



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

CLAPPER CHATTER

WISCONSIN, SOUTH DAKOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, MINNESOTA, MANITOBA

VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 2 | AUGUST 2012

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

By Lori Potter

As I write my last 'Chair' article, I want to look back on all of the changes that have happened over my term. Most notably would be the rebranding for the organization. When I entered this post we were known as the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. As I leave, we wear, with pride, our new name of **Handbell Musicians of America**. This new name is inclusive and represents all of us, whether we are ringers, directors, and/or composers. I am one of only six people across the nation that have had the honor of being an acting Chair in both the AGEHR and Handbell Musicians of America. With the new name, also came the new logos, a National logo and an Area logo. Having a common logo at the national and area level unites us as one organization working for the good of our craft. Technology continues to change and improve our access to the world, whether it be downloading music online, attending meetings online, renewing memberships online, receiving newsletter announcements from Area 7 and several other Areas online, or registering for events online, etc. And more changes and upgrades are happening every day to have access to all things handbells at your fingertips. As October approaches, we will see new information focusing on churches, communities, and education.

At the Area level, we saw changes on the board with newly elected and appointed officers. After 12+ years as the Publications Manager, **Judi Morton** stepped down as she was appointed to the Secretary position. **Linnea Fitzpatrick** has filled the Publications position and added her own new and fresh ideas. **Alanna Teragawa** has developed the long needed Events Coordinator position. **Jessica Westgard** was elected to the National Board as an At-Large member which required her to leave her post as Past Chair one year early. This allowed me the opportunity to work with **Al Marquardt** as he stepped in as interim Past Chair. I am grateful to these board members and all the others that I have not named (but you know who you are) for their commitment to this organization. This summer we were extremely fortunate to have

Christina Herold, from the Wells Fargo Company, as our volunteer for one month. We planned to "Go Green" in the next couple years but were forced to do so this summer due to the fate of the Area printer. This is a move toward the future. Take a look at this newsletter. We could not have had this with all the photos and color had we still been printing it. And yet, you can still print it if you choose to do so—the best of both worlds!!

Was everything perfect? No. The change in website address and email addresses were the thorn in my side. But, after several months and communications back and forth to the National office, it has been resolved. The weather was less than ideal during the YRC, but kids are resilient and easily entertained by spoons and other silly games. Registration numbers were down for most events, but we had a great time at each one—ringing, learning, and renewing old and making new friendships. Our Directors Seminar clinician couldn't make the event with less than 24 hours' notice due to a health emergency, but **Sandy Mullaney** stepped up to the plate and did a wonderful job as the clinician.

And speaking of Sandy, I know she will be a great Chair Person. Unlike me, who had several years on the board in a couple different positions, Sandy is new to the board, having only served as Chair Elect. I believe it is good at times to have someone with new and fresh ideas, and no history of "we have always done it that way." I know she will do a great job!

As this summer comes to an end and we start planning for a new ringing season, I wish you all good things whether it be at church, community, or school. Thank you for your support during the years that I served as Chair of Area 7. 🌱

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. 🌱

HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA Area 7

2012 Festival Conference

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Area 7
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Reflections on Festival Conference 2012

By Anita Fraundorf, Festival Chair 2012

As I write this, it has only been a few days since the 2012 Festival Conference closing bell rang. It is my hope that the participants found this event to be challenging, informative, fun, and an opportunity to meet other like-minded people. Committee and Board members read through the evaluations and made note of the things that went well and suggestions for improvement for the next Festival.

It really takes a village to make an event like this possible. I cannot say enough about the Committee and Board members who put so much of their time, energy, thought (and probably sleepless nights!) into making things run so smoothly. Until I worked on my first festival in Duluth (2004), I had no idea of the details that went into an event of this caliber. Locally, **Bill Alexander** (Marshall School and First United Methodist) and members of the **Northern Bell Chimes** (Our Savior's Lutheran) and **Cast in Bronze** (FUMC) ensembles were invaluable assets to the event as well.

Please join me in expressing a heartfelt "Thank you" for a job well done!

