



American Guild of Organists

# PIPELINE

VOL. 6, NO. 3

November 9, 1989

## ANNUAL HYMN FESTIVAL WITH CHAPTER MEETING TO FOLLOW

Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead  
Sunday, November 19, 1989  
5:15 Rehearsal, 6:15 Break, 7:00 Festival Service

All chapter members are invited to sing with the Hymn Festival chorus at Trinity Lutheran in Moorhead this year. Stephen Gabrielsen, Associate Professor of Music, Augsburg College in Minneapolis, will be the guest organist with area choir members and our members participating in the chorus. He is writing a splendid service for us.

The rehearsal will be at 5:15 and all music will be handed out and rehearsed at that time. We will break at 6:15 and no food will be served, so eat before you come or run over to Kentucky Fried Chicken, Wendy's, or McDonald's at 6:15 if you are hungry. We will not wear choir robes this year since the group will be seated near the organ.

A chapter meeting (45 minutes) will follow at 8:15 with coffee and cookies.

For the first time the Hymn Festival is going to happen without a chairperson so the Dean is coordinating the event from Crookston with the help of some very cooperative committee members. We want to thank Peter Nygaard, Marg Possehl, Carolyn Hensrud, Judy Sanders, and Becky te Velde and others for their work. Let's hope for a chairperson next year.

George French, Dean



# THE DEAN'S PAGE

## ... THE DEAN RECOMMENDS ...

### 1. NO CHAPTER YEARBOOK because:

a. All program information for the entire year will be communicated in each newsletter which is a better source for this information.

b. Membership lists will be published in the October and January issues of the newsletter. Only members who have paid their dues will be included. Extra copies of these lists will be available from several sources in case it is lost. **IT IS NOT PROFESSIONAL FOR US TO PUBLISH NAMES OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES. WE HAVE HEARD COMPLAINTS ABOUT THIS.**

c. Substitute lists will be included in every issue.

d. The executive board and all committee members will be included in every issue.

e. The Yearbook is costly and duplicates the newsletter.

f. It was important at one time when it was the only published piece of information concerning the chapter which was sent to our members. This is no longer true.

g. If members really feel lost without some type of chapter "booklet", a "Chapter Directory" can be published sometime after the first of the year instead of the complete membership list with the January newsletter. However, I would still advocate the "dues paid" membership list in the October issue. The Twin Cities chapter publishes a directory in the spring. I would favor a directory sometime around mid-January.

### 2. ALL CHAPTER COMMITTEES (NOT EXECUTIVE BOARD) OPERATE ON THE CALENDAR YEAR because:

a. **No.** It is easier to recruit people to serve in the fall and we have the opportunity to involve our new members immediately.

b. It is easier for the new Dean to take over with the committee structure in place and operating. He/She doesn't have to worry about this until the end of the summer.

c. The program committee would start operating in January to begin planning for the upcoming year. The same is true for the Hymn Festival and nominating committees which would benefit. I can't find one

committee that would be less effective.

d. Grant writing will be easier. Since the Dean usually writes grants, and deadlines usually are sometime in February, there is a chance to consult with the new program and long-range planning committees to realistically fill out the applications.

These items will be discussed on November 19 (Hymn Festival Sunday). Be sure to voice your concerns to one of the executive officers or a board member.

## ... IMPORTANT ... COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Pending approval on November 19, all committee members will begin serving on January 1. We need to fill the following positions:

- Arts Council Representative (1)
- Auditor (Jerry Berg)
- Chaplain (1)
- Education and Archives (3)
- Hospitality (1 chairperson)
- Hymn Festival (4)
- Long-Range Planning and Nominating (3)
- Membership (1 chairperson)
- Publicity (1 chairperson)
- Newsletter (Judy Sanders)
- Professional Concerns (1 chairperson)
- Program (4)

If you had an interest in serving this year, please contact a chapter officer indicating your interest to serve the calendar year which will overlap into the new executive board to be elected this spring. It would be simply wonderful if members volunteered to serve. Unfortunately, this chapter is similar to many organizations in that historically people need to be asked and WE are all guilty to some extent. This is not to de-emphasize the many contributions or time and talent we have enjoyed in the past and many people do volunteer, but frequently they are the same people year after year. So, take this opportunity to get more out of your organization by becoming ACTIVE.

