



President's Message

I hope that all of you had a safe and restful holiday. Thanks to all who participated in the [Virtual Christmas Concert!](#) It was great to see all of our groups from around the province!

While OGEHR was working on the virtual concert, we were also in the process of applying for a **Resiliency Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation**. It was submitted in December and we are now waiting to hear back. I hope that we soon will be able to announce more initiatives to assist with reopening our programs.

It is unfortunate that we have taken some steps back with the Omicron wave, and right now many of our [groups are currently not rehearsing](#). I am hopeful though that things will soon be starting back up again! On a personal note, my hair is again getting longer while I wait to get out to the barber! The drawing demonstrates the length, but also serves another purpose. It has been drawn by Violet Sinclair, the sister of one of my youth handbell players – a family member of one of our players. That info will be useful when you read about the **OGEHR Art Contest** later in Clapper Chatter.



In the meantime, while we can't all rehearse, in what ways can we still be active with handbells? Here are some things that I have been doing over the course of the pandemic. Maybe you will find some of these ideas useful.

- ◆ **Try some playing at home** – When it looked like we were not going to be able to rehearse for a while, I asked my players if they wanted to take home their bells, and then made some materials available to them so they could practice. In January, through our email tree, I made these materials available to all OGEHR members through the [“Bells@Home”](#) page on the OGEHR website.
- ◆ **Update your music library** – We have been updating our music library and making our [music available online](#). Because we are a larger church, we are often asked if music can be borrowed. OGEHR has been looking into how we might be able to assist with regional music sharing.
- ◆ **Create a page for your group** – We have started to create [member groups pages](#) for any of our handbell choirs that would like to advertise their program.
- ◆ **Explore your history** – We all have photos of things we have done with our handbell choirs over the years. Why not put together info to [celebrate your history!](#)

Eventually we will all be back to playing, but for now ...

Help us to help each other.

Rob Cairns, OGEHR President

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

SUBMISSIONS

Clapper Chatter welcomes your submissions. All submissions must be received by the following deadlines: September 30 (October issue), January 31 (February issue), May 31 (June issue).

FORMAT

Text in Microsoft Word and high resolution colour photos in .jpg format are preferred.

REPRINT PERMISSION

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DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in Clapper Chatter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers, nor does the appearance of products or services in advertisements constitute an endorsement by OGEHR.

ADVERTISING

Ad sizes and rates are available on request. Advertising must be submitted by the submission deadlines listed above. All final ad artwork must be saved in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. When preparing ads, use high resolution images and fonts, and set the Acrobat Preferences to embed the fonts and images at their original high resolution quality.

CLAPPER CHATTER EDITOR

Please send all submissions to:
Simon Spencer — Clapper Chatter Editor
simon.spencer1993@gmail.com
416-702-5661

Contents

President’s Message.....	1
Art Contest	3
Bell Socials.....	4
Virtual Concert.....	4
OGEHR Honorary Member.....	5
Memory Column.....	6
Music Lending Library.....	7
Resources.....	9
Board and Committee Lists.....	10

MORE ON SUBMISSIONS

A newsletter thrives or dies based on its content, so we need your input! Do you have a concert coming up, a review of a performance just accomplished, a significant event in the life of your bell choir, or a favourite piece of music that you would like to recommend to others? Send it in! Anything is fair game (subject to editorial review). Accompanying photographs are encouraged, as they really liven things up.

We want your feedback. Let us know what you like, or don’t like, or would like to see, by emailing Simon at simon.spencer1993@gmail.com.

