



Handbell Musicians OF AMERICA

Area 11

Newsletter

E-newsletter Editor—Mary Moffett

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From the Chair:



Rain continues in Colorado this month - we didn't know we had become Seattle's cousin! But the grass is growing thick and green, and the flowers are loving every minute of this damp weather!

Is your handbell program growing? Is your program thriving? Or is it struggling to stay afloat? Are you losing ringers over the summer? I think all of us are in "evaluation mode" as we reflect over the past year. My group played for the last time this season in early June, and I'm now looking at where we will be in September. We still have to clean bells and sort music, but my attention has already turned to recruiting new ringers, music selection, and scheduling. (Oh, and we also

have to buy new foam this summer!) I'm already getting excited about the possibilities coming up next year.

Did your group participate in a Spring Ring this year? There were some great, low-cost opportunities out there for ringers and choirs to get extra training and the chance to ring with some pretty awesome conductors.

We also had an increase in participation at the Read & Rings throughout Area 11 in February. Be looking for the dates for 2016. Maybe you'd like to host a Read & Ring for your area? Contact your sub-area chair and let them know if you're willing.

Look further into this newsletter to find out the latest on the Area 11 Festival to be held in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 2016. This is shaping up to be a very fun and productive festival. Right now, there's a logo contest going on, so if you're an artist, why not submit an idea for the 2016 logo?

Finally, are you aware of a school (private or public) that might be interested in starting a chime choir during the next school year? Area 11 has sets of chimes to LOAN which come with all sorts of teaching resources and reproducible music, along with a one-year membership in Handbell Musicians of America and a mentor to help establish the program. We're looking for placements for the 2015-2016 school year. You can help us by contacting Cathie Olds, Chair of the Chime Loan Program, and giving her names and phone numbers or email addresses of people you think might be interested.

Happy Ringing!

Jeannine

Chair, Area 11

chair.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Area 11 Website

www.area11.handbellmusicians.org

National Office Website

www.handbellmusicians.org

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Check out our Calendar [here](#) to see what's planned in Area 11.

**Check the website
regularly for upcoming
Fall events!**



Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016
June 9-12, 2016 at the Little America Hotel in Cheyenne, Wyoming

LOGO contest for our 2016 Area 11 Festival / Conference!



***Winner will receive \$100 discount on
Festival Registration!***

Contest deadline is August 15, 2015

“Boots & Bells” is the theme, and now it is your turn to
put your creativity to work!
Submit your ideas for our logo to be used in all Festival publicity
and for our Festival pins.
Winning logo will be chosen by the 2016 Festival Committee.



Logo must have the following info to be considered:

Area 11

Handbell Musicians of America

Cheyenne, Wyoming

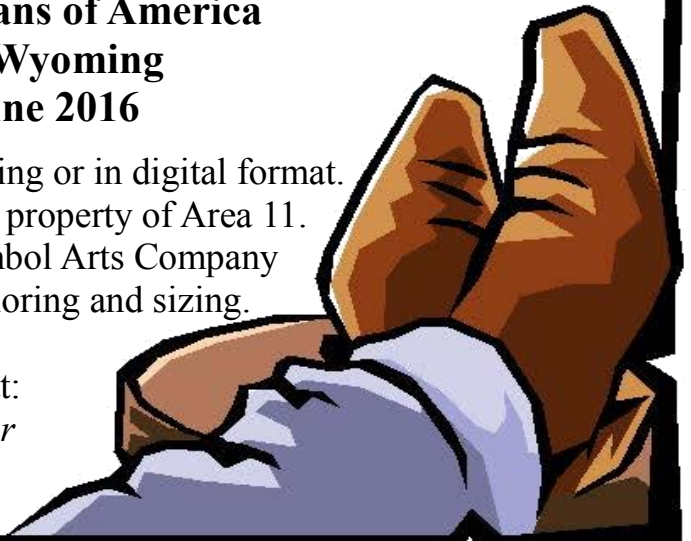
2016 or June 2016

Logo can be submitted as a drawing or in digital format.

Winning logo becomes the property of Area 11.

Logo will be submitted to Symbol Arts Company
for final digitizing, coloring and sizing.

Please send logos to Claudette Rothwell at:
163 West 4800 South, Ogden, UT 84405 *or*
claudette.rothwell@gmail.com



Chime Loan Program



Area 11 loaned out six sets of Chimes through our CHIME loan program this past school year. There were so many wonderful experiences through the use of these chimes, both for the students/children and their teachers. Here is one recipient's thoughts on her experience this past year.

