



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

CLAPPER CHATTER

WISCONSIN, SOUTH DAKOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, MINNESOTA, MANITOBA

VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 2 | APRIL 2012

From the desk of Area 7's Chair...

Area 7 is GOING GREEN!!

By Lori Potter

For the past few years, most of you have been receiving the Clapper Chatter online via an email notification. You then go online to the Area 7 website to read it, download it, and/or print it. But, there are many of you that are still receiving the paper version of the newsletter in the mail. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on how you spin it, that will be changing. This is the last edition that will be printed and mailed.

Did you know that Area 7 has owned a laser printer (the size of a refrigerator!!) and the Publications Manager has had to store this in her home? I had no idea until I helped transport it out of Judi Morton's house after Linnea Fitzpatrick took over as Publications Manager. Well, that "refrigerator," after many years of service, has finally bit the dust. It is too costly to repair (even if we could find parts) and besides, it's time we move into the 21st century!

If you are currently receiving the Clapper Chatter notification online, there is nothing more you need to do. But, if you are currently receiving the printed version of the Clapper Chatter via the postal service, you will need to submit a current email address to the National Office if they do not have one for you on file. Please contact Sandy Greeb, sgreeb@handbellmusicians.org or 1-800-878-5459 (toll free) or 937-438-0085, Ext 116 and she can assist you with this. All email information comes to the Area level via National. If you do not have a computer or access to email, someone in your choir certainly does, so please designate someone to be the receiver of the newsletter and submit that person's email address to the National Office. And as always, you want to share the newsletter with all of your choir members so they too can be aware of all the wonderful things happening in Area 7 and at the National level. The link to subscribe your ringers for national and Area emails is: <https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/agehr/subscribe.jsp>.

We will make that even easier for you. This summer at the Festival Conference, we will have computers available so that all ringers and directors can sign up to have the newsletter notification sent directly to them. This is a service offered through the National Office. You will also have the ability to receive newsletters from other Areas if you choose.

We bank online, shop online, communicate online, heck, you can even find a date online (but that's another story). So join me and embrace **Going Green** with the online version of the *Clapper Chatter*!

Please Share this Newsletter

Please forward/share this newsletter with your choir members so they, too, can enjoy it and stay informed of Area 7 and National events. 🌱

By the time you read this, we will be in the final months of preparation for the **Festival Conference in Duluth, June 28-July 1**. We hope that you have gotten your registration in, whether as an orphan ringer or as part of a group. If you haven't registered yet, please consider this your personal invitation to our biennial party! There are wonderful classes, fabulous music, and special activities just waiting for YOU!

*See you in
Duluth!*

KEY DETAILS FOR THE 2012 FESTIVAL CONFERENCE



Area 7
Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

- ★ Festival Conference will be held Thursday, June 28 through Sunday afternoon, July 1
- ★ This festival will be at the Duluth Entertainment and Conference Center in Duluth, Minnesota
- ★ John Behnke and David Weck will be our Clinicians
- ★ Showcase Choir will be The Agape Ringers from Chicago, IL, under the direction of David Weck
- ★ Register EARLY for first pick of festival classes
- ★ Deadline: April 1st for initial registration submission & deposits paid
- ★ All payments are due May 1st and registration changes end on May 1st
- ★ Registration website at <http://festival.areaviagehr.org>
- ★ Registration fee: \$210 per Participant (Ringers & Directors)
- ★ \$150 for Chaperones & Non-Ringers
- ★ Fee includes ALL festival activities, 1 dinner, 3 lunches, a festival T-shirt, and commemorative pin
- ★ Additional fees apply for Bronze Plus or Conference Choir participation, and craft classes
- ★ Final Concert: Sunday, July 1st, 1:30 p.m. Open to the public. Spread the word!

**Have you ever applied for a Clista Wood Memorial Scholarship?
APPLY TODAY!**

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Anthornis 2012 – Another Success!

By Alanna Teragawa,
Area 7 Events Coordinator



The 5th annual Anthornis event was held in February. Bill Alexander, one of Area 7's clinicians, was a great teacher and conductor, teaching fun and many things to those who dared to be challenged. The closing concert was performed for an audience of over 160. This event continues to grow in popularity, with 80 ringers participating this year.

Each year there are new ringers taking this challenge because they've heard from previous years' attendees that it's do-able and that it truly is a great feeling to have accomplished the next level music...musically.

