

# The Michigan Ringer

Winter 2010

Volume 3, Number 1

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



## The Chair's Column

HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome to our on-line Michigan Ringer. Isn't it fun to see what's going on in Area V? Did you see that AGEHR is now on Facebook? And, people think that bell ringers can only ring left-hand/right-hand.

For all our new members, in this issue you will meet our Michigan Education and Membership Chairs and all our District Leaders. We hope this will help you connect with us and put a face to a name. These wonderful people volunteer their time to help you. Their goal is to stay in contact with you, answer your questions, help Area V set up workshops, and arrange events like Ringin' in the North (that would be in the UP, eh), Eastside Ring, and LAMB Ring just to name a few. Without you, we can't do our job. So, please let us know when your email changes, or what you would like to see in the MI Ringer, Tintinnabulator, or Overtones. With your help we can make Michigan one of the best states to ring handbells. Also take the time to share information with ringers and directors, you know who could benefit in becoming an AGEHR member. Remember...we are a team instrument!

If you have been looking in your mailbox for the Tintinnabulator...come in from the cold and check it out on line. A TNT Blast will announce when the Tintinnabulator is up on the Area V website. Our Spring Festival, Bells a Bloomin' in Charleston, WV, on April 16-17, with Kevin McChesney, our upcoming 2010 summer and fall workshops are all there for you to read about. Bookmark it and check back often as new and upcoming information comes in.

Have a wonderful ringing year and I hope to see many of you at our upcoming events.

Happy Ringing,

Kay French  
Michigan State Chair  
kclassicalbells@wowway.com

## Membership Moment



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I spent last weekend in Clio, MI (near Flint) conducting a first-time clinic with five handbell choirs from the Clio-Frankenmuth area. Many of the ringers had never attended anything along those lines. While the day was hugely gratifying for everyone, on the way home, I began to wonder how many other

handbell choirs have never enjoyed attending an event with multiple choirs playing the same music.

As a member of AGEHR, you are privileged to attend any and all the handbell festivals offered throughout the country. Have you taken advantage of that right?

Your Michigan board and your Area board are working very hard to make sure the Guild is working for you to enrich your ringing experience and that of your ringers. Be a part of the excitement—attend a festival and make your voice heard.

Better yet? Invite a non-AGEHR member to attend with you...

Best wishes for happy ringing,

Dr. Joseph D. Daniel  
MI Membership Chair  
joseph.d.daniel@gmail.com



## GOT CHIMES???

### Michigan Has Chimes Just For YOU!

Linda Holzwarth, MI Education Chair



For those of you who don't know about Area V's amazing Chime Loan Program, each year ten recipient winners get the chance to use a free three octave set of chimes for a whole year in their schools to promote ringing with kids. Here in Michigan we have four outstanding Chime Grant participants for the 2009-2010 school year, teachers who enthusiastically want to use chimes with children so kids can experience the "joy of ringing". Our recipients for 2009-10 are:

**Diane Gelfund (Highland)** – will give children opportunities to reinforce musical elements such as harmony and timbre in her elementary music classes as well as 6<sup>th</sup> grade exploratory music class and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir.

**Kathy Beckley (Dearborn Heights)** – will use the chimes in her music classrooms to help children learn how to ring chimes properly, read music, and work with harmonies.

**Carol Arends (Grand Blanc)** – will offer a handchime choir as an elective class in grades 6-8 where students will learn proper ringing technique, basic music skills, and work toward a winter performance.

**Melanie Draper (Canton)** – will implement handchimes into her child-centered preschool to help teach listening skills, following directions, and pre-reading/math skills.

If you are interested in applying for a three octave set of chimes, educational resources, and beginning repertoire titles to use during the 2010-2011 school year, get on the internet RIGHT NOW...go to the Area V website, click on Chime Grant, download the PDF file of the application, fill it out, and send the packet to Linda Holzwarth. Don't waste one minute because you just might be one of the lucky winners for next fall! If you have any questions, please send me an email to [dholzy@chartermi.net](mailto:dholzy@chartermi.net). I would be honored to help you. Area V's goal is to give as many students as possible the chance to ring chimes for the very first time, feel the thrill of making beautiful sounds, and then get hooked on music for life!

