

AREA 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Spotlight on Area 1 Community Ensembles

Giving Creatively Through Performance, Education and Outreach

A thriving, dedicated array of community handbell organizations are scattered throughout New England, many of which have been in existence for 20 years or more. Each group has a unique mission that rings out and chimes in for the betterment of the populations they serve. Many are registered 501(c)(3) organizations, with an emphasis on charitable and educational endeavors. Here are just a few examples of the good work being accomplished by Area 1 community ensembles:

- **Back Bay Ringers'** spring *Season of Giving Back* includes an annual donation of a set of Choirchimes® to a Boston area school music program, and donating concert proceeds to a community organization (LGBT Asylum Task Force).
- **Granite State Ringers** *Quilting for a Cause* initiative raises money for the New Hampshire Food Bank.
- **Merrimack Valley Ringers** supports *Best Buddies*, an organization working to end the isolation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, in loving memory of a ringer who recently passed away.
- **New England Ringers** founded *Oktobellfest*, a fall weekend event held in Westerly, Rhode Island, that brings ringers together both musically and socially, culminating in a free, public concert.
- **Penobscot Bay Ringers'** *Handbells for Hope* concerts raise awareness and funds for various nonprofits providing essential services to people in Midcoast Maine.
- **Shoreline Ringers** *Education Program* brings handbell history, technique demonstration, performance, and audience participation to Southeastern Connecticut area libraries, assisted living, and community centers.



To learn more, visit area1.handbellmusicians.org/communication/area-1-ensembles.

AREA 1 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Jennifer Stack, chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect: Greg Urban, chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Past Chair: Lisa Arnold, pastchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Secretary: Harriet Forman, secretary.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Treasurer: Lauren Larson, treasurer.area1@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

Cape Cod & Islands: Abby Schoppe, ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org
CT: Vicki Moroski, ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Greater Boston/NH: Abby Schoppe, ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org or nh.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Western MA: Audrey Pierce, westernma.area1@handbellmusicians.org
ME: Dana Humphreys, me.area1@handbellmusicians.org
RI: Jill Boday, ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org
VT: TBD, vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Chair: Susan Schultz, membership.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Education Liaison: Kristen Russo, educationliaison.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Communications/Historian/Newsletter: Amy Rollins, communications.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Scholarships: scholarship.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Chime Loan Program: Meredith Gaines, chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Registrar: Susan Schultz, registrar.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Webmaster: Casey Spring, webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 1 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area1.handbellmusicians.org
Facebook: facebook.com/HMAarea1
Youtube: youtube.com/@area1handbellmusiciansofam265

AREA 2 (NJ, NY, PA)

JOIN US

Area 2 Elections

Chair-Elect Secretary Treasurer

Email us!
chair.area2@handbellmusicians.org

area2.handbellmusicians.org [hmaarea2](https://www.facebook.com/hmaarea2)  

AREA 2 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Sarah Hazel, chair.area2@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect: Billy Mild, chairelect.area2@handbellmusicians.org
Past Chair: Elizabeth Nowik, pastchair.area2@handbellmusicians.org
Secretary/Registrar: Jean Coniber, secretary.area2@handbellmusicians.org
Treasurer: Shawn Gingrich, treasurer.area2@handbellmusicians.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Kathie Bittenbender, membership.area2@handbellmusicians.org
Education Chair: Lynn Morgan, education.area2@handbellmusicians.org
Historian: Nancy Moore, historian.area2@handbellmusicians.org
Workshops/Mentoring: Gail Posey, workshops.area2@handbellmusicians.org
Communications: Jordan Allen, communications.area2@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 2 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area2.handbellmusicians.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/hmaarea2](https://www.facebook.com/hmaarea2)
Instagram: [instagram.com/hmaarea2](https://www.instagram.com/hmaarea2)

AREA 3 (DE, DC, MD, NC, VA)

AREA 3 2026 FESTIVALS

Learn more! Scan the QR code or visit
area3.handbellmusicians.org/events/spring-festivals/.