Your help is needed: We have almost outgrown the venue we currently use for the Anthornis event.

Contact Alanna, the Event Coordinator at events@area7.handbellmusicians.org by the end of April if you belong to, or know of a church or institution that has an available space that would match these approximate dimensions: 40-45' wide by 90-100' long. Site visits will be completed this summer. ▲



MUSIC THEORY.aargh©

The Changing Meter Signature (Session 7)

By Dr. Ona Pinsonneault

I was playing the clarinet part of a composition for Concert Band the other day and counted six meter (time signature) changes in the first seven measures of the composition. The composer is Alfred Reed and the title is "The Hounds of Spring." The meters alternated between compound division and simple division of the beat; i.e., those with 6, 9, or 12 as the upper number and those with 2, 3, or 4 as the upper number. If the upper number is 6 the beat contains **three** eighth notes. If the upper number is 2 the beat contains **two** eighth notes. (For more on meter, refer to *Session 2b: Rhythm* in Volume 25, Issue 1 of the *Clapper Chatter*.)

There are two different ways to interpret meter changes between compound and simple meters.

- 1) The conductor's beat can slow down or speed up. In this instance, the eighth notes (in the above example) stays the same. The compound beat has one more eighth note than the simple beat.
- 2) The conductor's beat will stay the same length when changing from a compound to a simple beat. In this case the eighth note duration will slow down or speed up. (The compound beat has one more eighth note than the simple beat.)

A composition for handbells using changing meter signatures is "Roundelay" by Judy Phillips. (See below.) The two signatures have upper numbers of 6 and 3; with the 6 the beat contains three eighth notes, with the 3 the beat contains 2 eighth notes. **The conductor's beat speeds up and slows down in this composition.** Or, the eighth note duration remains the same throughout the composition.

The *tempo* indication is the dotted quarter (used when the number is 6) equals **112**. Also given in the *tempo*, the quarter note (two eighths) (used when the number is 3) equals **168**.

Why is the beat faster when there are two eighths? Let's do the math. If three eighths equal **112**, one eighth is about 336 (112 times 3). Then one quarter, or two eighths, is **168** (336 divided by 2). The eighth note remains the same, but the conducting pattern (the beat) speeds up and slows down. The eighth note needs to be counted in order to keep an even pulse when changing from one meter to the next.

We will look at the beat staying the same and the eighth note duration slowing down or speeding up in another column.

Why do composers do this? Because it gives an irregular accent; because it reflects speech (Bernstein's *West Side Story* lyric: "I like to live in A-mer-i-ca", or 1 2 3, 1 2 3, 1 2, 1 2, 1 2); because it creates some interest in the rhythm; because it makes the music sound really stupendous; and it is fun to perform and to hear!

Plan to attend the Music Theory Sessions at the 2012 Festival Conference in Duluth. Two theory sessions will be offered and topics to be discussed are in the works. If you have a particular music theory topic that you would like to have discussed, please let me know.

Until next time,

Dr. P

ona.pinsonneault@normandale.edu

April 2012

With energy (♩. = ca. 112, ♩ = ca. 168)

JUDY PHILLIPS (ASCAP)

Last chance to register!

High School Handbell Happening 2012

By Alanna Teragawa, Area 7 Events Coordinator

Bring your older youth ringers to St. Cloud, MN, where Salem Lutheran Church will once again host this energizing event **April 14th**. This is a great opportunity for youth ringers to ring en masse and meet other ringers! While it's designed for 8th to 12th graders, directors can use their discretion to include others.

Note: You do not have to bring a full choir to participate in HHH! The selected repertoire can be played and rehearsed during the year. Purchase and rehearse the music and come to HHH ready to refine it with the clinician.

It's not too late to register! The registration form can be found in the February issue of the *Clapper Chatter*, that can be downloaded from our Area 7 website at area7.handbellmusicians.org.

The HHH clinician this year is Monica McGowan. HHH starts with a 10:30 a.m. check-in, a couple classes before

lunch, lunch on your own (usually bring a bag lunch), and massed rehearsals in the afternoon. After an early pizza dinner (provided), it concludes with a **free public concert performed at 5:30 p.m.** Full participating choirs are encouraged to perform one or two solo pieces as well.