A big thank you also goes to participants for their generosity during this festival! Just over **\$800** was raised at the Silent Auction for the Clista Wood Scholarship fund. We couldn't have done that without the numerous and varied donations to the auction and to the people who bid on those items! In addition, the Northland Chapter of the American Red Cross received **\$2,636** for local flood relief—**\$534** from our participants "Dollars for Duluth" fund at the registration area, and **\$2,106** from the freewill offering following the final concert.

It's never too early to start thinking about the next Festival! Come to LaCrosse, WI in June, 2014 as an "orphan" or with your group! I've got my calendar marked and I hope to see you there! 🌱



Sandy Stoneking, Lee Afdahl, Monica McGowan, and Bill Alexander at the 2012 Festival Conference in Duluth, MN.

2012 High School Handbell Happenings

Take 4 pieces of music; oodles of percussion instruments; colorful BoomWhackers; one professional violinist; 24 young ringers from Eagan, Grand Rapids, and St. Cloud; 3 directors; and a conductor. Put them all together and you have the 2012 High-School Handbell Happenings event. It was a great day that started at 10:30am at Salem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. The day started with our guest conductor, **Monica McGowan**, teaching everyone the history of how BoomWhackers came to be and how to play them. The rest of the day consisted of rehearsal of the music, practicing the percussion section, and incorporating the BoomWhackers into the music. With lunch and breaks behind us, we assembled for the afternoon concert attended by friends and family. Even though it was a smaller event this year, the HHH was successful.

An interesting note of the day . . . **Darcy Reich**, the director from Grand Rapids, recognized our violinist's name, **Michael Zelgert**. Darcy was his music teacher when he attended elementary school in Cohasset. The look on his face when he saw and recognized Darcy was priceless.

And one more note . . . high school kids are not fond of baked beans! 🌱

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.

The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

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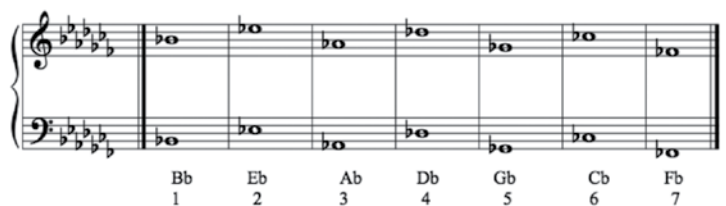
The Key Signature: what good is it for me? (Session 8)

By Dr. Ona Pinsonneault

Congratulations on a great Duluth conference!

I have been thinking about "key signature" and over the years have insisted that students learn to read the key signature. But, what good is it anyway? In an earlier column (see Session 2) we **defined "key signature"** as "an indication of pitches consistently sharp, flat or natural." That's all that it does.

There is an **order of sharps and flats**. F, C, G, D, A, E, B is the order of sharps and the reverse B, E, A, D, G, C, F is the order of flats. This order can be seen in the diagrams below.



Reading the key signature. If there is one sharp, it will be F# and it indicates that all "F's" (in any octave) are to be played as sharps. If there are two sharps, they will be F# and C# and they indicate that all "F's" and "C's" are to be played as sharps. This continues. Three sharps will be F#, C#, and G#, etc.

The flats follow the premise above. If there is one flat, it will be Bb and indicates that all "B's" are to be played as flats.

The sharps and flats follow the given order. If the key signature has 4 sharps or flats those used will be the first four in the order.

The "key signature" does not really tell you what "key" a composition is using. It's a combination of key signature, knowing the tonic pitch and spelling a scale that will indicate the key of a composition. (See session 3a for a discussion of the Major and minor scales.) Modern compositions may have alternate key signatures. Remember, the purpose of a key signature is to indicate the pitches that are consistently sharp, flat or natural.

Why is this melody in the key of G Major (see Session 1 for "tonic" and Session 3a for Major scale) and, what good is that information for me?

1. I set up my bells according to pitches used.
2. I could make my own "Handbells Used" chart for my choir.
3. I can remind the choir that all F's are sharps. (There are two added notes outside the key signature; can you identify them for your choir?)
4. Along with the tempo indication the major key tells me that the composition is lively and cheerful, should be performed with, as some say, "the easy gait of an athlete", and is better used as Postlude rather than Prelude.
5. Add your own:

Why do I want to know key signatures and why is this important to a handbell choir? How does Ear Training help correct mistakes in reading Key Signatures? (Well, maybe next time.)

