



# American Guild of Organists

Red River Valley Chapter

P.O. Box 2223 Fargo, ND 58108

## MEMORANDUM

### FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR

Tuesday, 12 September

St. Benedict's Catholic Church  
Wild Rice

6.30 catered dinner, 7.30 program  
8.00 business session

Just a few miles south of Fargo on I-29. Free for all members ... but you must call Bruce Jacobs (Fargo) at 293-9017 for reservations for the dinner. Cost will be \$3.00 for nonmember.

Our opening meeting of the year will feature a catered buffet supper at 6.30 p.m., which will be free of charge for all chapter members and only \$3.00 for nonmembers. A short program in honor of the North Dakota Centennial will begin at 7.30, featuring the historic organ at that church followed by a business meeting at 8.00. You must call Bruce Jacobs at 293-9017 if you can attend. Please call no later than Sunday evening, 10 September.

This Tuesday evening meeting is an experiment. As you know, our chapter has traditionally held meetings and programs on Sunday. Members of our chapter who attended the regional convention in Minneapolis-Saint Paul discovered that most chapters hold meetings on week nights. Our program committee thinks it is worthwhile to try one weeknight meeting this year and ask for your response.

REMEMBER: You must call Bruce Jacobs at 293-9017, if you can attend the dinner. (He has an answering machine.)

### WEST ACRES ART FAIR

By the time you receive this, the West Acres Arts Fair booth will be in the process of being set up and chapter members contacted to man the display table. However, we can always use more volunteers. Please contact Brad Steen at 235-1386 if you can volunteer. The West Acres Arts Fair is 8-9 October. Be sure to come out and visit our display. Also, if you have any items that you think would display well on our table, please contact Brad, who is our sub-dean and lives in Fargo.

### AGO HANDBELL CHOIR

Persons interested in being a part of the AGO Handbell Choir are asked to call Judy Sanders at 236-0269 (home) or 233-4980 (work) to reserve a position. Rehearsals will begin with vigor in September, Monday nights at 9 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

## A LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Organists & Friends of the Organ,

As we begin another year of activities, it is our hope that your plans include The American Guild of Organists. If you are already a member and have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. If you are not a member, we invite your consideration of membership in the AGO/Red River Valley Chapter.

Our chapter has a busy year with recitals presented by Fred Hohman in Lisbon, ND, and Fargo with a workshop presented in conjunction with the Fargo recital. In October, the chapter will travel to Fergus Falls to "crawl" through some organs and sponsor a tremendous hymn festival in November. In January, we sponsor an organ recital which features music by Minnesota composers. If you have always wanted to try your "hand" at handbells, you will want to attend the meeting in February. We are proud to announce a children's choir festival in March which chapter member Jack Close is chairing. He would love it if you would call him at 233-3035 (Moorhead) and offer your assistance. In April we travel to Blue Cloud Abbey in South Dakota and in May we will have a "spoof" wedding. And I have not even begun to tell you about the social activities.

You say you do not live in the Fargo-Moorhead community? No big deal. I live in Crookston, MN (70 miles away) and attempt to run this active chapter with the help of ALL the members from many different communities. The Red River Valley Chapter is REGIONAL and we have members from communities 200 miles away who are quite active and attend many functions as time and weather permit.

When you join the AGO you will receive The American Organist which is a wonderful national magazine and our fun little local newsletter Pipeline. But most important, membership in the organization puts you in touch with a lot of neat and interesting (some of them are even fun) people who really enjoy socializing and spending time with each other.

You might consider asking your church to assist you with AGO dues if you are involved in a professional position. I feel that membership in this chapter is a bargain considering the level of activity. Please contact me if I can answer any questions about the AGO.

Sincerely yours,

George French, Dean  
217 South Ash  
Crookston, MN 56716

P.S.: Please join soon so we can include your name, address, phone number, and professional position in our chapter yearbook. Send your dues to:

Lloyd Collins, Treasurer  
AGO/Red River Valley Chapter  
P. O. Box 2223  
Fargo, ND 58108-2223

### HYMN FESTIVAL with with Steve Gabrielsen

19 November 1989  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Moorhead

Steve Gabrielsen (Gabe) will be featured at our annual hymn festival this year. We need more volunteers to help with this event. Please contact one of the program committee members (George French, Bruce Jacobs, Marlys Herring, Becky te Velde) if you can assist. Steve will write the program, so the committee will have an easier time this year.

