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The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. Area IX—Texas/Oklahoma Ringling News Fall 2007

Greetings! My name is Bob Avant and I am now serving you as Chair of Area IX. Just last year, you elected me to serve as Chair-Elect; however with the resignation of Ben Harris from the Board a few months ago, I immediately became Chair. Let me first say a sincere thank you to Ben from myself and the Board for his years of service. He has been a strong leader and one that will be a challenge to follow. I would also like to thank the Board for their support and to acknowledge to all Area IX members the dedication and action oriented nature of your Board members. You will see the results in the many events planned for this coming year.

Recently, I attend the AGEHR National Seminar held in Dallas and have come away from it with an even stronger understanding of the value of attending national and area events. These events provide an array of instructional and hands on sessions spread out over several days from top notch instructors. Add to that the special concerts and you can't help but take away more knowledge, abilities and inspiration than you could have imagined. I strongly encourage you to consider attending one of these wonderful events.

Your next opportunity for such a large scale event will be the Area IX Festival: "A Capital Carillon", June 18-22, 2008 to be held in Austin. The event is actually two in one as it begins with a Teen Ring and then follows with the Adult Festival. Let me be the first to invite you to consider making plans to be part of this whether you are a director or ringer. Although we would like to have your entire group participating, we will also be able to accommodate partial groups as well as individuals. There will be a ringing space for everyone and of course, lots of learning going on in the breakout sessions. More details will follow throughout the year as well as updated information posted on the Area IX web site. Stay tuned!

Large scale events like this do not just happen. There is a huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes by many dedicated individuals, both Board members and volunteers, to make the events a success. They also could not possibly happen without there being a strong Area and National organization that is focused on the improvement and support of this musical form. I am proud to say that your leadership at the Area and National levels within the AGEHR are very strong and the results show in many ways. The benefits to membership are numerous and I'm sure that there will be many times that you will hear a plug for joining. Here comes one now! Please do consider joining or continuing your annual membership and especially encouraging others to join. Your membership affords you with opportunities for learning and growth as well as helps to enable advancements on a larger scale. The AGEHR is one of those types of organizations that is indeed stronger through greater numbers. Regular memberships are \$65 or \$30. Here is a link to learn more about the AGEHR and all membership options: http://www.agehr.org/misc/AGEHR_Brochure.pdf

One last request....and that is to ask you to get involved in Area IX. Take a look at some of the events that are being planned in your area and in addition to attending, ask how you can help. You can contact myself, the lead contact of the event or any Board member to volunteer.

Thank you and happy ringing!
Bob Avant, Area IX Chair

www.areaix.org



Schedule of Upcoming Handbell Festivals and Events

IX-S=Area IX Sponsored Event IX-E=Area IX Endorsed Event N=National Event

Date	Event	Site	Clinician	Contact
August 18, 2007	An August Adventure	Memorial Dr. Presbyterian Houston, TX	Anna Laura Page Kirtsy Mitchell	Ruth Seiwell, 979-236-4736 ruthseiwell@sbcglobal.net
August 25, 2007	Rookie Ringers (IX-S)	University UMC San Antonio, TX	Linda Smith	Sheryl Tomlinson (918)392-1199 education@areaix.org
Sept. 8, 2007	Rookie Ringers (IX-S)	St. Anthony of Padua The Woodlands	Ben Harris	Sheryl Tomlinson (918)392-1199 education@areaix.org
Sept. 8, 2007	Rookie Ringers (IX-S)	First Baptist Church Rusk, TX	Stephanie Rhoades	Sheryl Tomlinson (918)392-1199 education@areaix.org
Sept. 8, 2007	Rookie Ringers (IX-S)	First Presbyterian Church Bryan, TX	Susan Finnigan	Sheryl Tomlinson (918)392-1199 education@areaix.org
Sept. 8, 2007	Rookie Ringers (IX-S)	First United Methodist Arlington, TX	Jean Harden	Sheryl Tomlinson (918)392-1199 education@areaix.org
Sept. 15, 2007	Rookie Ringers (IX-S)	Covenant Presbyterian Oklahoma City, OK	Sheryl Tomlinson	Sheryl Tomlinson (918)392-1199 education@areaix.org
Sept. 15, 2007	Back to Bells	First Presbyterian Church San Antonio, TX	Various	Tara Lewis rivercityringers@yahoo.com www.rivercityringers.org
Oct. 4-7, 2007	Distinctly Bronze (N)	New Bern Convention Center New Bern, NC	David Davidson	www.agehr.org
Nov. 2-3, 2007	Glockenchor 2007	First Baptist Church Fredericksburg, TX	Christine Anderson	Karen Witcher 214-828-5247 Karen.witcher@bgct.org
June 19-22, 2008	Area IX Festival/ Conference (IX-S) A CAPITAL CARILLON	Doubletree Hotel, Austin, TX	Jane Anderson And Lee Afdahl	Sheryl Tomlinson (918)392-1199 education@areaix.org