Please contact either Sean Johnson, the Area Youth Event Planner, youthevents@area7.handbellmusicians.org or the event registrar, host and Area Chair, Lori Potter, chair@area7.handbellmusicians.org, **320-248-3020** with any questions. Updates to this event can be found on the Area website. ▲

Repertoire for HHH

Jesus We Want to Meet, Peery, AGEHR AG35064, L3+, 3-5 oct, opt perc

Exuberant Joy, Sherman, Choristers Guild CBG427, L2, 3-5 oct

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, Raney, Hope 2508, L3, 3-5 oct

A Simple Dance, Glasgow, Choristers Guild CGB637 or 638, L2+, 2-3 oct, 4-6 oct, opt violin



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Festival Conference History Display

By Dan Ahlman, Area 7 Historian

Wow! Can you believe it? Our twentieth biennial **Area 7 Handbell Festival Conference** is only a few short months away (June 28-July 1). Area 7 has a rich history in the art of handbells in every area from conducting to publishing to ringing to festivals.

How many festivals have you attended? Will this be your first time? Or, are you a seasoned veteran?

With the festival drawing near, I invite you to look for the historical display that will be set up in the registration area. This display will feature memorabilia including festival booklets and covers and final concert programs from each of the festivals. Enjoy taking a trip down memory lane as you check out the display and think about all the festivals you have been to. I hope to see all of you in Duluth! ▲

Be a Roving Reporter!

Whether you're a part of or attending a handbell-related event, take a picture and jot down a few lines summarizing it, then email it to the *Clapper Chatter* at editor@area7.handbellmusicians.org. ▲

Last chance to register!

KidsRing 2012

By Alanna Teragawa, Area 7 Events Coordinator

Make plans now to attend KidsRing 2012! Typically about 80 ringers attend this annual event, filled with fun and learning, and the date is set for **April 28**. The event is geared toward ringers in grades 4 to 8, but directors can use their discretion to include others.

It's not too late to register! The registration form can be found in the February issue of the *Clapper Chatter*, that can be downloaded from our Area 7 website at area7.handbellmusicians.org.

The selected repertoire can be used throughout your entire year. Purchase the music and come to the event with it prepared for refining by Clinician Mary Yerks. Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Plymouth, MN will play host again. Check-in and setup starts at 8:15 a.m., massed rehearsal starts at 9 a.m. There will be some fun break-out classes throughout the event with a mid-morning snack and a pizza lunch provided. **The event concludes with a free public concert at 2:30 p.m.** Each participating choir is encouraged to perform one or two pieces during the final concert. All this for only \$15 per participant.

Note: You do not have to bring a full choir to participate in KidsRing!

It is evident every year that many social and ringing transformations take place at this event. If you have any questions, contact the Area Youth Event Planner, Sean Johnson at youthevents@area7.handbellmusicians.org or the event registrar, Carol Scheel nscarolida@yahoo.com, **612-418-4038**. Updates are posted on the Area website. 🌱

Repertoire for KidsRing

MASSED

Processional on All Things Bright and Beautiful, Page, Choristers Guild CGB657, L1, 3-5 oct, 3 oct chimes (double choir, staves for L1 and L2 in score)

LEVEL 1

Best Christmas Medley Ever, John Dare, Concordia 977034, L2, 3-5 oct (includes both 2-3 & 3-5 oct scores)

A Joyous Song, Scheel, Red River Music RRBL5051, L1, 2-3 & 3-5 oct

LEVEL 2

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, Turner, Jeffers JHS9445, L1+, 3-5 oct

Cantad al Senor, Geschke, Hope 2335, L3, 3-5 oct, opt perc

A Handbell Bootcamp was held

at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Prior Lake on January 28. Six individuals who had never held a handbell learned how to ring healthily and musically from instructor Karen Van Wert. Together with previous class members, the new ringers played "Children of the Heavenly Father" during worship service the following day.

Anyone interested in this class is welcome to contact Karen at KVVWcreations@yahoo.com. She would enjoy introducing more people to handbell ringing.

Happy ringing! 🌱

MORE HELP IS NEEDED:

Do you know your way around Microsoft Access with ease?

The Area Festival Committee needs some volunteer help to set up a database for several Festival behind-the-scenes functions. Can you help? Please contact the Events Coordinator at events@area7.handbellmusicians.org by April 20th if this matches your skills. 🌱

Board of Directors Election



The election results for the upcoming election will be announced at the Festival Conference in Duluth in June. The new Chair Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer officers will begin their duties on October 1st of this year. Review all candidate bio's on pages 4-5 in the February issue of the *Clapper Chatter*, that can be found online on Area 7's website at area7.handbellmusicians.org.

