

Hello Western Mass!

A few short weeks ago we were at National Seminar celebrating the 70th anniversary of where it all began! From taking classes to participating in the ringing tracks with our favorite composers, it was a 5-day musical adventure with lots of old friends and many new ones. Every day we were treated to not one but two outstanding concerts from groups across the country. Be sure to check out the highlights on the Area 1 or HMA Facebook pages. And as the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, so below are a few pictures of western Mass attendees having an amazing time!

Western Mass represents in the Beginners Ringing Track Concert:

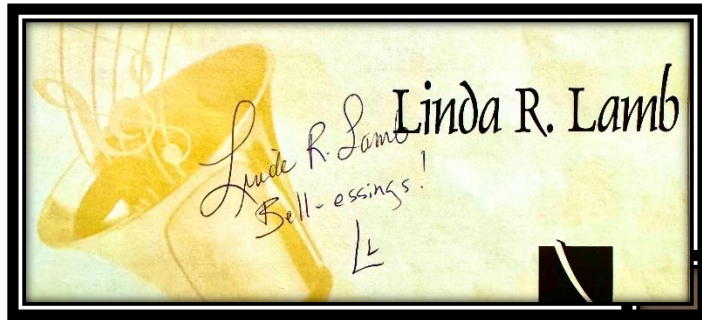


How about a little Photo Booth Fun?



Can you find where you ring or where you want to ring?





One of the benefits of finding out you are positioned right next to the arranger of one of the pieces you are ringing in the Intermediate Track (The God of Abraham Praise)!

Who's ready for Area 1 Festival Conference 2025? Stevie Berryman is the Massed and Tins clinician. After taking a single class with her we knew right away that our next festival is going to be magical.



Other news from the west – we are holding our September 14th board meeting followed by a Ring Social at the First Congregational Church of Hadley, 102 Middle Street, Hadley MA. The meeting will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This meeting is open to all members, so please come, meet the board, and hear firsthand what we are up to this fall and the coming year. As a bonus, there will be a Ring Social in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Come and join us! Keep an eye on the Area 1 website for more details. And don't forget to RSVP so we know to expect you.

We are also continuing to plan for our next western Mass workshop. Save the date: it will be on October 26th at the First Congregational Church of Hadley (see address above). This will be a day of skill building with multiple class choices in the morning and an afternoon session that will focus solely on Festival 2025 music using the skills you worked on in the morning sessions. We are still fine-tuning the details, so please watch the Area 1 events page for specifics and registration. [Workshops and Spring Rings - Area 1 Handbell Musicians of America](#)

I hope you have a great rest of your summer and you are finding ways to beat the heat. If you know of any ringing happenings in our area, please reach out so I can help spread the word and the joy of handbells. Until next time!

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