



Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 27, Number 4

August 2010

Message From the Dean

Happy August to Everyone!

I, for one, cannot believe that we are in the month when we begin to think about school supplies and fall schedules. Where has the summer gone? If you are like me, then you are knee-deep in fall anthem and hymn planning, and selection of



organ music for worship. Hopefully you have found some time for relaxation, fun, and even a bit of music shopping before the return to choir rehearsals and weekly staff meetings that lurk in the very near future!

While I'm always sad to see summer leave us, I'm very excited to begin this fall of RRVAGO work. The new board of directors met last week and as you can see from the meeting minutes, have already accomplished a great deal of work for this year.

While plans for several member-participant programs are in the works and full details will be found in the September newsletter, during the remaining days of August, the RRVAGO is undertaking two important projects (both involving membership renewal). First, it's time to renew your membership for the coming year. This *MAY* be the last year you'll have to do so via snailmail, so it is tremendously

important that you renew as soon as possible so you can say you were among the last to actually put a stamp on your membership form! Our AGO headquarters is offering a wonderful incentive competition called "Race to Renew" whereby if we renew 90% of our current membership by September 1, we will be entered into a competition with like-sized chapters for a \$500 gift to use as we wish. What a simple way to pad our coffers – renew your membership and help us enter this promotion!

The second is the **AGO Phonathon**. The idea is very simple: we contact our lapsed members (did you know we have only 10?) and encourage them to re-join the Guild this fall. Doing so has already provided us a \$25 credit toward our 2010-2011 dues report AND puts us in the running for a \$1500 gift from the national headquarters. The Phonathon challenge has been accepted by the board and phone calls are being made as you read this newsletter!

It is my hope that we will reap the benefits of increased membership and profit as we see to "grow" our chapter this month! Join us in our quest!

Soli deo Gloria,

Peggy

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: Robyn Vinje

Treasurer: Ruth Strawn

Board Members at Large

2011: Anna Goodin-Hayes, Erich Knapp

2012: Michael Olson, Marty Baumgartner, Lance Johnson

2013: (open)

Board Meeting Notes

The board met at Boulger Funeral Home at noon on Thursday, July 29, 2010. Members present were Dr. Peggy Johnson, dean, Marty Baumgartner, Lance Johnson, Michael Olson, and Robyn Vinje, secretary. This constituted a quorum.

Peggy reported for the Program Committee which is Carolyn Hensrud, chair, and Sally Harmon and Dawn Papenfuss. They are proposing four programs for the 2010-11 year:

Sunday, October 17: Music of Brahms, perhaps a major choral work. This was proposed by Dr. David Fandrich, Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, here it would be held. There would also be pieces other than choral.

Monday, December 6 or 13 Christmas Sing-a-Long, with Carolyn Hensrud as chair. The location would be Trinity Lutheran and hopefully include their adult and children's choirs. Back-up location would be First Lutheran.

Sunday, March 27: Bellabration! At Nativity Catholic Church with handbell and vocal choirs. This event was received very well two years ago.

Weekend, early June: Theatre Organ Workshop at Fargo Theatre. The Borland family gave \$1200 to the theatre to be used for an educational program for young people, hopefully to get them interested in organ. Peggy contacted Concordia about their possible interest and involvement, but they declined. After some discussion, it was decided that we should contact ATOS to see if they would be interested in co-sponsoring this event. Lance offered to contact them.

- Fall might be better than spring as far as young people's schedules are concerned.
- Peggy will talk to Margie Bailly to get more details.
- It should probably be a one-day event, rather than two.

The board approved these programs, with provisions as above.

The possibility of joining ATOS for their annual potluck meeting in September was also discussed. However, it was decided that we would wait for an invitation from them. There are several AGO members who also belong to ATOS, including Lance, Michael, and Steve Eneboe. Peggy would like to see the chapter accomplish two things this year:

1. Have an educational event. One possibility is a one-day workshop for organists, covering things like hymn playing and new music, perhaps next June.
2. Have a gain in membership in the chapter.

