

**Handbell Musicians of America, Area 4**  
**Board Conference Call**  
**March 31, 2017**

Meeting called to order by Marie Loeffler, Chair at 10:13 am.

The following Board members were present for the call: Marie Loeffler (Chair), Alan Lohr (Chair-Elect), William J. Murphy (Treasurer), Heather Ellison (Secretary), Rhonda Freeman (GA Chair), Lynne Homan (FL Chair), Marcia Brantley (Education Chair), Jeremy Rush (Communications Chair), and Sally Traylor (Membership Chair).

Board members not in attendance: Roxanne Golden (Past Chair), and Donna Bradham (Archivist). The position of South Carolina State Chair is currently vacant.

- I. Welcome
  - A. Review of Telecall procedure
    - Mute and Unmute by “\*6”
  - B. Verify Quorum
  
- II. Additions/Corrections and Approval of Agenda
  - No Additions or Corrections
  
- III. Approval of Minutes from Board Retreat and January 27, 2017
  - A. Board Retreat January 13-14, 2017 Minutes
    - Remove page 2, II/B #16, remove “we”
    - Page 4, H#1 –Add “April” before 20-23, 2017
    - The “Bohemian” should be changed to “Bahamian”

Lynne Homan motions to accept minutes with corrections. Marcia Brantley seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
  
  - B. January 27, 2017 Conference Call Minutes
    - Alan Lohr motions to accept the minutes as presented. Sally Traylor seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
  
  - C. Follow-Up to Board Retreat Minutes
    - 1) William Murphy did cancel Betty Myers’ credit card.
    - 2) Trevor Bethel Guild membership was found by National. Area 4 is waiting for it to show up on the Area 4 list.
    - 3) Update on ByLaws – Alan Lohr is still working on them.
    - 4) Board Member access to Facebook Page – Conversation will be continued with proposed conference call about Communications.

#### IV. Updates

##### A. Chair Report (Marie Loeffler) – See Report, page 5

- 1) Great events this spring.
- 2) Ring of Fame presentations were successful
- 3) Nominating Committee  
Members include: Richard Moore (Chair), Rick Holdsworth (Florida Representative), Jill Jeffers (South Carolina Representative), Jane Kimbrel (Georgia Representative.)  
Danny Lyons was approved by the board to collect the ballots.
- 4) South Carolina Chair – Marie is trying to connect with Michael Lopez
- 5) Bahama event was cancelled.
- 6) Area Board Connection Membership Call was February 12, 2017. Sally Traylor, Lynne Homan and Marie Loeffler attended the call.
- 7) The next Area Board Connection Call will be an Event Planning Call on Monday, April 3, 2107.
- 8) Endorsed Events no longer have “Liability Insurance” This may affect how many endorsed events Area 4 will have going forward.

##### B. Chair-Elect Report (Alan Lohr)

- 1) Alan has secured Michael Lopez for South Carolina Chair for his term as Chair to start October 1, 2017. Alan, Marcia and Michael will meet together.
- 2) Alan Lohr is organizing the refurbishment of South Carolina Handchimes. Lohr asked what zip code do the Chimes belong to in SC. Lohr has changed it to his zip code. There will be a \$195 shipping charge for the Handchimes to be refurbished. Malmark will refurbish the instruments for free. This fee of \$195 was not part of our 2016-2017 budget but categorized under the Handchime Loan Program expenses.

##### C. Secretary (Heather Ellison)

JR Smith is still in the process of overhauling the site. He will be willing to discuss possibility of moving Area 4’s website to the National template after this process is finished.

##### D. Treasurer (William Murphy)

- 1) Betty Myers’ card was deactivated. New credit cards will be issued to all card holders. Current cards are still active.
- 2) Bank Balances: \$40,462.16 in December 2016  
\$52,519.96 current Balance
- 3) Marie Loeffler raises the question how we should reinvest this money in Area 4. We have a large checking balance.

##### E. State Reports

- 1) Florida (Lynne Homan)
  - a) 2 Wonderful Festivals
  - b) Attendance Numbers at Events (Does not include faculty and guests)  
150 – Jacksonville  
220 – Sun City
  - c) Homan turned 2 Choirs away due to lack of space for the Sun City Event

- d) Concerts
    - Sun City - Dorothy Shaw Choir from Texas played.
    - Jacksonville – John Behnke played the organ and Valerie Stephenson attend the event.
  - e) Profit estimate from the events is \$11,000 profit.
  - f) The offering at the Dorothy Shaw Concert was \$1300. We are waiting for a check to be written to Area 4. The Area will send \$1000 to Dorothy Shaw Choir.
- 2) Georgia (Rhonda Freeman)
    - a) Successful Spring Ring. Palmetto Bronze did a terrific job at the conference. Lee Afdahl was terrific clinician.
    - b) There were low attendance numbers. The event lost approximately \$300.
    - c) The Georgia Spring Ring for 2018 is scheduled for March 2-3, 2018.
  - 3) South Carolina
    - Endorsed Event Report: 275 Ringers attended Palmetto Bronze’s Low Country Handbell Festival. Kevin McChesney was supposed to be the clinician; however, he was sick in the hospital. Brian Childers jumped in last minute to serve as the clinician. Low Country Handbell Festival will be held March 2-3, 2018 with Kevin McChesney as the clinician.
  - 4) Islands (Marie Loeffler)
    - a) Bahama event was cancelled. Hopefully it will take place again going forward.
- F. Communications (Marie Loeffler/Jeremy Rush)
- 1) We will schedule a conference call with screen share using freeconferencing.com to discuss specific concerns with communication following Easter.
  - 2) Marcia Brantley and Jeremy Rush will work together to publicize the “Handchime Loan Program” on Facebook.
  - 3) Online registration may be problematic if using the National Template. This topic will be addressed in the conference call. (Rush found a \$300 (annual fee) plug-in for Online Registrations for WordPress sites.)
- G. Membership (Sally Traylor)
- We are up seven members in January. At the Georgia Baptist Spring Ring, the leadership spoke about the benefits of being members of the Guild.
- H. Education (Marcia Brantley) – See Report, page 6
- 1) Jeremy Rush will pass on a name for a Middle School Director who was concerned about the application of the Handchime Loan Program to Brantley. The director was concerned about needing to “start a new curriculum.”
  - 2) Marcia Brantley will send everyone an email to forward to friends with all the information included, no need to go to website.
  - 3) Georgia Schulmerich Handchimes need to be given to Gayle Oliver, our Georgia liaison.

