



CLAPPER CHATTER

Minnesota - North Dakota - South Dakota - Wisconsin - Manitoba

VOLUME 30 | ISSUE 2 | APRIL 2016

Special Points of Interest:

- ♪ Another new Board Member! Meet Steve on page 4.
- ♪ More Festival information on pages 7 & 8
- ♪ See how Area 7 is influencing the community on pages 10 & 11.

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Area 7 Board Elections

Elections for officers for the 2016-2018 Area 7 Board will be held this spring. All members of Area 7 are eligible to vote in this election. Please watch for information on nominations coming in April.

Everything You Do Makes a Difference

Darcy Reich, Area 7 Chair

Spring Greetings!

The National Board of Handbell Musicians of America is continuously looking for ways to meet the needs of our membership. They create an annual set of initiatives (think New Year's Resolutions) for the coming year. One of the most recent initiatives is the first set of a series of webinars that will be presented during the months of May, June and July. Some of these webinars are single-topic sessions, while others are available as a package leading to certification. Go to the national website for more information and take advantage of this wonderful new opportunity.

Where does the time go? It seems like we barely began a new choir season and now there are just a few more opportunities to play for worship before we take a break for the summer. It's at this time of year that I reflect on the past months and also begin to think ahead about the musical possibilities for next year.

Like many handbell directors, I have experienced years with a large number of choirs with ringers of all ages (fondly called my "handbell honeymoon") and other years with a reduced number of choirs and only a few people in each age group. It's a challenge to find ways to keep people ringing if there aren't enough participants for what we consider to be a full choir. Yet there are so many other ways to use bells in worship.

We are fortunate to have an ever-increasing number of resources available for any number of ringers at all experience levels. Check out our national website for ideas, visit your favorite handbell retailer, network with other handbell directors in your neighborhood and attend handbell events in order to explore all of the possibilities that are out there for you and your ringers.

A quote by Ruth K. Jacobs, founder of another great musical organization, Choristers Guild, has been particularly meaningful to me throughout my career, particularly during those lean years:

"You don't have to do great things, but the little things you are doing in your sphere of influence can be done with great conviction, great wisdom, great beauty and great love."

Thank you for your contributions in your own "sphere of influence." Everything you do makes a difference!

Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansArea7

Don't forget to comment on the posts to be part of what's going on in Area 7!

Photos of Area 7 events can be found at

www.flickr.com/photos/area7handbells/

August Clapper Chatter Deadline: July 10, 2016

Area 7 Reports

From the Historian

Dan Ahlman—Historian

As I write this I am looking at sunshine and blue skies and longing for spring and warm weather. Spring brings a fresh start to the year. Spring means that many of us are preparing for Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord. This spring also means something else!! Are you getting ready for Festival? Your Area 7 Board is hard at work preparing for this year's Festival in Sioux Falls and we are looking forward to many fun and interesting classes and activities. Festival is a time for ringing, learning, seeing old friends and making new friends. We hope to see you there! Be sure to check out the historical display that will show where we have been—the clinicians who have led us and the music (over 300 different pieces!) we have rung.

Hope to see you in Sioux Falls!

North Dakota Report

Barbara Roberts—North Dakota Sub-Area Chair

On Saturday, February 27th, Westminster Chimes of 1st Presbyterian Church of Bismarck hauled their bells, chimes and tables to St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie for BellFest! 2016. The 12 ringers made up the only ensemble from North Dakota, joining approximately 160 ringers for a day of instruction and rehearsal culminating in a massed-ringing concert for the public. William H. Mathis was the conductor for the 20th anniversary of this festival sponsored by Bells of the Lakes.

Lenten and Easter music are now filed away for another year as bell ensembles practice music selected to finish out the school/church year. Strikepoint of Bismarck is planning a handbell outreach in May. They will take their music to a rural church where there is no handbell program.



The music for the Area 7 Handbell Festival in Sioux Falls is front and center on most practice stands at this time. Those of us attending look forward to meeting many of you in June.

Registration is now open for the 2016 Summer International Music Camp's Handbell Sessions. The six-day session runs from July 10-16 and the four-day session runs from July 30-August 2. Participants can register by calling the IMC office at 701-838-8472 or online at www.internationalmusiccamp.com.