DEADLINE FOR WINTER 2007 ISSUE OF RINGING NEWS—October 1, 2007

Ringling News is published in February, May, August and November. Deadline is the first of the month prior to publication. Ringling News is designed to inform AGEHR Area IX members of handbell events and Area IX business. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Advertising space is available at rates of \$12.50 for a business card ad, \$25 for a quarter page ad, \$50 for a half page. Copy must be submitted as camera ready. Questions/comments should be addressed to: Tara Lewis, Publications Chair
580 C.R. 4517, Hondo, TX 78861
830-741-2103 publications@areaix.org

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Are you planning a handbell event in your neck of the woods?

Let us know and we will be happy to add it to this page and post it on the Area IX website. For an event better deal, consider having your event endorsed by AGEHR. Endorsed events will receive additional coverage in this newsletter. Also, ASCAP licensing fee coverage and liability insurance coverage is available for endorsed events.

For more information, call the AGEHR office at (800)878-5459



Handbell Mission to Estonia

By Sheryl Tomlinson



Next month, I'll be going on a mission trip to Estonia, mainly to teach handbells. I know...you've heard of Estonia, but you don't know exactly where it is. Frankly, neither did I, other than somewhere close to Russia or Norway or something. Well, here's your chance to find out a little bit more! This will be a two part article, sort of a "before and after" look at this country.

So, where exactly is Estonia? The map below shows you that it is the northernmost of the three Baltic States, separated from Finland to the north by the Gulf of Finland. Its history as an independent country is really very new. Although Estonians have been living in this area since about 2500 B.C., they have been subjugated by Germans, Danes, Swedes, Poles and most recently Russians, and were occupied and ruled by the Soviet Union until 1991. There is an undercurrent of resentment against Russia that spills over to the Russian people who still live in Estonia. Estonians speak Estonian, and the children are learning English. The Russian transplants speak Russian and some Estonian (they must learn it to become citizens). Estonia's attempts to preserve national identity have alienated the large Russian minority. Because of the domination of the USSR, the country has a historical identity of less than 20 years. The introduction of capitalism has launched Estonia to be more prosperous than any other region of the former USSR, but not without a price. Luxury co-exists with severe poverty, and crime and divorce have skyrocketed since 1991. The country has a rich religious history, but the Soviets effectively extinguished it; therefore most Estonians now have no religious foundation. Over 60% of the population categorize themselves as non-religious. The Christian faith is growing as a result of countries like the US and Finland sending missionaries. In a place that can now practice religious freedom, most people don't know what religion is.

Estonians are a people who love music! Music seems to be such a part of their culture and history that even children who do not have music in their homes have an innate love and appreciation for music. An Estonian Song Festival is held in the capital, Tallinn, every five years in July, which draws around 200,000 in the audience (in 2004, the finale listed 24,000 *singers*). In fact, music plays an important part in the ultimate freedom of this tiny nation. From 1987-1991, public demonstrations involving tens of thousands of people occurred, uniting the Estonian people and renewing a passion for their national identity. Estonians gathered to sing patriotic and national songs forbidden by the Soviet regime. In 1989, two million people from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania joined hands along a road from Tallinn to Riga and Vilnius to make a public statement against Russian rule. The sum of these demonstrations and political maneuverings is known as the Singing Revolution. We all knew music was powerful, but this is extraordinary!

