

## THE TWELFTH TONE

Newsletter for the AGEHR, Area XII

June July 2002

Published Bi-monthly

### IN THIS ISSUE

[A Note From The Arm of The Chair](#)

[Past Chair/National Board Representative](#)

[Chair-Elect](#)

[New Members](#)

[Regional Reports](#)

[Rudy's Roost](#)

[Voices From The Past:](#) Ginny Fleming

[Handbells in Education](#)

Directing Position Available

[Email Address Notice](#)

[Area XII Website](#)

[From the Handbell-L](#)

Minutes: April, 2002 Board Meeting

[Letter To The Membership](#)

Ring Across England

Directors' Weekend Workshop and Retreat

Area V Handbell Composition Contest

Las Vegas Twelfth Night Festival

[Area XII Video List](#)

[Jeffers Handbell Supply](#)

[Membership Form](#)

[Editorial](#)

[WestCoast Handbell Supply](#)

[Gold Coast Music](#)

[Emerson Music](#)

[Concordia University](#)

[Malmark Handbells](#)

Publisher's Information

---

### A NOTE FROM THE ARM OF THE CHAIR

By this time, bell choirs are rehearsing, directors are planning, and the Board is preparing to meet September 27-29 to plan events for YOU, the members of Area XII. As the new Chair of Area XII, I'd like to introduce you to the Board members who are responsible for the guidance of our area. You have read the names on the front of *The Twelfth Tone*, and you might know some of us personally, but as this new term begins, let me tell you something about us.

First of all, **David Ruder**, our Chair-Elect, has been the Bay Area Regional Coordinator to the Board for several years. David's perspective as a music teacher and church musician and his experience as a director in many different venues will be invaluable as we make plans for Area XII.

Our new Secretary, **Jo Anne Hammond**, was Treasurer of Area XII for two terms and has also served as Southern California Regional Coordinator. Joanne will follow in the footsteps of Ruben Mendoza, our past Secretary.

**Debbie Davis** will continue for a second term as Treasurer, bringing extensive experience in accounting to the board.

**Cheryl Baker** will assume the position of Past Chair and will remain as the Area Representative to the National Board.

**Tammy Raetz** is the new Bay Area Regional Coordinator. As a writer and poet, she likes to express her love for bells in poetry and share it with other bell lovers. She is taking over David Ruder's position.

**Shirley Heckman** is the new LA Metro Regional Coordinator. She directs the handbell choirs at the La Verne Church of the Brethren and also plays with the Claremont UCC Bellringers. Shirley will succeed Nancy Durkee, who was our former LA Metro Regional Coordinator.

**Micki Mennet-Martin, Barbara Walsh, Ginger Harris, Louanne Marshall, and Paulette McFarlin** will continue as their respective Regional Coordinators. **Diane Bell** is the current Special Groups Liaison.

Other appointed officers will be familiar to many of you. After years of service on the board, Ken Collins has resigned as Membership Chair and will be followed by **Rudy Rodriquez**, Past Chair of Area XII. **Mel Tully**, immediate Past Chair, will serve as the Electronic Liaison. **Bill Waggener** will continue as *Twelfth Tone* Editor. Watch for new features that will soon be appearing in our newsletter.

**Mark Michaels**, who had been the 2004 Conference Chair, will have a new title of Event Coordinator. Mark spent several years in the national AGEHR office in Dayton, and Area XII is delighted to welcome him back to our area and have him share his expertise with us.

**Gary Delk**, another Past Chair, will be assuming the position of **Bells in Education**. Gary directed school groups for many years before his retirement. He will take over the position held by Ron Theile.

One of the most effective ways of developing choirs is local interaction with other directors and ringers as exemplified by the Guild motto, "uniting people in a musical art." Area XII has always created opportunities for choirs of varying experience to participate. I want to continue and expand these to accommodate the growing number of school and community groups in our area as well as support our many church-affiliated choirs.

It is a privilege to be serving as Area XII Chair. My past board experience was almost twenty years ago as Twelfth Tone editor. My husband Bill and I have shared the leadership of the bell choirs at the Claremont United Church of Christ for 30 years and find that we are continually learning from others as we join ringers and directors at bell events. Over the years, Area XII has been at the forefront of bellringing in this country through its creative leadership. I hope to continue this tradition. - *Lee Waggener*

---

## NEW MEMBERS

### New Members in July

Ann Schultz  
Worship Alliance Ministries  
Monterey, CA

Karen Thayer  
Fillmore, CA

Gail Vanderslik  
Mariposa, CA

Bill Miller  
Lincoln Glenn Church  
San Jose, CA

### New Members in August

Chong Hylun Song  
US Korean Presbyterian Church  
Burbank, CA

Kathy Leighton  
New Hope Lutheran Church  
Foresthill, CA

The Rev. Wendy Warner  
Geneva Presbyterian Church  
Modesto, CA

Theresa Jolley  
Pasadena, CA

---

## VOICES FROM THE PAST

(The second in a series.)