South Dakota Report

Babs Elving—South Dakota Sub-Area Chair

The *Bells of the Hills* ensemble of Rapid City SD sponsored their first *Bell Ring-Out*, soon to be an annual event, at the Rushmore Mall on Sunday, December 13. Twenty-two ringers from the surrounding area showed up for an hour of hands-on ringing while sight reading some public domain Christmas music. Our ringers ranged from brand new to experienced and everyone had the opportunity to practice their craft before our gathering audience of holiday shoppers. During our setup, ringing and ultimate breakdown of equipment, we were interviewed and filmed by a local TV station. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon of music making and we are looking forward to next year!



Area 7 Reports

Membership Report

Sondra Joten—Membership Coordinator

Greetings from the land of the “Frozen Tundra.” (Well, I’m close! Freedom, WI is *maybe* 15 minutes, as the crow flies, from Lambeau Field, home of the legendary Green Bay Packers.) Fortunately, as I write this in early March, much of the remaining snow is predicted to disappear thanks to warmer temperatures and rain. Spring and Easter dominate my thoughts.

As your newest Membership Coordinator, I’ve learned to generate membership reports and send them out to your respective sub-area chairs, thanks to the aid given me by your former Membership Chair, Karen Van Wert. In working with Karen and the rest of the Board through online meetings, I’ve come to realize what wonderful & gifted people are in place in the leadership of Area 7. They are amazing! Be certain to thank them when you see them at an event...or at a rehearsal if you are lucky enough to know them personally.

The latest Area 7 membership report for March indicates that we are 315 members strong, including individuals and organizations alike. Wouldn’t it be great if we could grow that number to include even more people? I’ve found the best way to encourage new members is to ask personally. Share with them the blessings and joy that being part of a team can be.

Did you know that the national office of HMA currently has a HANDBELL BUCKS incentive program in place? (What a great way for YOU to receive benefits when you’ve encouraged a new member to join HMA!) Listed below are a few of the details. **

- *Members receive 5 Handbell Bucks for each new membership they refer*
- *Handbell Bucks can be exchanged for coupons that provide equal value discounts for membership renewal and event registration*
- *There is no limit to the amount of Handbell Bucks that can be earned*
- *Simply have the members you refer go to handbellmusicians.org and click the Join Now red ribbon on our home page to start the join process and enter your name (the name on your membership) in the Referring Member field at the bottom of the form*
- *As you add new members, watch the Handbell Bucks balance go up on your account*
- *Handbell Bucks can **only be earned** for new Handbell Musician Memberships, HIC Memberships, or Retired Handbell Musicians Memberships that begin on or after January 1, 2015.*
- *The new membership must be completely new or from an account with a membership that has been lapsed for at least 24 months.*

** Further details may be found at handbellmusicians.org/bucks. Some restrictions apply.

Being a member of HMA/HMA Area 7 has been wonderful for me over the years. My musicianship has been grown and nourished but, most importantly of all, I’ve met the most wonderful folks. Handbell people really are some of the nicest people you’ll ever meet!

See you in Sioux Falls!

Membership in Handbell Musicians of America

- Gives you opportunities to connect and form life-long friendships with other handbell musicians.
- Provides you with unparalleled access to opportunities for learning from the most innovative, talented and knowledgeable people in the art.
- Makes you an integral part of an organization that is THE principal voice of the handbell/handchime art form and is dedicated to advancing the art through education, community and communication.

We can do Together what No One can do Alone!

Area 7 Reports

New Board Member: Meet Steve Meyer!

Steve Meyer—Southern Minnesota Sub-Area Chair

I am a graduate of SMSU, Marshall, MN, with a degree in K - 12 vocal music & elementary/middle school classroom music education. I have 2 adult children. My daughter Stephanie and her husband Andy live in Mounds View, MN & my son Anthony and his wife RaeAnn live in Plymouth, MN.

I am a member of First Lutheran Church in Marshall, MN, singing in the Chancel Choir since 1985. In 1988 I was asked to be the inaugural director of the handbell choir at First Lutheran Church which I led for several years. After taking a few years off, in 1998 I took over the role of handbell choir (Spirit Bells) director again. Singing in a quartet and a global music influenced worship leadership group round out the list of my music activities at First Lutheran Church.