## Here are the Michigan District Leaders

Contact information is available on the Area V Website

[www.areavagehr.org](http://www.areavagehr.org)



Lorraine Finison

Though I'm not a director, handbell or otherwise, I just LOVE handbells, and have been ringing for 26 years. I have served 18 years as secretary of the Lansing Area Ministry of Bells and have been active in organizing the *Spring Ring* held in March each year. I have been in the Capital City Ringers for 22 years, and am the treasurer, corresponding secretary, and high treble section leader.

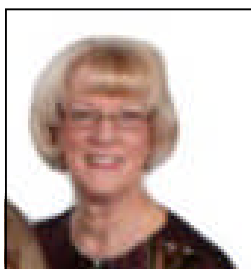
My "claim to fame" in the handbell world is the anthem I commissioned in 1991. *Réunir* by William Payn has been used as a Bronze selection for International, National, Area and local festivals. I am extremely proud of it and enjoy telling how Dr. Payn knew nothing about me except my name, yet he completed and signed the manuscript on my 39th birthday and gave me the last note, F7, all by myself!

I have worked for the Michigan Dept. of State for 31 years and am married to Kim Finison, a General Motors retiree, whom many know as "Dr. Bell" because of his handbell repair hobby. I have three grown stepchildren—of course, all are ringers! Less than a month ago, our first grandchild, Rebekah Palomba, was welcomed into the family. She'll be a ringer, too, no doubt!



Mary Beth Jones

Mary Beth Jones has been Director of Music Ministries at Northminster since 1971. She knew nothing about handbells when she took the position, but through AGEHR rings with nationally-known composers/clinicians as well as mentoring from other local handbell directors, she has been able to expand Northminster's handbell program from 3 octaves of Petit and Fritsens to 5+ octaves of Schulmerich handbells and 4+ octaves of Malmark chimes, currently played by an adult group (some of whom have been ringing since before Beth started at Northminster!), a children's group, and an intergenerational, two-church group featured in the last edition of the Michigan Ringer.



Linda Bauer

I've been the Organist/Director of Music at St. Paul Lutheran Church (ELCA) for almost thirty years! I also started the handbell program there in 1987. In addition to my church duties I ring with Classical Bells. Right now Beth Jones and I are busy planning the East-side Ring for April 24, 2010. The joys of my life are my six grandchildren, playing the harp (for fun only) and taking care of my orchid plants.



Rob Meyer

Rob Meyer is a graduate of Concordia University, Ann Arbor with a BA in Church Music. He is currently Director of Music at Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor. Prior to joining the staff at Zion, He served as Director of Music in several other Southeast Michigan congregations: Resurrection Lutheran (Detroit 1998-2000), St. Peter's Lutheran (Eastpointe 2000-2006), and Redeemer Lutheran (Flint 2006-2007). Rob has directed numerous Vocal Choirs, Handbell and Instrumental Ensembles, played the organ for worship and planned services. While at St. Peter's Rob served as Founder and Artistic Director of the St. Peter's Concert Series, a program that brought performers of national and international acclaim to play at St. Peter's. As Artistic Director, Rob was an active fund-raiser, planner, manager of contracts and accommodations for all performers. Rob commissioned and premiered two pieces by Dr. John Behnke for the St. Peter's Choirs. Rob was a member of the Detroit Concert Choir (DCC) from 1993 - 2009 and travelled with them five times on international competition tours. Rob is currently a member of Classical Bells. Rob holds professional memberships in the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, Choristers Guild, the AGEHR and is an avid student of music always seeking to expand his horizons through learning.



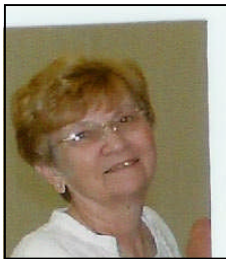
Ann Wood

Ann Wood is currently Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, Escanaba and conductor of the Bay de Noc Choral Society. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Speech/Theatre and of Concordia University Wisconsin with a Master of Church Music/Choral Conducting/Handbell degree. Ann maintains a large private music studio in the Escanaba area, teaching piano, voice, and Suzuki and traditional violin, viola, and cello. In addition to her other endeavors, she teaches English, communications, and music classes as an adjunct faculty member at Bay de Noc Community College and has two handbell compositions in print. Ann lives in Escanaba with her husband Brian and daughter Tory, who share her love of music.



