

The Michigan Ringer

Winter 2009

Volume 2, Number 1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD
OF ENGLISH HANDBELL RINGERS, AREA V,
STATE OF MICHIGAN



The Chair's Corner

Happy New Year Everyone!

As I write this first newsletter for 2009, the temperature is falling, the fire in the fireplace feels wonderful, and the snow looks like marshmallow cream on the trees and fence posts. How could you not love Michigan?

If you have not signed up to attend our Spring Festival, March 13th & 14th in Akron, please check the information in this issue of the MI Ringer. Registration forms can be found in the Winter Tintinnabulator and on page 5. AGEHR is here to serve you with wonderful sites and opportunities to learn and ring with people who have the same love of handbells as you. So start your fund raising and plan to sign up as many of your ringers as you can. I hope I see you at these events.

If you are reading this newsletter on your computer, thank you. If not, please send your email to me at KClassicalbells@wowway.com (my new email) to help Area V stay green and save money on mailing. Your email will not be given out to anyone. Michigan has 271 members; 46 of you will always be late in getting updates on events, news from your District Leaders, or from National with the new E-notes online. Most of all you will miss our new Area V website due up by the end of February. Would you help us and join our online efforts to stay in touch. Also let AGEHR know when your email changes.

With fresh snow on the ground and the starting of a new year, lets all pledge to keep this art that we so much enjoy alive. Stay connected with your District Leader and with me. Let us know what is going on with your program. Maybe you have a question or two...tell us. That idea that just won't go away...tell us. Together we can make AGEHR the best!

Happy Ringing,
Kay French
Michigan State Chair



25th Anniversary! The Capital City Ringers, Inc. Jane C. Wright, Director

You probably don't remember much about the year 1984 (unless you are a George Orwell fan!), but Jane C. Wright remembers it very well. Her vision of promoting the art of handbell ringing in the Lansing area led her to found both the Capital City Community Ringers (since renamed the Capital City Ringers) and the Lansing Area Ministry of Bells (LAMB) that year. Both organizations are now celebrating their 25th anniversary.

Jane discovered a need for advanced ringers and directors to ring more frequently and to ring more challenging and varied music than what their church handbell choirs could offer, thus CCR was born. She also realized the need for an organization to promote the art of handbell ringing through local festivals and workshops. This year's 25th anniversary Spring Ring, sponsored by LAMB, will be under Jane's direction. LAMB also sponsors workshops for beginning directors and beginning ringers in September each year.

Jane served as Director of Music Ministries at Mt. Hope United Methodist Church in Lansing for 19 years before becoming the Director of Worship and Fine Arts at Westwood United Methodist Church in Kalamazoo in 2002. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Central Michigan University and a Master of Choral Conducting degree from Michigan State University. She has been in the mainstream of music education and conducting since 1973 and has taught public and private music education, band, choir, and handbells. She is a clinician for new handbell conductors and ringers and serves as a guest choral conductor. Jane had the privilege of serving four years as Secretary of the



(Continued on page 2)

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M e m b e r s h i p M o m e n t

Maintaining the database of AGEHR member information for the State of Michigan isn't quite a full time job, but it certainly takes a lot of time and energy. The main ingredient for success is YOUR help! Without updates from you, dear member, information from National, Area V and your state board cannot make it to your doorstep, err...Inbox. Please contact Kay French or me (jdaniel@christchurchcranbrook.org) to have your e-mail address listed in our membership roster. Michigan continues to lead the way in AGEHR electronic information dissemination, and I intend to keep it that way!

Nearly 75% of Michigan's AGEHR members are reading this on their computer screen allowing for substantial savings in printing and postage. Over the coming months, I hope we can move that percentage even higher!

Let the fun begin! ~Joseph

(Continued from page 1)

Area V Board of AGEHR, and has been a clinician for various handbell events.

Jane says, "Handbell ringing in America today is a very exciting medium in which to perform, and has gone beyond justifying or comparing itself with choral and instrumental ensembles. Handbells can be as musical and as expressive as we make them and the process can be delightful, especially if one enjoys the hard work it takes to strive for musical perfection. The sound is both beautiful and unique, and there is great joy in the journey!"