V. Old Business

A. Update on D&O Insurance

The cost is \$876 because we did not include “Internal Theft policy”  
William Murphy will pay the amount due over the phone today.

B. Update Area 4 List of Composers/Arrangers and Community Groups

The Community group list is still not up to date. This list is not visible on the website.  
Lynne Homan suggests the addition of the Southwest Handbell Ensemble.  
Marie Loeffler will post the current list and ask for additional names to be sent to her.

C. Rules of Procedure

Heather Ellison suggests that this be postponed. Additional discussion needs to be had regarding the Communications Chair and Archivist.

VI. New Business

- A. Next conference call will take place on Friday, May 5, 2017 at 10:00 am. This meeting will address questions regarding follow-up to specific tasks prior to our quarterly meeting in June.
- B. Jeremy Rush will propose a conference call meeting about Communications after Easter. This will involve screen sharing.

VII. Additional Comments/Questions, Concerns

VIII. Adjournment at 11:13 am.

Future Meetings:

Friday, May 5, 2017 – 10:00 am Conference Call

Friday, June 9, 2017 – 10:00 am Conference Call

Friday & Saturday, September 29-30, 2017 – End of Year Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Ellison

Secretary

Handbell Musicians of America, Area 4

# Area 4 Board Conference Call

Friday, March 31, 2017

Chair Report

Congratulations and Thank You to everyone who worked to make our Spring Events successful!

## **Ring of Fame**

Our first Ring of Fame presentations were very successful. Recipients were warmly received by ringers and they were grateful for the attention to the work they did on our incorporation.

Awards were given to recipients and brochures including bios and general information were distributed. Sally and I will finish work on future guidelines by the end of April and will post that information along with the information on our inaugural recipients on the website.

## **Nominating Committee**

We are on schedule to have the ballots mailed to membership in April with results known to us by June.

## **South Carolina Chair**

I am still trying to connect with Michael Lopez to discuss the position of SC Chair.

## **Bahamas Event**

The Banaha Festival was cancelled by the church council of the host church. We had the paperwork submitted and approved by National to be an Endorsed Event but that same day Trevor Bethel called me to say that the Church Council had voted to cancel the event for two reasons:

1. The Council was unaware that the event was titled Bahamas National Handbell Festival and they were not comfortable with that title. They felt it indicated a political affiliation.
2. There was repair work still needing to be done on the facility and they were not comfortable hosting an event without that work being completed. Trevor is working to reschedule the event.

## **National News**

The Membership Coordinators are offering periodic calls for the area leadership to connect over topics of interest. The first call was held February 12 at 8pmET on membership development. Sally and Lynne joined me on that call. All of us agreed that the call was a good place to discuss the issue with the other areas and we found that Area 4 is doing well in this area.

The next call is being held on Monday, April 3 at 8pmET – topic Event Planning. All should have received an invitation from National Coordinators. I will be on the call and I hope others will join me.

Reminder: there is no longer any insurance offered for Endorsed Events. Options for event planners range from expensive individual policies for the event to more reasonable costs adding a rider to the current policy from the church/venue.

Respectfully submitted, Marie M. Loeffler  
Chair, Area 4, Handbell Musicians of America

## **Education Report for March 31, 2017 Conference Call**

Program Information and Application along with a cover sheet are now up and running on the Area 4 website.

I am excited that we have a GA liaison for the Chime Loan Program – Gayle Oliver (a retired music educator who rings in Sally’s church choir. Thank you, Sally for being willing to ask Gayle if she would serve. I will serve as SC liaison and that leaves Florida. Marie, would you serve in that capacity for now since the chimes are in your hands and you are in central FL

I have made arrangements with Alan Lohr to pick up the SC chimes from Nancy Tipton as soon as she is finished with them for the season, ship them to Malmark for refurbish and then have them shipped to me when they are done.

The program was advertised at the Lowcountry Handbell Festival, the GA Spring Ring and at the Florida State Festivals.

There have been no applications to date. Please target folks that you know and direct them to the Area 4 website for the Program information and application.

I was pleased to meet a former chime loan program recipient at the GA Spring Ring Palmetto Bronze concert. She brought some of her ringers and was very happy to have had the opportunity to introduce chimes/bells to folks who had never rung before.

I have just finished teaching chimes to all the 4<sup>th</sup> graders in one of our local elementary schools here in Summerville. We had a great time and the kids were so engaged with learning how to ring chimes and learning how to read music! The kids will present their chime ringing at a PTA program on April 4. I hope that this will spark a desire for the school to purchase chimes for the music classes – The chimes that they are using belong to our school district and as long as this teacher has them in her classroom, no other teachers have access to chimes!

Rhonda Freeman and I will travel to Tritt Elementary School in Marietta, GA on April 28 to participate in an Arts Education Day introducing chimes to lots and lots of children in grades 2-5.

Submitted by Marcia Brantley.