AREA 3 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Kerry Johnston, chair.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect: Debbie Henning, chairelect.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Interim Treasurer: Christine Hildebrand, treasurer.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Board Member: Teri Gregory, boardmember1.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Board Member: Patricia Lane, boardmember2.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Board Member: Dottie Tweedie, boardmember3.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Board Member: Alan Payne, boardmember4.area31@handbellmusicians.org
Board Member: Neesa Hart, boardmember5.area3@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

DE: TBD, de.area3@handbellmusicians.org
MD: TBD, md.area3@handbellmusicians.org
VA: Reggie Fox, va.area3@handbellmusicians.org
NC: Blaine Russell, nc.area3@handbellmusicians.org
DC: TBD, dc.area3@handbellmusicians.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Secretary: Marcia Payne Wooten, secretary.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Membership Chair: Sue Atkins, membership.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Chime Loan Coordinator: Kath Wissinger, chimeloan.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Composition Contest Chair: Kevin Quick, kevin@highlandumc.org
Community Ensemble Liaison: Sarah Sheffield, live2ring@gmail.com
Education Liaison: Brian Seemann, education.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Historian: Karen Eggert, historian.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Scholarship Chair: Laura Blauch, scholarship.area3@handbellmusicians.org
Registrar: Gail Williams, gailwilltoo@verizon.net
Webmaster: Debra LeBrun, webmaster.area3@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 3 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area3.handbellmusicians.org
Facebook: facebook.com/groups/90491126540/

AREA 4 (FL, GA, SC, PR, BS, VI)

MAKE MUSIC & MEMORIES AT BELLS OF THE CARIBBEAN

November 7–8, 2025 • Registration Cost \$85

Join us for a vibrant handbell experience in a tropical setting! *Bells of the Caribbean* returns in 2025, featuring two dynamic clinicians—**Brian Childers** and **Meredith Alequin Fajardo**—who will lead massed ringing sessions designed to inspire, challenge, and connect ringers from near and far.

Whether you're traveling with your choir or ringing solo, this is your chance to enjoy two days of exciting repertoire, engaging instruction, and a relaxed, friendly atmosphere with an island flair.

Who Should Attend Bells of The Caribbean?

This event is for you! Individual ringers, full choirs, advanced musicians, or developing ensembles—everyone's welcome.

What's Included?

- Two days of clinician-led rehearsal and ringing
- Dynamic final group performance
- Time to explore and enjoy the island

Repertoire and registration info coming soon!

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2026 Florida Handbell Festival will be held on March 13-14, 2026, at Sun City Center United Methodist Church in Sun City Center, FL. Repertoire and Clinician coming soon!

AREA 4 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: William J. Murphy, chair.area4@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect: Carlos Rivera-Aponte, chairelect.area4@handbellmusicians.org
Past Chair: Jenny Freeman, pastchair.area4@handbellmusicians.org
Secretary: Suzanne Holton, secretary.area4@handbellmusicians.org
Treasurer: Mike Lamb, treasurer.area4@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

FL: Katherine Lamb Chico, fl.area4@handbellmusicians.org
GA: Steve Coldiron, ga.area4@handbellmusicians.org
SC: TBD, sc.area4@handbellmusicians.org
Islands: Yaddira Molano Santiago, pr.area4@handbellmusicians.org

Bells of the Caribbean

Make Music & Memories at
Bells of the Caribbean

November 7-8, 2025
University of Puerto Rico – Carolina

2026

FLORIDA HANDBELL FESTIVAL
March 13-14, 2026
Sun City Center United Methodist Church
Sun City Center, FL

<https://Area4.HandbellMusicians.org>

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education Chair: Kimberly Oppermann, education.area4@handbellmusicians.org
Communications Chair: Katy Ellis, communications.area4@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 4 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area4.handbellmusicians.org
Facebook: facebook.com/area4handbells
YouTube: www.YouTube.com/@area4_HMA

AREA 5 (IN, KY, MI, OH, WV)

THE COLUMBUS SPRING RING

The Columbus Spring Ring was a tremendous success! More than 650 ringers gathered together to learn new techniques, make new friends, and play music together! Thank you to all the handbell musicians who attended, our wonderful audience who came to see the final concert, the class instructors, all of our Area 5 board members and staff who orchestrated the event, and to our maestro, Fred Gramann! The Columbus Spring Ring offered a myriad of class opportunities for our ringers to learn new techniques! These included how to properly ring treble and bass bells, having an effective rehearsal, learning bell tree techniques, and even learning to keep rhythm by dancing!