The Capital City Ringers, an auditioned ensemble, strives to provide high-quality musical experiences for diverse audiences. The fifteen advanced ringers come from the extended Lansing area and a multitude of backgrounds and occupations. They volunteer their time and talents and are committed to community service projects and concert performances in the Lansing area and beyond. Their fifteen to twenty concerts a year take them to many areas of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and even as far as Disney World, Florida in the summer of 1991. They have also performed the opening concert for two Area V fall festival/conferences held in Lansing.

CCR is known for its musical expression and dynamic interpretation of the music they play. Their goals are achieved through participating in workshops, tours, recordings, and other performance opportunities such as civic events, weddings, nursing homes and retirement centers.

The group owns and performs on a full 6-octave set of Malmark handbells, plus a C2 and a C9, several duplicate bells, a 6-octave set of Malmark Choirchimes©, and a variety of auxiliary percussion instruments. CCR will often be accompanied by other instruments, such as clarinet, flute, cello, or even a synthesizer.

CCR has a composition that was written especially for them, *Réunir*, by Dr. William A. Payn, which was commissioned by Lorraine Finison in 1991. This hauntingly beautiful piece displays a multitude of colorful emotions exemplifying the group's musical interpretation and expression. *Réunir* has

been selected in the bronze category for the International Handbell Symposium in England in 2000, both Eastern and Western AGEHR National Festival Conferences, several Area festival/conferences, and most recently, the 2008 Distinctly Bronze event. It is truly a dynamic composition that has international appeal and is known the world over. CCR is very proud of its success! — Lorraine Finison



News Photo by Mike Modzynski
Third graders from Onaway Elementary School visited the Presque Isle Lighthouse Wednesday afternoon for a musical rendition of carols and sat in front of a tree decorated by the Flower Box in Onaway listening to stories of the old fashioned Christmas at the lighthouse.

The caption under the picture pretty much tells what was going on here. My responsibility for this Christmas lighthouse festival was music. I had the pleasure of introducing chimes to four different elementary schools up here in the north country. I used Ardis Freeman's Ring A Long Christmas Favorites. The kids picked it up right away and had a grand time discovering that they could sing and play an instrument at the same time. — Pat Hart, District 7

Area V Spring Festival/Conference

March 13-14, 2009



Area V will hold their annual Spring Festival/Conference at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio on March 13-14, 2009. This fabulous venue has been the site of previous Spring events and is a terrific facility. Our conductor will be David Davidson.

Friday, March 13	Saturday, March 14
1-6 p.m. Registration/Check-in	8 a.m. Rehearsals begin
4:30 p.m. First classes	5 p.m. Closing Concert
7 p.m. Opening Concert	
8 p.m. Mass Rehearsal	

More information about the festival is available at www.areavagehr.org/Spring09%20page.html



Education Corner



Hello Fellow Ringers and Directors! Our school year is almost half done already and I feel like we just got started! Last month, the day before winter break began for my 7th grade social studies students, I surprised each of my five classes by setting up the room with two three-octave sets of chimes along with "The Ring Along" Series books by Ardis Freeman. I wish you could have seen the looks on my students' faces as they entered the room! In just ten minutes I taught them how to safely ring a handchime, how to properly damp a chime, and how to get an circular ringing motion with their arms. Then the fun began as we spent the rest of the hour singing at the top of our lungs.....I've Been Working On the Railroad, My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean, My Country 'Tis of Thee, Take Me Out to the Ballgame, and many more old time favorites. The songs had nothing to do with state benchmarks, curriculum guidelines, or Michigan standards.

But to hear the horribly out-of-tune singing, see great ringing circles, and watch spontaneous smiles develop on the faces of Middle School kids, was a perfect testament to the power of handchimes in the school setting.

The next Education Corner article will show pictures of our five 2008-09 Michigan Chime Grant Recipient Programs, highlight how they facilitated the use of chimes in their schools, and how their students progressed throughout the school year. We'll find out how preschool students, specially challenged middle and high school students, students with diverse backgrounds, and children who don't play other instruments all benefited from "making music" and feeling a sense of accomplishment as they expanded untouched musical horizons.