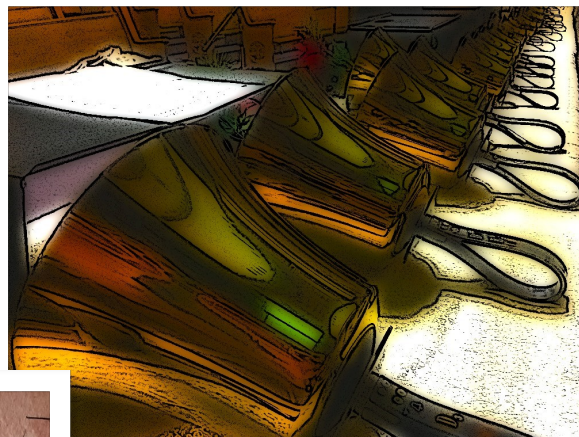
Submission deadline for the next issue: May 31, for publication June 15

OGEHR Art Contest

As a handbell musician, you have musical talent . . .

. . . how are your other artistic skills?

Or maybe you just like prizes!



Artwork by Violet Sinclair

We are looking for some handbell themed art and we would like to see what our members have to offer.

This contest is open to OGEHR members and their extended families.

OGEHR's
**Big Red
Button**

Push the **BIG RED BUTTON**
For the details!

Bell Socials

While we are still house-bound and looking for ways to stay connected to the ringing world, let's plan on meeting up for a series of Bell Socials over the next few months. Put the following dates on your calendars and plan on Zooming in to meet new ringers and to say hello to ringers we haven't seen ... for a long time.

These Bell Socials, with Zoom invites and topics, will be advertised both on the OGEHR website and through the e-mail tree. If you have discussion topics you would like to see used to help us focus, please contact me at past-president@ogehr.ca

◇ **Thursday, February 24th at 10:00 a.m.**

◇ **Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m.**

◇ **Thursday, April 21st at 2:00 p.m.**

◇ **Wednesday, May 11th at 1:00 p.m.**

Margaret Merkley, Past President

Virtual Handbell Christmas Concert – A Resounding Success!

Sunday December 12th, 2021 was a special day in the life of handbell ringers in Ontario. This was when OGEHR aired the first virtual Christmas concert involving ringers from various parts of Ontario. The 18 submissions included soloists on bells and bell trees (including accompanists), quartets, and larger groups. The wonderful concert, which included 2 emcees, Maddy Lang and Dominique Moreau, who provided interesting commentary throughout, has had over 700 views to date.

The idea to have a virtual concert was popular. It gave ringers a reason to get together with their choir or ensemble friends and make music for perhaps the first time in a while. There's nothing like ringing handbells with a group of fellow enthusiasts, especially since there have been so few opportunities to do so with COVID. There is also nothing like watching great handbell performances by people you know to provide a fun and festive evening!

Viewing these performances was also an opportunity for all of us to get new ideas, perhaps have our eyes opened to different ways our instrument can be played, see the range in age that handbells and chimes appeal to, gain an appreciation for the abilities of our fellow ringers, and have the joy of being entertained and inspired.

If you have not had the opportunity to watch this video, it can be seen by going to our website at <https://ogehr.ca/virtual-handbell-christmas-concert>. You can view it either in its entirety or watch individual performances by way of the playlist.

Barbara Plante

OGEHR Honorary Member

by Mary Loree

It was Barbara Plante's vision and drive that led to the establishment of the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR) in 1985. Barb was named an Honorary Member of the Guild in 2013.

Barbara Plante was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, but her father's career as a minister led the family to move frequently – to Orono, Pembroke, Goderich and finally London, Ontario. Barb's love of music developed early. By age 4, she had begun piano lessons, and by 5 or 6 was singing in church choirs.

Barb followed her passion for singing and playing by earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music (voice and piano), an Associate of Music and Music Paedagogy diploma, and an English Literature degree at the University of Western Ontario. After her extensive education, she taught high school English and gave private piano and theory lessons. However, she realized after a number of years that her joy lay in singing and playing music, not in teaching.

In 1973, Barb was asked by the director of music at First -St Andrew's (FSA) United Church, London, to direct the three octave handbell choir. Although inexperienced with bells, Barb was assured that knowing music was more important than knowing bells. And she knew music. To gain experience and build her skills, Barb attended festivals and workshops in the United States, Canada, and even Worcester, England, where she, her husband Bob and their boys lived for a year and where handbells were prevalent. Also, she studied handbell performance and technique at Westminster College in Princeton, N.J. under Robert Ivey and benefitted from the support and direction of Barrie Cabena, the music director at First -St Andrew's.