MUSIC OF MUNCIE

Our next Music festival is titled “Music of Muncie” and will take place in Muncie, Indiana on March 20-21 2026. Under the direction of Jason Krug, handbell musicians will have another chance to learn new music and perform together!



AREA 5 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Jarod Ogier, chair.area5@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect: Shannon Hardiek, chairelect.area5@handbellmusicians.org
Secretary: Jane Hicks Snow, secretary.area5@handbellmusicians.org
Treasurer: Sherri Stoffer, treasurer.area5@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

IN: Linda Haddix, in.area5@handbellmusicians.org
OH: Cheryl Onesky, oh.area5@handbellmusicians.org
KY: Abby Wentzel, ky.area5@handbellmusicians.org
MI: Hannah Wheaton, mi.area1@handbellmusicians.org
WV: TBD, wv.area5@handbellmusicians.org



PINNACLE 2025

Area 5 had a tremendous turnout at Pinnacle 2025! Several current officers, former officers, composers, and members were in attendance. We were grateful to have Jason and Kim Krug representing Area 5 and Grassy Meadow Music and Brenda Austin representing Hope Publishing Company. Embellish Handbell Ensemble from Grand Rapids also performed during Pinnacle. Under the direction of Brenda Austin, this talented group of ringers delighted attendees from across the globe with a myriad of amazing pieces, including musical hits “For Good” from *Wicked* and “Rewrite The Stars” from *The Greatest Showman*.

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Financial Administrator: Linda VanDenBerg, finance.area5@handbellmusicians.org
Education Chair: Brenda Hayden, education.area5@handbellmusicians.org
Membership Chair: Lora Lee Curren, membership.area5@handbellmusicians.org
Communications Chair: Jonathan Martz, communications.area5@handbellmusicians.org
Webmaster: Eleanor Coffin, webmaster.area5@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 5 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area5.handbellmusicians.org
Facebook: facebook.com/area5HMA
Instagram: instagram.com/area5hma
Twitter (X): @area5hma

AREA 6 (AR, AL, MS, LA, TN)

UPCOMING 2026 HANDBELL FESTIVALS



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FEBRUARY

**ARKANSAS HMA FESTIVAL
WITH TAMMY WALDROP**
arkansasbells.org

6-7

MARCH

**CENTRAL ALABAMA FESTIVAL
WITH MICHAEL GLASGOW**
cahandbells.com

6-7

MARCH

**CHATTANOOGA AREA FESTIVAL
WITH NICK HANSON**
area6.handbellmusicians.org

07

MARCH

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE FESTIVAL
WITH BRIAN CHILDERS**
tgbc.org

17-18

APRIL

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN RING
WITH GREIG ASHURST**
knoxareahandbellfestival.com

SPRING
2026

RIVER CITY RING
wtnbells.org

SPRING
2026

**LOUISIANA SPRING RING
WITH GREIG ASHURST**
area6.handbellmusicians.org

SPRING
2026

MISSISSIPPI RINGING EVENT
area6.handbellmusicians.org



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA | Area 6

AREA 6 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Gary Bynum, chair.area6@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect: Les Beaver, chairelect.area6@handbellmusicians.org
Past Chair: Mary Caldwell, pastchair.area6@handbellmusicians.org
Secretary: Beth Wilson, secretary.area6@handbellmusicians.org
Treasurer: Becky Price, treasurer.area6@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