Patty Marquart Ginny Fleming Dick Coulter Diane Levorsen Gary Delk Mystery Chair

*In this series, former Chairs of Area XII have consented to a written "interview" about their experiences, memories, and other thoughts about Area XII. Each has been given the same set of questions, which appear within the text of their responses. As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AGEHR in 2004, I hope that this series will offer us a brief perspective of our past as we look forward to the next 50 years of "...uniting people through a musical art..." - wlw*

1. **WHEN, WHERE, and HOW** did you get started in handbells?

I first heard handbells (rehearsing for an upcoming service) while visiting a church in Long Beach in 1972. With my musical background as a percussionist, I was fascinated with the similarity in technique. On return to my home church, I mentioned to our pastor that I thought it would be great if we could have handbells in our music program. He was most supportive of the idea, since a church he had previously served had handbells. Several months later, he approached me saying the money was available to purchase bells and asked if I would be willing to start the program. Although I knew nothing about handbells at the time, I was willing to learn. Soon after that, Patty Marquart's Peace Ringers presented a concert in the area. That was the start of a most valuable friendship with Patty and her ringers and helped me get started in this new endeavor. Our bells arrived in February of 1973, and one and a half years later, the handbell program at our church consisted of seven choirs.

2. **WHAT FORMAL MUSICAL TRAINING** did you have prior to working with handbells?

I had twelve years of private study as a percussionist, a music emphasis in high school, and one year of college.

3. **WHAT** is your favorite handbell composition, and **WHY** is this work meaningful to you?

*Silverthorne* by Donald Allured. I had met and become friends with Don when he was writing this piece. He shared it with me on one of his trips to California and asked me to look at the tympani part. To me, this piece paints a beautiful picture of majestic mountains for which it is named, and I never tire of listening to or ringing *Silverthorne*.

4. **WHAT ADVICE** would you give to someone who is just starting to work with handbells?

Join AGEHR! There is no better way to acquire the help and training needed than to be an active member and participant in this organization. Take advantage of every opportunity possible to learn from experienced clinicians and directors. Handbell ringing is still a new musical art, with new material and techniques surfacing on a regular basis. There is always something new to learn.

5. **HOW LONG** have you been a member, and **WHAT** has The AGEHR meant to you?

I have been a member since 1973. My association with this organization has indeed changed the focus of my life for the past 29 years. Handbells became my life! Handbell people are fantastic, and I now have ringing friends all over the world. They are like a second family. Most importantly, this organization has provided the training and help I have needed as a ringer and director, enabling me to grow musically along with the choirs I have directed.

6. **WHAT POSITION(S)** have you held in The AGEHR, and **WHEN** did you serve in each position?

I honestly don't think I can remember all of them, but I started out with Area XII as a regional coordinator and then served in the cycle for chairman, serving as Area Chair from October, 1980 to October, 1982. I also served the Area as Activities Coordinator, chairing such events as the Shipboard Seminar and the 1992 Aloha Ring.

I served The AGEHR as Secretary for two terms from 1983 to 1987. In 1993, I was elected to the Presidential cycle, serving as President from 1995 to 1997. Over the years, I have served on several national committees, including various events and Bylaws. Currently, in retirement (!), I am serving on four committees, chairing three of them. My major work for the next two years will be as Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee as we make preparations for a year-long celebration in 2004 of 50 years for this wonderful organization.

7. **WHAT FUTURE** do you see for handbells? *More to the point, WHAT do you think MUST HAPPEN in order to elevate handbell ringing to the level of public support and recognition enjoyed by community orchestras, choral ensembles, and the like?*

We must constantly work to bring handbells to the forefront to be recognized by the public as a legitimate musical art. This is starting to happen with handbell choirs performing with symphony orchestras and professional groups offering outstanding performances. The addition of handbells to school curriculums, elementary through college, is vital, as is the proper training for teachers and directors. AGEHR must offer such training at all levels (local through national) on a regular basis. We must also continue to offer events and activities to entice ringers and directors to continue their participation in this musical art. - *Ginny Fleming*

---

**PAST CHAIR and NATIONAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE**

Our Area XII Ringers Conference "Best Little Handbell Conference" held in Reno this past June was a real success, from the opening mass ringing session under the baton of Arnold Sherman, to the many MANY classes offered (and so very much in between). There were well over 500 attendees, and any hesitancy over the Reno site was soon put aside when everyone arrived. What a great place! It had everything from luxury suites to KOA camping, from easy-access fast food to full-scale buffets, and then there was laser tag, bowling, golf, go-carts, and swimming pool. Like all good bell ringers, we play hard in and out of rehearsal! The other two divisional directors Mary Balkow and Ron Theile were terrific, and the solo concerts really showed off our Area XII pool of talent. A great big "thank you" to Cheryl Eckert and her extensive team for making it a wonderful event.

