

2017 Inaugural Ring of Fame Award

Recipients

Area 4, Handbell Musicians of America is proud to announce
the first recipients of the Area 4 Ring of Fame Award.

Our inaugural awards go to those who signed our Articles of Incorporation on October 29, 1984,
and served as the first officers of the newly incorporated Area 4.

Richard Crofts, Chair

Bob Burroughs, Chair-Elect

James Kerrick, Secretary-Treasurer



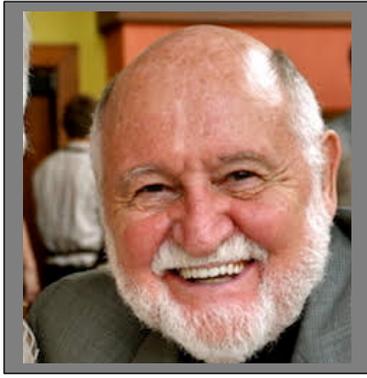
James Kerrick is a graduate of Georgetown College and The University of Kentucky.

He served as minister of music at First Baptist Churches in several southern states including Alabama (Madison and Enterprise), Florida (Pensacola), and Georgia (Forest Park, Moultrie, and Bainbridge). Jim retired from his church work in 2004.

From 1983-1985, he served as Secretary-Treasurer of Area IV of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers.

James is a member of the American Choral Directors Association. He was a Charter Member of The Centurymen, a 100-voice auditioned Male Chorus of Music Ministers which has toured in the United States, China, Russia, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

James is married to Mary Ellen Kerrick, a respected organist, composer, and arranger of choral and keyboard music. They currently reside in Georgia.



Bob Burroughs is known in music circles as a composer and arranger of church music in a wide variety of styles. He has been active in church music for 62 years, having served as Minister of Music in both full-time and part-time positions.

Bob also served on the music faculties of Samford University and Palm Beach Atlantic University as Composer-in-Residence and Associate Professor of Theory and Composition.

In 1965 at First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas, Bob discovered a 5-octave set of Petit & Fritsen handbells, leather clappers and handles in the attic - unopened and brand new!!

There was not much handbell music available at that time, so he spent much of his time writing for two bell choirs — out of desperation! None of today's bell techniques were available then.

Bob spends much of his time walking and enjoying nature. He frequently accompanies his wife, Esther, in her speaking ministry and continues to compose music

They have been happily married for 59 years and currently live in Greer, SC.



Richard (Dick) Crofts is a native of Florida having grown up in St. Cloud, where early on, he was drawn to church music at First United Methodist Church. His first “touch of bronze” came in graduate school at Boston University School of Theology as he rang a peal of Petit & Fritsen handbells. Soon after, in 1974, Dick formed the first handbell ensemble at St. John’s United Methodist Church in Rock Hill, SC.

For the next 40 years, campanology was a constant companion. During that time, he and his ensembles of children, youth, and adults shared the art of handbell ringing in Area events, National Festivals, and

International Symposia. Area IV leadership was a natural response to the bonds soon felt as he stretched out his arms and reverberated with the handbell world.

Dick became Chair-Elect before leaving Rock Hill; and, when it came time to move to another church, he left Area IV’s northern border for its southern boundary of Naples, Florida. As it happened, in 1982, it was time for Area IV to incorporate. In Dick’s new group of Moorings Ringers at Moorings Presbyterian Church, was attorney Robin Doyle, who took the lion’s share of adding “Incorporated” to our title - *pro bono*, thus providing us with non-profit status. That ensemble has gone on to be a regular participant at international handbell gatherings in Canada, USA, UK, South Korea, Japan, and Australia.

Dick says that great memories of Area IV revolve around events that brought together musicians who love handbells. That is true in spite of best intentions that included trying to make “water music” on Cruise Festivals, and an *al fresco*, riverside Festival Concert in Savannah competing with the horn blasts of passing freighters. During his years of leadership, Area IV happily added Puerto Rico to its space of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. In handbells, reaching outward from our ensembles is a resonating experience—full of learning, music making, and new friends!

In 2015, Dick retired following more than 32 years as Minister of Music of Moorings Presbyterian. He continues to reside in Naples, is active as a deacon at Moorings Presbyterian, and is one of the organists at Bower Chapel of Moorings Park Retirement Community