

Notes from MAINE



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Hello Maine Ringers!

I am excited to join you as the new Maine State Chair. While I've been ringing for over 14 years, being part of Area 1 is new to me and there is much to learn. However, in her eight years as state chair, Sue Evans developed a very well-organized table for me step up to, and I offer Sue a beautiful bell peal of thanks for everything she did for Maine bell ringers. I had the opportunity to meet Sue as an occasional substitute ringer with her choir at the Cumberland Congregational Church in 2019, and I am thankful for that.

Planning for Spring Ring 2022 (a.k.a, Spring Ring 2020 + 2) is well underway. I've had the pleasure and great fun in joining Planning Committee members Kim Visbaras, Debbie Hillman, Laura Begenwald, Gail Kelly and Amy Rollins as they rework the details for the event being held on Sat, March 26. Many details will be the same as for 2020. The

location will be at the Auburn Middle School, Dan Moore and Kim Visbaras will return as directors, the music selections are the same – a bonus if you had already purchased yours – merchandise will be available for purchase, and a concert will be held at the end of the day for family and friends.

We've made a few tweaks to make the gathering a little gentler and more fun as we slowly re-enter the world of group ringing. We will focus on rehearsing the music in the Copper and Tin groups and will not hold clinics. We have ideas to make the day fun and social as we come together for the first time since 2018. The registration fee will be \$24 for adults and \$12 for students in high school and younger. This is a reduction from the 2020 rate of \$30. In light of all that has happened in the last two years, we felt it was appropriate to reduce the rate for this year only. In addition, since we simply can't predict what the Covid situation will be (who would've guessed, other than maybe a few prescient virologists, that we'd be back to full masking again), lunch will not be served and participants will be asked to arrange for their own lunch. However, morning coffee and snacks will be provided.

To help us get a feel for attendance, you will receive an email from Kim Visbaras in the next several weeks inquiring if you plan to attend. We would greatly appreciate a reply to help us in our planning.

Best wishes to you all as your bell groups begin to come together this fall with renewed excitement in ringing!

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