I could go on and on, but I'm running out of room...and time! Our particular trip will be spent working with a church in Parnu, which is located almost directly south of Tallinn, right on the Gulf of Riga (on the map below, it's on that little bay-bubble looking thing). In the next issue of the newsletter, I'll fill you in on our work there, and what they're doing with handbells in the Baltic!

About the Author: Sheryl Tomlinson, a.k.a. "Bob", is the Music Assistant to Hart Morris at Asbury United Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she directs four handbell choirs/ensembles and plays in the ladies' handbell choir directed by Hart. She is also an accomplished solo ringer. Sheryl has served as local liaison for Area IX and National Young Ringers Festivals, led workshops at the Adult National Festival and other venues, and helped coordinate TulsaFest for several years. In addition to serving on the Area IX Board as past Treasurer and current Education Chair, she is currently serving as Treasurer of the Tulsa Area Handbell Association. In addition to her music job, Sheryl serves as the Wedding Coordinator at Asbury and works part-time in the accounting field at a local philanthropic foundation.



The Area IX Board proudly announces:

***AGEHR Area IX Festival/Conference 2008:
A CAPITAL CARILLON***

June 19-22, 2008

***Doubletree Hotel, 6505 IH-35 N
Austin, TX***

This biennial event will incorporate a Teen Ring (June 19-20) and an Adult Festival (June 20-22). In addition to massed ringing sessions, there will be many classes for both Ringers & Directors, providing a rich learning environment to improve handbell leadership and ringing skills. The massed ring will feature a new composition by Lee Afdahl that we are commissioning for the Festival/Conference. There will be several concerts from the different divisions, as well as a Showcase Concert (for more information on auditioning for this, see page 6). Additionally, there will be some of your favorite vendors present to help you shop for music and other items.

And, it is in Austin, the “Live Music Capital of Texas”. Austin has many, many opportunities that make this the perfect location—varied styles of music, food, sports, shopping, 6th street, comedy clubs, museums and even bats! As always, you will have some time to enjoy what the city has to offer—or just relax in the luxury of the Doubletree hotel with the great rates that we have for you. And we haven’t even mentioned our fabulous clinicians yet!!

2008 Repertoire

Teen Ring, June 19-20

Massed Ring:

CWM Rhondda Festal, A.L. Page—Ring Out Press, RO3239, Level 3
God, Who Stretched in the Spangled Heavens, Moklebust—Choristers Guild, CGB452, Level 2+

Division A:

Giocoso, McKlveen—Jeffers, JHS9374, Level 2
Prayer, Warzyn—AGEHR, AG35264, Level 2

Division B:

Be Thou but Near, Kinyon—Beckenhorst, BEBH153, Level 3+
C Jam Mood, Davenport—Composers Music, CP7027, Level 2

Adult Festival, June 20-22

Massed Ring:

When in our Music God is Glorified, Sherman—Hope, 2414, Level 3-
Prelude to Te Deum Laudamus, Thompson—AGEHR, 35253, Level 3
Blessing, Sherman—Beckenhorst, HB245, Level 2+
Commissioned Piece, Afdahl—TBA

Hymns:

Guide Us O God of Grace, Keller—AGEHR, AG35257, Level 3
Ding, Dong, Merrily on High, Gramann—Choristers Guild, CGB508, Level 3
Grace and Thanksgiving, Page—Alfred, 25348, Level 2

Division A (Level 2-3):

Easter Joy, Benke—AGEHR, AG35260, Level 2+
Will the Circle Be Unbroken, Page—Alfred, 25367, Level 3
Kyrie, Moklebust—Choristers Guild, MCGB480, Level 3

Division B (Level 3-4):

Allegro Spiritoso, Underwood—AGEHR, AG35261, Level 3
Contemplacion on Ubi Caritas, McMichael—AGEHR, AG36036, Level 3+
Beside Still Waters, Starks—Hope, 2394, Level 3/4

AGEHR Area IX Festival/Conference 2008

About our clinicians:



