



# Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 26, Number 6

August 2009

## Message From the Dean

Greetings!

*Summertime and the livin' is easy...*

It is a great honor and with a deep sense of humility that I greet each of you as the newest dean for the RRV-AGO. Did you



realize that the Red River Valley Chapter has been in existence for 64 years? Our heritage as a professional organization is long and highly distinguished and it is my hope that in coming this year we will continue to offer the same excellence in programming and professional development opportunities as in the past.

Even though it is still technically summer in this area, early in June every member received a survey asking about last year's programming and your goals and desires for the future. Your responses have been taken very seriously and the Board has developed a diverse group of program offerings that we think accurately reflect your wishes (for complete results, look for the article later in this newsletter). I hope you will carve time from your busy schedules to join us regularly. You will find the complete schedule of activities on the final page of this newsletter. **One special note regarding the Board for this year.**

We have a number of openings remaining on the board for the coming year. We are in desperate need of a treasurer as well as 2 member-at-large (3 year term). There are also a number of smaller tasks that need to be accomplished in order for the chapter to run smoothly. The board members that have been elected by you have each taken on additional responsibilities to make certain many tasks are covered.

Could you find time to help with just one? Check out the list later in the newsletter for all position openings.

Our September meeting will be a slight twist on a familiar theme. We are required by national to have a general business meeting each year so that is exactly what we will do **PLUS!** Mark your calendar for this year's general meeting (and our first event) for **Sunday, Sept. 20 at 3:00 pm at GETHSEMANE Episcopal Cathedral.** Event details are in another portion of the newsletter, but it is my hope that you will find this meeting a useful and fun way to begin the fall season. In addition to the general business items we need to tend to we will also have a music swap, social, and used cd sale. So, here is what is required of you. As you prepare and plan for the fall/winter season, rummage through your scores and look for any duplicates you may have or those that you no longer care to keep. THEN, do the same with your cd collection – anything you may have duplicates of or perhaps have transferred to digital medium. Bring them along... The Board is asking for a monetary donation for the sheet music and \$2. for each cd you take home with you. The monetary proceeds of the sale will go directly to the AGO General Fund campaign, the musical proceeds of the music and cd swap/sale are that you have great new things to play and listen to for next to nothing—AND you have time to meet and greet your colleagues within our local organization.

Until September 20, please take time to enjoy these few remaining days of summer!

Peace,  
Peggy

## Programs for 2009-2010

Here is a sampling of the upcoming programs this year. More to come...watch for updates!

**September 20:** General Meeting, Music Swap and CD Sale  
-Gethsemane Episcopal Church

**October 30 & 31:** Organ Recital (30<sup>th</sup>) and Masterclass (31<sup>st</sup>)  
-First Lutheran Church

## First Friday Luncheon

**Who** Everyone is Welcome!

**When** First Friday of the Month at Noon

**Where** Fryn' Pan  
302 Main Ave, Fargo

## Chapter Officers

Dean: Peggy Johnson

Sub-Dean: Anna Goodin-Hayes

Secretary: Michael Olson

Treasurer: Open

## Board Members at Large

2010: Gaylord Fagerland, Steve Eneboe

2011: Anna Goodin-Hayes, Erich Knapp

2012: Open



## Board Meeting Notes

The following board members were present at the AGO board meeting on Thursday, July 16 at noon at Boulger Funeral Home in Fargo: Michael Olson, Erich Knapp, Anna Goodin-Hayes, Peggy Johnson, and Bill Tweten.

Peggy and Michael discussed the Wichita regional AGO convention. Peggy brought her book to show the rest of the board members—the convention book was very nice. The attendance at the convention was about 125—not what the committee had hoped for but, in spite of the economy and such, it was a pretty good showing. All ten states in our region WERE represented at the convention (I happened to be the only attendee from North Dakota...)

Peggy called the meeting to order at 12:15 after a delicious potluck lunch was enjoyed by all.

The secretary's report from the May board meeting (as there was no June board meeting) was approved as submitted.

Since there is not a treasurer at the present time, there was no treasurer's report.

Peggy mailed surveys to each chapter member (2008-2009) to provide feedback on chapter programs and other issues. NINE surveys were returned to Peggy, and she shared the results of those surveys. (I do not have the results to share with others at this time, but the results were discussed at the board meeting by Peggy.)

Peggy discussed having a student representative (probably a student from Concordia) on the board for a one-year term. She will discuss this with Peter Nygaard to find a possible person to serve.

Programs were discussed for the 2009-2010 season. There will be a program at Gethsemane Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, September 20 at 4:00. This will be a review of the Wichita regional convention, as well as a music exchange (which has been quite successful in the past). Peggy also mentioned that we might bring CDs that we no longer listen to (or possibly have never listened to) and could sell those to other chapter members at a nominal charge -- perhaps even three dollars -- and use the proceeds from the CD sale to give some money to the AGO Annual Fund.

Kim Kasling from St. John's University will present an organ recital at First Lutheran Church on Friday evening, October 30 at 8:00 p.m. He will also give a masterclass on Saturday morning, October 31 from 10:00 to noon, also at First Lutheran.

The Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long was discussed. It was decided that, at least for the current season, that we not have this event but that we promote events of chapter members during the holiday season.

