

Notes from the CHAIR



Happy Holidays!

As Handbell Musicians, we are all entering our busiest season, and I'm sure you've all been working hard to prepare your groups for the upcoming holidays.

As a director, why not encourage your ringers to attend a concert by a local community choir or another nearby church choir. Everyone benefits. Your ringers will learn by seeing and hearing another handbell ensemble perform, and the performing choirs will enjoy seeing fellow ringers in the audience. Area 1 has so many talented and dedicated community choirs, and I'm sure there's a concert close by that you can attend. Some choirs are playing into January, so if your December is too busy, you can stretch out the holiday music beyond Epiphany!

Check out the ads in this edition of the *Fundamental Tone*, or check the [Area 1 Ensemble Map](#) to find other handbell ensembles near you.

More exciting changes on the Area 1 Board.

I'd like to thank **Susan Lee**, who is stepping down after having served as Massachusetts State Chair for many years, and has done a wonderful job organizing the MA Spring Rings and many other activities over the years. Sue has asked **Abby Schoppe** to step into this role as of November 1st, and I'm excited to see what she'll be able to accomplish with her dynamic personality and passion for music. Also, I'd like to thank **Bridget Scarlato** for having served as Connecticut State Chair for the past year. **Gina Williams** will be taking over for her. Gina's obvious enthusiasm will be most welcome.

[Registration is open now](#) for Winter Workshop, which will be held January 31- February 1, 2020 at UMass/Amherst. Based on last year's success and your feedback, this year we are offering two ringing tracks – Distinctly New England and Before Bronze. Select your track and ringing preference at registration, and you will receive your assigned ringing position in early January, allowing you an opportunity to purchase your music and study it ahead of time. There will be a closing performance on Saturday afternoon.

As always, if you have any comments or questions, I can be reached at chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org. I'm looking forward to seeing you at a concert near you!

Wishing you the best this holiday season!
Lisa Arnold
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