The National Board of Directors of AGEHR met in Des Moines, Iowa following the July Directors Seminar. I am very encouraged with how much was accomplished, and feel strongly that the board has taken some exciting steps. The dynamic new Executive Director, Jane Mary Tenhover was introduced, and she is a competent and personable leader who has many strengths that will contribute to the goals of our guild. In the short time so far at Dayton, she has assessed the immediate needs of the national office and taken actions to further these goals. Because expenses for our publications were exceeding our resources, the editor and assistant editor of Overtones have been replaced by an outside contractor. Overtones will continue to be the finest of

publications and will draw less from the monetary resources of the guild.

There are many exciting events and happenings at the national level:

- \* Plans for an advanced youth choir events in June 2003.
- \* Distinctly Bronze 2002 is already full, featuring a 4-choir "Bolero."
- \* The certification process has begun and will be fine tuned for beginning directors.
- \* Plans for AGEHR's 50th Birthday celebration in 2004.
- \* A Master Class in Conducting with Dr. William A. Payn planned for 1/30 - 2/2/03.
- \* Donald Allured is being honored for his service and for 25 years at Bayview, Michigan.
- \* Plans for national events for level 1 and 2 choirs.

Much of the National Board's time is now spent in discussing a new governance policy for AGEHR and subsequent change in our by-laws, and this will be the National Board's primary role as we move forward under our new Executive Director. Area Chairs are being educated about the impact on each area and its effect on the membership.

Although I turn over the Area XII business to our capable new Chair Lee Waggener, I will continue to serve out my term as Area XII's past-Chair for another two years. I will also continue to serve as Area XII's Representative to the National Board until the transition period is over and a new National Board structure is put into place (complete with elections and all). Until then, it continues to be an honor to serve Area XII members and their interests at all levels of AGEHR. Feel free to contact me or any other member of the Area XII Board with your complaints, concerns, questions, suggestions, and compliments. We are all volunteers here, and any information you may give is ALWAYS welcome!

- Cheryl Baker

---

### CHAIR-ELECT

This month I step into a new role as Chair-Elect. Lee Waggener, our go-gettin' new Chair, and I met a few weeks ago to plan for the future of Area XII. If only half our plans and dreams are fulfilled, we're going to have a wonderful next two years!

With a new era comes some changes, and in my case that means introducing Tammy Raetz as the new San Francisco Bay Area Regional Coordinator on the Board. For the next few months she will co-represent the area as she gets acquainted with her responsibilities and develops her own style. Feel free to contact either of us, or any of your area reps. regarding questions and for help with handbell matters.

One of my responsibilities will be to help plan for classes at handbell events, especially at the area conferences. Many of the Hawaii conference events will be culturally oriented, but there will be a few handbell oriented classes as well. If you have some brilliant ideas for future classes, pass them on with a brief description. All ideas will be seriously considered.

One of the Board's goals will be to respond to all inquiries within 24 hours. If we are out of town, that response may be delayed. Sometimes our response will be, "we'll get back to you, but we got your message." E-mails, phone calls, or letters are all welcome. The masthead provides contact information.

The next Area XII Board meeting will be held in the San Jose area Sept. 27-29. Please, if you have something to share with the Board, please contact your local representative in the next few days.

Looking forward to meeting many of you at various events. - David Ruder

---

### REGIONAL REPORTS



## Northern California

**Louanne Marshall** jfmarshall@jps.net

Greetings from Northern California! I have had (as I'm sure many of you did) a summer full of events, with the conference at Reno being one of my biggest highlights. I am eager now to get local events rolling and have been busy coordinating the Director's Workshop, which will be happening in February. I am currently breaking the ground for planning a Spring Ring in the Redding/Chico area or possibly the Santa Rosa/Ukiah area. If you have any ideas, comments, or suggestions, as always, please just email or call. I look forward to hearing from you!