**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**  
**Red River Valley Chapter**

**D U E S   R E N E W A L   N O T I C E**

**1 9 8 9 - 9 0**

Mail to:           Lloyd Collins, Treasurer  
                   AGO/Red River Valley Chapter  
                   P. O. Box 2223  
                   Fargo, ND 58108-2223  
                   (218) 236-9217

Please mail your dues check with this form by *September 25, 1989*. Make your check payable to *Red River Valley Chapter, AGO*. Contributions beyond dues are also tax deductible in the manner and to the extent provide by law.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (check one)	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Voting Member	\$44.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Special (over 65, under 21, or disabled)	28.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner (2 members at same address, 1 subscription to TAO)	
First member	44.00
Second member	34.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Dual (paid directly to second chapter; primary chapter is _____)	15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (with ID)	15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Subscribing Member (chapter dues only; no magazine)	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Late fee (after 1 October)	5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution	_____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$_____</b>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title/AGO Certificate \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
   street   city   state   ZIP

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
   home   office   church

Substitute List:   ORGAN                   W   F   S                   W - wedding  
 (please circle)   VOCAL/CHORAL   W   F   S                   F - funeral  
                           HANDBELLS       W   F   S                   S - service

Fargo-Moorhead       Surrounding area



## TO DREAM, PERCHANCE A PIPEDREAM?

### PIPEDREAMS

with Michael Barone  
KCCM, 91.1 FM

Sunday evenings, 9.30 p.m.

#### 10 Sept: *The Longwood Legacy*

Michael Stairs, Thomas Murray, Paul Danilewski, and the great Firmin Swinnen himself romp on the 1930 Aeolian organ at the DuPont family estate near Philadelphia.

#### 17 Sept: *Two Roads to Wichita*

Michael Farris, Gillian Weir, Dennis Bergin, Francois-Henri Houbart, Billy Nalle, Carlos Curley, and Lynn Larsen lead us to the State University and Century II Center. Organs by Marcussen and Wurlitzer.

#### 24 Sept: *Three By Four*

Recent installations by Schantz, Van Daalen, and John-Paul Buzard are played by Amy Johansen, John Obetz, Anne Rigler, and Charles Tompkins.

#### 1 Oct: *Going On Record*

A quarterly survey of recent album releases with commentary

#### 8 Oct: *An American Classic*

Celebrating the 40th anniversary and recent renovation of the famous Aeolian-Skinner organ at the Mormon Tabernacle, with performances by Thomas Murray, Robert Glasgow, and Robert Dundick.

#### 15 Oct: *Sonata Possibilities*

Organ compositions by Guilment, Heiller, and Mendelssohn in sonata-form, yielding dramatically different results.

#### 22 Oct: *Out in the Hall*

Visiting concert spaces in Boston and East Lansing to hear the sounds of instruments with and without pipes. Berj Zamkochian is the featured artist.

#### 29 Oct: *Mechanic's Marvel*

A tribute to the 125-year-old Hook organ at historic Mechanic's Hall, Worcester, Mass., with concert performances by Gillian Weir.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

*Dean*  
George French

*Sub-dean*  
Brad Steen

*Secretary*  
Marg Possehl

*Treasurer*  
Lloyd Collins

#### *Members-at-large*

Marlowe Kulish, Norman Roos, Marlys Herring

#### *Program*

Marlys Herring, Bruce Jacobs, Becky te Velde, George French

*Arts Council Representative (1)*

*Auditor (1)*

*Chaplain (1)*

*Education and Archives (3)*

*Hospitality (1 chairperson)*

*Hymn Festival (open)*

*Long-range Planning and Nominating (4)*

*Membership, Yearbook, Publicity,*

*Newsletter (4)*

*Professional Concerns (1 chairperson)*

Please contact George French if you wish to serve on a committee.