Reminder: Mail in your ballot by May 12, 2012! Thank you for your participation in this very important right of your membership in the Handbell Musicians of America!

★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ by May 12, 2012 ★

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Around the Area

South Dakota Report

By Pat Penn, SD Sub-Area Chair

Please let me share with you a few words about attending Area and national events. This past year, I was fortunate to be able to attend an Area 3 event in Cincinnati, and the National Festival in Minneapolis. Both events were great arenas for learning more about the art of handbell ringing, meeting new people, and the learning and sharing of ideas. However, this past week, I learned another benefit, hearing the music performed! In Cincinnati we performed "Holy, Holy, Holy" with brass choir. In Minneapolis we heard "A Mighty Fortress/Widor Toccata" performed. Our church handbell choir was fortunate to play both of these pieces for worship services this past week. They were awesome! Neither piece would have been on my selection list if I had not heard them live at an event. Please consider attending Area 7 and National events, they are so worth it!

Sioux Falls community handbell choir, Heartland Handbells, under the group Sioux Empire Handbells, is now incorporated and non-profit! Working for education and outreach are the highlights of our spring. We have taught handbells and chimes at the Center for Active Generations, and are having that group perform in May. Heartland will be playing at several nursing homes this spring. We are excited to play "Dixieland Swing" by Cathy Moglebust, which was written for our friends Bells of the Hills.

Sioux Falls Christian, recipients of the handchime grant, will be playing at the passion play next week at the school. We will also play for chapel, and later, on the day of service, we will play at a nursing home.

Local PEO handbell ringers are joining forces to play at our state convention! It should be fun to gather together ringers from all over town to play at the service of remembrance.

Keep ringing, and we'll look for you at Area 7 events! ▲



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

Handbells and More at the School of the Arts!

For the first time, handbell instruction will be offered at the School of the Arts, a five-day workshop held in Rhinelander, WI, that is sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The dates are **July 22-27, 2012.**

Handbells I for beginning/lower intermediate ringers or directors will meet for 1.5 hours daily and Handbells II for intermediate/advanced ringers or directors will meet for 3 hours daily. Most of the workshops' music will be from current publications and will include both sacred and secular pieces.

The classes will be conducted by Dr. Susan Udell, the founder (1997) and recently retired Music Director of the Madison Area Concert Handbells (MACH), an auditioned community choir that rings over 6 octaves of handbells and 7 octaves of chimes. (See February's *Clapper Chatter*.)

For her work with the choir, Dr. Udell has received the top alumnae award from her undergraduate college (an honor also awarded Renee Fleming) and an award for leadership from the Madison Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, women's professional music fraternity.

In addition to Handbells, a wonderful variety of courses will be offered during the week. Handbell participants can craft their own mix of classes from more than 50 workshops in art and folk art, food and fitness, photography, digital media, folk instruments, writing, and body/mind/spirit.

Recharge—or awaken—your skills and creativity in a supportive, casual atmosphere with quality instructors. Watch for program details and registration information at www.soawisconsin.org and plan your creative escape! ▲



Bell Trees and More

Visit BelltreesAndMore.com
on a regular basis to see and hear our entire list of published pieces. The latest releases and other website information will be featured on the HOME page.

Please register on the website.

Louise Frier Composer/Arranger
813 293-5855 belltreesandmore@aol.com

Upcoming Events

Stay updated on all events at www.area7.handbellmusicians.org

DATE/TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	CLINICIAN	CONTACT
	Endorsed Event (E) Sponsored Event (S)			
April 14, 2012	High School Handbell Happening (HHH) S	Salem Lutheran Church 90 Riverside Dr. SE St. Cloud, Minnesota	Monica McGowan	Sean Johnson youthevents@ area7.handbellmusicians.org
April 21, 2012	Eau Claire Area Ring S	First Lutheran Church 1005 Oxford Avenue Eau Claire, Wisconsin	Norma Lionberger plus others	Norma Lionberger lionsden34@sbcglobal.net
April 28, 2012	KidsRing S	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church 5005 Northwest Blvd Plymouth, Minnesota	Mary Yerks	Sean Johnson youthevents@ area7.handbellmusicians.org
June 27-July 1, 2012	2012 Area 7 Festival Conference S	DECC Duluth, Minnesota	David Weck Dr. John Behnke	Anita Fraundorf festivalchair@ area7.handbellmusicians.org

Submit all your Local Events for inclusion on the website to editor@area7.handbellmusicians.org.