## San Francisco Bay Area Report

**David Ruder** daveruder@aol.com

**Tammy Raetz** tammrae@earthlink.net

ANNUAL BAY AREA DIRECTORS AND ADVANCING RINGERS SEMINAR "Beyond The Basics" on Saturday, September 21,

You don't want to miss it! This annual seminar features new as well as favorite teachers and classes this year, along with a chance to ring through new music, join the seminar choir, and meet up with your Bay Area handbell friends. You can count on finding just what you need, including a dose of enthusiasm for the coming ringing season! Anyone interested in becoming a better ringer and/or director will find the tools they need here, from beginners to bronze.

Updated class list:

Session One:

- Reading Session, Levels 1-3 - William Kyle (Velocity)
- Musical Phrasing - Lynnelle Bilsey
- Solo Ringing and How to Coach It - Michèle Sharik (Sonos)
- Table Cover Design & Outfits - Dian Ruder
- Ringing Basics and How to Teach Them - Dolores Rhoads

Session Two:

- Christmas Music Reading Session - Dave Ruder
- Fine-tuning Handbell Techniques - Erin Downey & Missy Vaino (Sonos)
- Getting the Word Out (Communication & Publicity), -Tammy Raetz (Bay Bells)
- Seminar Choir - Lynnelle Bilsey
- Advanced Solo Ringing (continued from Session One) - Michèle Sharik (Sonos)

Session Three:

- Reading session, Levels 3-5 - William Kyle
- 4 in Hand Techniques - Dian Ruder
- TeamThink! - Tammy Raetz (Bay Bells)
- Hands On Change Ringing - Dave Ruder
- Fine-tuning Handbell Techniques - Erin Downey & Missy Vaino (Sonos)

Bring your ringers, bring your friends, and prepare for a "bellissima" morning!

If you get this in time, there's plenty of room to register at the door (\$25). For more information and registration information

contact: Contact: Dolores Rhoads, Registrar, (510) 522-5000, 2901 Central Ave., Alameda, CA 94501 or Dave Ruder .

**OPENING FOR RINGER:** The Ringing Belles Handbell Choir from Walnut Creek United Methodist Church is still seeking an advanced ringer who might like an added bellringing experience! We ring on 5 octaves of Malmark bells and generally perform just once every two months in church services, plus a spring concert. Rehearsals are Monday evenings, 4:30 to 6:30. Anyone interested contact the director, Jane Patty at JaneEPatty@aol.com.

**FOR SALE:** Three octaves of handchimes with cases, lovingly used. Great second set for your choir or school to have to send home with individual ringers to practice those pesky parts! Suzuki. Best offer over \$700.00. Contact: Mary Johnson mgjhsn@pacbell.net.

**LOOKING FOR MORE** ringing experience? Need help finding a choir? Or are you a choir seeking a director? Got bells to sell? Or perhaps you need a sub? Send in your notice to the Bay Area eNewsletter (tammrae@earthlink.net) and reach more than 200+ Bay Area ringers/directors to help get the word out, or if you prefer, ask to be put in touch with ringers or directors in your area.

**AS YOU PLAN YOUR PERFORMANCES**, or decide to host a visiting ensemble, make sure that the planning process includes a call or an email to your representative (see below) with all the concert information including date, time, place, cost, and contact phone number, so as to ensure the widest possible exposure in the eNewsletter.

And while you're at it, ask your friends (and your ringers if you are a director) to **SUBSCRIBE TO THE eNEWSLETTER**, to make our circle of influence grow--everybody benefits! All it takes is an email to Tammy (tammrae@earthlink.net) or Dave (DaveRuder@aol.com). Do it today!

The Area XII semi-annual Board Meeting is coming up the last weekend in September. I will be attending as your Bay Area representative for the first time, and want to do my best for you. If you have questions, concerns, comments, ideas (especially for Hawaii conference classes!), please get them to me by September 27 and I will put them before the Board on your behalf. Your input is critical to the development and direction of the Guild at both the local and national levels.

See you at the Director's Seminar in Cupertino on September 21st!



### **Central California**

**Paulette McFarlin** pmcfarlin@ocsnet.net

Rings are starting to commence in the central valley. Two Spring Rings are in the planning stages for late March. One will be held on the central coast in or near Atascadero and one in Fresno. Dates will be the last Saturdays in March (one or the other). You can choose the one closest to you. Both events are a first for the area and for the area planner, so this is your chance to get in on the fun from the start. More information will certainly be coming your way, but for now, save the last two Saturdays in March for ringing! Shirley Werner in Atascadero (shiple712@charter.net) and Paulette McFarlin (pmcfarlin@ocsnet.net) are the planners for these two events.