**GAY ELAINE MOHR**  
1946-1989

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

On Sunday, 8 October, the regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be an organ crawl to Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Fergus Falls: all-American city, home of the Mighty Otters, the world's largest otter statue, beautiful Lake Alice, boyhood home of guild members Lance Johnson, Brad Steen, and Bruce Jacobs, present-day home of guild members Carol Andstrom, Elmer Butcher, Dr. Walter Christianson, Beverly Lambert, and Keith Melberg.

### Itinerary

- 2.45 Meet at Sher's Kitchen in south Moorhead
- 3.00 AGO-provided transportation leaves for Rothsay
- 4.00 Meet at the Mobil Cafe at the Rothsay exit off I-94
- 4.30 Johnson Organ, Hamar Lutheran, Rothsay
- 5.30 Van Dalen tracker, Augustana Lutheran
- 6.15 Johnson Opus 1, Bethlehem Lutheran
- 6.45 Vottler-Holtkamp/Mutchler, 1st Lutheran
- 7.30 Johnson Organ, Bethel Lutheran
- 8.00 Dinner and short meeting, Fergus Falls Holiday Inn
- 9.30 Leave for Moorhead
- 10.30 Arrive at Cher's Kitchen

Transportation will be provided by the chapter, leaving from Sher's Kitchen in Moorhead at 2.45 p.m.; arriving Rothsay, Minnesota at the Mobil Cafe on the I-94 interchange at 4.00 p.m. Bruce Jacobs has been working on this project and below is the schedule of events for the day. It will be very helpful if you can call Bruce at 293-9017 if you can attend this meeting. We want to be sure we have enough transportation.

### *12 Sept - North Dakota: 100 Years of Church Music*

St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church, Wild Rice  
6.30 catered dinner, 7.30 program, 8.15 business session  
Chair: George French

### *24 Sept - Frederick Hohman, organist*

Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisbon  
7.30; \$5.00 (\$3.00 students/senior citizens); locally sponsored

### *26 Sept - Frederick Hohman Workshop*

Olivet Lutheran Church, Fargo  
6.00 session, 7.00 supper, 8.00 session  
No cost to participants, headcount at 6.00; displays by Eckroth and Schmitt

### *28 Sept - Frederick Hohman, organist*

Olivet Lutheran Church, Fargo  
8.00, free-will offering  
Cosponsored by Olivet Lutheran and the Chapter  
Chairmen: Lloyd Collins, Marlys Herring

### *8 Oct - Organ Crawl to Fergus Falls*

(See schedule elsewhere in this newsletter)  
Chairmen: Bruce Jacobs, Brad Steen, Keith Melberg

### *19 Nov - Hymn Festival*

3.00 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead  
Guest artist: Stephen Gabrielsen

### *Jan 1990 - Epiphany Party T.B.A.*

### *Jan - Join Eggert: A Concert of All-Minnesota Organ Music*

7.00 p.m.  
Good Shepherd Lutheran, Moorhead  
Commissioned work: Dan Breedon  
Chairman: George French

### *March - Children's Choir Festival*

Chairman: Jack Close

### *22 Apr - Fargo/Sioux Falls Festival Service*

Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, S.D.  
Installation of officers  
Chairman: David Salmen

### *May - Wedding Noes*

## FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

As chairperson of the Program Committee for 1989-90, I feel the need to say a few words as we are close to ready to submit our work for printing. Becky te Velde, George French, Bruce Jacobs, and I began the task of choosing, creating, and/or dismissing an assortment of idea fragments early this summer. Many suggestions for programs fell instantly into place; others, with a bit of re-working took form nicely; still others are being fine-tuned as I write. We feel we will be offering you members a variety of programs, working around a couple non-variables (hymn-fest, children's choir fest), which you and the public have grown to love and expect. We suggest for future program committees that an event like the children's festival and a major recitalist be scheduled for alternating years for several reasons.

We also hope to be able to spotlight young aspiring regional artists by giving them an opportunity to appear under our sponsorship. Such is the case with John Eggert in January. Not only is this event going to be easy on our budget (he has a grant that covers his expenses and requires some performances) but it will introduce us to a regional artist. An added highlight in this program will be a special piece commissioned of Dan Breedon to be performed by John.