Through her dedication and devotion to the task, Barb became a skilled handbell director. Her ringers loved her enthusiasm, humour and high standards mixed with empathy and compassion. Barb's guiding principle as a director was to always encourage and to correct without criticism. She directed two choirs at FSA, including the advanced choir, *Laudamus* ('we praise'). One year, she also directed a choir at Metropolitan United Church, London. Barb retired from directing bells at FSA in 2013 – after forty years of sharing her enthusiasm and expertise with countless ringers.

During Barb's tenure as a Schulmerich sales representative from 1980 to 2005, she not only sold bells and chimes to over a hundred churches and schools, but also carillons – which frequently involved climbing old, rickety ladders into dusty, cobweb-filled, mice and pigeon-inhabited belfries. And she describes it all as 'fun'. Although centered in Ontario, Barb's work took her to Quebec and New Brunswick as well. Not surprisingly, Barb added her personal touch to sales – from teaching a choir with new bells a simple piece to present at church the following Sunday, to teaching a choir of young people with intellectual disabilities to play chimes and accompanying them to England to visit and play for school children there with similar challenges. It was at a Schulmerich meeting in the US that Barb learned about the guild in Alberta and her vision for an Ontario guild began.

Planning for a new provincial guild was extensive. The guild organizational meeting was scheduled as part of the 'Festival of Ringers' organized by Barb and the *Laudamus* ringers at FSA in London, May 3-4, 1985. Ringers and directors in the Ontario bell community were sent notices of the upcoming festival and meeting. Barb and a lawyer drew up provisional policies. Barb drew up a slate of officers to be presented at the meeting. Every position was enthusiastically filled by Ontario ringers eager for an Ontario guild.

More than 200 ringers from around the province arrived at FSA for the event. There were ringers in the chancel, ringers at tables fastened onto the chancel steps, ringers down the aisles and ringers with knees pressed against the pew behind, playing on table tops clamped by Barb's husband, Bob, to the pew in front.

The FSA women's group catered meals and FSA members billeted ringers. The complexity of organizing the workshops, the greatest challenge of the festival, was overcome, and the *Laudamus* ringers enthusiastically led workshops in rooms throughout the church. Volunteers slugged bells to and from the sanctuary and the workshop rooms. The entire event was so well run that Barb was asked jokingly by a doctor who attended if she would run his next medical convention! Barb's memories of the weekend recall FUN and a sense of satisfaction.



According to Barb, the guild 'took off' at the organizational meeting, with much enthusiasm and the complete slate of officers and the provisional policies approved. When asked recently if OGEHR has lived up to her expectations on that day, Barb replied unequivocally 'yes' and, in fact, feels that OGEHR has surpassed her expectations. She is particularly delighted that the Guild is encouraging and promoting bells in schools.

Barb's directing skills have been experienced and appreciated by directors, ringers and audiences near and far. Laudamus played with Barb at FSA and other London venues, but they also travelled in 1986 to play at Expo'86 and the Int'l Handbell Festival in Vancouver, B.C., and in 2000 to play at the Birmingham Int'l Handbell Symposium. As well as directing massed choirs at the 1989 (Peterborough) and 2005 (Ottawa) OGEHR festivals, the 2004 Int'l Handbell Symposium (Toronto), and 'Bells in Bloom' BCGEHR festival in 2013, Barb has served on several festival planning committees.

Currently, Barb remains busy with many interests. Ringing in the First -St Andrew's handbell choir remains a joy. Barb works with a vocal therapist to reclaim her singing voice that was altered during recent treatment to overcome throat cancer. She is back to health now and looks forward to singing in the FSA Senior Choir again when COVID restrictions pass. Barb attends Bible Study and her ministry to the church includes knitting prayer shawls, serving on the Pastoral Care Visiting Team and, as part of a church ministry serving the wider London community, making muffins for street visitors who sleep at FSA during cold winter nights. Always a travel buff, she also looks forward to travelling again – perhaps to her favourite destination, Wales.

