



Essex Association of Change Ringers

NEWSLETTER

Southern District

No. 96

February 2007

A full programme of the year's activities is the last page of this newsletter. The first District meeting of the year is on March 17th at North Ockenden, from 3.30pm.

CHANGES AT THE TOP FOR RAYLEIGH!

After just over twenty-one years of faithful service, David Belcham has retired as Tower Captain of Holy Trinity church, Rayleigh.

At the ringer's AGM on January 16th, Rector Mike Lodge made presentations to both David and his wife Diana to thank them both for all their hard work over the years. Ringers drank a champagne toast to wish David and Diana a happy retirement.

Steve Hunter, Rayleigh's new Tower Captain was congratulated on his election by the Rector. Steve told the ringers that he was looking forward to a challenging and productive year ahead.



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY FUND RAISING PEAL APPEAL

North Ockendon rang a quarter peal as part of this appeal in December: did you ring? If so, please let the newsletter editor know. Well done North Ockendon!

North Ockendon.
3rd December 2006
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 - Matthew Scott
2 - Hilary Spooner
3 - Andrew Beech (C)
4 - Brian Beech
5 - Michael Warren
6 - Alex Barnes

Rung prior to evensong and sponsored to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of The Children's Society as part of their fundraising Peal Appeal.

LOOKING AHEAD:

• **District Training Day in Saturday 21st April** - Steve and Julie Hunter is running this event at DOWNHAM in the morning when the emphasis will be on doubles methods; then the course moves on after a (pub) lunch to RAYLEIGH when the ringing will be triples. Are you familiar with doubles methods but like to step up to triples? Then this course is for you. No charge (but tower donations welcome) so ring Steve or Julie on 01268 767948, or email on julie_and_steve2003@yahoo.co.uk to reserve your place. CAN YOU HELP? No course can run without helpers, so if you can attend as a helper, give Steve and Julie a ring.

• The 20th November is the Queen and Prince Philip's 60th wedding anniversary - this would be another good opportunity for celebration ringing.

Ringling on the Small Screen - Trophy People

The first programme in the new series Trophy People by Martin Brigstoke featured the annual 12-bell Striking Competition at Worcester Cathedral, and the rivalry between the College Youths and Birmingham for the trophy. In the end, St Paul's Cathedral band won. Bellringing was treated kindly - it didn't appear too odd an occupation! All publicity is good publicity?

Minutes of
SOUTHERN DISTRICT
Annual District Meeting at Rochford
Saturday, 20th January, 2007

Welcome. The Master opened the meeting by asking all present to stand in silence to remember deceased members of the District, Janice Johnson (Leigh-on-Sea).

The Master then welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the Roll Book. There were 72 members present including the following visitors who stayed for the meeting – Andrew Taylor (Coggeshall), David Learmonth (Felstead with the Association Bookstall), Vicki, Colin & Rachel Chapman (Chelmsford), Linda and David Lee (Bures), Richard, Sarah & Matthew Dunhill (Braintree), Jean Dunhill (Friend-Langdon Hills), Mary and Fred Bone (Sawbridgeworth). Other visitors who were present at the earlier ringing were Christine Drake and Marion Barrett (Tollesbury).

The Master thanked the Rector, Rev. Chris Cousins for taking the Service, Geoffrey Sleigh-Johnson for playing the organ and the Rochford Ringers for the use of the bells and for laying on an excellent tea. Thanks were also extended to the Service touch band, (*John Cousins, Gordon Lucas, Steve Hunter, Rowena Marshall, Penny Sloman, Peter Sloman, Stephen Nash and Mike Hallett*).

Apologies for Absence were received from Beth Johnson, Roger Dorking, Peter Knight, Holly Mifsud, Alex Underwood, Bernard Arscott, Martin Newman and Clare Bech.

Minutes of previous meeting held at Downham on 18th November 2006 had been circulated in the last Newsletter (further copies were available) and were signed by the Master as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING.