Jane Anderson: Teen Ring & Adult Festival

Organist of First Presbyterian Church in Lawrence, KS. For the past 25 years she has served as Organist and Director of Music at Topeka First Baptist Church. There, she directed nine of the church's 15 choirs. She has also directed over 80 handbell workshops and festivals throughout the United States and three National Handbell Festivals of the Bahamas. Jane is a graduate of the University of Kansas where she is frequently called upon to teach handbells in the Masters in Church Music program at the University of Kansas. Jane's articles in Creator magazine entitled "It's Never Too Late" and "Activating the Potential of Your Bell Choirs," offer creative methods of enhancing handbell choir experiences. She has also written articles entitled "Expressive Conducting Techniques" and "How Do You Change Your Conducting Motions to Indicate Changes in Emotion?" for Overtones Magazine. Under Jane's leadership, the Exaltation Ringers of First Baptist Church, an auditioned high school handbell choir, and the Exaltation Collegiate Ringers, an ensemble of college age Exaltation

Ringer alumni, performed at various AGEHR Festivals and denominational conventions throughout the United States. Jane is married to William Anderson, and they have two children and six grandchildren. Her husband is the composer of six published children's sacred musicals: Daniel, The Troubabble of Zerubbabel, Elijah, A Stable Fit For A King, Bones, and Let's Go With Mo. She has also served as President of the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians.



Lee Afdahl: Adult Festival

Lee J. Afdahl is the Director of Music and Organist of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester, Minnesota. Mr. Afdahl is a church musician with many years of experience in leading active programs of choral and handbell ensembles in Michigan and Minnesota. Currently he and his music associate, Jennifer Taylor, are responsible for four vocal and five handbell choirs, a choir school program, an elementary instrumental program, a church orchestra, and he advises the church's annual concert series. Lee Afdahl is frequently a conductor and clinician for handbell conferences, choral workshops, and church music conferences internationally. He has conducted American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Conferences at the local, area, and national levels, and international handbell events in England and Australia. In 2006 and 2007, Mr. Afdahl conducted handbell festival conferences in Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota (Area VII Festival Conference), Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Vermont. Mr. Afdahl has served the AGEHR as Michigan Chair for Area V, and Chair of

Area VII. Lee is an active organ recitalist and published composer and arranger of handbell and choral music with over fifty compositions and arrangements in print. His arrangement of the tune 'Jerusalem' entitled "O Day of Peace" was rung at the 2006 International Handbell Symposium in Australia.

**Hotel & Registration information to come!
Check our website: www.areaix.org for more updates!**



**ANNOUNCING:
AUDITIONS FOR SHOWCASE CONCERT
2008 FESTIVAL/CONFERENCE (Austin, TX)**

The Area IX Board would like to invite your handbell choir and/or ensemble to audition for the Showcase Concert at the 2008 Festival/Conference which will be held in Austin, TX. Interested choirs, please submit a video tape or DVD containing 3 pieces of performance quality to:

Area IX Past-Chair
Stephanie Rhoades
Grace Presbyterian Church
4300 W. Park Blvd.
Plano, TX 75093

DEADLINE: October 15, 2007

Note: If the video/DVD has more than 3 pieces on it, only the first 3 will be considered.

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What I learned at the National Seminar

A report from Scholarship Recipient, Pamela Reed

Thank you very much for providing me the Area 1X scholarship to attend the AGEHR national handbell convention held in Dallas this past week! I have never attended an event like this before and I learned so very much. I don't think I have ever seen so many handbells in one place, nor have I ever seen such professional groups performing them, which was a real treat at convention. Being a handbell director of 6 months now, I feel I now have the tools I need to recruit new ringers and train our ringers to a higher level of musicianship. I followed the track of courses titled "I'm a New Director, Now What?" and I feel like I actually know how to direct our new handbell ministry! In our newly formed ministry, we have senior adults and youth, and I benefited from the ideas presented at workshops dealing for those age groups. The last few months I had been struggling with what music to purchase since I didn't understand levels, musical markings, or handbell assignments, and now I have lots of ideas. I read thru the Ringing Track 1-2 and found it most exciting to meet the folks who actually arrange the compositions. It was especially thrilling to see handbell groups desire to ring for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to find so many compositions written for that intention. This is the ultimate reason why I am in the field of music education!