If you are interested in applying for a three octave set of chimes to use during the 2009-2010 school year, just email me and I will send you an application. I can't wait to get chimes into the hands of kids!

— Linda Holzwarth: dholzy@chartermi.net 269-323-7744



AKRON, OH — JOHN S. KNIGHT CENTER

MARCH 13-14, 2009

REGISTRATION FORM

DIRECTOR'S NAME _____ MEMBER NUMBER (see Overtones Label) _____

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION (Church/School) _____

NAME OF CHOIR _____

DAY PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____

ADDRESS FOR MAILINGS _____ home or church? (Circle one)

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP + 4 _____

EMAIL TO CONTACT DIRECTOR _____

RINGING DIVISION (circle one): TINS COPPERS

TABLES (choose one): Choir will provide own tables _____ Number of linear feet of table space required: _____

Choir will rent _____ 8' tables at \$10.00 each Number of linear feet of table space required: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: Check here if your choir requires special accommodations to participate fully; please describe these needs on a separate page.

I am bringing ringers under the age of 18. YES NO (Circle One)

REGISTRATION FEES

REGULAR REGISTRATIONS (POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 6, 2009):

_____ Regular Registrations @ \$65.00 per attendee = _____

LATE REGISTRATIONS (POSTMARKED AFTER FEBRUARY 6, 2009):

_____ Late Registrations @ \$75.00 per attendee = _____

OPTIONAL FEES:

_____ Table rental for massed ringing site @ \$10.00 per table = _____

AGEHR Membership (for non-member groups only; required to participate) \$65.00 = _____

TOTAL FESTIVAL-CONFERENCE FEES: _____

Please send one check per choir payable to Area V, AGEHR. Mail (do not fax) registration form and check to: Dale Miller, 1408 Gilbert Rd., Charleston, WV, 25302, ph. 304.766.8364, e-mail: KVRingers@suddenlink.com. Conference Contact: Denise Holmes, PH- 740-373-6185, e-mail: dbfun51@aol.com.

In the event of canceling registrations for members of your organization, the entire amount of the fee will be refunded if we receive notification no later than January 14, 2009. If we receive notification between January 14 and February 6, 2009, the registration fee less a \$10.00 per person charge will be refunded. No fees will be refunded for registration cancellations we receive after February 6, 2009. Registration will be limited to 750 ringers for this event and will be accepted in order based on the postmark date. Area V, AGEHR tries to accommodate as many ringers as possible but must return registrations and payments received after capacity is reached, regardless of postmark date. We encourage you to send in this registration as soon as your plans to participate are definite.

AGEHR supports the Copyright Law #94-553 enacted Jan. 1, 1978. Music performed at Conferences must conform to the Copyright Law. NO PHOTOCOPIES OF MUSIC WILL BE ALLOWED without a letter in hand expressing written permission of the copyright owner. Any photocopies found on the ringing floor will be removed immediately and the participants involved will be required to purchase original music scores from an exhibitor in order to participate during that musical selection.

FOR AGEHR USE ONLY: Registration # _____, Check # _____, Postmarked _____.

Upcoming Events of Interest

LAMB 25th Anniversary Spring Ring March 7, 2009



The major event sponsored by the Lansing Area Ministry of Bells is the Spring Ring, a gathering of about 250 ringers from about 25 churches each year. We have had many well-known handbell directors and composers/arrangers as guest conductors of the Spring Ring, such as Arnold Sherman, Tim Waugh, Douglas Wagner, Hart Morris, Susan Berry, Lee Afdahl, Bill Griffin, and Carl Wiltse, to name a few. Jane Wright, founder, will be the guest conductor this very special year.

Location: Waverly High School, Lansing, MI

For more information and registration forms, visit www.capitalcityringers.com/lamb.htm.

Area V Summer Youth Festival June 13, 2009

Michael Glasgow, Clinician

The Area V Board will be sending out more information soon, so keep your eyes peeled!



Area V Fall Festival/Conference October 23-24, 2009

Area V will hold their annual Fall Festival/Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana on October 23-24, 2009. Our conductor will be Lee Afdahl.