The Director's Workshop will be held Saturday, Feb. 8, 2003 at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atascadero. Usually when it is ugly in the central valley, it will be beautiful on the coast. A good chance to get into lovely sunshine and get together with other directors and ringers to learn more about this avocation of ours. More information will be coming on both the Spring Rings and Director's Workshop.

Bakersfield is holding its annual Twelfth Night this year after a year's hiatus. It will be held on Jan 10-12, 2003. No news as of yet who the clinician will be, but in the past events I attended, Clinicians Valerie Stephenson and Jim Smith were both powerhouses.

The small town of Exeter is beginning a Community Bell Choir under the direction of Mel Tully. The First United Methodist Church there has a five octave set of handbells that will be used to start the choir. It is pretty exciting for Exeter and the church. If you live near Exeter (about 10 miles east of Visalia) you might want to audition for the choir.



## Nevada

**Barb Walsh** [barbager@worldnet.att.net](mailto:barbager@worldnet.att.net)

Howdy! I hear that the Christine Anderson concert in Las Vegas was great! I finally had the opportunity to meet her at the conference in Reno. I was amazed as to how someone so tiny could play so many bells! Maybe one of my ringers, who is 6 foot 6 (Those of you who stood behind him at conference I'm SURE remember him!), could learn to play 6 octaves by himself with technique like that!

Coming up in Las Vegas is the 11th Annual 12th Night on Jan. 11-12, 2003. Lee Afdahl will be the director. Contact Janet Ty at e-mail [JYTY@aol.com](mailto:JYTY@aol.com), or Dixie Bailey e-mail [dxbaile3@prodigy.net](mailto:dxbaile3@prodigy.net).

In Reno, we're having a Ringers' Workshop on Oct. 5th. Dave and Dian Ruder are back by popular demand from the wonderful Directors' Seminar in March. Contact Barb Walsh at e-mail me at [barbager@worldnet.att.net](mailto:barbager@worldnet.att.net).

Are you interested in hosting a workshop in your area? Don't know the first question to ask? Contact me and I'll be glad to help!



## Southern California

**Micki Mennet-Martin** [mennet@aol.com](mailto:mennet@aol.com)

The Celebration Bell's and JuBELLation of First United Methodist Church of Escondido played "I Love Thee" arranged by Douglas Wagner for the church's Wednesday, September 11, 2002, Memorial Service using bells and chimes. JuBELLation played September 15th for both 9:00am and 10:30am services - "I Love Thee" and "Joy Shall be Mine In The Morning" by Douglas Wagner. JuBELLation accompanied the Chancel Choir

singing the latter piece.

Kevin Kwan of San Diego Harmony Ringers writes that the community choir has a busy Christmas and Holiday season approaching. This year's list of venues will include Balboa Park's Annual Christmas on the Prado and the Episcopal Community Services Advent Lessons and Carols Service. For a complete listing of events, including dates and times, be sure to check their website at <http://web.ms11.net/sdhringers>. Coming soon to the website will be a video segment from a recent performance. Kevin wishes everyone "Happy Ringing".

On September 15, 2002, the First United Methodist Church of Chula Vista "Ensemble", lead by Jo Anne Hammond, Area XII Treasurer, played a medley of "As the Deer and Majesty" for the 9:30am service.

---

### RUDY'S ROOST

I'm ba-a-a-a-a-  
a-a-a-a-ack!

Did you miss me? I know some of you did. From time to time some of you would come up to me at various bell events and tell me how you missed my columns in the Twelfth Tone. You were very kind. So here and now, in public, I would like to thank all the people who told me that they missed my column. So, "Thank you" to both of you.

I am your new Area XII Membership Chair taking over the reins from Ken Collins. Ken did an outstanding job for many years. Thanks Ken.

Before we get to bell business, I would like to relay a little story to you: Last 4th of July, the first one since the attacks of 9/11, my wife and I went to the fireworks show put on by the City of Westminster. Westminster is an average, All-American city. Population about 60,000. No big theme parks. No Big Businesses. Just your typical middle-class town full of hard-working people. People of all ethnic backgrounds. People just getting together at the local high school for a free fireworks show.

As you may recall, a national alert went out a few days before the 4th of July warning of possible terrorist attacks, and that we should be on the alert. Bridges were being patrolled. Additional military aerial patrols were flown. The question of the day was: Where would the attack strike on the 4th?

For us gathered at the high school stadium that night, we wanted to show our Unity and Patriotism even in the face of a possible attack. As I sat on that high school gridiron, where young men play mock war games in sport, I could hear families around me speaking in Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese as well as English. Our National Anthem was sung that night in English with a Vietnamese accent by a man, now a successful businessman and local politician, who escaped the collapsing South Vietnam in 1975. The National Anthem never sounded so good.