Workshops and Concerts in the Area

Eau Claire Area Ring Concert

Concluding the Eau Claire Area Ring clinic in Eau Claire, WI, will be a concert open to the public:

Saturday, April 21 at First Lutheran Church, 1005 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

Bell Fantasia Concert

Friday, April 27, 7:30 pm at Burnsville Performing Arts Center, 12600 Nicollet Avenue, Burnsville, MN.

Bells of the Lakes, St. Olaf Handbell Choir, and Northern Lights Ringers will delight audiences of all ages with music selections from the popular Disney animated film Fantasia. The three ensembles will debut never-before-played-on-bells music from the film. Adults \$25, Groups (10+) \$15 ea., Students/Seniors (62+) \$15. Tickets available in person at the BPAC Box Office, or Ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787.

Handbell Week

A week-long handbell workshop has been scheduled for **July 9 to July 12, 2012**, hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church—West Campus, 7291 County Hwy PD, Verona (Madison), WI 53593. The clinician will be David Weck. For more information, complete details, and online registration, to go www.maestromeb.com, or contact Mark Bloedow at mbloedow@maestromeb.com.

Alleluia Ringers Concert

The Alleluia Ringers of Concordia University Wisconsin, under the direction of Dr. John Behnke, have scheduled the following concerts:

Friday, May 4, 7:30 pm at Church of Our Saviour Lutheran 363 S Main St, Fond du Lac, WI. 920-922-0020.

Sunday, May 6, 3:30 pm in the Chapel at Concordia University, 12800 N. Lake Shore Dr. Mequon, WI. 262-243-4405.

Ringin' & Singin' the Hits! Concert

MACH's Spring Concert will be **Sunday, May 6, 2012 at 3:00 pm** at Sinsinawa Mound Center, 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI.

Join Madison Area Concert Handbells (MACH), with Director Mark Bloedow, for a fun afternoon of great music featuring classical hits like Pachelbel's Canon in D, beloved inspirational songs and hymns including Amazing Grace, and pop songs from the past and present such as Rock Around the Clock and Enya's Sail Away. Ringin' & Singin' the Hits! has them all and more...and, you're invited to be a part of the show by singin', or hummin' along with us!

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IN MEMORIAM —**Su Southwick (1936 – 2012)**

Family, friends, and handbell colleagues gathered on Thursday, February 9th at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Minnesota for the memorial service of Su Southwick. We greeted each other before the service, viewed photos and articles that reminded us of our relationship with Su and how she touched the lives of so many around the world.

During the service, the family shared how Su and Dave met at Carleton College in Northfield, MN and began their life together ... stories mixed with reflection, humor, and tears. We shared in their loss and celebrated her life with husband, David, and sons, Peter, James, and Gerald, daughters-in-law Karen, Joan, and Brenda, and the five grandchildren.

Her handbell friends shared stories at the luncheon following the service: the clinicians she housed for the Area VII Midwinter Workshop and Reading Sessions; Dave's and her gracious entertaining for clinicians

and Area officers at receptions in their home; her service to Area VII and AGEHR as Area and National Treasurer, sharing her expertise to fiscally guide those organizations; her handbell choirs at House of Hope Presbyterian Church and later at Concordia University in St. Paul; the organizational meeting of the who's who in the handbell community that began the journey for auditioned community groups in the Twin Cities: Twin Cities Bronze and Bells of the Lakes. I was fortunate to serve on the National Board with Su and on various committees. We also shared the challenges, angst, and growth at the first *ever* Master Class on Conducting with Michael Keller and Bill Griffin.

Thank you, Su, for the lessons and legacy you have given: for handbells, Area VII, the Handbell Musicians of America, Bells of the Lakes, and the countless blessings and help you so willingly gave to others.

~ Monica McGowan

Something New To Try

By Sandy Mullaney, Area 7 Chair Elect

Looking for fresh ideas for your handbell program? Check out this column, which will feature interesting new approaches that have worked for others and might be just the thing for your church or community group. (And, if you have ideas to share, please send them to Sandy at chairelect@area7.handbellmusicians.org.)