**The deadline for the next newsletter is December 8.**

**All information should be sent to:**

Judy Sanders  
% Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1500 Sixth Street South  
Moorhead, MN 56560

**Articles received after this date will not be included.**

*must give 2 chances to renew.*  
*no one has followed up on non-pay mbrs. not necessary.*  
*Call to remind. Publ. in October. dropped next yr.*

*no - never given sign up chance*

*Yes. Has in past yrs.*

### A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

With help from the board, I am working very hard to recommend some major changes in our chapter structure which involves some SACRED COWS. I believe that the process has been contemplative in nature. If you have suggestions, comments, or concerns, PLEASE contact someone who is on the board or an executive officer. As we move in the 90's, we want to see our chapter become more effective and efficient.

Let's fact, it we are facing some real challenges. Many congregations are purchasing little electronic keyboards and I think it is probably because nobody knows how to play the pedals anymore in many locations.

It is time that we looked at our chapter objectively and critically so we can respond appropriately to what is out there. All of our efforts should be directed ultimately to the survival of our profession and a service to the community.

### OBITUARY for Gay Elaine Mohr

Gay Elaine Mohr, died June 6, in a Fargo, North Dakota, hospital, after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage, at age 43. A memorial service was held on Friday, June 9, at Plymouth Congregational Church, Fargo, where she was Director of Music since 1973.

Born in Hollywood, California, on June 5, 1946, she moved with her family to Holstein, Iowa, and later to Greybull, Wyoming, where she graduated from high school. She received her bachelor's degree in music education at the University of Wyoming at Laramie and her master's degree in vocal performance at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she studied voice with the late Louis Cunningham. In 1973, she began teaching voice at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, where she was employed until the time of her death. She married Rodney Rothlisberger on December 20, 1975.

While living in Fargo-Moorhead, she performed with the F-M Civic Opera Company, the F-M Community Theatre, the F-M Symphony Orchestra, and the Concordia College Orchestra, and she appeared frequently on the faculty recital series at Concordia.

Prior to coming to Moorhead, she sang with the Central City (Colorado) Opera, the Colorado Opera Theatre (Denver), the Colorado Springs Summer Opera Festival, and the University of Colorado Opera Workshop. In addition, she appeared in concert with the symphony orchestras of Denver; Colorado Springs; Casper, Wyoming; Duluth-Superior; Minot, North Dakota; Grand Forks, North Dakota, and the universities of Colorado and Wyoming.

She was winner of the North Dakota State Metropolitan Opera Auditions for three consecutive years and was the two-time recipient of the Anne Dupont-Peyton Award in the Rocky Mountain Regional Metropolitan Opera Auditions. She was active member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and the board of directors of the F-M Civic Opera Company.

She is survived by her parents, two brothers and a sister.

### SISTER CHAPTER IN GRAND FORKS?

Two members (from the F-M area) have indicated that they are surprised that there is no chapter in Grand Forks. My feeling has been that it is better to concentrate on one chapter in this area. However, I think a Grand Forks chapter is worth considering if:

1. Full dues paid to either the Grand Forks or Fargo chapter means automatic dual membership.
2. Large events such as festivals, church music workshops, expensive recitalists, etc., could be alternated yearly between the F-M and Grand Forks area. Ultimately, our profession would benefit and we would be serving a larger community.
3. Members in towns such as Larimore, Devils Lake, Thief River Falls, Crookston, Hallock, Bemidji, etc., would have a closer "chapter home".
4. Two more regional arts councils in Minnesota (Thief River Falls and Bemidji) could perhaps be tapped for funding. Perhaps more funding could be received from the NDCA, the city of Grand Forks, etc. Again, our profession would benefit.
5. Members of both chapters would be encouraged to attend events sponsored by the Fargo and Grand Forks chapter. Name badges would be helpful. The newsletter could be handled in several different ways:
  - a. One newsletter for both chapters.
  - b. Each chapter have its own newsletter.
  - c. The newsletter would be published alternate months in either Grand Forks or F-M. The Fargo chapter would get information to Grand Forks one month and vice versa the next. Computer lists could be exchanged.
6. A directory could be published with members of both chapters. Maybe a combined membership of 130?, 500?, a million?
7. Each chapter would have its own executive board and committee structure. However, certain committees from both chapters might want to work together on certain projects.

I don't think we will have time to talk about this on November 19. Let me know what you think, especially if you are one of our 15 or so members who live closer to Grand Forks than F-M. Can Grand Forks support a 30 plus member chapter?