New Covenant Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, Arizona has felt extremely blessed to be a recipient of the chime loan grant. The chimes have been a wonderful addition to our handbell program as well as potential for expansion of our youth music ministry. Though the chimes have been used throughout the year, a music presentation on Mother's Day was particularly special. With the aid of chime charts, our youth proudly played and sang Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee that dovetailed into the adult handbell choir ringing Beautiful One as family photos honoring Mother's Day were shown in a PowerPoint presentation. We are very excited to share the news that a very generous donation has been given to purchase a set of three octave chimes for New Covenant Lutheran Church this Spring. Thank you Area 11 for the opportunity to introduce chimes into our worship services and music ministry that has resulted in a gift that will benefit generations to come.

Suzanne Miller



Area 11, Handbell Musicians of America, sponsors a chime loan program which provides three octave sets of Malmark Handchimes to selected schools and churches. The program seeks to introduce handchimes in new settings. The loan period is for one school year approximately August 15 to June 15.

We have extended the deadline for applications to August 1

and are particularly looking for applications from Wyoming and New Mexico, although others are welcome to apply. The application form and information is available at

area11.handbellmusicians.org/education/handchime-grant-program/

For more information contact Cathie Olds, Area 11 Chime Chair, [435-723-7031](tel:435-723-7031)



Spring Ring Events



Utah ringers wowed the audience at our annual state-wide Spring Ring on March 7 at Riverton High School. Jason Wells, of Henderson, North Carolina, served as clinician for our day-long workshop. He kept all 260 ringers engaged with his high energy and insightful technique tips. Jason forced many of us out of our comfort zone by requiring us to memorize our encore piece: during the concert, we put our music down and actually *watched* the conductor.

The concert itself was highlighted by 6 solo pieces by local choirs and 6 massed pieces. The precision of our collective marts elicited smiles from the performers and audience alike. The energetic final piece, Kevin McChesney's *Capriccio*, was followed by a standing ovation.

After the concert, a woman approached me and reported that her granddaughter had asked her to come watch her perform. She said she had never seen a handbell concert and really thought her granddaughter was probably just getting an easy high school credit by taking handbell class. The grandmother could not say enough about how impressed she was with our performance and could not wait to come to next year's concert, which, incidentally, will be on March 12 with the wonderful Amy Maakestad. Hope to see you there!

Jane Wolfarth, Utah Representative



Spring Ring Events

Wyoming We were happy to welcome 85 ringers to Casper from Logan, Utah; Loveland, Eaton, and Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Powell, Sundance, Cheyenne, Casper, and WyoRing members from Torrington, Yoder, and Lingle, Wyoming for the 2015 Wyoming Spring Ring!

We met at the Best Western Ramkota, under the excellent direction of Michael J. Glasgow, and we are happy that two of our regular participants also hold positions with Area 11 – Diona Savoy-McDaniels as Mountain Sub-Area Chair and Janet Lake as Treasurer!

Glasgow's workshop, "How Do I Ring That?" was very informative and done with great humor! His "Whimsical Praise" was a fun opener for the concert, followed by Tim Waugh's "Selvaggio." Joan Swim did a beautiful solo ring on "O Holy Night," and the WyoRing folks put on a fun show with Paul McKlveen's "Giocoso." Casper's Phoenix Ringers enjoyed playing Fred Gramman's "Celebration," and the piece they HAD to have from the February Read and Ring – Joel Raney's arrangement of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

Glasgow's "Dies Irae" was beautiful and meaningful with its interweaving of *Stabat Mater*, *Dies Irae*, and *Passion Chorale* and the added oboe and cello.



Arnold Sherman's powerful "Fantasy No. 1 in F Minor" is a piece we have enjoyed playing through the years, and we finished with Dean Wagner's "Fantasy on Kingsfold," another longtime favorite, adding Michael Glasgow's super orchestration – flute, oboe, trumpet, horn, strings, harp, and percussion.

We will reconvene for April 1 & 2, 2016 with Clinician Debbie Rice, and we would love for you to join us!!

Carolyn Deuel, Wyoming Spring Ring Chairperson



Spring Ring Events

Ring in Spring In Colorado

this year was held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden, Colorado. Dave Harris, the Director of the Raleigh Ringers was our Clinician. He was wonderful. We learned a lot from him, and sure did laugh a lot. He is such a fun person.