- o The December District Newsletter is available on the Southern District page of the Association website.
- o Beth Johnson, the Newsletter Editor, would like to distribute future Newsletters by email and requested contact emails from all towers.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) *Notices for Motion at the AGM. 7th May at Chelmsford Cathedral.*

At the time of this meeting none had been submitted. A reminder was given that any motions for the AGM, sponsored by at least two members, must be received by the Secretary by 1st February.

(b) *Nominations for Life Membership*

One nomination had been received: Gordon Lucas of Fobbing and Langdon Hills (Proposed by Richard Dunhill and Seconded by Andy Martin). The Secretary read out the proposal to the meeting.

(c) *Nominations for Association Honorary Officers*

Nominations for the posts were invited (to be received by 1 February). The current Master, Secretary, Property Trustees (3), Central Council Representatives (5) and Independent Examiners (2) are willing to stand for re-election but Andrew Taylor, the Association Treasurer, is not seeking re-election having served 15 years in the post.

Stephen Nash (Langdon Hills) said that at present there are 7 nominations for the 5 CCCBR posts. He also reminded the meeting that the Association was urgently looking for a new Treasurer to take over from Andrew Taylor in May.

(d) Notice had been received from Vicki Chapman, Association Training Officer, of a special Training Day on 10th February (see Any Other Business).

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Ringling Members. The following were proposed and unanimously elected to membership:

	<u>Tower</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Miss Kathryn Ash	Prittlewell	Peter Sloman	Martin Newman
Mrs. Elizabet Coates	Prittlewell	Peter Sloman	David Sloman
Mrs. Doris Hobbs	Prittlewell	Peter Sloman	Martin Newman
Miss Hannah Kidger	Thorpe Bay	Phil Harrison	Judy Rolf
Mrs. Victoria Routledge	Rochford	Anne Banton	Donald Stoneman
Ms. Julia Jones	Downham	Paul Cammiade	Ann Dorking

Junior Ringling Members. The following were proposed and unanimously elected to membership:

William Wennell	Downham	Paul Cammiade	Roger Dorking
Elliot Hughes	Rayleigh	Julie Hunter	Steve Hunter

Friends of the Association. The following was proposed and unanimously elected to membership:

Mrs. Diana Lambourne	Leigh-on-Sea	Elizabeth Wycherley	Anthony Neale
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There were no nominations for *Non-resident* members.

All new members were reminded that their Annual Subscriptions were now due.

MASTER'S REPORT.

Andrew Beech presented the following report.

'We held the usual four **business meetings** throughout the year with good attendance at all of them except the November one at Downham where the number attending the actual meeting did not reflect the number of people at the whole event.

'The two **afternoon practices** at North Ockendon in February and Stanford-le-Hope in October were both well attended.

'The **consolidation training afternoon** in April was held at Rayleigh and saw Steve Hunter in his new role of District Education Officer coaching 5 students through Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob Minor. Thanks should be extended again to the ever-faithful helpers who help out on these worthwhile events.

'A training day is planned this year for 21st April.

'The **striking competition** at Great Wakering in May attracted four teams, which was fewer than previous years, and saw Prittlewell narrowly beat Downham to the trophy.

'Both teams went through to the Association final at Inworth in July where Prittlewell were placed 5th and Downham 6th.

'In the 8-bell inter-district competition at Goldhanger the district band were placed in =4th place.

'Nineteen ringers travelled to East Sussex in June for the **district outing**, and were rewarded with five very good peals of bells. Although not as well supported as in previous years we were still able to raise over £40 for the BRF and the district officers thank all who supported that event.

'The **quiz night** last year was held at Basildon in September where four teams enjoyed a fun evening which raised over £100 for the BRF. Many thanks to all of you who supported that event and to Rev. Esther McCafferty for allowing us to use the foyer of Basildon Church at short notice.

'It was good to see six teams entering the **call change competition** at Downham in November. There were about 6 ringers for whom this was their first experience of entering a competition and it was a fantastic effort by them, and indeed all the teams who took part. South Weald claimed the trophy this time after narrowly missing out the previous year.

'The year ended with a good number of us at our **carol service** at Eastwood, which took on a slightly different format than in previous years but nonetheless was enjoyable and we left with tummies full of mince pies!