AL: Heather Batchelor, al.area6@handbellmusicians.org
AR: Lisa Hester, ar.area6@handbellmusicians.org
LA: Barbara Williams, la.area6@handbellmusicians.org
MS: Paul McGahie, ms.area6@handbellmusicians.org
TN: Carole Millard, tn.area6@handbellmusicians.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Neri Beaver, membership.area6@handbellmusicians.org
Webmaster: Melissa Emerson: webmaster.area6@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 6 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area6.handbellmusicians.org
Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064537908533
Instagram: instagram.com/handbells.area6

AREA 7 (MN, ND, SD, WI)

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

Area 7 Festival Conference

June (25) 26-28, 2026

River's Edge Convention Center – St. Cloud, Minnesota

CLINICIANS



Carlos Rivera-Aponte from Puerto Rico
Conducting: Co-Massed Ringers, Bronze Division, Bronze Plus Ensemble



Jill Mahr from Northfield, Minnesota
Conducting: Co-Massed Ringers and Copper Division



Jennifer Cadwell from Maple Grove, Minnesota
Conducting: Conference Choir

**FOR ALL DETAILS INCLUDING REPERTOIRE, CLASSES, & REGISTRATION, VISIT
[HTTPS://AREA7.HANDBELLMUSICIANS.ORG/FESTIVAL-2026/](https://area7.handbellmusicians.org/festival-2026/)**

AREA 7 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Paul McKenzie, chair.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect: Monica McGowan, chairelect.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Past Chair: Jennifer Cadwell, pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Secretary: Deb Madel, secretary.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Treasurer: Theresa Jacobson, treasurer.area7@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

ND: TBD, ndakota.area7@handbellmusicians.org
SD: Cheryl Ulmer, sdakota.area7@handbellmusicians.org
MN-North: Jordan Goodwater, minnesotanorth.area7@handbellmusicians.org
MN-Twin Cities: Akudo Omeoga, twincities.area7@handbellmusicians.org
MN-South: Paul Kingsbury, minnesotasouth.area7@handbellmusicians.org
WI-North: Denean Smith, wisconsinnorth.area7@handbellmusicians.org
WI-South: Lisa Bourget, wisconsinsouth.area7@handbellmusicians.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Chair: Christina Herold, membership.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Publications/Newsletter: Jen Welch, editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Website Administrator: Paul Weller, webadmin.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Events Coordinator: Alanna Teragawa, events.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Youth Events Planner: Jessica Haeder, youthevents.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Historian: Dan Ahlman, historian.area7@handbellmusicians.org
C.H.I.M.E. Representative: Michelle Finlon, chime.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Registrar: Trevor Lee, registrar.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Manitoba Representative: Ron Vert, manitoba.area7@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 7 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area7.handbellmusicians.org
Facebook: facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansArea7

AREA 8 (IL, IA, KS, MO, NE)

BY LORI FENTON, AREA 8 CHAIR

There was just ONE STATE left!! My husband and I had visited 49 states, with only Alaska left on our bucket list. And, then, of course, there is my obsession with bells. Well, in 2024, when The Bells of the Cascades announced that their handbell cruise for 2025 would be to Alaska, with Matthew Compton and Alex Guebert as the guest conductors no less, it didn't take long to register, over a year ahead!! It didn't take much effort to convince some bell-loving friends to go along and we were set!

This was the 16th handbell cruise for the group, and they definitely have it down to a science. We were divided into two groups of approximately 50 ringers—The Orcas and The Belugas. We requested our favorite positions to play and were assigned from there. When the ship was sailing, we had rehearsals, but if we were in port, we got to enjoy the area. Each group had their own repertoire of four pieces to work on. The host choir furnished all the music, the bells, and all the other equipment. We only had to bring our gloves and a binder. They even had a “Baby Whales” class for beginners! Laurel Crusinberry, wife of Iowa State Chair Dick Crusinberry, decided to try out the bells, and had a great time. That group even played a piece for the final concert of the event!!

The Bells of the Cascades gave a wonderful concert on the ship's World Stage. When their director Matthew Compton asked the very large audience who had never heard a bell choir before, over half of the hands went up! Area 8's own Cynthia Seputis was honored to be asked to fill in for a ringer who was not able to come at the last minute, and she did a fantastic job, after only one practice, of playing the very difficult program. The cruise groups gave a program on the last day, each playing the four pieces they had prepared. The only disappointing thing

was that it was not on the World Stage, but in the rehearsal rooms, so there wasn't a lot of room for a large crowd. But, every seat they had for an audience was filled and there were lots of people listening in the hall.

