



Handbell Musicians
O F A M E R I C A

Area 2 Twice Tolloed Tales
October 2023
www.area2.handbellmusicians.org



From the Chair . . .

Wow! My first "From the Chair". This is exciting! Let me introduce myself. My name is Sarah Hazel and I'm the new chair for Area 2. I have been ringing since I was 10 years old with a few breaks for college, etc. Currently, I ring with a community group called Philadelphia Bronze where I have been for about 10 seasons. I am a true handbell junkie and serving on the Area 2 Board is a great honor for me. I'm looking forward to working with all of you as chair for the next 2 years. I live outside of Philadelphia with my life partner Gordon and 6 furbabies and I work in a doctor's office where I handle all the billing/insurance/etc. for the office. But enough about me.

It's time to fill you in on the plans for the coming year! We have 2 big events coming up in 2024. First is the Spring Ring on March 16, 2024. This event is a one-day mass ring event for level 1 and 2 choirs. We'll work on 4 pieces with a wonderful clinician (stay tuned to learn who!). These pieces are appropriate for use through the church year. This event will be held at Proclamation Presbyterian Church in Bryn Mawr, PA. Space will be limited, so register early! Watch the Area 2 website and the next Twice Tolloed Tales for registration details.

We're also busy planning the 2024 Destination Ring. This event will feature David Harris from the Raleigh Ringers as our clinician. We'll provide more details as they are available. This is a 2-day event for medium to advanced ringers. It will be in a location that is also suitable for a fun family vacation before, during, and after the event. I would also like to talk about past events. We had a wonderful Area 2 Festival this summer under the very talented batons of Bill Payn and Karen Buckwalter. A good time was had by all and we're looking forward to the 2025 event. More details will soon be forthcoming on that as well.

Finally, I am happy to announce that elections are finally open for voting. Please go and vote for your new board to serve the 2023-2025 season. We are electing a new chair-elect, secretary/registrar, and treasurer. You are able to vote up until 11:59 pm on Saturday, October 21st, 2023. Go and vote so you can make this board YOUR board. A link for voting is in this edition on TTT. You should have also received an email and a postcard with the link to the voting page. Please note: your HMA membership number is required to place your vote. Results will be announced soon after the polls close via email!

Please remember, if you have questions or concerns, my door is always open. Contact me any time. Here's to the next 2 years!

Sarah

Sarah Hazel,
Chair, Area 2
chair.area2@handbellmusicians.org

➔ Please Forward and Share our newsletter!

Directors: Please forward all Area 2 emails and Twice Tolloed Tales newsletter issues to your ringers. As members of your bell choir, they are also members of Area 2. Help keep them in the loop and encourage them to participate in our handbell community!

2023-2025 Area 2 Board Elections

Attention Area 2 members!

The election for the 2023-2025 Area 2 Board is now open.

Ballot postcards have been mailed out and should be received by Area 2 members in the next few days if they have not been received already.

Members also have the option to vote online with form that can be found on our website:

<https://area2.handbellmusicians.org/2023-2025-area-2-board-elections/>

You will need your HMA Membership Number to vote.

Voting will be open until 11:59pm on Oct. 21, 2023.

Reflections from a First-Time Attendee of the HMA Area 2023 Festival Conference

By Nancy Moore

Before I try to describe how this conference impacted me, I should give you some information about what makes me excited musically. I am a lover of ensembles of all types. Making a piece of music come alive with a group of voices, instruments, or bells working together as a participating musician is something of which I never tire. Equally enjoyable is being able to direct an ensemble in the process of doing it.

While I had ample opportunity to participate in instrumental and vocal ensembles during my K-12 school years, though I loved the sound of a handbell choir, I never had the opportunity to participate in one until 3 years ago. As bells or chimes were available in places where I taught or directed, I made a place in the activities to insert them, but at that time I had neither enough manpower nor knowledge to develop their capabilities to the fullest. After joining 2 bell choirs several years ago, I found that one of the things I most enjoyed was being a contributing member to the huge blocks of sound in big chordal sections. Obviously, that emotion was magnified many times as I participated in a huge group of bell choirs. Sometimes, the cloud of sound the large group would be making was overwhelming, in a positive sense.

Another takeaway from the festival, for me, was working under directors who conducted with motions that were so clear in the way they pulled out the exact expression desired. I always have a goal to keep my eyes in contact with the linear movement of the printed music, so as not to lose my place, but, at the same time, look at the director, consistently enough to read all the signals he or she is communicating. I find that challenging. The directors made that process easier for me.

As with any music festival gathering, attendees mix, get to know, and play with many different people from many different places. I found that rewarding as I cooperated with so many I had never met, yet had the opportunity with which to make music.

Also, of note were the excellent offerings of classes in which one could clarify and improve techniques already in use, as well as learn new ones. Applying new input was easy in the very "hands-on" setting. Overall, I found the festival to be stimulating, satisfying, and educational. I believe I'm "hooked" and will need to come back on future occasions to get a "fix."



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From the Area 2 Photo Album...



Do you have photos from past events?

If you have any photos from past Area 2 events, whether they are from the past few years or the past few decades, we would love to feature them!

Follow Area 2 on social media!



@hmaarea2

www.area2.handbellmusicians.org

Upcoming Area Events

Area 2 Spring Ring

March 16, 2024
Proclamation Presbyterian
Church, Bryn Mawr, PA

2024 Destination Ring

Date and location
to-be-announced.

Area 2 Elections

Voting closes on Saturday,
October 21st!

Area 2 Board Members 2022 - 2023

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair

Elizabeth Nowik
chair.area2@handbellmusicians.org

Chair-Elect

Sarah Hazel
shazel2@outlook.com

Treasurer

Pat Dedert
treasurer.area2@handbellmusicians.org

Secretary

Gail Posey
gsposey@verizon.net

Past Chair

Robert Ward
rjwardny@optonline.net

APPOINTED

Membership

Kathie Bittenbender
membership.area2@handbellmusicians.org

Education Chair

Robert Ward
rjwardny@optonline.net

Historian

Risë Kagan Erickson
bellkagan@gmail.com

Workshops and Mentoring

Kaye Miller
mentoring.area2@handbellmusicians.org
workshops.area2@handbellmusicians.org

Communications Coordinator

Billy Mild
communications.area2@handbellmusicians.org



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