020

Friday, October 9, 2020

6:00 pm Beer, Wine, and Bells: Des Moines, IA

Saturday, October 10, 2020

8:00 am 2020 Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival: Windsor Heights, IA

Find the most up-to-date calendar and details about events on the A8 website.

# Officer Nomination Positions Available

by Kristen Kalitowski-Kowal

A few select openings remain in the Area 8 nominating process. Please contact me (pastchair.area8@handbellmusicians.org) if you would like to do one (or both) of the following:

- **Self-select**
- **Nominate a candidate**

Serving on the Executive Committee brings rewards on many levels:

- Working with friends who love handbells as much as you
- Partnering with dedicated handbell lovers who want to further the art of handbell ringing
- Making new friends
- Learning new skills about organizational involvement

## Publishing in Quavers

6 publications per year, published in odd months.

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must be submitted by the 25th of even months to be included in *Quavers*. To submit a concert or event for inclusion, click here or go to the A8 Website, Events page.

## Questions?

Please send all questions and comments about this and future *Quavers* publications to newslettereditor.area8@handbellmusicians.org