Sunday, March 21, 2010 "just happens" to be Bach's 225th birthday. We have discussed having a progressive Bach Fest—there might be chamber music at one church, choral music at another church, organ music at another church. The discussion is just beginning concerning this event.

We discussed the possibility of working with Communiversity on possibly having a class on Johann Sebastian Bach and his music, especially since 2010 will be a big anniversary year. Perhaps it is too late already to get on the February 2010 Communiversity course list, but we'll check it out.

Other topics that were discussed include the following:

LPM—Leadership for Parish Musicians (a program for parish musicians predominantly in smaller churches)  
Certification—AGO certification is available on several levels; perhaps the Service Playing exam and the Colleague (CAGO) exam would benefit the most people  
POE (Pipe Organ Encounter) or Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza (or possibly both events) for younger folk

We also discussed having a post-Easter brunch on Sunday, April 4 and/or a post-Pentecost brunch on Sunday, May 16 to discuss the morning's worship (good things, bad things, things we would have done differently, ideas from other colleagues, and such).

The next board meeting will be Thursday, August 20 at noon at Boulger Funeral Home.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Olson, Secretary

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## Upcoming Event

### General Meeting, Music Swap, CD Sale

Sunday, September 20 at 3:00 pm

Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral at 3600 25<sup>th</sup> St. S., Fargo

#### Agenda

- General meeting
- Get to know the newest members of the Chapter
- Hear about the latest Regional Convention
- Find out what's planned for the upcoming season of events

#### *And if that isn't enough to entice you to come then how about also having....*

- Open console – it's your chance to play the Sipe organ
- Music swap\*
- Used/new CD sale\*
- Great snacks and drinks
- Share stories of your summer fun

**Program Host: Peggy Johnson** (For questions, contact Peggy at 701.866.5993 or [johnsonorganist@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonorganist@gmail.com).)

\*Financial Proceeds go to the National AGO General Fund ➤

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## Help Wanted!

If you don't know what these positions entail just ask! I'll send you a detailed description of the tasks involved—most require only minimum amounts of time. Thanks, Peggy

- Treasurer (currently served by Michael Olson who is also the board secretary)
  - Board Member at large
  - Board Member at large
  - Chaplain
  - Professional Concerns (currently served by dean)
  - Historian/Archivist
  - Publicity
  - Placement
  - Program (currently served by board with help from Sally Harmon)
  - Nominations
  - Professional Certification (currently served by dean)
  - Education
  - Competition
  - Yearbook
  - Finance
  - Hospitality
  - Grant Writing
  - Webmaster (position filled—served by Anna Goodin-Hayes)
  - Newsletter (position filled—served by Sheila Baumgartner and Marty Baumgartner) ➤
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## Survey Says!

Below you will find the details of the survey distributed to members by Peggy Johnson, RRV-AGO dean. The board will discuss and evaluate the results and decide on next steps to improve the guild.

<b>Number of surveys mailed:</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Number of surveys returned:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Percentage of membership replies</b>	<b>20%</b>

### Assessment of Last Season Chapter Events (Scale of 1-5, 5 being highest rating)

	Quality of Program	Match/Needs	Match/Community
Sept	3.4	3.1	1.7
Oct	2.9	2.6	3.0
Dec	2.2	2.2	2.3
Feb	2.8	2.6	2.8
Apr	2.6	2.5	2.0
May	NOT RATED		

### Future Programming Professional Interest (Highest to Lowest)

Recitals by Chapter Members (3.7)  
Organ Playing/Repertory Workshops (3.6)  
Organ and Instrument Programs (3.6)  
Recital by Guest Artists (3.3)  
Organ building and Design programs (3.0)  
Professional development programming (2.8)  
Handbell concert/workshop (2.8)  
Choral Concerts (2.4)  
Choral Music reading/workshops (2.2)  
Guild service (1.7)

### Future Programming Community Needs (Highest to Lowest)

Organ and Instruments programs (4.0)  
Recitals by Guest Artists (3.8)  
Recital by Chapter members (3.7)  
Handbell concert/workshop (3.6)  
Choral concert (3.5)  
Choral music reading/workshops (2.2)  
Organ building and design (2.1)  
Organ playing/repertory workshops (2.0)  
Professional development programs (1.7)  
Guild Service (1.7)

**Best Day to Attend meetings:** 1. Sunday afternoon, 2. Sunday Evening, 3. Saturday, 4. Monday

**Worst Day to Attend Meetings:** 1. Wednesday (3), 2. Tuesday, 3. Thursday, 4. Friday, 5. Weekdays before 7 pm, 6. Saturday, 7. Sunday

### Most Worthwhile Chapter Goals

- provide reasonably priced, high quality organ concerts (4)
- create community awareness of organ in worship educating value of organ vs. guitars/keyboard/trap set (2)
- keeping organists connected and cooperating as professionals
- work toward developing member skills and promoting organ within the community
- more member participation

### Chapter Failings

- gain membership
- create camaraderie among chapter members
- reach out to non-members
- too much money spent on local artists who did not promote organ
- don't know (2)



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## Upcoming Events

*September 20, 2009*

General Meeting, Music Swap and CD Sale  
Gethsemane Episcopal Church

*October 30 & 31, 2009*

Organ Recital and Masterclass (Guest artist TBA)  
First Lutheran Church

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