'We all know that **recruitment** of new ringers into our towers is the only way to maintain numbers to ensure that the bells in our towers are rung every Sunday to the glory of God, and to welcome people to church.

'It's therefore very encouraging to mention that during 2006 this district elected 26 new ringing members. That's over double the amount from the previous year and the highest number of new ringers elected in any one year over the past five years.

'However, we should not become too complacent, as there are still many towers, some in our own district, who have insufficient ringers to ring on a Sunday without help from other nearby towers. Therefore, we need to consciously recruit more ringers, make ringing more appealing and accessible to those people in our congregations and on the street who may not know anything about ringing but who would make ideal ringers, and of course most importantly to encourage, involve and maintain the interest of young people – who are after all the future of bellringing.

'Finally, I would like to **thank** all of you who have supported the various events of the past year and, as always, look forward to seeing you again during this coming year. Please support as many events as you can this year and encourage other ringers at your own tower and those you visit, who may not normally attend events, to come along with you.

And also, on behalf of everyone in the district, may I thank all the towers and local ringers where we held events last year for their welcome and hospitality.

'I would also like to thank the other **District Officers** for all their help and support to me during the past year.

'Lastly, may I wish you all a happy and peaceful 2007 and of course - enjoy your ringing and your fellowship'.

SECRETARY / TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Bailey thanked those towers which had responded to the request to host District events. A copy of the District Income and Expenditure details had been circulated (copy in the Minutes Book).

EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Steve Hunter delivered the following report:-

'Throughout 2006 no special requests have been made for any particular training needs. A consolidation day was organised on April 22 at Rayleigh where a number of students were able to practice Grandsire and Plain

Bob Doubles. Thanks to all the more experienced ringers who gave their time and expertise to help others.

‘A further training day has been organised for 21st April 2007. This year we will be looking at Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman with a view to extending the methods from doubles into triples. The course will consist of both morning and afternoon sessions. In the morning we will look at the doubles methods, ensuring that everyone understands fully what they are doing. Over lunch we will discuss the technicalities of extending the methods onto higher numbers, and in the afternoon we will hopefully put everything learned into practice.

‘Volunteer helpers are needed for both morning and afternoon sessions, and a host tower is required (6 bell) for the morning. The afternoon session will be at Rayleigh. Please come and see me after the meeting if you are interested in the course or if you are available to help.

Nominations for Association Officers. Refer to *Correspondence* above.

District Programme for 2007. Details of the District Programme had been circulated at previous meetings and is on the Association website:-

- All meeting venues had now been confirmed.
- The Training Consolidation Day on 21st April (see the Education Officer’s Report above).
- The District Outing (16th June). Andrew asked for suggestions as to where we might go this year, otherwise he would look to either Suffolk or Kent.
- The Quiz Night with Ploughmans Supper will be held at North Ockendon.
- Andrew asked if members would like to resume the monthly Minor practices or anything similar.
- Andrew also asked the membership to let him or any of the District Officers know of any other events they might like included in the calendar.

DISCUSSION PAPER – “THE FUTURE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING”

The Master reminded the meeting that the paper had been circulated last February and a discussion was held on it at the September District meeting. A summary of the observations made at that meeting was published in our October Newsletter and included in the Minutes. It will now be forwarded to the Association Secretary as representing our Districts views. Members had been encouraged to either voice their opinions or write to the Association Officers if they so wished.

Election of District Officers. Colin Chapman (Chelmsford and Life Vice President) took the Chair for the election of the District Officers. He also thanked all of the current Officers for all of their work during the past year.

Master	Andrew Beech	Proposed by	Chris Bailey	Seconded by	Stephen Nash
Deputy Master	Phil Harrison	“	Peter Sloman	“	Stephen Nash
Secretary / Treasurer	Chris Bailey	“	Alison Nash	“	Roger Hobson
Committee Rep.	Lyn Benson	“	Phil Harrison	“	Mo Venus
Education Officer	Steve Hunter	“	Julie Hunter	“	Lawrence Beal

All were elected unopposed.

Both Andrew and Chris informed the meeting that they did not intend standing for election next year.

Any Other Business.