On that 4th of July, I could see Samoan families, Philippino families, Guatemalan families, and other "minority ethnic groups" gathered together. I, too, belong to a "minority ethnic group." My ancestors did not come over on "The Boat". My ancestors met "The Boat." We may not all have the same roots, but we all share the same Unity: Americans.

It was sad to see the great loss of life on 9-11, but our 4th of July gathering had more than 5 times that number in attendance. Did that make us terrorist target? Is this more dangerous than crossing the Golden Gate Bridge or working in a skyscraper?

I submit to you that on that 4th of July I felt more patriotic than at any other time of my life. By assembling together, we were telling the terrorists, "We will NOT be intimidated! We will not go quietly into the night! We will NOT be forced into a dark corner to tremble and fear. We are Americans! We are strong. We will persevere!"

And what does all this have to do with handbells? Everything! A cornerstone of this great country of ours is: "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." Handbells is a big part of my "Pursuit of Happiness." We enjoy music and the fine arts in this country because of the freedoms guaranteed to us by our Constitution. We promote bell ringing because this country encourages the active exchange of ideas and dreams. There are those who focus all of their attention on the flaws they see in this country, but I would rather revel in the Good in this country of ours. Dreams flourish in our country and then become realities.

There are those who say that the terrorist wanted to change this country and the way we live. I think they did. We HAVE changed - for the Better.

Pithy saying for the day:

*To live and let live is good.  
To live and help live is better.*

*- Rudy Rodriquez*

---

### **FROM THE HANDBELL-L**

*Recently, the following exchange appeared on the Handbell-L which contained a wonderful list of suggestions for an aspiring showcase group to enhance its opportunities for performance. Its author, Kath Wissinger, has given permission to reproduce it here. I have taken the liberty of substituting the contact information for our Area XII Chair for that of the Chair of the mid-Western region from which this originated - wlv.*

*Her thoughts are in response to a posting from another director, who said:*

“I am looking for an opportunity for my group to perform somewhere (showcase, festival, or contest). My group is 9-12 public school group of four octaves. We are located in southwestern Wisconsin. We might be able to travel to Minneapolis, or Chicago (can't think of much south west of us). I think we are DARN GOOD!!!”

You're really good?

- Make a CD
- Contact your local First Night Committee (New Year's Eve Celebrations) or any other big, local seasonal event, and offer to be a showcase concert
- Plan a tour, playing concerts and worship service
- Contact local churches and offer to play for their services to bolster their bell programs (nursing/retirement homes also welcome youth to share their talents.)
- Make a contact in your local schools (the music teacher or principal is a good choir) and offer to present concerts for the school, either full school or by grades: a shorter program for K-2 and a longer more involved one for 3-5 (with student participation)
- Contact your state Music Teachers' Organization and offer to play at their state conference
- Contact your local public Television station and see if they film a Christmas concert to play over the Holiday. Offer to be the group they record.
- Contact your Area Chair Lee Waggener (1631 Oxford, Claremont, CA 91711-3464, (909) 624-0236) and see what opportunities there are. Alanna Teragawa in MN may also be able to help - Salura@unitelc.com
- Check with your school's choral director and see about working on some joint pieces.
- Consider going to the Advanced Youth Ringer Festival in Anaheim this summer.

We found many of the above to be great outlets for ringing (others are ones we never got around to).

- Kath Wissinger

---

### A LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The following letter from President Karen Leonard and President-Elect Beth Watson was sent to the Guild leadership since the August-September *Twelfth Tone* was issued. We are pleased to publish it here. - Lee Waggener

July 24, 2002

To: Area Chairs, Area Chairs-Elect, Area Representatives, State Chairs

From: Karen E. Leonard, President  
Beth Watson, President-Elect

Dear AGEHR colleagues:

Thank you to those who were available to participate in the Area Chairs' meeting at the National Director's Seminar. This letter is in response to questions that were raised at that meeting. It is our hope that this outline will be of use to you in disseminating information to your Boards. Please feel free to share copies of this letter in its entirety through your newsletters. Electronic copies have been sent to your Area Reps.

IF the membership votes to approve proposed revisions in the AGEHR National bylaws...  
... what will the Areas gain by a direct working relationship with the Executive Director?

