



# Newsletter



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May 2018

### From the Chair:



Happy May, Area 11 -

I can't believe we are only about 6 weeks away from Area 11 Festival Conference in Albuquerque! Claudette Rothwell, Event Planner, the Festival Committee are hard at work getting everything ready and finalized. It will be so great to see you all!

Please keep your eyes open for an email regarding upcoming Area 11 Elections. We are getting the slate finalized and should have the info on the candidates ready very soon.

We are also working on getting a new event put together for the fall. It is called Ringers Roundup. Check out the article about it and let us know if you would like to host it at your site.

Also coming up is National Seminar in Grand Rapids, MI, July 17-21. It is not too late to register! It is shaping up to be one of the largest National Seminars in recent years. the concerts and classes look awesome! I hope to see some of you there as well!

Have a wonderful May!

See you all in June in Albuquerque!

Shannon Casey  
Chair  
Area 11  
Handbell Musicians of America

Area 11 Website

[area11.handbellmusicians.org](http://area11.handbellmusicians.org)

National Office Website

[Handbellmusicians.org](http://Handbellmusicians.org)

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# Area 11 2018 Festival/Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico

*Now that our Festival is just a few weeks away, we thought we would share the story behind our logo again!*

Our 2018 Festival Logo was conceptualized by Larry Luna from Albuquerque and designed by Wendi Levitt, co-owner of Third Bell on the Right, a Kansas based company specializing in handmade gifts for handbell ringers. In the center of the bell the Zia Sun Symbol is featured. You might recognize this symbol from the New Mexico state flag and license plates. This symbol originated with the Indians of Zia Pueblo in ancient times and has significant religious importance to the Zia people, reflecting the basic harmony of all things in the universe.

The Zia Pueblo reservation is located 35 miles northwest of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Zia regard the sun as a sacred symbol and the number four as a sacred number. Their symbol begins with a red circle representing the sun with groups of rays that shine in the four cardinal directions and four individual rays in each group. The number four is embodied in:

the four points of direction - north, south, east, and west  
the four seasons of the year – spring, summer, autumn, and winter  
the four periods of each day – morning, noon, evening, and night  
the four seasons of life – childhood, youth, middle years, and old age

The Zia people also believe that man has four sacred obligations: to develop a strong body, a clear mind, a pure spirit, and a devotion to the welfare of the people. The circle, or sun in the middle, binds all these aspects together in a circle of life and love.

Area 11 would like to thank the Pueblo of Zia and especially Zia governor, Cart Brent Schildt for granting us permission to use their sacred symbol in our Festival logo. In return, donations will be solicited during the Festival to go towards the Zia Pueblo Cultural Preservation Fund.



*If you are looking for a roommate for our 2018 Albuquerque Festival, you can post that on our Area 11 Facebook page and others can respond to your request!*

<https://www.facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansofAmericaArea11/>

**SEE YOU IN ALBUQUERQUE!**

**June 21-24, 2018**

**Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa in Albuquerque, New Mexico**

# Handbell Musicians of America Membership

## ***What has your membership contributed?***

All year long I have tried to highlight reasons to be a member and benefits to individuals. But as we end the year, I thought I would talk about what your membership contributes to handbells, because membership goes both ways.

Hopefully over the year you or your group has attended a spring ring, a Read and Ring, or perhaps you're going to the Area festival. Your membership allows all these events to occur by supporting the board that plans them. You are also supporting a youth festival for next summer, that will provide our future bell ringers! And we are starting a new event in the fall, Ringers Roundup, also brought to you by the board! All of these events raise the level of handbell ringing in our organizations, and your membership helped make that happen.

On a national level, memberships support the National Board and organization allowing them to provide national leadership (yes, some of our ideas come from the National Board), a music publishing service, and most importantly a structure so that directors, composers, clinicians and ringers have a home in bells. Without the National Organization for example, it would be hard for our clinicians to develop their skills and share them with us. They provide a certification program for all of us, which can benefit directors or anyone who wants to improve their skills. Like any professional organization, they look out for the well-being of handbells as an art and find ways to promote it. As members of HMA, we make their work possible and we are also contributing to the well-being of handbells and looking out for their future.

So as membership chair of Area 11, I would like to challenge our membership. Let's all try to find one or two of our friends/acquaintances that are not members of HMA and encourage them to become a member. As we all say when we bow, "We LOVE handbells" and I know we all want to see the bell world thrive. And if, as a member, you would like to do more with promoting handbells, contact me or anyone on the board and volunteer! We can involve you in all sorts of ways!

Lorrie Hart  
Chairelect, Area 11



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

*Our Area 11 Facebook page can be found here:*

<https://www.facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansofAmericaArea11>



# Deadline for Handchime Loan Application is May 15

We know you love handbells, but have you thought about starting up a choir of your own? That's exactly what the chimes loan program is all about. We LEND you the 3 octaves of chimes so you can try out a chime choir. Perhaps at church, school, or in the community.

Are you a classroom teacher and you think you might be able to use the chimes to supplement your music program? Or do you have a choir and you think handchimes would be fun to try? This program is for YOU! Or if not you, for a friend who may not yet know the joy of handbells.

Just go to

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/education/handchime-grant-program/handchime-loan-program-2/>

and fill out an application! Easy Peasy!

**But hurry, as the applications are due May 15**  
for the following school year.



## Accepting Submissions for Special Feature Articles

If you and/or your choir would like to share an event you have participated in or organized, we would love to feature you in our Area 11 Newsletters. If you would like to submit an article, send your submissions, including any pictures you have, to Mary Moffett at [Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org). We're looking forward to hearing about the wonderful things happening with the handbell ringers in Area 11! You may also write an article on a topic of interest to the members of our area.