### RED RIVER CHAPTER, A.G.O.

Minutes of AGO Board Meeting, September 17, 1989, 7 P.M., Village Inn, Moorhead, MN.

Board Members present:

Dean George French, Brad Steen, Norm Roos, Marlys Herring, Marge Possehl, Marlowe Kulish.

Also attending: Ruth Fossum, Peter Nygaard and Judy Sanders.

I. An AGO sponsored children's choir was discussed. Ruth Fossum is interested in getting a group of children, ages 8 to 13, started to meet weekly and paying a small fee to belong. While this appears to be a long-range plan, Marlowe suggested we support Ruth's efforts to get this group started on her own with the blessings and recommendation of the chapter. Then it could be publicly announced at the Children's Choir Festival in March. Norm Roos moved that we table a firm decision and let Ruth "test the waters" before the chapter support is extended. His motion passed.

II. Judy Sanders explained the make-up of the AGO Handbell group. This group meets weekly and, as yet, has had no financial help from AGO. The group felt they should have a line in the budget. No firm budget is in place at this time.

III. Judy Sanders will take on the newsletter duties with the paid help of Shelah Obenauer at Good Shepherd Church. Get things into Judy before November 3.

IV. Ed Wright, Moorhead Mortician, requested the chapter recommend a standard organist's fee for the F-M area. Referred to Professional Concerns Chair.

V. Brad Steen is working on the Yearbook, but dues are late, -as have been the previous newsletters.

VI. George discussed a proposal to set up a revised committee structure. The board agreed on his proposal, with a couple revisions. All felt that membership, yearbook, publicity and newsletter should be separate committees with a chair selecting personnel.

VII. George volunteered to write job descriptions for each committee and send to the board members for their input.

VIII. An acting dean and sub-dean are needed for March through May. Be thinking!!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Margery Possehl, Secretary

### RED RIVER CHAPTER, A.G.O.

Minutes of Oct. 8, 1989 meeting, Mr. Steak, Fergus Falls, MN.

I. After a very interesting and successful organ crawl to Rothsay and Fergus Falls, the members met for dinner and a short business meeting. All agreed that we must get the dues in,

remind unpaying former members, and get the yearbook out.

II. There was some discussion about changing the time to establish committees. George suggested new committees could be formed in January to sooner involve new members and give a longer planning time. No action was taken.

III. Job descriptions for the committees are in the works.

IV. Lloyd Collins gave the treasurers' report.

Income	\$2,674.28
(including grant for AGO organ)	
Expenses	<u>\$1,533.84</u>
Balance in checking	\$1,141.44

V. Several new members were present -- Ruth Stenson, Grafton, told of the dedicatory concert for the new Nordlie company. We are all invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margery Possehl, Secretary

### RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER, A.G.O.

Minutes of Board meeting, October 31, Fryin' Pan Restaurant, Fargo, ND - 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Dean George French, Brad Steen, Lloyd Collins, Margery Possehl

After a brief update on Hymn Festival plans, recommendations were made on the following topics:

I. The board recommends revamping the Yearbook, making it strictly a membership directory.

II. Revamping the newsletter to include schedule of events and changes, names of officers and board members, an up-date on membership with introduction of new members, and other pertinent information.

III. The board also recommends restructuring the chapter committees -- selecting them in the fall and taking over responsibilities January 1. Numbers of committee members on each committee was discussed.

IV. The board recommends adopting the national fee schedule.

There will be a short meeting and social hour in the Trinity lounge following the Hymn Festival on November 19. Please come and make your comments and vote on these recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margery Possehl, Secretary

**LANCE JOHNSON SUGGESTS MORE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

As you may know, there is a nationwide shortage of organists. After information was sent out about a workshop for potential organists in Kansas City last summer, it was discussed that perhaps this could be offered here. This will be a topic for our long-range planning committee because:

1. The Kansas City project was cancelled because of a lack of participants which resulted in the lack of a successful model for our chapter.
2. There is some question as to Concordia College offering this in the future. We might be better off to work with another organization.

We need to address this critical situation. Our organ crawl to Fergus Falls in September resulted in a new high school member who plays in Rothsay, MN which should be considered a major accomplishment in light of the shortage of organ students. If we have time, we will talk about this at the November 19 meeting. Stephen Gabrielsen will talk to our chapter at that meeting for a few minutes about the current situation in the Twin Cities.

