

Notes from the CHAIR



Carlene Ruesenberg
Area 1 Chair

Happy spring, everyone!

I'm sure you're all ready to put this year's winter snow behind you, and are looking forward to sunnier and warmer days ahead! I know I am! Spring can only mean *Spring Rings*, and there are still a couple happening in Area 1! Show your support for your fellow handbell ringers by coming to the Massachusetts Spring Ring in Tewksbury, MA on April 6, or the Vermont Spring Ring in Hinesburg, VT on April 27; they're also hosting a Director's Workshop the day before in Essex Junction, VT. Even if you aren't coming to ring, I hope you can show your support by attending their final concerts!

By now, I'm sure you've heard that Festival/Conference is on its way. Individual registrations are open online now. There's a terrific line-up of classes and workshops, ringing tracks, and fun non-bell related activities, so check it out! This year's event at the University of Hartford is one not to be missed! Register now, before the Early Bird deadline of **April 30** to get the best rates.

One of the things that your Area 1 Board discusses on a regular basis is 'what are the benefits of membership to the Handbell Musicians of America'. Sure, there are always workshops and festivals to go to, or networking and learning to be done, but those are only as good as the people who work to put them together. We have a hardworking team on our Board, but we also need **YOU** to step up and get involved. There is a tremendous amount of talent in our Area in all things, not just musical. If you have ever thought about getting more involved, but just "didn't have the time", now is the time to get involved! We're currently looking for people to volunteer to help with Festival / Conference, so if you think you might have a few hours to give to that effort, fill out the form at this link, <https://goo.gl/forms/tdQ4RrQexPnC77bi2> and I'll be getting back to you to let you know how you can help.

I'm sure a lot of us who are currently on the Board "didn't have the time" either, but because we love handbells, and we love handbell people, we were able to find some time to help in whatever capacity we can. The truth is, we need **YOU**!

See you at a Spring Ring!
Carlene Ruesenberg