Being a volunteer handbell director at Bannockburn Baptist Church, it is my goal to teach our ringers musical skills and handbell techniques, but ultimately to make a joyful noise unto the King of Kings and utilize our talents and abilities to share with others the Gospel message of Jesus! I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended this conference and am thankful for those who helped make it possible.

Area IX Seed Money Grants for Start-Up Projects

Seed-money grants to encourage development of local handbell events are offered by Area IX in the amount of \$200. These grants are available to any AGEHR IX member church, school or other organization sponsoring a first-time handbell event within the area. To qualify, the event sponsor must submit in writing:

1. Type of event (festival, conference, training workshop, etc.) and it's purpose
2. Projected budget, including how the seed money will be spent (seed money is often used for publicity and other "up front" expenses, but is not limited to that use)
3. Name of clinician(s)
4. How event will be advertised, including "target area" for publicity (seed money cannot be awarded to an event that will conflict with another Area IX endorsed event).

Applications for seed-money grants should be submitted four to six months prior to event and must be approved by the Area IX board. The event coordinator is expected to send a post-event report to the Ringing News editor for publication. These grants are awarded to first-time events only. The event must abide by the same guidelines as any other Guild-endorsed event. To obtain a copy of AGEHR event guidelines, please call the National Office at (800)878-5459. For more information, contact Bob Avant: chair@areaix.org, (512)442-3314.

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

The Ringing News reaches over 600 handbell ringers and/or directors with each issue. If you would like to advertise your business or services, please contact:

*Tara Lewis, Publications Chair
publications@areaix.org, or (830)741-2103*

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BASIC TRAINING FOR ROOKIE RINGERS

Area IX is proud to announce new dates & locations for this event. Rookie Ringers was a very well received event last year, and we hope that the new areas that we've added will be just as excited to participate! This event will "jump start" your new adult ringers with no preparation required! Featured topics will include: Proper Ringing & Damping, Basic Techniques and Articulations, Handbell Notation, Ringing as an Ensemble

CURRENT LOCATIONS/DATES:

MARTELLATO

August 25, 2007
9am—2:30pm

MALLET

University United Methodist Church
5084 DeZavala Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78249

Event contact: Linda Smith, (210)696-1033, lindasmith123@hotmail.com

September 8, 2007
9am-2:30pm

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
7801 Bay Branch Dr.
The Woodlands, TX 77382

THUMB DAMP

Event contact: Ben Harris, (281)290-0255, bharris@oplink.net

First United Methodist Church
313 N. Center St.
Arlington, TX 76011

Event contact: Jean Harden, (940)565-2860, ntexrep@areaix.org

First Baptist Church
372 E. 4th St.
Rusk, TX 75785

Event contact: Stephanie Rhoades, (972)596-6233, pastchair@areaix.org

First Presbyterian Church
1100 Carter Creek Pkwy
Bryan, TX 77802

Event contact: Susan Finnigan, (512)329-9446, secretary@areaix.org

SWING

September 15, 2007
9am-2:30pm

Covenant Presbyterian Church
10100 Ridgeview Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

ECHO

Event contact: Sheryl Tomlinson, (918)392-1199, education@areaix.org

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AGEHR Mission Statement:

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers is dedicated to advancing the musical art of handbell/ handchime ringing through education, community and communication.

The AGEHR Needs YOU!

For Membership information, contact an area representative listed on page one, call the National Office (866) 878-5459, or visit their website: www.agehr.org, and click on "How to Join".

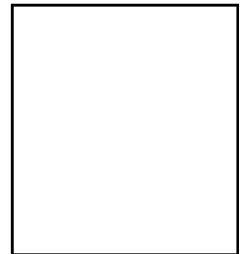
If you are an AGEHR member, please share this newsletter with new handbell directors you encounter or contact the area representatives so we can get information to them. Also, encourage your ringers to check out AGEHR. Ringer memberships area also available.

EACH ONE REACH ONE!



Don't forget to check us out on the
web: www.areaix.org

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Fall 2007
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Attention: Postmaster—Time-sensitive Information Enclosed

