

Notes from MASSACHUSETTS



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April has arrived, and as you read this latest issue of Fundamental Tone, your Area 1 board continue to plan and work for you. We have had and will have some exciting events for handbell ringers and directors.

The Area 1 Winter Workshop in February at UMass/Amherst was wonderful. There was something for everyone. If you were not able to attend this year, I certainly hope you will plan to attend next February. Remember, this is now both a director and ringers event.

Coming very soon will be the MA Spring Ring on Saturday, April 6 at Tewksbury Memorial High School, 320 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury MA, with guest clinician Dan Moore.

We listened to suggestions by directors and moved the rehearsal and concert times up. Arrival and set up will be 10:00-11:00AM, rehearsal from 11:00-2:30, with free public concert at 3:00 PM.

Being Festival/Conference year, all four massed ringing pieces are also F/C pieces. What a great way to make sure at least those pieces are well rehearsed and performed.

Besides groups from MA, we have individual ringers coming from NH and VT, and groups from NH and RI, as well as a high school group from ME. If you are not attending this year, please seriously consider attend in 2020. We very much want to keep the registration fee low, and that can only happen if we have many handbell groups from our own state registering and attending. The cost of renting the school, paying for the sound engineer, and paying our guest clinician is an expense that can not be avoided. And if you didn't register this year, please come to our concert Saturday, April 6 at 3:00PM to support your fellow directors and ringers.

I know the three major community choirs in MA are seriously preparing for their spring concerts. Check out the web sites for concerts near you. Back Bay Ringers (<http://www.backbayringers.org/>), Merrimack Valley Ringers (<http://mvringers.org/>), and New England Ringers (<http://newenglandringers.org/>). All three groups present great programs, and will be well worth attending.

Finally, we are getting very excited for Festival/Conference2019. Krishna and his F/C committee have been working extremely long and hard to make this one of the best. The location sounds fabulous, ringing under the direction of two clinician, Kevin McChesney and Cathy Moklebust will surely be an experience to remember, and the opening concert by the Forte Handbell Quartet will be exceptional. I attended their concert in Rochester NY three years ago and you have to see them actually witness their incredible talents.

Remember, your membership in Handbell Musicians of America offers you incredible resources, but you need to take advantage of the many opportunities - - workshops, Spring Rings, Festival/Conference, not to mention all you can access on the web site. And I am here to help in any way I can. Please send me an email to tell me about your handbell program, big or small. My email is: ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org

May you continue to enjoy the wonderful music of handbells.

Happy Ringing and Happy Spring!

Sue 🎵