Sandy Balmer

Sandy Balmer has been the organist at First United Methodist Church in Marquette since 1970 and has directed the handbell choirs since about 1986. She has also directed the children's choir, worked with Sunday School music and been the interim Sanctuary Choir director at various times over the years. She is a charter member of the Marquette Choral Society, which was organized in 1971, and for several years has served as accompanist for that group.



Pat Hart

As I reflected on my years as a handbell director, it surprised me to add up 29 years. In 1981, I became the director of a fledgling group called the Gosbells from the Utica United Methodist Church. For 13 years we worked and grew together, attended yearly festivals, played umpteen concerts and attained the coveted status of Bronze. It was an experience I was extremely proud of. Then I decided to retire....but it wasn't long till I found myself answering a plea from the Pastor at the Romeo United Methodist church to form a choir. Always enjoying a challenge, I set about to raise the money for a set of bells and formed a choir. Not too many years after that, my husband and I retired to Presque Isle, which is north of Alpena at the tip of the mitten. It wasn't long till I couldn't stand it any longer. Bells were in my blood. So again I set about raising money for bells and forming the Chapel Ringers at the Grand Lake Community Chapel. Years ago, at a bell festival, I heard a director from Ball State University say, "there should be a warning label on each bell which says...once you pick up this bell, you will never put it down again." He was spot on.



Chris Teugh

My intro to handbells originated at age 12 at Midland First United Methodist Church under tutelage of Susan Burgess and Alice Ralston. My first Area V festival was in 1987 (I believe at DePauw Univ.). After a long absence, I returned to handbells and AGEHR via Area XI in Colorado. Good Shepherd UMC purchased its first set of bells. A good friend, Connie Anderson, started the church's first adult bell choir, I started the children's choir and together we formed an ensemble (quartet). Thus was the start of a wonderful music ministry that continues today. In 2006, after a relocation back to Michigan, I became affiliated with the handbell choir of Portage First United Methodist Church (Steve Beukema, Director). However, I also enjoy the occasional opportunity to ring at Portage United Church of Christ with friend, Norma Collison, as Director. From 2008 to present its been, to say the least, a wonderful experience to ring with Janet VanValey and The Kalamazoo Ringers. As for personal life, my husband and I stay very busy keeping up with two wonderful and active children (Catie, 9 yrs. and David 11 yrs.) as we volunteer for most of their activities. I'm my daughter's Girl Scout Leader, and I serve Girl Scouts at the local level as School Coordinator. I work part-time in the Library/Media Centers of Portage District's eight elementary schools. My husband threatens to give me a t-shirt that says "Stop me, before I volunteer again" but I just laugh, nervously. On a serious note, this is my first position with AGEHR; a responsibility I do not take lightly. Through handbells, I have been the benefactor of valuable mentoring and growth opportunities. While I am a little nervous to serve as District Leader, I am happy with this opportunity to "give back."

*We'll feature District 2 Leader, Connie Nicholson and District 9 Leader, David Newton, in our next issue.*

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# The Michigan Ringer



## Where'd the Calendar Go?!

All events are now posted to the Area V website, [www.areavagehr.org](http://www.areavagehr.org).

By making the Calendar of Events "live" on the website, your MI Leadership Team is able to update and modify as much as is needed. For the Calendar to be effective, though, it requires active participation from each of you! Please e-mail your event (concert, workshop, clinic, etc.) to Kay French, MI State Chair, to have it added to the Area V website.

You can access the Michigan portion of the Area V Calendar of Events directly by going to [www.areavagehr.org/17](http://www.areavagehr.org/17).



### Bells a Bloomin'

Area V Spring Festival

Charleston, WV | April 16-17, 2010

Kevin McChesney, Clinician

### HELP WANTED

First Presbyterian Church of Ionia, MI seeking new Handbell Choir Director. Need someone comfortable with music to direct a 3 octave choir. Prior ringing experience preferred, but training available. Commitment for weekly rehearsals and monthly performance in church service. Occasional special events required also. To begin in September, 2010. If available, work with current director prior to May, 2010. Please call (616) 527-2320 for more information.

CHECK OUT THE NEW  
AREA V WEBSITE:  
[WWW.AREAVAGEHR.ORG](http://WWW.AREAVAGEHR.ORG)