Idea of the Month: Put on a Bell Drama

As my church looked for effective ways to get middle and high school students involved with bells, we considered the hallmarks of this demographic: high energy, creative kids, many of whom have musical experience, but very limited free time. We knew we should pick something very user-friendly to fit into their already busy calendars. We decided to try "Bell Dramas," using some of **Tammy Waldrop's Ring-A-Story** series titles. (Examples of some titles include: *Noah and the Ark*; *Samson and the Haircut*; and *Joseph and the Coat*.) Each of these handbell narrations is based on a familiar Bible story; the handbell choir rings short melodies as well as fun "sound effects" to dramatize the message, which is told in an entertaining and humorous way. Costumes, props and other fun theater aspects can be incorporated.

We knew we would need to limit the number of rehearsals as much as possible to get kids to sign on to being involved. To that end, we developed a 5-rehearsal format which has proven to be very effective (we are in our 9th year of offering Bell Dramas, with students still anxious to be involved). Here's how it works:

Prepare in Advance (This is essential): The director marks all of the music for students, including individual assignments, bell changes, counting, techniques. The more helpful markings, the better—this allows students to really

hit the ground running and be successful from the very first rehearsal. Next, assemble your support team – enlist the help of your experienced adult ringers to attend Bell Drama rehearsals to assist students with ringing, tracking in their music, mastering techniques, etc. Finally, choose your Narrator (maybe an adult with drama experience), decide on auxiliary percussion (to add to the sound effects; can be played by the ringers or others) and consider creative ways to include additional people in the show (non-ringers could make props & backdrops, or could be part of the show as a cheering or jeering crowd, people who throw confetti, wear masks, etc.)

Recruit & Communicate: Get the word out to Sunday School classes, youth group meetings, and into bulletins and newsletters that you are working on a Bell Drama and students are invited to be a part of the production. Personal invitations are always the best for recruiting—be available to talk to students and parents before and after worship services.



First Rehearsal: Plan on having an ice-breaker game to introduce everyone, then read through the entire Bell Drama. Linger on techniques to adequately explain them, but keep moving so everyone rings and understands the story and their role in it.

Second Rehearsal: Play the "bell changes" game: Students are each given a small cup of chips or colored stones (everyone receives the same number). Explain that there are bell changes throughout the Bell Drama and each student needs to be responsible for knowing when to change bells in the various sections of the story. Ring through the Bell Drama, and any time a ringer does not make a necessary bell change, they forfeit a chip to the director. HOWEVER, if one of the other ringers notices that a person has missed a change before the director notices it, the forfeited chip goes to the ringer who discovered it. The ringer with the most chips at the end of rehearsal is the game's winner.



Keep the mood light and fun, and soon students will be EXTREMELY aware of where their bell changes are, as well as helpful to their neighbors in knowing bell changes. Have them mark their scores as a reminder of their changes.

Third Rehearsal: Divide rehearsal into two halves. First half: Work on tricky passages, challenging techniques, good flow of the music. Second half: Bring in the narrator and ring through the whole story.

Fourth Rehearsal: Divide rehearsal into two halves. First half: Technical rehearsal, working on sound, volume, and pacing (both narrators and ringers); starting and stopping to rehearse different sections cleanly. Second half: Full run-through using all props, keeping an even pace, and no stopping.

Fifth Rehearsal/Dress Rehearsal: On the day of the performance, do a full dress rehearsal using all props, costumes, and with a small selected audience.

And you are ready! Five rehearsals have introduced students to ringing, various techniques, bell changes, dynamics, tempos, and most of all—the fun of playing bells together. Many thanks to Tammy Waldrop for her *Ring-a-Story* series, which contains over a dozen titles and is perfect for young ringers.

Do you have ideas that have worked well for your church or community group? Please send them to Sandy at chairelect@area7.handbellmusicians.org to be included in this column and shared with others. Thank you! 📌



Church Membership vs. Individual Membership

By Lori Potter, Area 7 Chair

Recently there were questions posed regarding who is covered under whose Handbell Musicians of America membership. Katie Schlegel, Director of Membership & Administration at the National Office, was contacted for clarification. The following is a statement from Katie and the National Office:

If ABC Church holds the membership, then all the ringers in the ABC Church's choirs are covered under that membership.