- The Secretary reminded members that subscriptions were now due and asked that where at all possible the Gift Aid Declaration should also be completed. Some members still had Covenants in place which cease when the member attains 65 years of age whereas the Gift Aid declaration has no age limit and it also applies to any donation made to the Association, not just the subscription. The Secretary has plenty of forms for those who are interested.
- The secretary asked for any changes to Tower Correspondents or tower facilities to be notified to him as soon as possible. An email contact would be most useful so as to cut down on postage.
- The Master reminded the meeting that our first afternoon practice would be at Ingatestone on 17th February – 3.00 to 5.00pm. A good chance to ring at a tower outside of the District.
- The Master reminded members to let Beth Johnson (South Weald) have ‘copy’ for the February Newsletter by the end of January. As decided at the last District Meeting, all future Meeting Minutes will be published in full in the Newsletter rather than reading them out at the following meeting. It is also the intention to disseminate the Newsletter via email where at all possible.
- The Master also asked towers to send any details of ringing they did for The Children’s Society Peal Appeal ringing to Beth Johnson as soon as possible for inclusion in the District Newsletter.
- Articles for the Association Newsletter would also be gratefully received by the Editor, who was Bryan Morrissey – his details were on the back page of the December 2006 issue of Rounds and About. In order to save ever rising printing costs, it had been decided that in future towers would receive just one copy of the Association Newsletter. It can always be viewed on the website.

- The Association Annual Dinner currently held in Chelmsford in October has seen a fluctuation in the number of people attending in recent years. Members were being asked to consider what alternative Association-wide social event might be considered. The item will be on the Agenda for the Association AGM in May.
- Vicki Chapman (Chelmsford and Association Training Officer) reminded the meeting of the Teaching the Teachers workshop which is to be held on 10th February. The event has been over subscribed and it is proposed to run it again in the near future. Anyone interested should contact Vicki.
- Vicki Chapman, as Essex Ringing Course Convenor, urged members to apply for a place on the course which will be held at Coggeshall between 12th – 14th April. Full details of courses available were published on recent tower posters and can be viewed on the website. As usual helpers are always required, contact Vicki or Yvonne Towler if you can assist.
- Andrew Taylor (Coggeshall) spoke about a range of short courses available at the Coggeshall Ringing Centre. A handout with full details was available for each tower.
- Phil Harrison asked the meeting to show its appreciation for the work undertaken by Andrew Beech as Master and Chris Bailey as Secretary/Treasurer. He felt that the District benefited from their work behind the scenes. (Applause).

Finally.

- The Service Collection raised £98.85
- The profit from Teas donated by the Rochford Ringers was £173.00
- The profit from the raffle was £91.0

Further ringing was available after the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 7:15pm.

Contact details:

Master	Andrew Beech (North Ockendon) 51 Newmarket Way, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6DS	01708 440939	email: andrewbeech@supanet.com
Secretary	Chris Bailey (Brentwood) 6 Parkway, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 8LH	01277 226614	email: cmb@pway.wanadoo.co.uk
Deputy Master	Phil Harrison (Thorpe Bay)	01702 711193	
Committee Rep	Lyn Benson (Rettendon)	01245 400468	Tracybenson31@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Beth Johnson (South Weald) 67 London Road Brentwood Essex CM14 4NN	01277 205102	email: b.johnson@creative-plus.co.uk

RAYLEIGH PRACTICES FOR ADVANCED RINGING

Just to remind everyone, the first Tuesday of each month STEVE HUNTER runs an eight bell practice at Rayleigh where the aim is to ring anything up to and including 8-spliced surprise major. Everyone is most welcome. Ringing for these practices is from 7.30 to 9.30pm.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS - SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Income & Expenditure Account for thr Year Ending
31 December 2006