We had 175 Ringers from Colorado -- as far south as Colorado Springs and North to Loveland.

Since it was located in the Western part of Denver, we had some

churches that were close to the fairgrounds participate this time and they loved it. It sure was fun ringing with 175 Ringers at this event -- very powerful and energetic. We had 3 Workshops during the rehearsals of the Bronze and Copper piece that people could go to. 4- in hand, Change Ringing and Healthy Ringing. A Big Thanks to Michelle Girard, Lisa Bickford and Rebecca Shogren for teaching those workshops. Because we had more Ringers than expected, we only had room for 80 in the audience, and they all loved the concert on Saturday Afternoon.



Bev Curtiss, Ring in Spring In Colorado Chairperson



**Deadline for the
September Area 11
Newsletter is
August 25, 2015
Advertising deadline is
August 20, 2015**

**Email submissions to Mary Moffett at
Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org**

**Area 11 welcomes our new
Handbell Musicians of America members:**



**Linda Collett, Kaysville, Utah
Arla Kapptie, Worland, Wyoming
Joan Kuehn, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

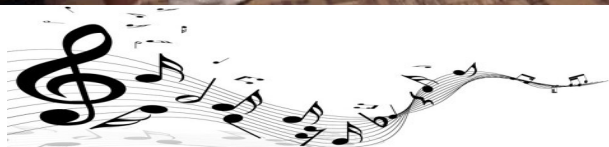
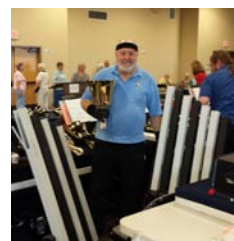
Spring Ring Events

Arizona There is NOTHING more fun than ringing!!!! Monica McGowan was the clinician at the 2015 Spring Ring in Sun City, AZ. We had 50 ringers and 3 groups rang solo pieces: Sonoran Bells, from Tucson played "A Walk in the Park" (Buckwalter), Handbell Ringers of Sun City presented "In Memoriam" (Mazzatenta, an original piece commemorating the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots that perished in the Yarnell Fires in June of 2013), and in the debut performance, the Saguaro Bell Ensemble rang "Canon in D" (Pachelbel, Von Wolzogen).

The day was sunny, the food good, Monica, of course was FABULOUS, and the ringing...well (again) Nothing is more fun than ringing, with friends, new and old. Hope y'all made it to a Ring this Spring...there is nothing like it!

Many thanks to the Handbell Ringers of Sun City for facilitating the day and to the Sun City Recreation group for the use of their MARVELOUS facility. Hope to meet y'all in June at the 2016 Area 11 festival in Cheyenne, WY.

Libbie Randels, Desert Sub-Area Chair



Spring Ring Events



New Mexico On Saturday, April 26, 2015, more than 100 bell ringers from 11 groups, and even a few orphans, throughout New Mexico and Arizona gathered at Del Norte Baptist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico for the New Mexico Spring Ring under the direction of Tammy Waldrop. WHAT AN EXPERIENCE!!! There is nothing like hearing that kind of music all around you. Everyone came rehearsed, if not well rested after a long drive. Not only did we have good music, good fellowship, and good food, but Music Mart brought great stuff to look at and purchase, and more

music to preview. And just so we would be 'stylin', the community group, Enchantment, brought tie-dye gloves. If you haven't rung under Tammy before, she is a patient, gifted director and composer..... and really, really, funny. Need a great handbell joke? Shoot her an email (I think she should write a book of handbell jokes).

Area 11 has a recognition called the Ring of Fame for those who have made outstanding contributions to the art of Handbell/Handchime ringing (see the website for more information on criteria to nominate a candidate and a list of recipients). In 2010, Dr. William Wood, from Eastern New Mexico State in Portales, New Mexico, was the recipient. I was really excited to see Bill and his group at the ring. His church choir presented a solo piece and an explanation on change ringing. If you haven't tried it, what a challenge! There were also presentations by the Saguaro Bell Ensemble, from Phoenix, AZ, Enchantment and Asbury UMC from Albuquerque, and a soloist from Portales, NM.