Barb Plante is an exceptional woman whose high expectations of herself and others, blended with her passion for music and her compassion for people, have benefited every handbell ringer in Ontario. It was my honour to meet Barb over the past few weeks and to speak with such a remarkable woman.

Sources for this article are from the OGEHR archives and are available on request at secretary@ogehr.ca.

Memory Column

Because many friendships are formed over the years through bells, the OGEHR Board recently decided that a "Memory Column" should be incorporated into each issue of the Clapper Chatter. Please let us know if someone in your bell community has passed away and a bit about that person so that we can let bell friends be aware.



Honouring the memory of a loved one through a gift to the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR) will create a lasting legacy. When a loved one passes, you may choose to have friends and family members make a donation to OGEHR in lieu of flowers. We will send you a list of names of those who contribute in memory of your loved one. To make your donation, please go to www.ogehr.ca/donate-now. A tax receipt will be provided on receipt of donation.

Estate Planning

Please consider creating a lasting legacy by remembering OGEHR in your estate plan. Called a charitable bequest, your gift will help future generations experience the joy of learning and ringing together. Making a bequest is as simple as inserting a few sentences into your will, specifying either a fixed amount or a percentage be directed to OGEHR.



Music Lending Library (MLL) Reviews

Hallelujah

This very familiar piece by Leonard Cohen is arranged by Joel Raney and was published in 2014. It is played on 3-5 octaves of handbells with optional 3-5 octaves of handchimes, is a level 3 composition, and the MLL has 10 copies. There is also an optional part for synth (2674P), which could be purchased from the publisher.

The piece is written in 12/8 time, with the melody starting in the bass on chimes (or bells if chimes are not available), while the treble plays running eighth notes on bells. About halfway through the piece, the melody switches to the high treble bells with the battery playing chimes and the bass ringing eighth notes on bells. Toward the end, the key changes from C+ to Ab+ and the melody in the treble chords thicken while the music is marked "With Passion".

LV passages occur throughout and enhance the lyrical, flowing nature of the composition. It is a beautiful arrangement, and is considered a secular hymn, so it is appropriate for both church and concert settings.

To view a copy of the score for Hallelujah and listen to a recording, please click [HERE](#).

Reviewed by Debi Sproule

All Night, All Day

This upbeat level 2- piece was arranged for handbells by Kathleen Wissinger in 2011 and is based on a traditional spiritual. The music lending library currently has 10 copies. It can be played on 3, 4, or 5 octaves of handbells and contains an optional chime melody for 2 octaves of handchimes from G4-G6. This piece is approximately 1 minute 33 seconds long, making it easy to incorporate into any service, festival, or school performance. The piece offers numerous opportunities to practise different handbell techniques, including thumb damping, shaking, echoing, and malleting. The easy eighth notes give ringers a chance to practise proper damping with a tempo range of 100-120 beats per minute. Both treble and bass musicians get an opportunity to ring the melody in this piece. Although not included with the lending library, a full score of this piece can be purchased that includes xylophone, percussion, guitar, and vocals—with or without hand signs. This piece is sure to be loved by ringers of all ages, but would be a perfect piece for a youth choir.

To view a sample portion of this score and listen to a recording, click [HERE](#).

Reviewed by Barbara Peaker

Adagio

Adagio is arranged by popular American composer Kevin McChesney and based on the well-known string composition attributed to Baroque composer Tomaso Albinoni. A level 3 piece, written for 3-5 octaves of handbells, **Adagio**, composed in C minor, is a dramatic composition with a steady driving pulse. Triplets and sixteenth notes contribute to the intensity of the music and add some extra challenge for the ringers. The slow tempo of this piece, a quarter note equals 72, allows a choir to work on its beautiful arm extensions and choreography, which would add to the effectiveness of its performance. The piece would be very appropriate for both sacred and secular settings, and the MLL has 10 copies. To view a copy of the score for **Adagio**, please visit <https://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?Piece=3667>. To listen to a recording, you can visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyASFYhqdg>.

