

Notes from the CHAIR



Lisa Arnold, Chair Area 1
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Welcome to fall, fellow Handbell Musicians,

It's time for Back to School and more importantly, **Back to Bells!** I'm sure you're all busy getting back into the swing of things: teaching new ringers how to ring their very first note, spreading enthusiasm and excitement for your first performance, or perhaps rehearsing your Christmas program. Your Area 1 Board has been working hard all summer to present programs that will help each of you to 'unite people through the musical art of handbell and handchime ringing...through mentorship, education and events.' We just held our fall Board meeting in Essex, CT, and there is a lot going on in 2019-2020!

First, be sure to check out the rest of the *Fundamental Tone*, for information about upcoming events in your area, including:

- * Free Fall Skill Building Workshops
- * RI Holiday Handbell Spectacular
- * Winter Workshop - with an exciting new format!
- * Friends and Family Handbell Camp, and much more...

Next, I'd like to introduce **Emlee Kohler** as our new Membership Chair. You can find Emlee ringing with Back Bay Ringers or subbing in choirs throughout New England. Please feel free to contact Emlee at membership.area1@handbellmusicians.org for any questions you have about your membership.

Also joining us is **Jennifer Stack**, who will be taking over the Chime Loan program from **Holly Cerullo**. Jennifer directs at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chelmsford, MA and rings with Merrimack Valley Ringers. Holly has done an amazing job getting chimes out into the community these past several years, and I can't wait to see what Jen's enthusiasm will bring to the role.

Finally, the board has spent the last two years putting together a strategic plan that will allow us to grow as a Handbell Musicians of America Area. Now is the time to put that plan into action. Each board member has been asked to come up with a two-year goal to help us to increase youth engagement and provide more support for you, our members. I can't give you the details of mine yet, but I can say it involves securing a grant, so if you or anyone you know has experience with grant writing and would be willing to consult or help out in any way, please reach out to me at chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org.

Happy Ringing,

Lisa Arnold

Chair, Area 1

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