

Notes from the CHAIR



K. Joy Toll-Chandler
Chair, Area 1

Hello Area 1!

Today was our Biennial meeting and the first meeting of the new Board. I'm excited to be stepping into the role as chair of Area 1 - the area where "it all began!" We have been so fortunate to have the leadership of Carlene and Lisa as our last 2 chairs (and of course all the others before that too - but I've had the privilege of working with these amazing women the last 2 years) - and I am especially grateful for their help in getting ready for the next two years.

I'm also really excited to welcome our new officers - we really have quite a turnover - secretary and treasurer, as well as a new chair-elect. They join a board filled with seasoned leaders as well as fairly new board members, but all wonderful people eager to help us have a great ringing experience here in Area 1. It's really a powerful, dedicated team!

It's no secret that this last year and a half have seen challenges like never before - and they have certainly affected each one of us personally, as well as our various ringing groups. It was exciting to hear today that many groups are starting up again!! But of course there's going to be some rebuilding time - for our ringing muscles, our groups, and for our entire Area 1. I talked to the Board today about "re-connecting" and "connecting" - and it will be a very strong emphasis for me for this next year. NO WHERE do people work together in the same way that we do as handbell ringers - i love that we ALL ring ONE instrument! What a powerful message our unity and connection is - and can be - in this world that is so hurting and fractured.

I look forward to connecting with MANY of you in the year ahead - at a small or large event, at festival, in your state or at a rehearsal sometime. We asked the question today "what do you need?" Feel free to let your state chair or myself know what you and your choir needs this year! I would love to hear from you and will do my best to help you, and to lead well.

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