

NORTH AMERICAN GUIDED OF CHANGE RINGERS

SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Washington D. C.

September 1, 1973

6.30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order in the Rosedale residence of the National Cathedral school at 6.50 p.m. by Bill Jackson.

Apologies for absence were given for Bill Throbbald, who hopes to be back in North America soon, and Mary Barlow, Secretary-Treasurer on the British Columbia ringers. There was also read a note of welcome and greeting to the ringers from Charles Denyer, Editor of the Ringing World.

A letter was read from Rev. Lyles Edwards, rector of Immanuel Episcopal Church at Lew Castle, Delaware, about arrangements for the dedication of the new ring of six in the church, and describing the mood of excitement and anticipation in the parish.

The large number of motions to be acted upon, and memories of the inordinate length of the first A.G.M. led the committee to impose a guillotine on the time allotted to discussion of each item. The meeting approved the thirteen-minute time limit on each of seventeen items on the agenda, unless extended by the approval of 3/4 of those present. The postal voting cut down considerably on time wasted during the meeting.

It was announced that the 1972/3 Annual Report and the 1973 address list will be mailed to all members not present at the meeting.

THE AGENDA

The minutes of the 1972 A.G.M. were accepted by the meeting as mailed. The Peal Secretary reported that a list of all peals rung in North America but not for the N.A.G., is being prepared from the Ringing World and other sources.

The Annual report for 1972/3 was accepted unread by the meeting.

Election of Officers. There being no further nominations from the meeting, the following were declared elected as a result of the postal voting.

Secretary-Treasurer - Mike Simpson of Calgary. Mr. Simpson immediately assumed the chair.

Peal Secretary - Dave Ingram.

Newsletter Editor - Paul Windels.

Area Representatives. The following names were announced:

Vancouver: Jeff White.

Washington D. C.: Quilla Roth

Ontario: David Ingram.

Brewster: Harold Johnson

Montreal: Bill Jackson.

Houston: Evan Pancake

Smith College: Alice Parker. Groton School: Doug Brown

Boston area: Geoff Davies.

All other areas were unchanged from 1972/3.

Promoting rapid progress in new towers. There was much discussion of appointing a committee to coordinate the advisers and trainers for each new tower, of sending delegations of ringers to help out with the teaching of beginners, etc., all of which seemed too forward on the part of the guild. The final motion was to appoint a guild member to whom new towers could turn for help, be it in training, in literature, or to obtain names of ringers in the area, etc. The motion was unanimously carried.

Opening silent towers. It was suggested that work on this project be accelerated in order to take advantage of the 1975/6 United States Bicentennial. Dave Ingram suggested that it was primarily an engineering problem, and that guild members with an engineering background should make an effort to examine unringable towers and report to the authorities on the exact state of the bells and the possibilities and costs of putting them back into use. Rick Dirksen volunteered to head the committee and to appoint its other members.

Opportunities for the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration and Olympic Games. 1) It was suggested that there should be a peal attempt on July 4th, 1976 in every North American Tower.

2) Marj Batchelor volunteered to see about obtaining the Expo tower to circulate N.A. and acquaint more people with bells and change-ringing.

3) Bill Jackson suggested aiming for a peal on the now unringable bells in St. Patrick's Cathedral to open the 1976 Olympic Games. Work on St. Patrick's now would likely capture the excitement of 1976.

Recruiting large numbers of new ringers. It was decided that the Secretary-Treasurer should supervise the compilation of a list of all ringers in N.A. who are not guild members. Elizabeth Trumpler suggested keeping in touch with the National Bell Collectors and the American Association of English Handbell Ringers. Ann Martin volunteered to write an article or letter to the "Living Church" on change-ringing. Mary Clark offered to do similar work for the Music Education Journal.

Rapid increase in installing new rings of bells. The questions of purchasing redundant bells and borrowing the Expo tower were again mentioned, and it was decided to ask the National Bell Collectors for their assistance and cooperation.

Promoting a favourable image of Campanology in North America. It was decided that handling of direct public relations should remain at the local level, such as answering questions about or complaints against the ringing. However, the meeting voted Bill Jackson should "Volunteer" to produce a pamphlet describing change-ringing in comprehensible, laymen's terms, to assist local public relations work. Mr. Jackson graciously accepted the appointment. Marj Batchelor suggested contacting Channel 57 in the Massachusetts area.

Synergism with the Handbell Ringers of North America. It was

suggested that a complimentary copy of the Clapper be sent to the organisation, and that area representatives be notified of the names and addresses of any ringers in their area. It was generally agreed that change-ringers should try to contact them, teach them about change-ringing, and try to interest them in it.

1974 A.G.M. in Calgary. Mike Simpson reported that the guild would be very welcome in Calgary as demonstrated by local reaction to Wilf Williams' Peal tour. It is hoped that accommodation will be available in private homes and in the church basement. It is also hoped that special ringing can be laid on at other Western towers prior to the meeting. Bill Kollar is to look into various methods of group transportation for eastern ringers.

A tentative schedule for the weekend is as follows:

Friday and Saturday - General Ringing.

Sunday - Service Ringing and A.G.M.

Monday - Quarter peals.

Motions to modify the Constitution. There was much discussion of the validity of the large number of abstentions and it was decided that the actual number of votes for or against a particular motion be used as the basis for calculating percentages. It was decided to add to next year's voting form an abstention column for the use of those voters who have a strong objection to voting on a particular motion.

The following motions were carried:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, & 23.

The following motions were not carried:

7, 12a, 16a, 22a, 24, & 25.

Motion #21 was not considered because it was amended by #23.

Motions not affecting the constitution. Fred Price and Bill Theobald were elected as Honorary Life Members of the guild.

Election of a second Central Council Representative. It was decided to wait another year before taking any action on this question, to make sure that guild membership is still great enough to warrant another representative.

Honorary Life Members. Names of possible Honorary Members should be submitted in writing, with a paragraph describing the reasons for nominations, to the Secretary-Treasurer during the coming months.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1) The meeting decided to purchase a print of Tony Collin's film, "Ringers Required" for approximately \$50.00. It is a twenty-minute film describing the recruitment and training of the Vancouver band, and may be used by any member of the guild on payment of a small fee.

2) It was noted that The Clapper has put its copyright in the name of the guild, and it was suggested that the following be added to the name: The Official Journal of the North American Guild of Change Ringers, affiliated with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

3) It was decided to begin a history of North American Ringing and file of existing bells in North America, with Eddie Martin as coordinator.

4) Some guild badges have arrived; Liz Davies reported that the others on order are expected to arrive soon.

5) The addresses of Major and Mrs. David Wood and Betsy Jennings were requested of anyone who might know them.

6) It was announced that the 1974 subscriptions are due December 31st, and are payable now to the Secretary-Treasurer.

7) The committee proposed Quebec Cathedral and St. Matthew's Church in Quebec City as the site of the 1975 A.G.M., and the meeting concurred.

8) The sequence of Guild meetings in the Northeast United States was announced as follows:

- On the third Saturday of each month, 2.00 - 3.30 p.m. at:
 - Kent School.
 - Fingham.
 - Smith College.
 - Church of the Advent.
 - Groton School.

Thanks were extended to all who help to put this A.G.M. weekend together, especially Rick Dirksen, Dean Sayre, Reverend Myles Edwards, Derek Sawyer, and Ann Martin.

The meeting adjourned at 9.35 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Margaret Cushing.