INCOME

						2005	
		£	£	£		£	£
General Fund							
Subscriptions							
Ringing (Full)	142 @	6.00	852.00		112		
arrears	1 @	6.00	6.00		1		
advance	9 @	8.00	72.00		2		
Junior	13 @	3.00	39.00		8		
arrears	1 @	3.00	3.00				
advance	@	4.00	0.00				
Friends	10 @	3.00	30.00		9		
arrears	1 @	3.00	3.00				
advance	@	4.00	0.00				
Non-Resident	@	6.00	0.00	1,005.00	2		753.00
Sale of Badges	1 @	1.00	1.00			4.00	
Sale of Annual reports	@	3.50	0.00	1.00		3.50	7.50
GENERAL FUND - TOTAL INCOME			<u>£ 1,006.00</u>			<u>£ 760.50</u>	
 Bell Restoration Account							
Donations			£ 2.00			14.00	
Donations in lieu of Subs.			168.00			156.00	
Sale of Joe's book			nil			-	
Sale of Car Stickers	1 @	0.50	0.50			-	
Sale of 125th Pin Badges	2 @	2.00	4.00			-	
Sale of 125th Handbook	@	5.00	0.00			85.00	
Service Collections			260.95			249.94	
Profit from Teas			270.50			297.50	
Profit from Raffles			220.55			260.70	
Quiz Night (excluding Raffle)			101.00			145.00	
Profit from District Outing			41.50			70.00	
Donation (South Benfleet Handbell Ringers)			15.00			n/a	
BELL RESTORATION ACCOUNT- TOTAL INCOME		<u>£</u>	<u>1,084.00</u>			<u>£</u>	<u>1,278.14</u>
			2,090.00				2038.64
 Other Income							
TOTAL INCOME		<u>£</u>	<u>2,090.00</u>			<u>£</u>	<u>2038.64</u>
 EXPENDITURE							
Postage, stationery, telephone etc.			32.15			31.17	
Trophy for 6 bell comp. (extra shields)			n/a			37.00	
			32.15			68.17	
TOTAL INCOME less EXPENDITURE		<u>£</u>	<u>2,057.85</u>			<u>£</u>	<u>1970.47</u>
 Cash in hand at 1 January 2006							
			£ 10.00			£ 10.00	
Add : Total net income for 2006			<u>2,057.85</u>			<u>1,970.47</u>	
		£	2067.85		£	1,980.47	
Less : Cash in hand at 31 December 2005			<u>10.00</u>			<u>10.00</u>	
Payments to Association Treasurer		<u>£</u>	<u>2057.85</u>			<u>£</u>	<u>1,970.47</u>

Chris Bailey

(Southern District Secretary / Treasurer)

Notes from the Executive Committee Meeting held at Danbury on Saturday 3rd February

AGM at Chelmsford (Monday 7th May)

9:15 - 10:15 - Open Ringing (everyone is welcome to ring at the Cathedral during this time)

10:15 - 10:30 - Service Touch by an invited band

10:30 - Service in the Cathedral (preacher will be the Archdeacon of Southend)

Annual General Meeting will follow after a short interval

Afternoon ringing will be in the NE district with tea at Kirby-le-Soken

The Cathedral ringers will be serving tea and coffee at the start of the day and during the short interval between the service and meeting.

The following nominations will be taken:

Master:..... Stephen Nash

Secretary:..... Mary Bone

Treasurer:.....Andrew Brewster (proposed by Vicki Chapman, seconded by Yvonne Towler)

CC Reps:..... there are seven nominations for five posts as follows:

Alistair Donaldson, Jon Waters, Adrian Semken, John Armstrong, David Sparling, Brian Meads, Fred Bone

Property Trustees:..... Colin Chapman, Bernard Fairhead, Andrew Brewster

Independent Examiners:..Wendy Godden, John Tipping

Life Members:..... Gordon Lucas (proposed by Richard Dunhill, seconded by Andy Martin)

Life Vice Presidents:.....Andrew Taylor (proposed by Peter Eves, seconded by Andrew Brewster)

Both the Secretary (Mary Bone) and the Master (Stephen Nash) announced that this will be their last year and will not be standing for re-election in 2008.

Included on the AGM Agenda this year will be the following items:

- Annual Dinner/Association Social Event ideas and discussion

- Olympics a presentation

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Hilary Spooner, from North Ockendon, celebrated a special birthday on Sunday 11th February by ringing a quarter peal prior to evensong.