The next cruise through The Bells of the Cascades will be in January 2027 to the eastern Caribbean. Brenda Austin has been announced as the guest clinician. If you visit their website, you can already sign up!! So, for all of you handbell lovers who can never get enough ringing in your lives, take advantage of this fun adventure!



AREA 8 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Lori Fenton, chair.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect: Nancy Blackwell, chairelect.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Past Chair: Chris Peck, pastchair.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Secretary: Laura Kastens, secretary.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Treasurer: Tami Kofran, treasurer.area8@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

IA: Dick Crusinberry, ia.area8@handbellmusicians.org
IL (Central/Southern): Chris Peck, ilcs.area8@handbellmusicians.org
IL (Chicago): TBD, ilno.area8@handbellmusicians.org
IL (Northern): Beth McFarland, ilno2.area8@handbellmusicians.org
KS: Amy Knudsen, ks.area8@handbellmusicians.org
TBD, ks2.area8@handbellmusicians.org
MO: TBD, mo.area8@handbellmusicians.org
NE: Byron Jensen, ne.area8@handbellmusicians.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Lori Fenton, membership.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Education: Lori Fenton, education.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Historian: Laurie Austin, historian.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Communications: Janelle Flory Schrock, communications.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Webmaster: Wendi Levitt, webmaster.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Financial Adviser: Stephen Swanson
Quavers Editor: Beth Ann Edwards, newslettereditor.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Events: Lori Fenton, events.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Handchimes: Nancy Youngman, chimes.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Registrars: Amy Knudsen, registrar.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Linda Ashley, registrar2.area8@handbellmusicians.org
Resource Librarian: Charleton Pendry, resource librarian.area8@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 8 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area8.handbellmusicians.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/ Area8Handbells](https://facebook.com/Area8Handbells)

AREA 9 (OK, TX)

Spring Ring 2026

Saturday, March 7
Tulsa and San Antonio

Come join your fellow Area 9 ringers at this year's Spring Ring! With locations in Texas and Oklahoma, groups and ringers across the region will have the opportunity to share in ringing and fellowship under the direction of one of our fabulous Area 9 clinicians. In addition to preparing the selected repertoire, choirs, small ensembles, and soloists are invited to prepare one piece to present to the group at the final concert.

Registration will be available December 1, 2025.

\$25/person if received by February 21

\$35/person after February 21

Additional charge for lunch (optional) \$12-15

(lunch orders must be received by February 28)

Table rental is \$10 per 6 foot table



San Antonio, TX
University Methodist Church
5084 De Zavala Road
San Antonio, TX 78249
Clinician: Bob Avant



Tulsa, OK
Asbury Church
6767 S Mingo Road
Tulsa, OK 74133
Clinician: Hart Morris

Area 9 HMA Spring Ring 2026 Repertoire

The following repertoire is to be prepared in advance of the Spring Ring event.

Exploration on DEO GRACIAS – L2+

Jason Krug, 2-3 oct. (GMH230033) or 3-6 oct. – GMH350045

Give Me Jesus – Level 3-

arr. Hart Morris, 3-5 oct HB with opt 3-5 oct HC – BEHB768

Joyeuse – Level 3-

Karen Buckwalter, 3-5 oct HB – BEHB799

Morning Light – Level 3

arr. Stephanie Berryman

3-4 oct HB – FM203473; 5 oct HB – FM20347

Bell Peal on Lasst uns Erfreuen – Level 3

arr. Sondra Tucker, 2-5 oct HB with 2 oct HC – JMG1457

Schedule:

8:30 a.m. Load in/set up/registration

9:00 a.m. Ready to ring

12:00 p.m. Lunch on site

2:30 p.m. Concert



Spring Ring
EVENT PAGE

AREA 9 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Stephanie Rhoades, chair.area9@handbellmusicians.org