Reviewed by Lisa Kyriakides

For instructions on how to borrow this music from the MLL, please go to <https://ogehr.ca/Music-Lending-Library>.

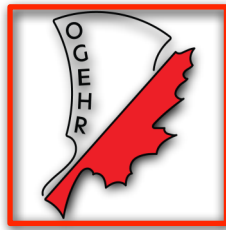
Cleaning out your Music Closets?

The Music Lending Library (MLL) is looking to complete some sets of music for which at present we have only a few copies. Are any of these 10 titles (see below) ones that you own in your library but don't think you will use again? If so, the MLL would be *thrilled* to accept your donation and to pay for the cost of shipping the requested titles. If interested, please contact our Librarian, Debi Sproule, at debisproule@gmail.com.

1. Be Thou My Vision, arranged John Leavitt, 3/4 octaves, code# 97-7210
2. Contemplation, composed Karen Buckwalter 3/4/5 octaves, code# CGB873
3. Feliz Navidad, arranged David Kent, 3 octaves, code# 1874
4. How Great Our Joy, arranged Cynthia Dobrinski 3/4/5 octaves, code# 2248
5. In the Bleak Midwinter, arranged Arnold Sherman, 4/5 octaves, code# HB0036B
6. Jesus Loves Me, arranged Anna Page, 2 octaves, Code# JHS8815
7. Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho, arranged Martha Lynn Thompson, 3/4/5 octaves, code# 1880
8. Kolyada, arranged Tim Waugh, 3/4 octaves, Code# JHS9196
9. Rondeau, arranged Arnold Sherman, octaves 3/4/5, code# CGB454
10. O Come, O Come Emmanuel, arranged Michael Helman, 2/3 octaves, Code# 23153

Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Have you checked out any of these resources lately?
Click on the image!



My.OGEHR
Are you up to date?

Check / Update My Info

- Keeping your profile up to date helps us provide information and resources to handbell groups across the province.
- To check or update your info, click on the **Big Red Button**, or click on **your name at the top of any page** on our website.



OGEHR Tutorials

OGEHR Video Tutorials / Q&A
Thank You!

Thank you to all of our presenters throughout the 2021 year, during the pandemic. We have had 22 tutorials plus Q&As and each of them has been wonderfully informative and incredibly well presented by our presenters. Those of you who participated in the Q&As asked great questions and we now have a wealth of information available because of the time you gave to us.

Finally, a huge thank you to Man-Yee Sun, Marg Merkey and Rob Cairns for hosting the tutorials. Two or three weekends a month this season were devoted to putting all of this together. True devotion to handbells!

We hope you have enjoyed these presentations. All of the tutorials and Q&As are still available below. Please do have a look. Hopefully some of the material here will assist you when you have a particular handbell question.

**We are highlighting different tutorials each month throughout 2021-2022.
Watch for them in our weekly email tree.**

OGEHR Home Page

Welcome!

Looking to join a handbell group? See what is in your area!
[Handbells in Ontario](#)

How do you play a handbell?
[Find out!](#)

Looking for something a bit more in depth?
[Check out our handbell tutorials!](#)

Or maybe our most recent performances?
[Our 2021 Virtual Christmas Concert](#)

The Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers.
We have a lot to offer!

Email Tree Archive

Home > Events > Email Tree Archive - 2022 (Spring)

Email Tree Archive - 2022 (Spring)

Friday, January 28th, 2022

Contents of this Digest

- Quick Response OGEHR Survey
- Reviews from the Music Lending Library
- Bronze Foundation Academy
- Reminders
 - Bells@Home
 - Cleaning Out Your Music Closets?

Quick Response OGEHR Survey

Thanks to all of you who replied to the survey. There was a comment sent in by email, and for any future surveys we will include a comment section. Thank you for this feedback and for the comment.

