

# Notes from MASSACHUSETTS



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Greeting from your MA state chair.

For many of us, this is a busy time for end-of-the-year activities and concerts before we plan for another new season of ringing. Our work is never ending!

But let's take a look at an event that took place since the last *Fundamental Tone* issue. Massachusetts Spring Ring was held on April 6 at Tewksbury Memorial High School with Dan Moore as guest clinician directing the 116 registered ringers. Instead of afternoon rehearsals and evening concert, we moved the schedule up, starting at 11:00 AM with concert at 3:00 PM.



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A simple survey of all ringers and directors indicated that this new time was well received. Although the lunch break seemed long for some because of a few solo rehearsals followed by the Tins division rehearsal, the survey results were mixed with some ringers not liking the long break while others enjoyed a chance to go outside to enjoy the beautiful weather and take a walk. A suggestion was made that we offer a couple of optional short skill workshops next year, which the planning committee will certainly consider. Karen Quist took over the role that her mother, Lynn Masson, previously managed, which was to oversee the sales of items from Handbell Services. There was a very good variety of items for sale, and we received a percentage of sales from Handbell Services. Plans have already started for planning Spring Ring 2020, and we hope more directors and ringing groups will plan to attend. Save the date: March 28, 2020. Be sure to look in the August 2019 *FT* issue for Spring Ring repertoire.

I encourage you to take the time to check out the web sites for Merrimack Valley Ringers [mvringer.org](http://mvringer.org) and Back Bay Ringers [backbayringers.org](http://backbayringers.org) for their June concerts. Both groups present great concerts.

Coming up in June will be the Area 1 Festival Conference at the University of Hartford, CT, June 27 - 30. The amazing Forte Handbell Quartet will be the Opening Concert Performers. I had the wonderful opportunity of witnessing their incredible skills at the National Seminar in Rochester NY in July 2016, and I am very much looking forward to hearing them and watching them perform again. And I also look forward to ringing under the direction of Kevin McChesney and Cathy Moklebust. What an awesome opportunity!

Another Save -The-Date: September 28, 2019. Skill Building Workshop and Holiday Repertoire Reading Workshops, sponsored by Lincoln Ringers and Bells of St. Matthew's at S. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Acton. More information will be coming soon.

If you will be attending Festival Conference or an MVR Concert, please look for me and introduce yourself. I would really like to get to know more MA ringers and directors. Or email [ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org) and tell me about you and your 'ringings'.

Continued Happy Ringing!

Sue 