A Melody in G Major

Ona Pinsonneault



Until next time,

Dr. P

ona.pinsonneault@normandale.edu
August 2012

(At the conference I was reminded that members receive the **Clapper Chatter**. Please share this column as you deem necessary and/or appropriate with others.)



Festival Fun Facts:

- ➔ Did you know that **Mark Zuern**, ND SAC, traveled to Duluth from Hazen, ND on his motorcycle? His car decided to break down, so instead of cancelling, he hopped on his bike and rode the 1,040 miles round trip straddling his motorcycle seat. Now there is a dedicated handbell ringer and board member.
- ➔ **Catherine Hilbrich** from St. Cloud, MN and **Christina Herold** from Edina, MN played next to each other in the Conference Choir. Each thought the other looked familiar. Come to find out, they played in the same choir at First Presbyterian Church in St. Cloud when they were both teenagers. They hadn't seen each other in nearly 20 years. What a small world!
- ➔ Who knew **Sean Johnson** could dance? Wonder if he has recovered from the muscle strains? More COWBELL!!
- ➔ **Sandy Eithun**, arranger of the piece "Sway" performed by the Bored/Board Choir, saw the video on YouTube and LOVED it—she thought the "more cowbell" part was just hysterical!

Area 7 Board Results

The election results were announced at the Festival Conference in Duluth in June. The new Chair Elect is **Darcy Reich** of Grand Rapids, MN; **Judi Morton** of Glenwood, MN remains as Secretary; and the new Treasurer is **Jean Schueller** of Marshall, MN. They will begin their duties on October 1st of this year.

★ **Congratulations and Welcome to the Board!** ★

Scholarship Fund Update

By Al Marquardt, Past Chair

Another Clista Wood Scholarship was awarded at this year's Festival Conference in Duluth. There were 6 very qualified applicants and the 2012 winner was **Courtney Kinser** of Plymouth, MN. The scholarship was for the full registration fee of the Festival Conference. The Scholarship committee, consisting of **Dan Ahlmann**, **Mary Yerks**, and **Al Marquardt**, were privileged to review all of the applications. The detail and purpose of Courtney's application are what really impressed the committee. Her sense of appreciation of being able to attend the event and her willingness to share what she learned with the rest of her choir really stood out in the committee's mind. Congratulations Courtney!!

The Silent Auction at this year's Area 7 Festival Conference brought in just over \$800 for the Clista Wood Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all the donors and bidders. Your gifts and support make it possible for us to offer scholarships to Area 7 events throughout the year.

Scholarships are available for select Area 7 events. See the Area 7 website for application forms for the Clista Wood Scholarship and the events for which they apply. ▲



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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
	Sponsored Event (S) Endorsed Event (E)			
November 10, 2012	Bloomington Handbell Festival E	Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Ave. S Bloomington, Minnesota	Lee Afdahl	John Salveson 952-881-8600 or jsalveson@ctkb.org
February 8-9, 2013	Anthornis S	TBA TBA Minnesota	Michael Glasgow	Alanna Teragawa events@area7.handbellmusicians.org
April 14th, 2013	JuBELLant Celebration	First Lutheran Church 100 Church Street Marshall, Minnesota	Rennae Petersen Jean Schueller Steve Meyer	Steve Meyer 507-530-3256 or swmeyer@iw.net
April 20, 2013	KidsRing S	TBA TBA Minnesota	Bonnie Tranby	Alanna Teragawa events@area7.handbellmusicians.org
June 21-23, 2013	Young Ringers Camp S	Ironwood Springs Christian Camp Stewartville, Minnesota	Sandy Mullaney	Alanna Teragawa events@area7.handbellmusicians.org
Sept. 20-21, 2013	Area Directors Seminar S	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1103 N. Broad Street Mankato, Minnesota	Tammy Waldrop	Alanna Teragawa events@area7.handbellmusicians.org

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

Make Plans Now to Attend Young Ringers Camp 2013!

By Sandy Mullaney, Chair Elect

Calling all youth bell choirs and directors—this message is for you!

