

# Clapper Chatter

Minnesota - North Dakota - South Dakota - Wisconsin - Manitoba

## Letter from the Chair

by Anita Fraundorf, Area 7 Chair

I'm living in a Virtual World. Little did I know last March how much I would depend upon a laptop, iPad and phone to participate in worship, conduct meetings, gather with friends and family, order food and supplies, read a book, and so much more. By the time you see this message, the virtual version of the Handbell Musicians of America's National Seminar will have taken place. And in early August, there will be a virtual HMA Leadership Meeting. No airplane trips to be "in the room where it happens" with other Area and National leaders, handbell composers and arrangers, respected clinicians, industry leaders and handbell enthusiasts from all over the country and world. I appreciate that all this technical connection is possible but I miss the human connection. I look forward to the day that we can meet in person again.

On the plus side of staying home, I have taken the opportunity to engage in some of the "old school" ways of connecting with people: by phone and letter. While it seems as though "everyone" has a smart phone or computer, I soon learned that a significant number of my congregation have neither. It's been nice to have a phone conversation or to send a note to some of the people that I would see sitting in "their" pews each Sunday but who I didn't always engage with other than briefly.

Speaking of connections, it was great to connect with so many Area 7 people via email in May! I appreciate the thoughtful responses I received to the questions on ringing safety that HMA Interim Executive Director, Ed Rollins, had requested. Check out the Handbell Industry Council's website on Covid information. Their "Quick Guide" includes many of the suggestions made by our members. Also included on that site is "A Director's Perspective" (by Amy Maakestad) and "Resources for Ringing." Note: My apologies if you did not receive an email. I will continue to update members' contact information but if you don't hear from me, please feel free to send me a message ([chair.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chair.area7@handbellmusicians.org)).

On September 30, 2020, we will be saying goodbye to two of our Area 7 Board members, Karen Van Wert (6 years Chair track) and Deanna Clemen (4 years Treasurer). Their dedication, thoughtful insights, innovative ideas, and fiscal and organizational diligence are greatly appreciated. While it has been a much quieter end to their terms of service than a Festival celebration would have been, we are no less sincere in our gratitude for all you've done for Area 7. Your knowledge and expertise will always be welcome.

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Area 7  
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For more information about handbell ringer safety in the pandemic, visit: <https://handbellindustry.org/quick-guide/>

by Karen Van Wert, Area 7 Past Chair

It was such a heartbreak to cancel the 2020 Festival Conference in Duluth because of the pandemic. But it was the right thing to do, and we are so thankful for the clinicians and faculty for agreeing to be with us in Duluth in 2022. The only dates available at the DECC in 2022 are not the most ideal for our typical schedules, so please mark your calendar now for the new dates and try to make the dates work in your schedule: June 9-12, 2022, with the closing concert on Sunday June 12th at 1:30pm.

In normal times, this would be the newsletter issue to print repertoire details for the upcoming Area 7 events.

However, due to so much unpredictability and uncertainty, the format of the Area 7 scheduled events may not be what they used to be.

Please watch the Area 7 website and Facebook postings for event updates.

### 2020 events are listed below:

**KidsRing-** November 7 in Plymouth, MN  
with Sandy Mullaney, Clinician

**Anthornis-** November 13-14 in St. Louis Park, MN  
with Kathy Ebling-Shaw, Clinician

### 2021 event hopefuls:

**AdventuRing** in the Spring in a college setting,  
for high school and college aged ringers

**Young Ringers Camp** in June for 4-8th grade ringers.

I know many of you were disappointed not to be ringing in Duluth the last weekend in June. In addition to Beer Choir, train rides, great classes and mass ringing, a few of us were looking forward to celebrating our birthdays ringing with friends.

When my husband asked what I wanted to do for my birthday, I said "I wanted to be ringing in Duluth." He said, "I will take you to Duluth and you can ring." To which I replied, "but I don't want to ring alone." That set things in motion. I called Darcy Reich (also celebrating a birthday) and Anita Fraundorf and we hatched a plan. In just 3 days we had a ringing birthday party planned.

We set up in Leif Erikson Rose Garden on the north end of The Lakewalk. It was quite windy but a bright and cheery day. I played belltree music for an hour. The rest of the party joined me, and we rang 12 bell music by Jason Krug, Bill Ingram, Sandra Eithun and Tammy Waldorp for over an hour. Anita presented each of us with matching masks, so we looked like an ensemble. We practiced social distancing, but we did not practice the music. We just had fun sight-reading. Several people gathered on the lawn to listen and some strolled by. Barking dogs, highway noise and phones did not bother us as we focused on the music.

It was such a joyous experience; I encourage you to consider a rehearsal or pop-up concert in a local park. I cannot wait to take my bells outside and share music with whoever passes by. You might need something to combat the wind. Look for music that does not require page turns. Do not strive for perfection but set the goal for fun.