*Special Feature Articles may be sent at any time and will be included in any future issue of our Area 11 Newsletter. You will receive an email telling you in which issue your article will be featured.*



*The Raleigh Ringers*

STAY UP TO DATE WITH US!

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## Area 11 Spring Ring Events

The Northern Colorado (NoCo) Spring Handbell Festival was held on Saturday, March 10 at Mountain View Presbyterian Church in Loveland, CO. Thirteen school, church, and community groups from three states rehearsed all day under the direction of Sondra Tucker. A total of 127 ringers and directors participated in the event and presented a concert to a standing room only audience at 4 PM. Six massed pieces were performed and two choirs performed solo pieces: Joyful Ringers from Mountain View Presbyterian and Risonanza! from Beth Eden Baptist School in Wheat Ridge. A great time was had by all! This event is held biannually in early March so mark your calendars for 2020!

-Mara Neill, Committee member NoCo Festival





## Area 11 Spring Events

On March 10<sup>th</sup> the Utah Spring Ring was held at Riverton High School in Riverton, Utah. We had 255 ringers, over half of which were youth (18 or under), and a total of 19 bell choirs at the event. Among these 19 choirs was our first out-of-state group – Cram Middle School from Nevada, led by a former Utah high school graduate, Amberlee Udy, who had attended past Utah Spring Rings as a student! It was great to see that this event is now being enjoyed by the next generation and the tradition is being passed down by some of our past youth ringers.

This year we were honored to have Dr. Deborah Carr as our clinician. Dr. Carr holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Music Education, a Master's in Psychology, and a PhD in Educational Psychology. She made very good use of all of these degrees at the event. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of psychology and a lot of expert teaching techniques to get 255 ringers to play together and play musically. She has over 35 years of experience with handbells. Dr. Carr instructed us in 6 massed ringing pieces from a wide variety of genres. With her vast knowledge and experience, she got every ounce of musicianship out of the group, while still maintaining a fun and engaging environment.

At the end of the day we presented a free concert which included these 6 massed numbers as well as 5 solo pieces from various groups. We opened the concert with J.S. Bach's *Now Thank We All Our God*, arranged by Linker and McFadden, and joined by a brass quintet and timpani. Next we performed Dr. Carr's haunting arrangement of *Carol of the Birds*, a Christmas tune. After a couple of solos, we joined up again to perform the beautiful hymn *It Is Well With My Soul*, arranged by Laura Page. We followed that up with *Soon and Very Soon*, set to a contemporary rock beat by Hart Morris. After three more solos, we moved on to *Dancing Queen*, the hit song from ABBA, and an awesome arrangement of it by Ron Mallory and Brian Tervo. Sometimes, when playing handbells, you know how you just get into that groove, and the ringers are all perfectly locked in, and everything clicks, and the energy is palpable, and the audience feels every note and just gets immersed in the moment? This was one of those moments that we live for as musicians and especially as handbell ringers. With the steady europop beat being laid down by our excellent rhythm section (Bass player Mark Robinette, Drummer Spencer Frohm, and groovy Tambourine player Warren Worsley), we had the audience dancing in their seats! A video was made of this number and posted on the Area 11 facebook page, and at the time of this publication, the video had over 490,000 views! We are pretty sure that counts as "going viral" in the handbell world. If you haven't seen it yet, drop what you are doing and go watch it now and lets get it over ½ million views!

We finished the concert with the majestic *Psalm of Celebration* by Kevin McChesney, where we were joined again by the brass and timpani. It was a fun event with lots of networking and new friendships being made. If you are looking for a fun event to bring your choir to, please consider attending our event which is held each year on the second Saturday in March!

-Ryan Kunz, Spring Ring Chair





# Area 11 Spring Events

## More pictures from the Utah Spring Ring

To watch the Dancing Queen video on our Facebook page, click the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansofAmericaArea11/videos/1694164343983878/>

Help us get to ½ million views!





## Area 11 Spring Ring Events

The Wyoming Spring Ring welcomed 43 ringers from Colorado Springs, Denver, and Boulder, Colorado; and Sundance and Casper, Wyoming to the Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center. Unfortunately, the two planning to come from Chadron, Nebraska, had to cancel because of snow. Director Monica McGowan did a masterful job guiding us through focused rehearsals of our five mass pieces that were buoyed by humor.

There were solos at the concert from the First Congregational Church Handbell Ringers of Boulder and from the Phoenix Ringers of Casper. To augment the concert length, violinist Likai He performed two solo violin pieces from the repertoire he performed the next day for a recital with ARTCORE at Casper College. Likai is a 23-year-old Doctoral Candidate at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Public school music teacher Joan Davies and her fifth grade student, Cami Costello provided percussion accompaniment and Delores Thornton, flute, for Timothy Vaughn's "Festal Dance."

As always, we treasure the chance to connect with old and new friends and the opportunity to strive for musical excellence!

Wishing you joy,  
Carolyn Deuel, Wyoming Spring Ring Chair





## Area 11 Upcoming Events



For additional information about each event on this page, visit our Area 11 website at <http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/events-4/events/>



Area 11 Festival 2018  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
June 21-24, 2018  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
in  
Albuquerque  
Registration is OPEN!

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/area-festival-2018/area-festival-2018/>

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR**

**RINGERS**

**ROUNDUP**

**SEPT. 15, 2018 AT A LOCATION NEAR YOU**

***Debut of our new Area 11 event: Ringers Roundup!***

This will be a 3½ hour workshop at various locations around Area 11. There will be a chance to learn handbell warm ups and stretches while ringing with lots of other Area 11 members near you.

This fall our focus will be on basic music and bell notations, weaving, ringing complex rhythms, and four-in-hand.

You will leave with skills that will be applied in your next rehearsal!

*Cost will be \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members.*

***Join us! Fun will be had by all!***