Get June 21-23, 2013 on your calendar now and plan to join us for Young Ringer's Camp! The repertoire for camp is listed here—as you look at your 2012-13 budget and plan music for the year, please include these great pieces. Some are probably already in your library, others are new, and all are wonderful choices and very usable in a general worship setting. Perhaps incorporate these pieces into your programming for the year, and then bring your group to this fun-filled weekend at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville, MN.

You will enjoy an amazing array of activities—zip line, climbing wall, challenge course, petting zoo, horseback riding, swimming, crafts, campfires—along with ringing together, making new friends, and a great final concert. Partial groups are very welcome to attend and the age range is flexible—although it's advertised as 4th-8th grade, last year's camp included many high schoolers.

Watch the Area 7 website for more details and registration. We hope to see you at camp! 📌

Young Ringers Camp Repertoire

Massed:

Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho—arr. ML Thompson, 3-5 octaves, Hope Publishing MHP1880, Level 2

Carillon Celebration—D. Wagner, 3-5 octaves, Lorenz Corp MLC201613L, Level 2

Processional and Joyful Dance—M. Tucker, Choristers Guild, 2-3 octaves w/opt. 2 octaves HC, MCGB672; or 3-5 octaves w/opt. 4 octaves HC, MCGB673; Level 1+

To Sight Read Together in Camp:

Blessed Assurance—arr. S. Eithun, Choristers Guild, 2-3 octaves, MCGB683; or 3-5 octaves, MCGB68, Level 1

Coppers:

Timbrel and Dance—K. McChesney, 3-5 octaves, Choristers Guild MCGB290, Level 2+

Morning Joy—K. Lakey Buckwalter, 3-5 octaves, Choristers Guild MCGB719, Level 2

Tins:

Lead On, O King Eternal—arr. Jason Krug, 2-3 octaves, AGEHR AG23039, Level 1+

Festive Praise—S. Geschke, Choristers Guild, 2-3 octaves, MCGB375; or 4-5 octaves, MCGB376; Level 1

2013 AREA EVENTS

By Alanna Teragawa, Events Coordinator

The following events are scheduled and the planning process continues. Consider attending one of these events as a director and/or with a choir. More information will follow in subsequent newsletter issues, and, as always, current information can be found on the Area 7 website.

ANTHORNIS

February 8-9th, 2013

This is *the* event for ringers and directors who want to ring more challenging music at the Area level. **Michael Glasgow** from Raleigh, North Carolina returns as the clinician for this annual event—in its 6th year, which continues to grow in size and popularity. It is not necessary to come as a full choir, this event enables individual ringers (orphans) to get plugged into foster choirs who bring bells without all their ringers.

There are at least two orphan choirs that form in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, enabling individual ringers to rehearse the repertoire with a full choir, rather than on their own. Watch the Area website for those details, and get plugged in as soon as possible, as positions get filled quite quickly.

KIDSRING

April 20, 2013

This is an annual event for 4th-8th grade ringers, giving them the opportunity to meet and learn with other ringers in a massed-ring setting. Students from other grade levels are welcome, at the discretion of their directors.

This year's clinician is **Bonnie Tranby**, a music educator, a Youth Handbell Director, and a long-time member of Twin Cities Bronze.

Anthornis Repertoire

Celtic Praise—Lovland, arr. Kevin McChesney, Jeffers #JHS9444, Level 3

Crosswind—Sondra Tucker, Augsburg #0800659880, Level 4+

Healing Spirit—Michael Glasgow, Choristers Guild #CGB754, Level 3-

Passion Prophecy—Cathy Moglebust, Choristers Guild #CGB584, Level 3+

Anthornis—Michael Glasgow, Choristers Guild #CGB664, Level 4

YOUNG RINGERS CAMP

June 21-23, 2013

Ringin', swimming, horseback riding, a challenge course, all in a camp atmosphere makes this a very popular event in Area 7. Geared for ringers in 4th-8th grade, but any age level is welcome, at the discretion of their directors.

Sandy Mullaney is the clinician this year. By camp time, Sandy will be the Area 7 Chairperson and is an experienced handbell director. She was the clinician at the last camp, and the kids really enjoyed her leadership style.