If you, personally, hold a membership and are the director at ABC Church, then all the ringers are also covered under that membership.

Please note however, if you are the director at ABC Church as well as the director at XYZ Church or a community group, you as the individual member must choose which organization is attached to your membership: 1 membership = 1 organization. This means that if you choose your membership to be linked to ABC Church, then only your ABC Church ringers are covered under that membership and the other organization(s) would need their own unique membership(s).

Another question was related to insurance coverage for endorsed events. Again the following comment is from Katie and the National Office:

Event Insurance is based on who is fiscally responsible for the event. So, let's say that you have two memberships. One belongs to you, an individual membership, and one belongs to ABC Church where you are the Primary Contact. When you fill out the event documents and are choosing which member number to list, you want to choose the membership that is going to be fiscally responsible for the event. So, if you are fiscally responsible, you would want to use your individual membership. However, if the church is the fiscally responsible party, you would use the church's membership number.

If you need further clarification on membership or event insurance, please direct your question(s) to Jenny Cauhorn, jcauhorn@handbellmusicians.org or Vickie Iverson viverson@handbellmusicians.org at the National Office. 📌



Next
CLAPPER CHATTER Deadline:
July 2, 2012

Welcome our newest members of Area 7!

**Bethel United Church of Christ of Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, Mary Johnston, Director;
and Rosanna Walker of Bemidji, Minnesota**

By JoBeth Ranfranz, Area 7 Membership Chair

The Sub Area Chairs of Area 7 and I are so happy that all of you have chosen to be members of the Handbell Musicians of America. Our area consists of Minnesota, broken into three sections: Northern, Southern, and Metro; North Dakota; South Dakota; and Wisconsin, broken into two sections: Northern and Southern. We also welcome our friends from the Manitoba Province in Canada as honorary, non-voting members.

There are many advantages to membership in the Guild. Of course, you are reading one of them – the Clapper Chatter, our local newsletter where you can find a wealth of opportunities for ringing and listening, helpful hints, and fun events. At the National level, your membership brings you many resources including; Overtones newsletter; website resources; Handbell Notation Guide and resources; members only target marketing resources; local, area, national, and international events; scholarships, grants, and recognition; area and national newsletters; mentoring and training; lending libraries; and Ring'R Notes. There

are opportunities for classes and seminars where you can improve your ringing, conducting, or theory skills. AND if this is not enough, you get the first information about our Area Festival with an opportunity to register and get a prime spot on the ringing floor. If you know any choirs that are not taking advantage of membership with the Guild, please let me know and we will see that they get the information they need to consider becoming members. Our goal is to have as many choirs and musicians registered as possible in our area, so we can collaborate and create wonderful music both separately and together.

I hope to see you at the Area 7 Festival in Duluth in June. There will be opportunities at the Festival to sign up and/or renew your membership in the Information area.

Please be sure to stop by and say hi! I would love to meet you and find out any and all needs you might have as a member of our fine organization. As always, I am available for questions, concerns, or just to chat!

Happy Ringing! 🎵



This is a picture from the Master Series Classes that were held in Tucson, AZ Jan. 20-23, 2012. Joyce, Mary, and Gloria took the Ringing Techniques & Proficiency class; Bill and Carolynne taught the class for beginning directors; and Sharon and Monica were in the conducting class. Pictured back row: Joyce Bjorklund, Bill Mathis, Carolynne Mathis, Monica McGowan. Front row: Sharon Barton, Mary Yerks, Gloria Axelson.

A Prayer for Church Musicians

By Rev. Thomas Troeger (abridged)

Source of all that is good and true and beautiful,

Keep constant in your musicians the conviction that your Spirit works through them to reach a vast and varied host of souls.

Assure your musicians that the rehearsals they hold, the anthems they raise, the hymns they play, the psalms they accompany, the service music they offer, the instrumental works they perform, the programs they organize, the words of encouragement they give; are again and again the vessel of your Spirit for healing the bruised, the lost, the broken, and for setting free the holy aspirations of the human heart.

And since the souls that are lifted by the secret ministries of music often find it too self-revealing, too frightening to offer their thanks in person; may their unarticulated gratitude be gathered by the wind of your Spirit and be borne to the hearts of your musicians as a gift to renew their faith, so that they may continue to be instruments of proclamation and pastoral care as they lead your people in singing and ringing your everlasting praise.

~ Amen