- a long-term relationship with the Executive Director
- more power (will have more direct impact on organization)
- financial advice
- legal advice
- Area Board governance management advice
- membership support
- event support resources
- a link with day-to-day operations nationally
- support for day-to-day operations on the Area level
- improved communication with other Areas
- an Executive Director fully in charge of Guild operations
- a more cohesive AGEHR

**... what will be familiar?**

- Area Board governance (Area business as usual)
- Area events
- an annual meeting of Area Chairs
- AGEHR mission statement
- membership benefits
- membership voting privileges, including elections and bylaws
- entire membership elects President-elect

**... what is new?**

- an Executive Director fully accountable for all Guild operations
- a direct working link to the Executive Director
- direct Area representation to the Executive Director through Advisory Council
- purpose of National Board – visioning body
- size of National Board – seven elected members
- entire voting membership elects the five at-large Board members
- Executive Director manages all finances (no Finance Department Chair)
- Executive Director appoints recording Secretary (no elected Secretary due to dramatic reduction in the amount of Board written documents)
- Executive Director appoints committees and their Chairs

The Board appointed a nominating committee at the July 2002 meeting. That committee has been charged to begin now looking at candidates to be nominated for President-elect. Simultaneously, the membership will be receiving the bylaws revisions and a ballot to be returned within one month. The ballot will allow all voting members to select a new President-elect and vote on bylaw revisions.

If the by-laws revisions are approved, the nominating committee will propose a slate of eight candidates for five at-large Board positions and an additional election will be held.

If the bylaw revisions are not approved, the nominating committee will propose a slate of candidates according to the existing bylaws. The slate of candidates will be sent to the membership as soon as possible for voting. New officers will assume their duties upon election.

The Area Boards should proceed with their elections as prescribed in their bylaws.

Beth appreciates the opportunity to meet with the Area Chairs at Seminar. Karen and Beth are currently representing the Guild at the International Handbell Symposium in Busan, Korea. During the time they are out of the country, please feel free to

contact Nancy Lutz or your Area Representative with any concerns.

The National Board of Directors is very excited about the possible new direction for our organization. **We covet your support in these endeavors.**

Sincerely,

Karen and Beth

---

**LOOK AT YOUR MAILING LABEL!**

Please look at the mailing label on this issue - does it have a **red dot**?

If your mailing label **DOES** have a **red dot**, then we do **NOT** have an email address for you in the Area XII membership records. If you **DO** have an email account, please send a brief message to Lee Waggener, Area Chair, at [Lwaggener@aol.com](mailto:Lwaggener@aol.com) so that you can be added to the Area's email roster.

In addition to the E-Newsletters released periodically by the Regional Coordinators, there may be other opportunities to communicate with the membership via email which we have not yet uncovered. Among the possibilities under consideration are occasional electronic communications from the Board to everyone whose email address is on file - but if **WE** don't have your electronic address, **YOU** won't be getting the message! - *Lee Waggener*

---

**AREA XII WEB SITE**

The Area XII Web Site is your information highway.

The Area XII Board of Directors is looking for your ideas in what you want on the site and what is helpful to you.

Do you have pictures of past Area XII conferences or some other information that you would like to be on web? Please send it to Mel Tully or e-mail it to the [webmaster@areaxii.org](mailto:webmaster@areaxii.org). It would be fun to see the past and present in one place.

Area XII would like to have all Area XII concert information on the calendar page. Send all information to the [Webmaster@AreaXII.org](mailto:Webmaster@AreaXII.org).

Does your organization have a web site? The we would like to have all Area XII handbell web sites on one page in the internet at [AreaXII.org](http://AreaXII.org).

The Area XII web site now has for your information:

- Calendar of events
- 2002 Conference pictures from Reno
- E-Newsletters from the Regional Representatives
- Copies of *The Twelfth Tone*
- Contact information for the Area XII officers

- *Webmaster Area XII Web Page Mel Tully*

---

## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19-22, 2002, BOARD MEETING

The Executive Committee appointed Mel Tully as Electronic Liaison for the remainder of the current term ending on August 31, 2002.

The Executive Committee approved the transfer of \$200 to fund equipment for [ringem.org](http://ringem.org) which hosts the Area XII website.

Secretary Ruben Mendoza has updated the Area XII Rules of Procedure. He is also organizing the Conference Choir for the Ringers' Conference in Reno.

Treasurer Debbie Davis submitted Financial Statements and Reports for the current fiscal year (September 1, 2001, to date). Total income for this period is \$26,850.55, the total expense was \$6,277.81, and the current balance on hand is \$44,873.47.