AREA DIRECTORS SEMINAR

September 20-21, 2013

Under the theme "The Three P's of a Successful Performance," **Tammy Waldrop** from Texas will focus on Personalize, Presence, and Perfect. These Seminars are hosted every odd-numbered year somewhere throughout Area 7. This year it will be held in Mankato, Minnesota, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Being held in September gives directors an opportunity to start their new year to determine what they need help with for the coming months. Tammy has the ability to answer all these questions, giving directors the confidence they'll need for a successful year.

EVENTS IN YOUR TOWN?

If you would like help organizing an event in your local area, contact the Events Coordinator for more information on how your Area Board can help, at events@area7.hanbellmusicians.org 📧

KidsRing Repertoire

Massed:

Simple Gifts—Valerie Stephenson, 2-3 or 4-5 octaves, Choristers Guild #CGB347 or #CGB348, Level 1

Joy Bells—Kirtsy Miller, 3-5 octaves, Composers Music #CP7029, Level 2

Level 1:

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus—Linda Lamb, 3 octaves, Choristers Guild #CGB279

Percussive Praise—Kevin McChesney, 2-3 octaves, Choristers Guild #CGB311

Level 2:

Trampin'—Martha Lynn Thompson, 3-4 octaves, Alfred #AP21857

Gaudio Exsultans—Valerie Stephenson, 3-5 octaves, AGEHR #AG35208

Handbell Festival

November 10th, 2012

Christ the King in Bloomington, MN

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 8600 Fremont Ave. S. in Bloomington, MN is proud to host a bell festival on **Saturday, November 10, 2012**, with **Lee Afdahl** Conducting. The event begins at 9am ending with a 3pm concert.

Each choir is invited to prepare a solo piece (not required) for the concert, and to come having rehearsed the repertoire listed below. Registration is free, but is limited to 3 additional choirs, and space will be allotted on a first come, first served basis. A catered lunch will be provided at a cost of \$10.00 per person. Reservations for the lunch must be made prior to the event, although payment will not be required until the actual event.

Repertoire is level 2+ and level 3, covering 3 seasons:

Repertoire

Thanksgiving:

We Gather Together, Angerman, Choristers Guild CGB270, Level 2+

Advent:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Eithun, Lorenz 20/1362L, Level 2+

Christmas:

Shepherds, Why This Jubilee! (incorporating Angels We Have Heard on High, In the Bleak Midwinter, and Hark the Herald Angels Sing), Afdahl, Alfred 21856, opt. HC, Level 3

Register by calling or emailing

John Salveson, Director of Music at the church,
952-881-8600 or jsalveson@ctkb.org. 🎵

JuBELLant Celebration

April 14th, 2013

First Lutheran Church, Marshall, MN

Make plans now to attend our 9th annual JuBELLant Celebration in Marshall, MN! Coordinated by: Rennae Petersen director of Ecumenibells, Jean Schueller director of Holy Redeemer RING, and Steve Meyer director of First Lutheran Church Spirit Bells.

The afternoon starts with individual groups rehearsing 2 solo selections, then working on the 3 pre-determined massed selections in preparation for a 4:30pm concert open to the public.

Bell choirs in attendance have been from Tyler, Cottonwood, Canby, Redwood Falls, Willmar, and Balaton, Minnesota. We have invited groups from Granite Falls, New Ulm, Chandler, Slayton, Worthington & Luverne Minnesota.

It is an afternoon of camaraderie, listening & learning new techniques from area directors. Look for more information in the next issue of the *Clapper Chatter*. 🎵



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Around the Area

Bringing Bells to Life at Life in Christ

By Mary Yerks, Twin Cities Metro SAC

This article has a little different focus so I hope you enjoy it. A couple of years ago, a friend and I reconnected when she stopped at my place of work. Carlene had been a member of the music faculty at Concordia, St. Paul when I was a student there. As we were catching up, I mentioned that I was active as a handbell ringer and director.

About a year later Carlene contacted me with some questions about starting a handbell choir at their church. They had some new members, one of whom had rung at her previous church. We had a couple of conversations and decided the best way to introduce bells to **Life in Christ Church** was to bring a bell choir to participate in services.

