

Notes from the CHAIR

Hello Directors and Ringers of Area 1,



We are living in interesting times. As I write this, churches, schools, and social venues are shutting down for two to six weeks, and we aren't sure when things will start opening up again. Unfortunately, this has effected all of our Spring Rings. We have had to cancel or rescheduled all of our Area 1 Spring Rings, and I'd like to thank our State Chairs, Registrar (Susan Schultz), and Treasurer (Matt Sczurek) who have been busy making calls behind the scenes, communicating, and ensuring that this has been as easy on you, our members, as it possibly can be. Keep an eye on the Area 1 website for announcements about new dates.

While social distancing is a great practice and will help to get this pandemic under control, it does make practicing the art of handbell ringing especially difficult, since it is a very social activity and many of us count the social aspect as a key reason to keep on doing it, even into our later years. While you are away from handbells, consider watching a pre-recorded concert, like the Distinctly Bronze concert at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgPXvEkULpU>. Area 1 was well represented with seven ringers attending.

You can also get your handbell fix by re-reading the latest issue of Overtones at <https://handbellmembers.org/overtones-current-issue/>, and attending the **next Member-Chat, "Starting a Community Handbell Group" on Saturday, April 25, 2020 1:00 p.m. Eastern time. You can sign up for it here: <https://handbellmusicians.org/notices/next-chat/>. Finally, consider taking one of the Virtual Bell Academy courses available at <https://handbellmusicians.org/events/virtualbellacademy/>.**

Hopefully when you hear from me next we'll all be back behind the tables and ringing with our friends again. Until then, wash your gloves, disinfect your bells, and stay safe!

Happy Ringing,
Lisa Arnold
Chair, Area 1
Handbell Musicians of America

