

# NOTES FROM AREA 1 CHAIR



Carlene Ruesenberg  
Area 1 Chair

Happy New Year! As I write this, it's probably one of the coldest days on record so far this winter, and already we're looking forward to a spring and summer of fun handbell events. By the time this issue of Fundamental Tone hits your inbox, I'll be seeing many of you at our Winter Workshop at UMass/Amherst, and hearing the inaugural Distinctly New England choir under the leadership of Karen James. I always look forward to that event because it's a great way to kick off the year!

Don't forget to register for one of the four Spring Rings being held throughout our Area in March and April. These events are great opportunities for your choir to spend a day rehearsing the Festival/Conference repertoire, and to get a chance to hone your skills or learn something new. See this issue of the Fundamental Tone, or go to our web site for more information on how to register. A Spring Ring is a great way for new ringers to get their feet wet in a group setting, and once they do, they'll never look back! I know that's what happened to me when I attended my first Spring Ring over thirteen years ago! I don't think I've missed a year of attending at least one since! This year, I'm planning to attend all four!

This is the year for Area 1 elections, and your Nominating Committee is meeting now to find candidates for the positions of Chair-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. Keep your eye out for more information in the coming months. Voting will be in April, and as in the last election, it will be done online. If you think you might want to step up and get more involved with Area 1, please let us know. If you know of someone who might be a great candidate, also let us know. The Area 1 Board is a group of dedicated handbell musicians who work tirelessly to promote the art of handbell ringing in all communities, and work to support anyone who is interested in our unique instrument.

Are you aware that Area 1 has a chime loaner program? We own five 3-octave sets of handchimes that we loan to people interested in starting a handchime / handbell program, but don't have the funds to get the equipment. They're generally loaned for a full year (September – August) so they can be used as part of a school year, or church program year. We provide books and other learning materials to help recipients get started. Applications are available online, and can be submitted to Holly Cerullo, our chime loaner chair, at any time. If you know of someone who would benefit from using a set of chimes, contact Holly at [chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org).

As always, if you have any questions about what Area 1 can do for you please feel free to contact me at [chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org)

Happy ringing!

Carlene Ruesenberg