I checked with my home church, they were interested, we chose a date in February 2011, and we were off. **Beautiful Savior's JuBellation** ringers prepared a couple of pieces and hymn arrangements. We were well received and had a number of people asking questions after the services. Carlene and Sandy (the experienced ringer) started recruiting, and by May they had 12 people interested in learning to be Handbell Musicians.

I borrowed 3 octaves of bells from Beautiful Savior, took a friend along, and went to Life in Christ for an evening introduction to handbells. They learned quickly and were enthusiastic about getting their own choir started. We talked about cost and they started fundraising.

In September I received a call that they were close to having the funds to purchase bells. I arranged to have them meet with sales reps. They made their choice of bells, which happened to be available immediately!

Now for a director! They had a member who was interested, but work took her out of the area before they were ready to start. In the meantime, my schedule had changed and I was available. We agreed that we would start rehearsals December 1, 2011. They worked hard on the basics and we were ready to ring in early January.

We rang about every 6 weeks through the end of April. **Bells were brought to life at Life in Christ in Albertville, MN!** We can't wait to get started again in September. 📣

Northern Wisconsin Sub-Area Chair Report

By Sue Retzlaff, Northern WI SAC

While writing this, most cities in our area are experiencing an unrelenting heat wave. I hope this finds you and yours well.

Just one week ago, the Area 7 Festival Conference was in full swing. It was the second Area 7 Festival I have attended and it was another truly impressive, well-coordinated event. There was something for everyone: classes, ringing opportunities, concerts, reading sessions, time with vendors, meals, and much to explore in Duluth.

The 2014 Festival Conference will be in La Crosse, WI! It will be a great opportunity for ringers and directors on the eastern side of Area 7 to experience the support of our area handbell community, learn from colleagues, and leave inspired to promote our art in your local communities.

To get even more out of the next Festival Conference, consider volunteering a little bit of your time. It is rewarding to be part of the team that brings the long-planned Festival Conference to life. I believe that what you get out of something is proportional to what you invest. Working/volunteering for Area 7 has proven that to be true for me.

I look forward to seeing you in La Crosse! 📣



PEO Handbell Choir

The Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, recently played in a Service of Remembrance at the state-wide PEO convention in South Dakota. These ringers were all PEOs from different churches, but all live in Sioux Falls. They played 5 pieces. There are many of these organizations around the country, with about 4,000 members in South Dakota. 📣

2012 Area 7 Festival— a Volunteer's Perspective

By Christina Herold

The 2012 Area 7 Festival in Duluth, MN was the fourth biennial festival I've attended. For this year's festival, I was given a unique opportunity to get an up close and personal behind-the-scenes look at all of the work done to make it happen for the 450+ attendees. Last winter, I applied and was granted a volunteer leave from my employer, Wells Fargo. This is a great benefit available to Wells Fargo team members who qualify to work for their selected non-profit between three days and four months. I was granted a 19 day leave, so for the month of June I was paid by Wells Fargo but was working full-time for Area 7 culminating in the long weekend of the Area 7 Festival Conference in Duluth. Never in my life have I seen a harder working bunch of dedicated volunteers as the Area 7 board members who work so diligently to make the festival function smoothly for the rest of us.

I found out that the planning for the festival starts years in advance by assigning a festival chair. First, a location has to be selected. We handbell musicians have very unique needs, so locations are hard to find and not one is perfect. The amount of equipment needed to run classes is staggering. For this festival, over 2,100 bells were borrowed from 29 different groups to meet classroom needs. The bells needed to be picked up from their organizations, transported, unloaded, brought to the classrooms, and setup on the tables. After the festival they needed to be packed up, accounted for, transported back, and unloaded back at their home organizations. To make matters much worse, this year the temperature hit a record 99 degrees on drop-off day, making it miserably hot and sticky during unloading.

A feature concert group needs to be selected and invited to participate in the festival. Someone needs to find instructors for interesting classes, assign the classes into the right classrooms and ensure the correct equipment needed by each instructor is in the classroom at the right time. The Handbell Industry Council (HIC) needs to be coordinated to ensure each vendor's space requirements are met successfully. Someone needs to work with the food vendor to make sure hundreds of registrants are fed on a timely basis and any unique dietary needs are met. Someone needs to work with the local media to publicize the festival and invite the community to the showcase and final massed concerts. To enhance the festival experience, the Area 7 Historian puts together presentations to remember our distinguished past. We also have a silent



auction fundraiser to help members who cannot afford to attend Area-sponsored events. A huge effort is needed to coordinate all of the group and individual registrations and make sure each participant has everything upon check-in, including individual schedules for each of the hundreds of participants. All of this work and more needs to be done by volunteers. These volunteers all have full-time jobs in the "real" world and spend hundreds of hours on evenings and weekends to pull everything together.