### Moments that happened:

- A young woman approached while I was playing belltree and said she played when she was younger but had never seen a belltree. Long story short, she lives a mile from me in the Twin Cities and I hope to get her engaged soon.
- When we finished playing, our "audience" unexpectedly sang Happy Birthday to us.
- A Hibbing couple came up to us after and related that they were celebrating his birthday a week late and had been extremely disappointed not to have a gathering due to the virus. They expressed such gratitude that we were there to add to their celebration. They were touched by the beauty of the music mixed with blooming flowers and Lake Superior views.

Sorry we could not be with all of you, but we did our best to represent. Happy Birthday to Bill Alexander, Nancy Eaton and Darcy Reich. Thanks to Libby Gaalaas and Anita Fraundorf for rounding out our ensemble and making this a birthday celebration to remember.



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## News from Bells of the Lakes



### 2020 Auditions

We will not be holding in-person auditions for the 2020-2021 season at this time. If you are interested in ringing with us, please contact Janet Grover-Manthey at [bellofthelakesmanager@gmail.com](mailto:bellofthelakesmanager@gmail.com) for more information. We would love to hear from you!

### Seminar for Handbell Ringers & Directors

Virtual event in October 2020

Sadly, we will NOT be holding our annual in-person seminar event this year. However, we WILL be hosting a virtual event in October. Please [like us on Facebook](#) for future communication about exact dates and class offerings. We are excited to "see" you all again and hope you can join us!

*Presented by The Raleigh Ringers*

# VIRTUOSO

An Extraordinary Performance Experience

Conductor: Dr. William Payn

June 3-6, 2021

Raleigh, NC

[www.rr.org/events/virtuoso](http://www.rr.org/events/virtuoso)

# 2020 Election Results

The 2020 Election of Area 7 Board members concluded May 31. Please join us in congratulating Secretary Denean Smith and Treasurer-elect Sally Sterk. Denean will be serving her second term as Secretary. We thank Treasurer Deanna Clemen for her service to Area 7 over the past 4 years and welcome Sally to the Area 7 Board on October 1. Thank you to all who voted.

**Sally Sterk** began her handbell career by responding to a poster looking for people interested in learning handbells during her junior year at Concordia College. After moving to Fargo in 2016, she got back in touch with her college director Jessica Westgard Larson, and joined the bell choir at St. John Lutheran. She has enjoyed the opportunity to push her handbell skills and meet new people by attending past Anthornis and Area 7 Festival events.

Sally is a CPA currently employed at Eide Bailly LLP within the governmental auditing group and serves on her church finance committee. Previously, she served as treasurer for the Calumet Players, a community theater group in Pipestone, Minnesota. Outside of work and handbells, Sally enjoys knitting, running, playing flute and saxophone, and spending time with her husband Dave and cat Tuffy.



**Denean Smith** has been ringing handbells for over 20 years, initially 'drafted' to ring in her church handbell choir in Decatur, IL. She currently rings with, and is treasurer for, Encore! Handbell Ensemble (Oshkosh, WI) and rings with Grace Lutheran Church handbell choir (Green Bay, WI). Her prior handbell experience includes ringing 12 years with Bells In Motion (Springfield, IL). She has participated in numerous events including Bay View (Michigan) Week of Handbells, Distinctly Bronze East, Distinctly Bronze West, National Seminar and regional events sponsored by Areas 7 & 8. She is a retired accounting manager and lives with her husband, Mark, in De Pere, WI.

**Lee J. Afdahl** will serve in the position of Past Chair beginning October 1, 2020. Lee is the Director of Music Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester, Minnesota. A graduate of Luther College, Decorah, IA, Lee is a church musician with nearly fifty years of experience in leading active programs of choral and handbell ensembles in Michigan and Minnesota.

Lee Afdahl is frequently a conductor and clinician for handbell conferences, choral workshops, and church music conferences internationally. He has conducted festival conferences for the Handbell Musicians of America at the local, area, and national levels, for handbell classes of American Guild of Organists, Fellowship of United Methodists, Presbyterian Association of Musicians, and international handbell events in England, Japan, South Korea, and Australia. Mr. Afdahl has served the Handbell Musicians of America as Michigan Chair for Area 5, Chair of Area 7, and is a Past President of the national board of the organization. He represented the organization as a conductor at the International Handbell Symposia in Adelaide, Australia in 1994, Liverpool, UK in 2012 and Jeju, South Korea in 2014. Lee has taught intermediate and advanced conducting for HMA Seminars, and currently teaches conducting for certification for HMA. Lee is an active organ recitalist and published composer and arranger of handbell, instrumental, and choral music with over one hundred compositions and arrangements in print.



# Area 7 Board Members

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