Peggy announced two items that she received from the national organization.

1. Race to Renew, in which the chapter would be eligible to win \$500 if 90% of our members renew by September 1.
2. Phonathon, to get former members to join by trying three times to reach them by phone. We could get a \$25 credit on our dues report, and be eligible for a \$1500 prize.

Something else that Peggy learned from national is that next spring they are hoping to try having members renew electronically. This would certainly help the local treasurer.

Peggy mentioned that the Grand Forks chapter only has four members now, and the possibility that we could do something with them.

Contents of the newsletter were discussed, and it was suggested that we have each chapter member write a short article about himself/herself. Marty will develop a form or outline for members to follow to facilitate this. Other items that should be included each month include a calendar of events, and position openings. (There is currently an opening for an organist at Bethesda Lutheran Church.)

Peggy would like to have a Concordia student representative to AGO. Lance recommended Joe Trocano who is currently serving as organist at Dilworth Lutheran, and he will contact him about it.

Paul Westermeyer will be coming to Concordia in late September or early October for a Friday night & Saturday workshop. Details will be passed along as they become available. This is an opportunity no organist should miss.

This issue of a budget for the Christmas Sing-a-Long was discussed, and it was decided that the committee should "spend what they need but keep the board informed".

The next board meeting will be Thursday, August 19, at noon, at Boulger Funeral Home. Dean Peggy would like all board members to give some thought to what goals we should have for the coming year, and what are the needs of the area that we can fulfill?

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Vinje

Pipeline Profile

The "Pipeline Profile" has been created so members can get to know more about each other. We encourage everyone to write their own profile and send it along with a picture of yourself (*.jpg* or *.bmp* format) to us at rsvago@hotmail.com. We may need to edit content if necessary and will feature a member in each edition (space permitting). We look forward to meeting each of you!



Peggy Johnson, Chapter Dean

My Sunday gig is...Director of Music Activities, Organist & Choirmaster

My church is ...Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral

At Gethsemane I play...a Robert Sipe Organ (3 manuals)

Music ensembles at Gethsemane...includes the Cathedral Choir (comprised of 20 singers including 4 scholarship students), SpiritSong, an informal musical group, a fledgling recital and concert series

My weekday gig is...occasionally teaching at Concordia College (freshman music theory and aural skills), Teach and coach movement workshops and lessons for musicians

In my spare time I...serve on the board for the Leadership for Parish Musicians program for NW Minnesota and Eastern Dakota, work with stained glass, knit and garden

Little known factoids...I grew up in Edgeley, ND and studied at Concordia with Ruth Burge for 1 year!
And...I really dislike the music of Max Reger!

Calendar of Events

Here is a tentative schedule for the upcoming year. Please contact Peggy at 701.866.5993 for more information.

September 11 (9:00-11:00 am): "What Every Organist Needs to Know About the Body"
Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral ~ Peggy Johnson, Certified Andover Educator
Please register to attend!

October 10 (4:00 pm): Organ Recital, Peggy Johnson, Gethsemane Episcopal Church

November 7 (4:00 pm): Choral Evensong for All Saints, Gethsemane Episcopal Church

Music by Craig Phillips and Charles Stanford

December 19: Lessons and Carols of Christmas, Gethsemane Episcopal Church

September-May: Leadership for Parish Musicians (various locations) NW Minnesota-Eastern Dakotas LPM
Jennifer Baker-Trinity, coordinator. For more information contact jbakertrinity@mac.com

Job Opportunity!

Minister of Music at Lutheran Church of the Cross

The basic roles of this position are: Director for Adult Choir, Director for Promise Song youth choir, Voices of the Cross (worship band) leader, Assist with planning music for traditional services

The previous person in this role worked about 20 hours per week. If interested, please contact Theresa Ulrich, Minister of Music, Lutheran Church of the Cross at 701.361.1861.

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Upcoming Events

TBA

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Publication Title *Pipeline*

Issue Date August 2010

Statement of Frequency Monthly, except June and July

Editors Sheila Baumgartner & Marty Baumgartner

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