What I find the best part of our organization is the amazing members themselves. Not only the people who dedicate themselves to serve on the board, but all of us handbell ringers who are united by our musical talents. The biennial festival is a great forum to meet up again—to see old friends and make new ones. To experience a rare treat of a showcase handbell group that isn't usually in our Area. To share our talents with the general public by providing a free concert and get others excited about handbells. We are an amazingly kind and generous group and the silent auction this year was proof of that. All items were donated by our Area 7 members and vendors, with many items lovingly handmade. The festival attendees bid on the items throughout the event and over \$800 was raised for the Clista Woods scholarship fund to support other members to attend future Area 7 events. The free-will offering for the final massed concert usually also goes to this fund. However, in our generous spirit, the board made a decision to donate this year's offering to the Duluth area Red Cross to support their efforts with the recent flooding. Combined with donations provided by ringers during the festival, we were able to donate over \$2,600 to the Duluth Red Cross. Handbell musicians are all amazing people who, thanks to the Area 7 board, have venues to come together and share in our camaraderie. So I encourage you kind, generous musicians to take a minute to thank those behind-the-scenes workers, who would never ask for recognition themselves, who work so hard to provide us with these amazing opportunities to gather. Send an email, a card, or thank them in person at the next event and let them know how much you appreciate their efforts for bringing us together as the Area 7 Handbells Musicians of America. 🐼

Regional Opportunities

Handbell Cases Need New Home!

Gimli Lutheran Church in Gimli, Manitoba, has recently purchased Port-a-Bell cases for their 3 octaves of Schulmerich handbells. Now they are looking for a new "home" for their original 3-octave handbell cases. If anyone would like to obtain these cases, kindly contact **Val 204-642-7995; Norm 204-642-2469; or Vienna 204-642-9415.**

Director Position

Need not have a degree in music but a plus. Previous handbell experience a requirement. Must be willing to start a new bell program teaching interested kids and adults. The church may not have enough people to continue a program but maybe with new ideas and a different time for practice, a new director would succeed. Salary is \$900 for a 9-month program which involves 4 practices/month and 4-5 church performances. Contact Jeff Avery, 525 Dover Drive, Bismarck, ND 58504, 701-258-8181, jeffa1969vet@bis.midco.net.

Complete Mallmark Set For Sale

Set includes 3 octaves Mallmark handbells and 3 octaves Mallmark handchimes, tables, foam, 2 sets of table covers, 10 riser stands, riser lights, about \$500 in music, lots of teaching material for bells and chimes, also have kept all issues of *Overtones*, *Clapper Chatter* and notes from previous director workshops. Handbells are in good shape and chimes are under warranty. Asking price is \$4,000. Contact Jeff Avery, 525 Dover Drive, Bismarck, ND 58504, 701-258-8181, jeffa1969vet@bis.midco.net.

Choir Robes

First Presbyterian Church in Rochester, MN has 40 Murphy brand choir robes, medium blue in color, with stoles displaying a cross. Robes are completely washable and are in good condition, not excellent but good. Varied sizes, most of them have gathered cuffs to facilitate ringing of handbells. Free or make donation to First Presbyterian. We have boxes for shipping. You pay the postage or come and get them! Contact Lee Afdahl, 507-282-1618 or afdahl.lee@fpcrochester.org.

KidsRing

By Sean Johnson, Youth Events Planner

Each and every year I am involved with young people who ring, I am amazed at the talents and skills of the children and youth of our area. On Saturday, April 28, **Mary Yerks**, outgoing Twin Cities Sub-Area Chair, masterfully led 57 young ringers at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Plymouth, MN.