More information about the festival will available at www.areavagehr.org



The Calendar

Event organizers are encouraged to list their events on the Area V website at: <http://www.areavagehr.org/events2.htm#> and to apply for National AGEHR endorsement by calling the National Office at 800-848-5459.

February, 2009

Kalamazoo Ringers – Saturday, February 21, 4:00 p.m.

“Ring Away the Winter Blues” Workshop

Portage, MI

Classical Bells *in concert!* – Sunday, February 22, 4:00 p.m.

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church

16 Lake Shore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms

March, 2009

Detroit Handbell Ensemble – Sunday, March 1, 4:00 p.m.

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

6517 Finzel Rd., Whitehouse, Ohio

Lansing Area Ministry of Bells (L.A.M.B.) *Spring Ring!* – Saturday, March 7, 4:30 p.m.

Jane Wright, Guest Conductor

Waverly High School (Snow Road, between Michigan Ave. & W. St. Joseph, West Lansing)

More information on page 5

The Peggy Van Vlack Memorial Ring – Saturday, March 7, 3:00 p.m.

Kay French, Guest Conductor

Goodrich High School, Goodrich, MI

Detroit Handbell Ensemble – Sunday, March 8, 4:00 p.m.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

8600 27 Mile Rd., Washington Township

Area V Spring Festival – Friday and Saturday, March 13-14

David Davidson, Clinician

John S. Knight Center, Akron, OH

More information on page 3

Many Voices...*One Song* Workshop – Saturday, March 14

Kevin McChesney, Clinician

First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

For more information: www.manyvoicesonesong.org

Kalamazoo Ringers – Sunday, March 22, 4:00 p.m.

The Dogwood Center, Freemont, MI

April, 2009

Detroit Handbell Ensemble – Sunday, April 5, 4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

600 N. Brady Rd., Dearborn

Bronze Concert – Saturday, April 18, 4:30 p.m.

Chicago Bronze, Kalamazoo Ringers and Capital City Ringers

Second Reformed Church

2323 Stadium Dr., Kalamazoo

Visit www.areavagehr.org for more events!

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April, 2009 (continued)

Capital City Ringers' 25th Anniversary Concert — Sunday, April 19, 4:00 p.m.

Location TBD

For more information: www.capitalcityringers.com

Classical Bells *in concert!* — Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church

875 Haskins Rd., Bowling Green, OH

For more information: 419.354.3989

Classical Bells Workshop — Saturday, April 25

First Christian Church

875 Haskins Rd., Bowling Green, OH

For more information: 419.354.3989

May, 2009

Classical Bells *in concert!* — Friday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church

1501 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor

For more information: rmeyer@zlc-aa.org

Classical Bells Workshop — Saturday, May 2

Zion Lutheran Church

1501 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor

For more information: rmeyer@zlc-aa.org

Metropolitan UMC Handbell Invitational — Saturday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.

8000 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Dr. Joseph D. Daniel, Massed Choir Director

For more information: bakerbells@aol.com

Capital City Ringers' 25th Anniversary Concert — Sunday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.

Location TBD

For more information: www.capitalcityringers.com

Kalamazoo Ringers — Sunday, May 17

Spring Concert

Location TBD, Kalamazoo

Detroit Handbell Ensemble — Sunday, May 31, 4:00 p.m.

St. John Lutheran Church

23225 Gill Rd., Farmington Hills

June, 2009

Classical Bells *in concert!* — Tuesday, June 30, 4:15 p.m.

St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church

2215 Opdyke Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI

For more information: jdaniel@christchurchcranbrook.org

Visit www.areavagehr.org for more events!

**AGEHR
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The Michigan Ringer

c/o Christ Church Cranbrook
470 Church Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Postmaster: Address service requested.

**AREA V
WEBSITE
WWW.AREAVAGEHR.ORG**

WANTED

Williamston United Methodist Church is interested in buying 2 - 3 octaves of handchimes this spring. Does anyone know of a set that is not being used, that could use a new home? Our handbells came from another church, and we love the history that came along with them. Please contact Corlie Eldred (517)655-3303 or Williamston United Methodist Church (517) 655-2430.