As I attempt to pick certain programs to highlight for you, I realize I'd have something special to say about each one. Fergus Falls organists are very excited to have us in their area and several of the organs we will be seeing have interesting backgrounds.

I personally have already had the opportunity to hear and meet Dr. Fred Hohman and promise you the same pleasure and excitement as you are introduced to him in three possible events. The Lisbon event is sponsored by Trinity Lutheran in Lisbon (\$5.00) and is a non-AGO event; however, I truly hope you'll consider coming as the result will be quite different from the recital at Olivet (free-will) and this one is an AGO event, sponsored cooperatively with

Olivet. The workshop will be very educational, so do try to attend.

Our very successful hymn-festival will be coordinated this year by guest organist Steve Gabrielsen.

The joint meeting in April with Sioux Falls will prove to be different and exciting. David has spoken many times of the soothing atmosphere and the musical space at Blue Cloud.

Very important for you is our kickoff meeting at St. Benedict's: dues, business, camaraderie ....

And "Hands-on Handbells" promises everything you always wanted to know about ringing but were afraid to ask! Thanks already, Judy!

In closing, I need to say what a pleasure it has been working with George, Bruce, and Becky: three very busy, creative, open, and efficient people. And as we all did our "homework", let me thank the many of you who said "yes" without hesitation. It makes our work so easy and spreads such a cooperative spirit. As a body, all of us need to try very diligently to support our functions. We need your presence, your input; and, we hope you all gain from our programs and professional associations.

Looking forward to a great year!

Marlys

## TWIN CITIES AGO CONVENTION: A REAL BLAST

George French reports that 12 of our chapter members made it to the regional convention in Minneapolis-Saint Paul. "I personally enjoyed myself and found our members in a constant state of ecstasy." Chapter members present included: Jerry Berg, Mike Olson, Marlys Herring, Joan Bystol, Brad Steen, Norm Roos, Mercedes Roos, Lloyd Collins, Devera Warcup, David Salmen, David Morlock, and George French.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEAN

I am pleased to report that the Red River Valley Chapter has enjoyed another active and productive year with slightly less than 100 members.

On 28 August 1988, past dean Carolyn Hensrud most graciously invited the general membership to her home in Fargo for an evening of informal music and a potluck supper. The new officers were installed in an outdoor ceremony and the upcoming year was discussed.

On 25 September, the chapter held the first meeting of the year in Lisbon after hearing the dedicatory recital on the lovely new Reuter organ at Trinity Lutheran. Dr. John Walker, New York City, was the recitalist. An informal "Red River AGO Chorale" sang selections at the reception which followed the recital. Trinity organist Marlys Herring hosted the chapter membership at her home for a late night party. Dr. Walker was given the opportunity to speak to our members about the state of the guild and other topics of interest.

On 27 September, the chapter sponsored Dr. Walker who presented an excellent workshop at Gethsemane Cathedral (Episcopal) in Fargo. Dr. Walker demonstrated various service playing techniques and several chapter members were given the opportunity to play and be constructively evaluated.

On 9 October, the chapter met at Bethesda Lutheran, Moorhead, for a performance of recent organ and choral selections for Advent and Christmas. Area church choirs, organists, and instrumentalists were conducted by past dean Rod Rothlisberger, who presented an inspiring program. The event was chaired by Charlo Shirley and a business meeting followed the program.

The Ninth Annual Hymn Festival was presented on November 6 to a full congregation at First Lutheran in Fargo. Many area church choirs, organists, soloists, and instrumentalists made the event tremendously successful, which was chaired by Margery Possehl. She presided over a very active committee.

On 15 January, chapter members participated in a choral reading session at First Baptist Church in Fargo. The repertoire included music for Lent and Easter. Jill Post was the chair and a business meeting followed the session.

Past dean Peter Nygaard graciously invited the chapter membership to his home for an after Christmas party on 10 February, which had been postponed in January due to inclement weather. Featured at this event was a presentation by Norman and past dean Mercedes Roos, who showed slides of the Mormon Tabernacle organ, taken during a recent trip to Salt Lake City.