"Our church is currently closed and services are all virtual. We taped two pieces on Monday for this coming Sunday's service and we were the only ones in the church. We are all double vaxed and some of us are triple vaxed. We all wore masks and each ringer was at a separate table with all tables more than 6 ft. across a very large area in front of the Chancel. We continue to practice in this very safe way until restrictions change."

[Link to Survey Results](#)

Previous Clapper Chatters

Welcome to Clapper Chatter

Click the image to view this month's issue.



The newsletter cover features the OGEHR logo, the title 'CLAPPER CHATTER' with the date 'October 2021', and a section titled 'Date Change for It's About Time Handbell Festival'. The text explains that due to the health crisis, the festival is postponed from 2022 to early June 2023. It also mentions that the 2023 festival will be held at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, ON, on May 27-29, 2021.

OGEHR Board of Directors as of Jan 8, 2022

(bracketed year after position or name indicates end of term)

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Lisa Kyriakides ('23) vice-president@ogehr.ca *Vice-President ('23); Chair Programs (22); Vice-Chair Nominations (22)*

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Chair: Governance ('24)

Joan Bolam ('23) areareps@ogehr.ca

Chair: Area Representatives ('20)

Janis Cowie ('23) festivalchair@ogehr.ca

Chair: 2021 Festival ('22); Chair: Nominations ('22)

Kim Leitch ('22) communications@ogehr.ca

Chair: Communications ('22)

Dominique Moreau ('24) director24@ogehr.ca

Director-at-large; Education

OGEHR Board Appointed Positions

Area Representatives – please contact Joan Bolam (areareps@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Janet McDonald *East Representative ('23)*

Vacant *South Representative ('22)*

heather nicholson *Central East Representative ('22)*

Vacant *West Representative (24)*

Jennifer Schafer *Central Representative ('24)*

Shirley Reinders *North East Representative ('23)*

Mark Matterson *Central West Representative ('23)*

vacant *North West Representative ('21)*

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Man-Yee Sun *Email Coordinator ('23)*

Randy Mills *Social Media Coordinator ('22)*

Simon Spencer *Newsletter Editor ('22)*

Kim Leitch *Webmaster ('23)*

Festival Coordinator – please contact Janis Cowie (festivalchair@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Gail Bowes *2021/22 Festival Coordinator ('22)*

Programs- please contact Lisa Kyriakides (programs@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Barbara Peaker *Instrument Loan Program Coordinator ('22)*

Debi Sproule *Music Lending Coordinator ('22)*

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Standing Committees

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Joan Bolam (Chair)
East AR
Central East AR
Central AR Vacant
Central West AR
South AR Vacant
West AR Vacant
North East AR
North West AR Vacant
President

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2. Barbara Neal
3. Joan Plume
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Webmaster
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2. Norma Draper
3. Maddy Lang
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3. Joyce Hagarty
4. John Malarczyk
5. Mackenzie Malarczyk
6. Debbie McMackin
7. Randy Mills
8. Dom Moreau
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2. Lloyd Winfield
3. Vacant
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Past President
President

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Lisa Kyriakides (Vice-Chair)
Central East AR
(heather nicholson)
South AR (vacant)
President

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Lisa Kyriakides (Chair)
Instrument Loan Program
Coordinator
Music Lending Library
Coordinator
Members-at-large:
1. Sue Linley
2. Lloyd Winfield
3. Vacant
4. Vacant
President

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Janis Cowie (Chair & Registrar)

Gail Bowes 2021/22 Festival Coordinator, Auction & Communications

Amy Baker (Facilities)

Ruth Pettis (Mini Ring)

Judy King & Jan Haskins

(Music)

Kathy Baer (Publicity)

Janet McDonald (Publicity)

Bonnie Howse (Publicity)

Lynne Current (Social)

Marg Merkley (Workshops)

Kim Leitch (Secretary

& Website)

President

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Membership Working Group

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Joan Bolam

Kim Leitch

Norma Draper

Shirley Reinders