Chair Cheryl Baker reviewed the coming changes in the fee structure and responsibilities with regard to Guild- endorsed events that will go into effect on October 1, 2002. She also described the proposed restructuring of the National Board which is intended to facilitate the day-to-day operation of the Dayton office as well as to enhance the effectiveness of the Executive Director. Cheryl will represent Area XII at the National Board meeting in July, 2002.

Past-Chair Mel Tully reported that none of the composition contest submissions was chosen for use at the Reno Ringers' Conference. Because no one applied for the Director's Jim Scott Memorial Scholarship, the Board approved the awarding of a second Ringer Scholarship. The Board also approved awarding six partial scholarships consisting of the registration fee for the Reno Ringers' Conference only.

Chair-Elect Lee Waggener has planned the classes for the Ringers' Conference in Reno and the signup materials are ready to be sent. A major goal is to expand communication between members of Area XII and the Board in multiple way including the e-newsletters.

Membership Chair Ken Collins reported the current Area XII membership to be 591. As Registrar of the Ringers' Conference, he also sought and received direction regarding how to proceed with several registration issues.

**Twelfth Tone** Editor Bill Waggener will begin printing and mailing *The Twelfth Tone* locally in order to be able to monitor its preparation and mailing more closely. A preliminary survey of advertising charges of other Areas' newsletters suggests that our charges are low in comparison. Relevant articles and other material for publication is always welcome.

2002 Conference Chair Cheryl Eckert presented the tentative schedule for the Ringers' Conference in Reno which was discussed and revised. The logo for the polo shirts has been designed, and registrant gifts have been ordered.

2004 Conference Chair Mark Michaels presented a tentative budget, a possible schedule, and a mockup of a brochure. This event will probably be focused on level B and C bell groups; however, Mark recommended holding a second event in California in 2004 for those who are unable to travel to Hawaii.

Regional Coordinators Louanne Marshall (Northern California), David Ruder (San Francisco Bay Area), Paulette McFarlin (Central California), Micki Mennet-Martin (Southern California), and Barbara Walsh (Nevada) reported on the past and future activities in their respective regions.

Bells in Education Coordinator Ron Theile reported that various people in education have contacted him regarding administrative, management, and fund-raising issues. He will prepare articles for *The Twelfth Tone* which will respond to their questions.

Other issues discussed during the meeting include (1) whether Area XII should have annual events in rotation through the five areas, (2) that Area XII needs new volunteers, and (3) that Area XII needs to focus in areas which haven't been visited recently.

The Fall, 2002 Board meeting will be held September 27-29, 2002.

---

### A NOTE FROM THE KEYBOARD

Just about the time this reaches you, the Area XII Board of Directors - *your* Area XII Board of Directors - will hold its annual Fall meeting over the weekend of September 27-29, 2002. The agenda for this planning session is based entirely on the officers' best guesses about what is important to you.

Many of you responded to the Membership Survey that was sent twice last year with *The Twelfth Tone*, and many of your ideas will be represented in the Board's upcoming discussions. However, both time and a Ringers' Conference have transpired since those surveys were tabulated, and it is quite likely that new ideas, suggestions, and needs have risen to the surface. How will *your* Board respond? That depends entirely on whether *you* let us know what those new ideas, suggestions, and needs happen to be! [Mutual communication has been a theme we've stressed over the last year, and now is an excellent and opportune time to actually *call* someone on the Board to share a relevant thought.]

Related to those ideas, suggestions, and membership needs are the membership volunteers who donate their time, talent, and energy to make things happen. The Board is currently in a transition period during which some long-time faithful volunteers have had to end their service as other responsibilities have emerged in their lives. We owe them a communal debt of gratitude for the huge amount of time they each dedicated to us and to Area XII. However, the ongoing success of our organization will depend on whether other members will now take their turns at making things happen. (And several have already stepped up to do just that.)

There is a wide range to the tasks that need doing - from hosting a little, local workshop to responsibility for planning the next Ringers' Conference. Although the Board discusses the need for "new blood" at almost every meeting, finding the people whose talents and available time are unique to these tasks can be both random and daunting, and it is a virtual certainty that the really "right" persons for the jobs may go untapped only because we don't know who they are.

One of the delightful challenges that the Guild has presented to all of us is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2004 - which also happens to be the year of our next Ringers' Conference(s?). There will be a host of special events going on throughout that year - all of which will need some of *us* behind the scenes to make them happen. As noted in the minutes of the April, 2002, meeting (see page 12), the Board is strongly considering presenting a state-side event to parallel the Hawaii Ringers' Conference for those of us who, for a variety of valid reasons, are simply unable to travel that far. To do so will take help - a *lot* of help. HmMMM, did we just hear *you* volunteer?

William L. Waggener  
Editor