Chair-Elect: Amy Epperson, chairelect.area9@handbellmusicians.org

Past Chair: Mark Arnold, pastchair.area9@handbellmusicians.org

Secretary: Stephen Wurst, secretary.area9@handbellmusicians.org

Treasurer: Jeanne Christopherson, treasurer.area9@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

OK: Sheryl "Bob" Martin, okrep.area9@handbellmusicians.org

TX-South: Cyndi Erp-Long, txrep1.area9@handbellmusicians.org

TX-North: Brittny Axton, txrep2.area9@handbellmusicians.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Cylinda Areno, membership.area9@handbellmusicians.org

Education Co-Chair: Barbie Senkow, education.area9@handbellmusicians.org

Education Co-Chair: Stacie Brown, education.area9@handbellmusicians.org

Communications: John Staton, communications.area9@handbellmusicians.org

Member At-Large: Kari Daelke, boardmember1.area9@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 9 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area9.handbellmusicians.org

Facebook: facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansArea9

Instagram: instagram.com/area9handbells

Twitter (X): @Area9Handbells

AREA 10 (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA)



AREA 10's NEW 1-1/2 day event in the fall Fall Ringing Round Up—October 17-18, 2025

Locations: Bend Oregon, Great Falls Montana, Olympia Washington, Spokane Washington

- ◆ **No One must bring bells and tables!**
The host venue is organizing that detail
- ◆ **No One must learn the music before the event!**
You will receive the event titles when you arrive—5 in total
- ◆ **The music list is shaping up to be the perfect mix of fun and beautiful!**
Conductors are putting together repertoire that offers teaching moments to help you grow as a Handbell Musician.
- ◆ **The titles will be between a L2 and a L3 difficulty level. This will allow for ease of learning the music and for putting new techniques and skills into practice on the day of massed ringing.**
- ◆ **There will be an informal performance at the end of day two.**
A chance to share with your friends and family what you have learned over the weekend
- ◆ **Registration fees begin at \$40*/ringer with the option to purchase a provided lunch for \$15**
Registration fee includes the music you will use at the event.
- ◆ **Venues are scattered around our AREA so our ringers would have *at most* a 2-3hr drive from “home”**

*This is the Early Bird registration fee for an HMA member; ALL ringers, regardless of membership, are encouraged and welcome to attend

<https://area10.handbellmusicians.org/fall-ringing-round-up/>

AREA 10 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Tomi Kent, chair.area10@handbellmusicians.org

Chair-Elect: Corbin Rasmussen, chairelect.area10@handbellmusicians.org

Past Chair: Shelley Giaier, past.chair.area10@handbellmusicians.org

Secretary: Sharon Ross, secretary.area10@handbellmusicians.org

Treasurer: Ellie Hodder, treasurer.area10@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

AK: Caroline Valentine, ak.area10@handbellmusicians.org

ID: Jonathan Rose, id.area10@handbellmusicians.org

MT: Linda Hightower, mt.area10@handbellmusicians.org

OR: Heather Dixon, or.area10@handbellmusicians.org

WA: Julie Hunziker, wa.area10@handbellmusicians.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Chair: Diane Hould, membership.area10@handbellmusicians.org

Communications: Joann Wallenburn, communications.area10@handbellmusicians.org

Newsletter: Debra Pankaskie, campanologist.area10@handbellmusicians.org

Events Chair: Diane Barnes, eventschair.area10@handbellmusicians.org

Education/Youth Chair: TBD, education_youth.area10@handbellmusicians.org

Webmaster: Joann Wallenburn, webmaster.area10@handbellmusicians.org

Social Media Editor: Sheri Roach, socialmedia.area10@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 10 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area10.handbellmusicians.org

Facebook: facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansOfAmericaArea10

AREA 11 (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY)



**Fall
Tune-Up**
September 20th, 2025
9am - 12pm

Join us for a fun-filled morning of “tuning up” bell techniques to get ready for a new season of ringing.