**CONGRATULATIONS BECKY!!**

Chapter member Rebecca te Velde is now an Associate of the America Guild of Organists. She chose to take the playing and written portions of the AAGO exam separately. She took the playing exam in June of 1988 at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, and the written exam this past June in Fargo. She had passed the Colleague exam in 1984. Becky holds a Master's degree in organ performance and literature from the University of Western Ontario where she studied organ with Hugh McLean and composition with Jack Behrens. She also spent a year in Germany studying with Michael Schneider and Almut Roesler. Becky strongly encourages other chapter members to consider taking a Guild exam. If anyone has questions about the exams or how to prepare for them, they should feel free to call her at 280-9432.

**COME AND GET THEM, OR I'LL THROW THEM TO THE HOGS!**



Back issues of AGO Journals 1974 through 1980 and 1983 to the present. Also back issues of The Diapason - 1967 through 1977. Call or write to Otto Muecke, 415 Northwest Second Street, Mayville, ND 58257. Office - 701-786-4820, Home - 701-786-4245.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL**

There is nothing more satisfying than experiencing the enthusiasm of children making beautiful music. We have the expertise and the grant money to put together a beautiful program on Sunday, March 18 in Fargo. All we need now are a few more chapter volunteers to complete the committee.

Please call Jack Close at 233-3035(H) or 299-4414 (W) if you can help in any way.

**LAKE AGASSIZ ARTS COUNCIL BULLETIN**

LAAC is processing grant proposals to the City of Fargo. These proposals are due on December 1 in the LAAC office (same building as Johnson Organ Company).

Two arts receptions are being held at the Hjemkomst Center in November - on Wednesday, the 15th, for a large group of Minnesota state legislators, and on Friday, the 17th, prior to the LAAC Kaleidoscope performance in the Fargo Theatre. We are requested to have a display in the Hjemkomst Center for these events. The display may be prepared at 11:30 Wednesday morning and left until after the reception on Friday. Please call Rod Rothlisberger at 236-6400, ext. 327, if you are able to take on this project.

**AGO CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

The board has discussed a recommendation by Ruth Fossum that we begin an AGO children's choir. We need input from our chapter members about this and it will be on the agenda on November 19.

**FOR SALE**

Older Baldwin A church organ, good condition; excellent practice organ. Full pedal board, 2 manuals. \$350.00  
 Myrtle S. Lindstrom  
 101 No. Lakeside Dr.  
 Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
 218-739-3044

**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

Dean

George French  
 217 South Ash  
 Crookston, MN 56716  
 218-

Secretary

Marg Possehl  
 1501 2nd Street S.  
 Moorhead, MN 56560  
 218-233-6711

Sub-Dean

Brad Steen  
 3024 9 1/2 St. N.  
 Fargo, ND 58102  
 701-235-1386

Treasurer

Lloyd Collins  
 1303 26th Ave. S.  
 Moorhead, MN 56560  
 218-236-5144

Members-at-large

Marlowe Kulish  
 1522 13th Ave. N.  
 Moorhead, MN 56560  
 218-236-8114

Marlys Herring  
 Reuter Organ Co.  
 Lawrence, KS 66044

Norman Roos  
 Hawley, MN 56549

**1989-90 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

19 November - Hymn Festival  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead  
Guest Artist: Stephen Gabrielsen

January 1990 - Epiphany Party T.B.A.

21 January - John Eggert:  
A concert of All-Minnesota Organ Music  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Moorhead  
7:00 p.m.  
Commissioned work: Dan Breedon  
Chairman: George French

25 February - "Everything" You Wanted to Know About  
Handbells (hands on experience!)  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
4:00 p.m.  
Chairmen: Judy Sanders, Bruce Jacobs

18 March - Children's Choir Festival  
Chairman: Jack Close

22 April - Fargo/Souix Falls Festival Service  
Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, SD  
Installation of Officers  
Chairmen: David Salmen, Brad Steen

May - Wedding Woes

**LAKE AGASSIZ ARTS COUNCIL HOLDS**

LLAC is holding a raffle as a fund-raising activity. The winner will receive a **GET-AWAY FOR TWO** to the destination of choice to the value of \$1100. Tickets are still available for \$2 each from LAAC at 237-6133 or from Rod Rothlisberger at 236-6400. ext. 327. (A few days in the south might be very welcome come January!!!)