EMAIL CONTACTS

The committee currently have email contact addresses for the following towers: Basildon, Bentley Common, Brentwood, Downham, Hutton, Ingrave, Langdon Hills, Navestock, North Ockendon, Prittlewell, Rayleigh and South Weald. If any other towers can let the Newsletter editor have an email contact this will help with keeping towers up to date and, if you are happy to do so, you can receive your newsletter by email. Just forward your address to Beth's email below.

JOKE - CAN YOU DO BETTER?

When Quasimodo finally passed away, the Bishop of Notre Dame Cathedral had to advertise for a new bell ringer. He was very surprised when the only applicant arrived, as he had no arms. "I really feel arms are a prerequisite for a bell ringer," he said to the applicant, "Much as two legs are for a actor playing Tarzan." "It's not a problem," answered the armless man, and starting ringing the bell, remarkably well, by hitting it with his face. "Fancy that!" said the Bishop, and invited him to look at the view, where by the man got an instant bout of vertigo and fell from the tower. The Bishop rushed downstairs, to find a large crowd around the dead man. "Who was he?" asked one of the Parisians. "I have no idea," replied the Bishop, "but his face sure rang a bell."

If you think this joke is truly awful, please send your newsletter entries to Beth Johnson to avoid her having to think up any more. Births? Deaths? Marriages? Achievements? Requests? Email b.johnson@creative-plus.co.uk, phone 01277 205102 or post to 67 London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NN.



The Essex Association of Change Ringers

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

2007 Diary of Events



DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIME
Saturday 17 February	District Afternoon Practice	Ingatestone (6) (SE District)	3:00-5:00 pm
Saturday 17 March	DISTRICT MEETING	North Ockendon (6)	3:30 pm
Saturday 21 April	DISTRICT TRAINING DAY	(TBC)	(tbc)
Thursday 12 April	<i>Association - Essex Ringing Course (Note: This is the week after Holy Week)</i>	Coggeshall	12, 13, 14 April
Monday 7 May	<i>Association AGM - Chelmsford</i>	Ringing in NE District	
Saturday 19 May	STRIKING COMPETITION	Navestock (6)	5:00 pm
Saturday 16 June	DISTRICT OUTING	Suggestions or Suffolk or Kent	from 10:30 am
Saturday 7 July	<i>Association Striking Competition FINALS</i>	<i>Southern District 6-bell Orsett, 8-bell South Weald</i>	
Saturday 15 September	DISTRICT MEETING	Thorpe Bay (8)	3:30 pm
Saturday 29 September	QUIZ NIGHT	North Ockendon	7:00 for 7:30 pm
Saturday 6 October	<i>Association Annual Dinner</i>	County Hotel, Chelmsford	
Saturday 13 October	<i>Association Executive Committee Meeting</i>	Danbury	2:30 pm
Saturday 20 October	District Afternoon Practice	Grays (8)	3:00-5:00 pm
Saturday 17 November	DISTRICT MEETING Preceded by Call Change Competition	Shenfield (6)	2:30 pm (note earlier start)
Saturday 8 December	District Carol Service	Langdon Hills (6)	3:30 pm

2008

Saturday 19 January	ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING	Leigh-on-Sea (8)	3:30 pm
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PLEASE NOTE:

JAN / MARCH / SEPT - District Meeting arrangements (*times for Tea, Meeting & Evening Ringing are approximate*):
3:30pm: Afternoon Ringing, 4:30pm: Service, 5:00pm: Tea, 6:15pm: Meeting, 7:00pm: Evening Ringing

NOVEMBER - District Meeting arrangements (*times for Tea, Meeting & Evening Ringing are approximate*):
2:30pm: Competition Ringing, 4:30pm: Service, 5:00pm: Tea, 6:15pm: Meeting, 7:00pm: Evening Ringing

MAY - District Striking Competition arrangements:
5:00pm: Draw & Competition Ringing, followed by Tea, Brief Meeting, Results

DECEMBER - District Carol Service arrangements:
3:30pm: Afternoon Ringing, 4:30pm: Service, 5:30pm *approx*: Seasonal Refreshments

Any changes to the programme will be announced at district meetings
or via the district newsletter.