Locations in
Mesa, Arizona
Lakewood, Colorado
Thornton, Colorado
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Lehi, Utah
Kaysville, Utah
Cheyenne, Wyoming (Sept 27th)



AREA 11 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Anne Anderson Kelley, chair.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Chair-Elect: Shron Schmidt, chairelect.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Past Chair: LeAnna Willmore, pastchair.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Sec/Treasurer: Jill Persichetti, treasurer.area11@handbellmusicians.org

SUB-AREA CHAIRS

Desert: Nancy Roberts-Small, desert.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Mountain: Andrew Smith, mountain.area11@handbellmusicians.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Events Chair: Anne Kleve, events.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Communications: Sara Oedekoven, communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org

C.H.I.M.E Chair: Shirley Culp, chime.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Youth Representative: Magen Hansen; youth.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Registrar: Lilly Hatch, registrar.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Camp Chair: Anne Kleve, camp.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Webmaster: Nikki Evans, webmaster.area11@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 11 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area11.handbellmusicians.org

Facebook: facebook.com/area11handbells

AREA 12 (CA, HI, NV)

CALLING ALL COMPOSERS

The Area 12 invites all composers to participate in the Area 12 Composition Contest for our 2026 Area 12 Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Prize: \$1500. Deadline: October 15, 2025.

The Handbell Musicians of America Area 12 Composition Contest strives to expand the handbell repertoire with interesting and accessible compositions while providing a tool for learning and enjoyment at the Area 12 conference. The winning submission will be appealing to a massed or divisional choir and may include percussion and/or vocal parts.

Composition contest applicants are not required to be a member of Handbell Musicians of America (the Guild), nor are they required to reside in Area 12 (California, Guam, Hawaii, and Nevada), but Guild and Area 12 members will be allotted additional points in the adjudication process.

Additional details can be found at: <https://area12.handbellmusicians.org/composition-contest/> or by contacting Marci Nuoffer at: pastchair.area12@handbellmusicians.org.

AREA 12 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY BOARD

Chair: Michèle Sharik, chair.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect: Scott McGlasson, chairelect.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Past Chair: Marci Nuoffer, pastchair.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Treasurer: Kathy Arnold, treasurer.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Secretary: Carol Flint, secretary.area12@handbellmusicians.org
STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS
CA-Central: Maggie Paton, cencal.area12@handbellmusicians.org
CA-North: Cindy Ksiazek, norcal.area12@handbellmusicians.org
CA-South: Carol Pickford, socal.area12@handbellmusicians.org
CA-Far North: Nancy Schmitt, farnorcal.area12@handbellmusicians.org
HI: Karen Carlisle, hi.area12@handbellmusicians.org
LA-Metro: Erik Der, lametro.area12@handbellmusicians.org
NV-North: Barbara Walsh, nv.area12@handbellmusicians.org
NV-South: Alison Pruet, vegas.area12@handbellmusicians.org
SF-Bay: Marquise Usher, bayarea.area12@handbellmusicians.org

The graphic is a promotional poster for the 'NEON CITY Rhythms 2026' event. It features a central circular logo with 'NEON CITY' in green, 'Rhythms' in blue script, and '2026' in pink. The logo is surrounded by a yellow silhouette of a city skyline with various landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and a Ferris wheel. Text includes 'Handbell Musicians OF AMERICA', 'AREA 12 Presents', 'Las Vegas NV', 'with clinician Michael Glasgow', 'SAVE THE DATE', 'June 18-20 2026', 'Registration opens February 1, 2026', and the website 'https://area12.handbellmusicians.org/ncr2026/'. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner.

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: TBD, membership.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Education: Elizabeth Loebig, education.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Events: TBD, events.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Communications: Cathryn Griggs, communications.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Vendor Liaison: Fran Sanders, vendorliaison.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Historian: TBD, historian.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Social Media: Harley Glenn, media.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Webmaster: Gail Berg, webmaster.area12@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 12 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area12.handbellmusicians.org
Facebook: facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansOfAmericaArea12
Instagram: instagram.com/area12media
YouTube: youtube.com/@area12handbellmusiciansofa52