I helped start JuBELLant Celebration along with the directors of two community churches: Rennae Petersen, the director of Ecumenibells (sponsored by Cornerstone United Methodist Church) and Jean Schueller, RING (Ring In the Name of God) from The Church of the Holy Redeemer. This April (2016) will be the 12th year. Initially we wanted to provide an opportunity for bell choirs in southwest Minnesota to have a learning environment and have the ability to share individual talents that culminated in a mass concert at the end of the day. However, due to the shrinking number of ringers in the area, the last several years of JuBELLant Celebration have been a community concert put on by just the Spirit Bells, RING & Ecumenibells.

I am actively involved in a variety of music ensembles in and around the Marshall area. I play trumpet in the Marshall Community Band and SMO (Southwest Minnesota Orchestra) at SMSU. I also sing with the Prairie Arts Chorale (an auditioned vocal ensemble made up of singers of southwestern Minnesota). I have spent most of the past 15 summers playing in the pit orchestra for the Marshall Area Stage Company's summer musicals. This past summer I was honored to be the Bishop in our community production of Les Miserable. Most recently I have been involved in the ELCA Global Event Musicians and Area Handbell Ringers of America Southern Minnesota sub-section chair.



Southern Wisconsin Report

Mark Bloedow—Southern Wisconsin Sub-Area Chair

Ringin' Spring Handbell Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 30, 8:30am to 2:15pm at Sinsinawa Mound Center, 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, Wisconsin with the Ringing Badgers Handbell Ensemble and Mark Bloedow, clinician. The event is for ringers of all experience levels and includes mass ringing, classes, lunch, and mini-concert. The Ringing Badgers is a community handbell ensemble from Madison, WI. The group recently performed for the Madison Area Community Christmas Festival and Choral Arts Society Chorale Holiday Concert.

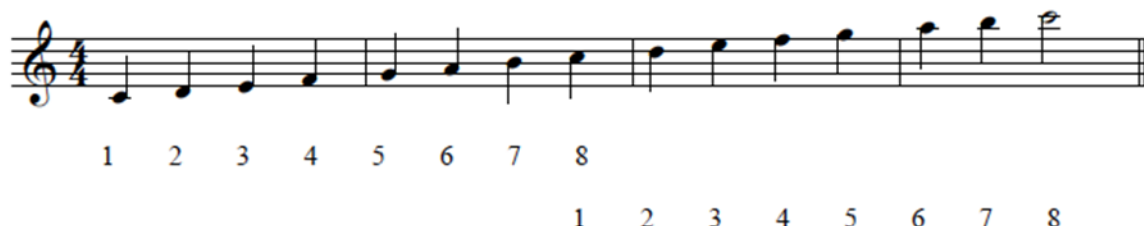
Upcoming performances include the Madison Area Community Earth Day Concerts and attending the Area 7 Festival Conference in Sioux Falls in June. Mark Bloedow, Artistic Director, is the Executive & Artistic Director of Maestro Productions, Inc. (including the Madison Area Community Chorus & Orchestra, and Ringing Badgers Handbell Ensemble), Artistic Director of Madison's Choral Arts Society Chorale, and Music Director at Immanuel Lutheran Church, all located in Madison. He has taught Handbell Music Methods in the Master of Church Music graduate program at Concordia University Wisconsin. Complete workshop details and online registration is available at: <http://www.maestroproductions.org/handbell-workshop.html> All are welcome!



MUSIC THEORY.aargh@

Harmony - 3 (Session 23) "Harmonic Progression around the Circle of Fifths"

By Dr. Ona Pinsonneault

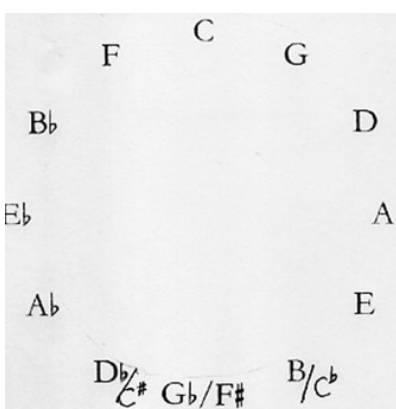


Remember 3, 6, 2, 5, 1 or E, A, D, G, C? (See above chart.) These are Perfect Fifths in a counterclockwise order around the Circle of Fifths. Think of the circle as a clock. If you move from 1 o'clock to 12 o'clock (G to C) that distance is a descending Perfect Fifth. If G is dominant, C is its tonic. Also, D is the dominant of G, and A is the dominant of D. (You move in counterclockwise descending motion.) And the same is true all around the circle.