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Agassiz Arts Council **GET-AWAY FOR TWO** raffle tickets (\$2 each). Please forward the tickets to me before November 17 at the following address.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address Zip

Send to: Rod Rothlisberger  
7 Eighth Avenue South  
Moorhead, MN 56560

**PAST DEAN VISITS OMAHA CHAPTER**

In August, I met with the executive board of the Omaha Chapter in order to share with them some of the experiences we have had as a developing chapter over the past ten years. They were particularly interested in such areas as membership recruitment (witness our phenomenal growth during the past decade), publicity (the large attendance at our monthly programs), program planning (the wide variety of offerings over the past ten years, most of them generated in-house), educational outreach (the church music Bonanzas and our school demonstrations), professional concerns (note the remarkable increase in salaries, fees and benefits over the past decades), and financial development (the fund drives and grant-writing). For me it was a pleasant trip down memory lane as well as an opportunity to share our experiences. The Omaha Chapter already has a strong program and a dynamic executive board. My feeling was that they just didn't want to "reinvent the wheel" and could save time and energy by finding out what works best, at least from our point of view.

R. J. Rothlisberger

**PETER NYGAARD PLAYS ON KALEIDOSCOPE**

The Lake Agassiz Arts Council (F-M metropolitan area) is sponsoring a showcase of the arts at the Fargo Theatre on Friday, November 17, at 8:00 p.m. As a member of the Council, the Red River Valley Chapter - AGO will be represented by Peter Nygaard, who will play the Widor "Tocatta" on the "Mighty Wurlitzer." This program is serving as a fund-raiser for LAAC so as to preclude the Council's competing with its constituent arts organizations for scarce resources. Therefore, please plan to attend and encourage your friends to do so, as well. See the enclosed flyer for further information regarding the program and the preceding reception at the Hjemkomst Center.

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ Kaleidoscope tickets (\$15 each). Please forward them to me at the following address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address Zip

Send to: Rod Rothlisberger  
7 Eighth Avenue South  
Moorhead, MN 56560

## AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

### Red River Valley Chapter

November 1989

### Substitute List

This listing is for AGO Members only. If you wish your name to be included or deleted from this list, please call the editor, Judy Sanders, at (218) 236-0269.

O = Organ  
V = Vocal  
H = Handbell

W = Wedding  
F = Funeral  
S = Service

	O	W,F,S	Carolyn Hensrud	Fargo, ND			
			701-280-2189				
	O	W	Sr. Virginia Houske, O.S.B	Crookston, MN			
			218-281-3441				
	O	W,F,S	Susan Knorr	Moorhead, MN			
			218-585-4542				
O,V	W,F,S		Carol Andstrom	Fergus Falls, MN			
			218-736-4578				
H	W,F,S		June Bailey	Moorhead, MN			
			218-233-4688				
O	F,S		Elmer Butcher	Fergus Falls, MN			
			218-736-4986				
O	W,F,S		Michael Byzewski	Fargo, ND			
			701-234-9772				
O	F		Paul Donner	Mahnomen, MN			
			218-473-2585				
O	F		Sandra Fiechtner	Fargo, ND			
			701-237-9291				
O	W,F		Ruth Fossum	Fargo, ND			
			701-235-9373				
O,V	F,S		Norman Hansen	Hawley, MN			
			218-483-4965				
O	W,F,S		Linda Heintz	Fargo, ND			
			701-293-1451				
	O	W,F,S	Daniel Nybo	York, ND			
			701-592-3461				
	O	W,F	Michael Olson	Fargo, ND			
			701-293-0284				
	O	W,F,S	Allen Quie	Fargo, ND			
			701-277-1866				
	O,H	W,F,S	Judy Sanders	Moorhead, MN			
			218-236-0269				
	O	W,F,S	James Taylor	Grand Forks, ND			
			701-746-4889				
	O	W,F	Rebecca Groom te Velde	Fargo, ND			
			701-280-9432				
	O	W,F,S	Ardis Witte	Moorhead, MN			
			218-233-8979				

### CHUCKLES FOR THE MONTH!!!

What do you call a dance given for bell ringers?

What do you call a handbell choir that rings for radio and TV commercials?

What is another name for a handbell director?

The person who answers all three questions correctly will receive a free cup of coffee at the next meeting.



# Thanksgiving

**American Guild of Organists**

RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 2223  
FARGO, ND 58108

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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