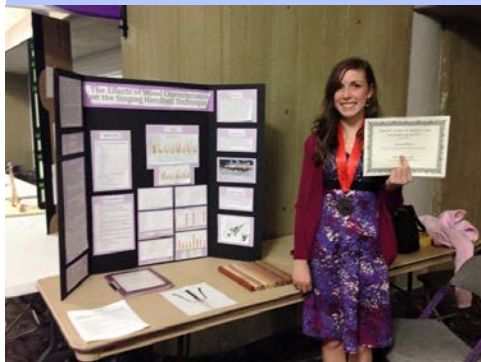
To end the wonderful day of ringing, learning and fellowship we had a concert that went GREAT! Whatever space wasn't filled with ringers, was filled with audience and it was Standing Room Only. If you have never been to a mass ring, you are really missing out. They are for the beginners and the accomplished and you will come away with a renewed love of ringing.....see y'all in June at the 2016 Area 11 ring in Cheyenne, WY.

Thanks to Ira Pinkston and Lois Cook for all their hard work on organizing and running the festival and Del Norte Baptist church for allowing us to use their wonderful facility. There is even a bigger venue on tap for the next New Mexico Spring Ring!

Libbie Randels, Desert Sub-Area Chair



Area 11 Youth Representative, Isabelle Herzog, Conducts Singing Bell Experiment



One of the newer handbell techniques, first used in 2009, is the singing bell. You rub a dowel around the outside of the bell, much like the singing bowl used in many African ceremonies. Different qualities in the wood create different sounds, but how they are affected has never really been tested thoroughly, and the tests I found all had clashing results.

I tested 11 different kinds of woods, all with varying Janka hardnesses, densities, pore frequency/sizes, and textures. I predicted that more textured, coarser woods, like Lacewood and Leopardwood, would create more vibrations and would create a sooner, louder, purer sound.

I tested this using a boom mic in a wide open space with great acoustics, testing each wood on a C4 Malmark handbell using the singing bell tech-

nique. Then, I ran it through a sound analysis program called Spectracizer. I eventually concluded that out of my woods, Bubinga created the loudest, purest sound. It is the hardest wood I used except for a wood called Purpleheart. But the one thing that Purpleheart doesn't have that Bubinga does is its lack of density. All of the woods that were harder, but less dense, created a faster, louder, purer sound. These qualities are often found in hard, porous woods. The hardness creates enough friction against the bell to make vibrations (sound), while the wood isn't so dense that it muffles the sound.

Based on my experiments, I suggest that you look for hard woods with low densities when shopping for woods. I didn't test every wood, so there might be better ones out there, but Bubinga is easy to order inexpensively, and is a very environmentally sustainable wood as well.

My experiment was entered into the Ritchey Science and Engineering Fair, where it received second place in the category of Math & Physics, and was a nominee for ISEF, the International Science and Engineering Fair. According to the officiators, this was the first time a project on handbells had ever been at the Utah state science fair.

-Isabelle Herzog



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Message from Shannon Casey, Area 11 Chair-elect

Hi all!!

As expected, it is hot here in Arizona and definitely feels like July! Pinnacle is next week and fall will be here before we know it!

One of my groups memberships is coming due in the next month or so and it reminded me that there are multiple payment options. You can mail a check, you can pay online, you can sign up for automatic payment annually or monthly. It is so easy these days to take care of this!

I am also reminded of all of the benefits of membership. The one we all think of first is Overtones (Printed version included in Individual, Group and Retired Musician memberships). That is just the tip of the iceberg!!

Have you checked out the Membership Rewards program yet? You or your group can get "Handbell Bucks" for referring new members or members that have lapsed for over 2 years. It is a pretty cool program as there is not a limit on how many "bucks" you can earn and you can use them toward your membership renewal or towards a national event registration! You also get access to chime loan programs, mentoring programs, scholarships and grants. One of the best things about your membership fee is that a portion (\$5 - \$10) of it comes right back to Area 11 to be used for events that are close to home!

If you have any questions about membership or the benefits, please email me at chairelect.area11@handbellmusicians.org. If you would like to help spread the word, and earn some "Handbell Bucks", please let me know. Have a wonderful Summer!

Shannon Casey
Chair Elect
Area 11



Earn Rewards for Sharing Your Love of Handbells

For every **NEW MEMBER** you refer, you will earn valuable **HANDBELL BUCKS**

Redeem your Bucks toward membership dues and event registration

Details at HandbellMusicians.org/bucks
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