If you move in clockwise motion (11 o'clock to 12 o'clock) you have a motion of a descending Perfect Fourth. F is the Subdominant on C Major.

Any three adjacent tones in the circle give you the subdominant, tonic and dominant of a key. For example, if you read 12 o'clock to 1 o'clock to 2 o'clock this is in order, the subdominant, tonic and dominant in the key of the middle number, or in this case, G.

Circle of Fifths



These are the important chords in stressing tonality. Why is this important to me? I know as a conductor/ringer that when these chords are adjacent, the structure of the composition is in an important place. Often this structure is paired with a dynamic level change, a tempo change, a range change, or any of many other elements in a composition. It is the goal of the composition to reach tonic at critical sectional changes and endings and therefore gives purpose to the altering of steady pulse, loudness, etc., of the composition.

Until next time,

Dr. P

Ona.pinsonneault@normandale.edu

April 2016

Healthy, Musical Ringing Article 3

By Karen Van Wert

Best Seat in the House

Past articles taught stretching and a strong ringing stance. This article introduces how the bell is seated in your hand so you are ready to ring.

Begin with thumb and fingers pointing forward. Think of how Lego hands look. Align thumb, wrist, forearm, elbow, upper arm and shoulder – no chicken wings. Your forearm is parallel to the ground. Relax your wrist in a neutral position aligning your pinkie finger with bottom of your forearm as if your hand and arm were resting on a table.

The bell's hand guard (round plastic piece between the handle and the metal) will sit in the "U" formed by your thumb and index finger. Close your index finger around the bell handle to touch the thumb creating a "circle of control". The other three fingers are not required to hold the bell. The bell is now properly seated in the circle of control.

Don't grab, hold, grip, grasp, clutch or seize your bells. Relax and let the bell balance on the circle of control. Remember your surfboard stance and Lego hands and arms. Relax, take a breath and smile, you are ready to ring.



SOUNDINGS

Music of Our Lands and Our Lives

17TH INTERNATIONAL
HANDBELL SYMPOSIUM
JULY 26–30, 2016
VANCOUVER, CANADA

Please visit <http://www.ihs2016vancouver.ca/> for more information.

Area 7 Events

The Fun is About to Begin—FESTIVAL CONFERENCE!

June 16-19, 2016 Sioux Falls, SD

Great Location!

Sioux Falls, South Dakota. A little bit farther west than normal, but it will be worth the trip! They are very hospitable, and we really loved their food the last time we were there.

Great Faculty!

Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble ringers, Area 7 specialists, and some surprises!

Great Classes!

The basic ringing techniques and necessary maintenance classes, some new concepts, some new theories, some handbell related games, yoga, and much more, including the popular Bell Trees!

Great Conductors!

Amy Maakestad, Kathleen Wissinger, John Behnke, Sandy Mullaney. A fabulous variety of talent and skill.

Great Showcase Concert!

The renowned Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble, under the direction of John Behnke, will be performing Friday night.

Your whole choir doesn't want to come?

No problem! Register as an individual (orphan) ringer and you will be assigned to a Foster choir. A great way to meet new people while enjoying all the festivities.

Deadlines:

April 1st: \$30 per person deposit due.

April 15th: Class Selections due.

May 1st: Final payments due.

QUESTIONS?

Download the General Information Packet : <http://www.areaviagehr.org/areafestival.php>

Contact the Registrar, Trevor Lee. Registrar.Area7@handbellmusicians.org

See you in Sioux Falls in June!



2016 Festival Conference Silent Auction

Ruth Immerfall—C.H.I.M.E. Representative

This summer's Festival Conference in Sioux Falls will once again include a silent auction. Do you have a craft item you'd like to donate? A restaurant or store gift certificate? A movie night basket? A wine or chocolate lover's basket? Hand stamped thank-you notes? A crocheted scarf? These are just a few examples of what you or your entire bell choir could donate to the auction. Donations do not have to be handbell or music related. Please consider donating. Proceeds from the silent auction go toward the Clista Wood Scholarship Fund. The 2014 Festival silent auction raised almost \$1300 for the scholarship fund. Let's see if we can top that!