The Red River Valley Chapter in cooperation with the Fargo-Moorhead Community presented "Music in Worship: Who, Why and How" for two hours on each of the four Sunday in February. This public presentation was a series of programs exploring the various aspects of music in worship and was chaired by Rod Rothlisberger.

A program entitled "Potpourri Organ" was presented on 19 February at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, and was chaired by past dean Joan Bystol. Members of the chapter played various selections at what turned out to be a fun and varied program. A business meeting followed.

The meeting on 12 March featured Jan Childs who presented a clinic entitled "Stress and Performance" at the First Congregational-United Church of Christ in Moorhead. Several of our members performed and Ms. Childs successfully offered suggestions which were beneficial to both the performers and the observers. A business meeting followed.

The major event of the chapter in April was a Festival Service at Nativity Roman Catholic Church in Fargo which featured music for organ, choirs, handbells, and instrumentalists. The 1989-90 officers were installed and Rebecca Groom te Velde and Pat Unkenholz cochaired this event on 16 April.

On Sunday, 7 May, the Red River Valley Chapter and the Missouri Valley Chapter held a joint meeting and organ crawl in



Jamestown. Members of both chapters visited six locations which housed interesting pipe organs and socialized over a leisurely supper. This groundbreaking event was the first time the chapter held a joint meeting with another AGO chapter. Chapter dean George French chaired the event and Loren Omath, Jamestown, organized the organ crawl, which culminated with an organ recital played by David Morlock.

The Church Music Bonanza III was held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Moorhead, on Saturday, 10 June, and was attended by 50 area musicians and church music enthusiasts. Chapter members presented workshops which included a choral reading session, sessions on organ literature and hymn playing, hands-on classes for handbell ringers, and a discussion about professional relationships between church musicians and the clergy. Peter Nygaard, Michael Olson, past dean Judy Sanders, and Marlys Herring were the committee members who planned this event.

The Red River Valley Chapter AGO was fortunate to have the opportunity to sponsor the German organist Christoph Grohmann who performed in churches in Thief River Falls, Moorhead, and Crookston, on June 25, 27, and 29 to very receptive audiences. Rebecca Groom te Velde was the chapter contact person who made these recitals possible. This was the final official event of the 1988-89 season.

The Red River Valley Chapter was successful in securing grants from the North Dakota Council for the Arts, the Lake Region Arts Council from Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and the City of Fargo which totaled \$3,450.00. These monies will be used to financially assist the 1989-90 program and enable the Johnson Pipe Organ Company, Fargo, to build a portable pipe organ of two octaves for used in elementary school demonstrations and programs which necessitate a small, portable instrument.

Some key individuals who are all chapter members have been noted in this report and many others have been instrumental with this particularly active year. Special recognition goes to

secretary and hospitality chairperson Margery Possehl, program chair Joan Bystol, treasurer Philip Felde, and newsletter editor Carolyn Hensrud. The immediate past dean Rod Rothlisberger has also provided invaluable assistance.

Finally, since this writer lives 70 miles from Fargo-Moorhead, where most of the activities take place, the chapter sub dean, Bradley Steen, who lives in Fargo, has provided some key leadership responsibilities by organizing many activities which are too numerous to mention here. Furthermore, Brad compiled the lists for our current chapter yearbook.

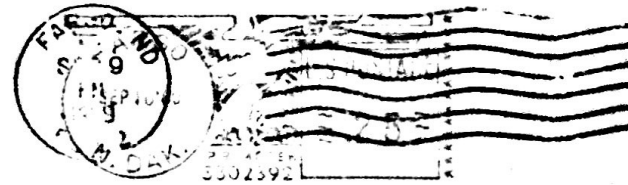
I look forward to serving another year as dean of the Red River Valley Chapter, and presiding over another series of outstanding programs.

Respectfully submitted:

George French, Dean

first class

Red River Valley Chapter  
American Guild of Organists  
P.O. Box 2223  
Fargo, ND 58108



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