At various Area 7 handbell events, I'm asked what goes on at KidsRing. Here's a typical event, though not necessarily what will happen in the future. Each year a clinician is chosen based on their skills as a youth handbell director, their passion for the craft, and their enthusiasm working with young people. This ensures that KidsRing will be an awesome event. The clinician works with the group as a whole and sets the tone for the day.

Depending on the number of attendees, there are one or two breakout sessions. In the past this has included games, Boomwhackers, rhythm drills, or other techniques. This year we whacked our way through Kirtsy Mitchell's "Mallet Madness" with Boomwhackers.

We do break for snacks, typically "Ding Dongs," but I couldn't find them this year. We also dine together. Food is a great way to not only keep energy levels up, but to grow together as a team.

After lunch, we have a run-through and then give a public concert for family and friends. This year, the concert was extraordinary. It started off with a processional and ended with a bang.

The young people in our Area are extremely talented and skilled; their directors should be proud of them. I encourage all youth choirs, of all abilities, to attend next year—and sign up early! 📌



Sean Johnson loading Festival equipment.

Handbell Concerts:**Die Deutsche
Glockenklingelpartnerschaftmissionreise
(Handbell Partnership/Mission Trip to Germany)**

The Mount Calvary Handbell Choir of Excelsior, MN is planning to visit their sister church, Bethlehem Gemeinde, in Leipzig, Germany this fall. In the spirit of this partnership ministry, they will be offering concerts, a workshop, and playing bells in their worship services. Handbells are a rarity, as there are only about 20 handbell choirs in all of Germany! They'll also get to learn about church and faith life in Germany, not only through personal relationships, but visiting historic sites in reformation history.

They will perform 2 concerts in the Twin Cities metro prior to the trip, open to the public, free-will offering accepted:

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012, 3pm, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 7401 County Road 101, Maple Grove, MN 55311.

Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012, 4pm, Mount Calvary Church, 301 County Road 19, Excelsior, MN 55331. Concert followed by a German meal: \$10 per person, \$5 kids 12-under. Must purchase dinner tickets in advance at 952-474-8893. 🍷



David L. Weck



Dr. John Behnke

We'd like to extend a special

THANK YOU

to both of our

fabulous

2012 Festival Conference Clinicians!

Your experience, dedication to detail, leadership, and musicianship combined to make another successful Festival Conference for Area 7.

FESTIVAL GALLERY

The cha-cha-cha from Jamaican Melody during the final concert.



Ann Flisrand, John Behnke, and Sandy Mullaney.



FESTIVAL GALLERY



CLAPPER CHATTER

AREA 7 HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA



Next
CLAPPER CHATTER Deadline:
October 2, 2012



Judi Morton and Ona Pinsonneault.



Dan Ahlman and Mark Zuern load equipment onto the truck.



Ringing Badgers Debut at the Festival

By Mark Bloedow, Wis South Sub-Area Chair

Wisconsin South and Madison, WI, were well represented at the Area 7 Duluth Festival Conference with the debut of the Ringing Badgers! Decked out in RED polo shirts, WHITE gloves, and a smiling badger banner, the group took the stage in a solo performance at one of the 2 mini-concerts during the festival in the Duluth Entertainment Conference Center's Symphony Hall.

Mark Bloedow, Director of Worship & Music at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Madison, and Area 7 Board Member (Sub-Area Chair for Wisconsin South), organized and directed the group for the Festival. The Ringing Badgers included 5 ringers from Good Shepherd (**Diane Madsen, Anne Meyer, Helen Sheahan, Jeanne Storm,**

Joanna Storm), 3 ringers from Madison Area Concert handbells (**Jody Nibbe, Debi Robey, Jane Sulzer**), a ringer from Asbury United Methodist Church, Madison (**Carrie Coenen**), and 2 special guests (**Kim Ahlgrim-Heine** of the Agape Ringers from Chicago, and **Sondra Joten** of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI). The group's solo piece, LeRoy Anderson's American classic "The Syncopated Clock" arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson, was enjoyed by the ringers and audience alike, and included 2 distinguished percussionists—**Gary Madsen** and **Harvey Storm**, spouses of Good Shepherd ringers.

The Ringing Badgers thoroughly enjoyed the Festival and look forward to the next one in LaCrosse in 2014! 🎵