Donations can either be sent with someone or brought to the Festival in person and dropped off at the registration table when you arrive. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Immerfall at ruthimmerfall@gmail.com or 320.291.9293 (call or text). Thank you for considering a donation!

Area 7 Events

Can You Carry a Tun-A?

Area 7 Festival Conference Service Project

In keeping with our tradition of reaching out with "Helping Hands from Handbells," Area 7 will again sponsor a Service Project in Sioux Falls, SD during the June Festival Conference. We are pleased to collaborate with Feeding South Dakota, the state's largest hunger relief organization, to help stock their food shelf for the summer months.



Do you remember our first Area 7 Festival Service Project?

Picture it: Duluth 2012, the worst flooding that area had ever experienced, from continuous rain on top of already saturated ground. One of the few untouched buildings in the City was the DECC, where our Festival was being held. Had the Festival been scheduled one week earlier, we would not have been able to get there. In support of the thousands who were affected by this devastation, Festival registrants donated "Dollars for Duluth" and attendees of our closing concert gave a generous freewill offering. Over \$2500 was raised for the Northland Chapter of the American Red Cross to assist with local flood relief.

Since that day, Area 7 has continued to offer service opportunities at events, to connect the generous hearts and hands of our organization with our neighbors in need.

At the end of this newsletter there is a flyer with more information on the 2016 Festival Service Project "Can You Carry a Tun-a?" Please consider giving generously! Thank you!



Take your ringing to the next level!

Handbell Week 2016!

David Week, Clinician & Conductor

June 27 to June 30, 2016

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1021 Spaight Street, Madison, Wisconsin

Details and online registration available now!

www.maestromeb.com (click Events)

Beautiful location and setting on Lake Monona
Workshop Music, Lunch, Snacks included in Registration
Early Bird Registration Discount (through June 1)
Discounted Hotel Rooms (close to Immanuel)
20% Music Purchase Discount & More!



Area 7 Events

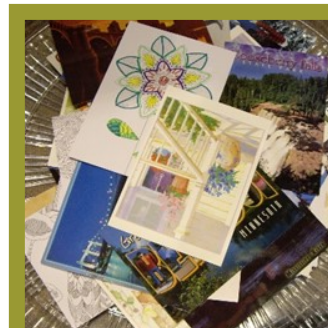
AdventuRing

Michelle Finlon—Youth Events Planner



Dr. Chad Winterfeldt, Cantor of Christ Chapel at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN guided over 30 high school and college age ringers through the energetic event repertoire and challenged their musicality with a more reflective piece. The high school ringers had the chance to tour the campus and eat in the cafeteria. A big thank you to the Gustavus Ringers for welcoming us! The event culminated in a wonderful closing concert in Bjorling Recital Hall.

Many thanks to our attendees who took part in a Service Project, writing postcards of encouragement to seriously ill children through the non-profit organization "Send Kids the World." It was a "first" for many of our high school ringers, who had never addressed a postcard before!



*"When I hear music, I fear no danger.
I am invulnerable. I see no foe.
I am related to the earliest times,
and to the latest."
-Henry David Thoreau*

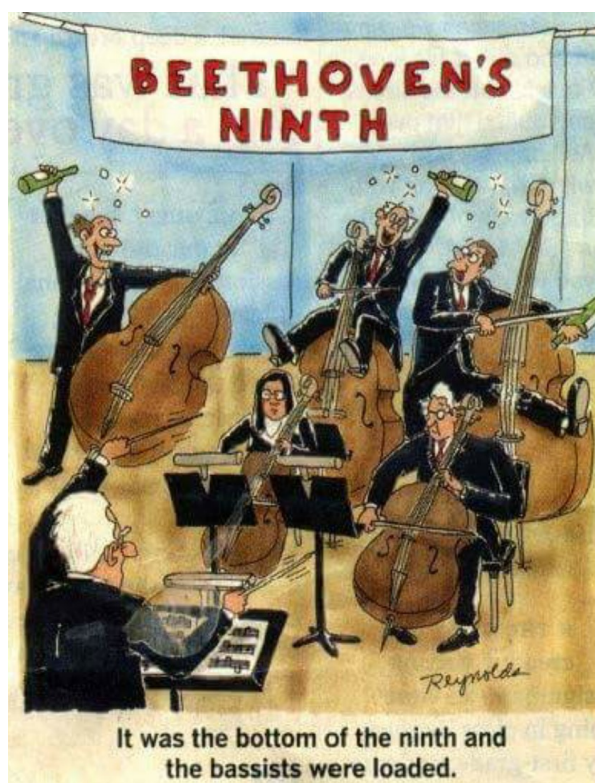
The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: rringer@rr.org • web: www.rr.org

A community handbell choir



Area 7 News

Anthornis Central Service Project Benefits PRISM

Sandy Mullaney—Past Chair

The 2016 Anthornis Central event was a success in so many ways: we enjoyed great attendance with over 80 ringers, we grew as musicians under Michael Helman's skillful direction, we had a wonderful time connecting with friends and we offered a wonderful closing concert to cap off the weekend.

In addition to all of these great aspects, Anthornis Central was also successful in reaching out with "Helping Hands From Handbells" to people in our community who need support. The Anthornis Central Service Project benefitted the local non-profit organization PRISM (People Reaching out In Social Ministry). Attendees were invited to bring shelf stable items including breakfast food and baby food/items as donations to PRISM's Marketplace Shelves.

There was strong support for this project – as a group, we donated 90 pounds of food, 8 pounds of "non-food" (diapers, baby wipes) and \$160 in cash donations. The PRISM staff was thrilled to receive the donations and several volunteers told us that our timing was perfect – they often have emptier food shelves in the month of February and many in the community are experiencing great need this winter.

Thank you to everyone who attended Anthornis Central and helped us partner with PRISM to make a real difference in people's lives!



New Choir Formed Through Friendship and Fellowship

Cynthia Clanton—Bells of the Bluffs Representative

While cooperation is one of the hallmarks of handbell ensembles, it's rare to have the chance to help an entirely new group get started in the fellowship of bell ringers. This fall, Bells of the Bluffs (BOB), based in Red Wing, Minnesota, had precisely that opportunity when they partnered with a brand-new handbell ensemble at St. Philip's Lutheran Church in nearby Hastings.

Through a long-term friendship between Marilee Anderson, BOB Musical Director, and Ellen Diischer, Music Director at St. Philip's, a mentoring relationship began with the St. Philip's congregation raising enough funds in just three months to purchase three octaves of bells to augment the church's chimes program. Sharing equipment, tips and techniques with BOB, the St. Philip's ringers quickly took their new instruments and performed in worship for the first time in early December. The two groups also shared the stage at a concert in late February in a full-length concert at St. Philip's.



"Music is what tells us that the human race is greater than we realize."

-Napoleon Bonaparte

Area 7 News

C.H.I.M.E Grant Program Reaches Cannon Falls Youth

Cannon Falls middle schoolers and Lynn Miller were recently featured in the Cannon Falls Beacon in connection with Area 7's C.H.I.M.E Grant Program. A new music teacher in the district, Peter Duggan, obtained the one year grant to expose multiple classes to making music with handbells and chimes throughout the school year. Lynn Miller has been helping Duggan teach the nuances and techniques involved with playing the instruments. Duggan hopes to incorporate the handbells into all of his music ensembles.



*"If I were not a
physicist, I would
probably be a
musician.
I often think
in music.
I live my daydreams
in music.
I see my life in
terms of music."
-Albert Einstein*



Seven Area 7 representatives attended Distinctly Bronze West in Oregon in March
Front: Kim Braswell (ND), Marlys Fiterman (MN), Monica McGowan (MN)
Back: Jane Baxter (MN), Carol Myslivecek (MN), Sue Nissen (MN), Jessica Westgard
Larson (ND)

Community Groups/Opportunities

Concert/Group	Date	Location	Description
"These are a Few of Our Favorite Rings" - Salem Lutheran Church Handbell Choirs	April 10 3:00 PM	Salem Lutheran Church 90 Riverside Dr. SE St. Cloud, MN 56304	Please join us as we celebrate with our favorite handbell pieces, video pictures, and stories of the past 25 years. Free Admission - Reception to follow concert
Annual Spring Concert St. Olaf Handbell Choirs	April 24 2:00 PM	St. Olaf College Urness Recital Hall Christiansen Hall of Music	
Ringin' Spring Handbell Workshop Ringing Badgers	April 30 8:30 AM	Sinsinawa Mound Center 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, Wisconsin	Mass ringing, classes, lunch, a closing mini-concert, and great handbell friends! The event is for ringers and directors of all experience levels.
May Day Concert and Basket Auction Bells of the Bluffs and Joyful Noise of First Lutheran in Red Wing	May 1 3:00 PM	First Lutheran Church 615 West 5th Street Red Wing, MN	
MACH presents: Postcards from France	May 14 7:30 PM	Asbury Church 6101 University Ave Madison, WI	A celebration of all things French. Revered composers will be represented alongside pieces that remind us of French culture, landscape and architecture.
MACH presents: Postcards from France	May 15 3:00 PM	First Congregational UCC 1609 University Ave Madison, WI	A celebration of all things French. Revered composers will be represented alongside pieces that remind us of French culture, landscape and architecture.

Employment

Job opportunities are updated online at <http://www.arcaviagehr.org/opportunities.php>. Keep checking in to see if there is a position right for you! If you have a job you would like posted online, e-mail editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org.

Advertising

Are you interested in advertising in the Clapper Chatter? You can! There are options to suit every budget. Do you know you want to advertise but don't know where to begin? We can help! E-mail editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org with your advertisement or any questions you may have.

\$30 for business card size per edition

\$55 for 1/4 page per edition

\$65 for 1/2 page per edition

\$80 for full page per edition

15% discount to those advertisers paying in advance for an entire year (4 editions).

Events

As a reminder, we would love to include your concerts and workshops in our Area 7 calendar! Have a representative e-mail your events to editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org so the information can be included in upcoming issues of the Clapper Chatter and posted online. Please include the date, time, location and price of your events.

The Area 7 Facebook page is also a good way to advertise your events! You can send a message to the Area 7 page with the relevant information to be displayed or include this request in an e-mail to editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org.

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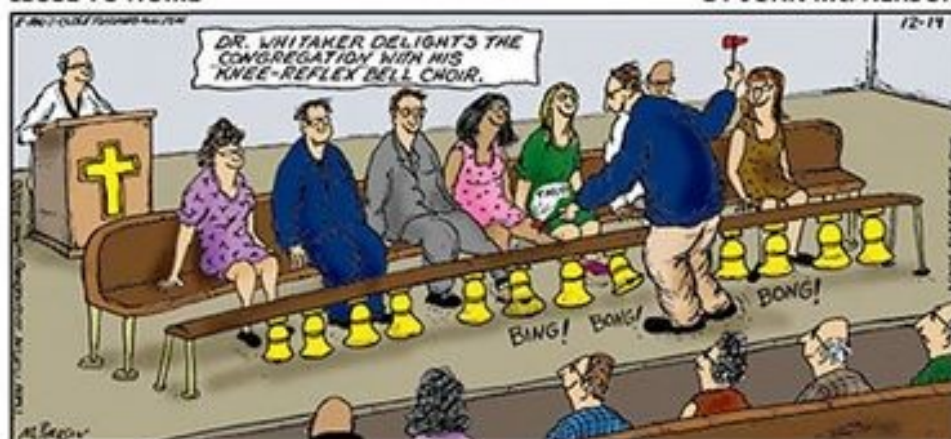
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CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN MCPHERSON



Area 7 Festival Conference Service Project

♪ CAN YOU CARRY A TUN-A? ♪



Bring a can of tuna - or other shelf-stable protein - to Festival and help stock the local food shelf, Feeding South Dakota. Cash donations are also welcome. Let's reach out with "Helping Hands From Handbells" to serve our neighbors in need. Thank you for participating in this Area 7 Service Project!

FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA, whose mission is to eliminate hunger in South Dakota, is the state's largest charitable hunger relief organization with distribution centers in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City.

- ♪ Feeding South Dakota provides emergency food assistance for an estimated 190,000 people every year
- ♪ Almost half of the individuals served at the food pantries are children and infants
- ♪ Over 5,500 BackPacks are distributed weekly
- ♪ Distributed 12.3 million pounds of food to individuals in need
- ♪ The Sioux Falls and Rapid City Pantries serve over 90,000 people each year.
- ♪ Over 120,000 individuals in South Dakota live at or below the poverty line
- ♪ Over 2,800 food boxes are supplied to Senior Citizens monthly