



# Pipeline

American Guild of Organists—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 30, Number 2

Mar/Apr/May  
2016

## Message From the Dean

Hello AGO friends! And happy spring! Easter is behind us now. We can relax just a bit as we finish out the regular program year in our various churches and businesses. Now is the time to think ahead to our glorious, but all too short, summer months!

It is also the time of year that we prepare to change over the leadership in our RRV-AGO board. Many of your officers have held their positions longer than our by-laws suggest, and we have worked hard to find some "new blood" for the board! You will find your suggested list of officers in this newsletter. If these are unfamiliar names to you, perhaps you'll want to drop in on a board meeting or First Friday lunch to get to know the people who will be planning our AGO events and taking care of the finances, etc., for the next year or two. Your ballots will be by email again this year, to save on postage.

Most of us will be receiving our ONCARD reminders from AGO National's office in the next month. If you go to the website and renew your dues online, it is quick and easy! You can update your information, check your address, etc., and be done in a matter of minutes. For members who have joined or renewed at other times of the year, their reminders will come closer to their new anniversary.

Looking ahead to the month of May, I hope you will mark your calendars and attend our last two events for this season. On Mother's Day Weekend,

AGO and the Choral Artists join forces at First Lutheran Church in Fargo to present a "Choral plus Organ" concert. Several organists are participating, along with the Choral Artists group conducted by Michael Culleton. Two performances, one Saturday and one on Sunday, will be presented. Tickets will be available at the door. Watch the Forum newspaper for more information.

Our last event of this program year will be the annual potluck and music exchange. This will be Tuesday, May 24, at 6:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church; 650, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North in Fargo. Bring a dish to share, any music you are not using and would like to clear out from your files, and yourself. We organists have lots of stories to share, and it is always fun to get together in an informal setting.

First Friday lunches will continue at the Fryin' Pan Restaurant on Main Avenue in June and August. (We find it is best to skip the month of July due to the Independence Day holiday!)

So, enough business talk! What are your plans to renew your energy, learn something new, make a change in your attitude, or just have fun this summer? Are you making plans to invest in yourself? Maybe it is time to look over some new music you purchased, but haven't practiced or performed. Maybe it is time to go to a workshop or concert in a city you haven't ever visited. Maybe it is time for a break from your usual routine, just to let yourself "be". Whatever you need from this upcoming

season, I hope you can find a way to achieve that goal.

This will be my last letter as your Dean. Thank you for allowing me to serve on the Board of RRV AGO. I have enjoyed this time getting to know our members. I am not going very far, as I will step into the Sub-Dean position to help ease the transition for new Board members. Please welcome the incoming officers warmly! The Board will continue to do our best to keep AGO programs interesting and of value. We encourage your participation and support to keep our organization a vital part of this community.

Blessings and Peace,

Sally Harmon

### First Friday Luncheon

**Who** Everyone is Welcome!

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

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

### Chapter Officers

Dean: Sally Harmon  
Sub-Dean: Bill Tweten  
Secretary: Robyn Vinje  
Treasurer: Jean Roberts

### Board Members at Large

2015: Sonia Carlson  
2016: Jim Gurney  
2017: Alpha Roeszler



## Board Meeting Notes

### Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting January 8, 2016

The regular monthly board meeting was held at the Fargo Fryin' Pan on January 8<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday the week before. Members present were Dean Sally Harmon, Alpha Roeszler, and Robyn Vinje. This did not constitute a quorum.

The next program we will be sponsoring will be Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral. This will be part of the community Shakespeare Festival, with our theme being, "If music be the food of love, play on". Sally will be playing, and Jean Roberts will chair the program and determine other performers. Silver Winds flute quartet has been engaged, and will play 25-30 minutes. Alpha is handling publicity. She will ask Ruth Discher to make posters; a digital poster can be attached to the Shakespeare Festival website. We will discuss the food to be served at the next board meeting, which is February 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Shakespeare Festival will be holding the kickoff on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Fargo Theater. Lance will be contacted to see if he would be willing to play the organ for that event. Sally will contact Theater B regarding a Shakespeare songbook which they reportedly have, and may be incorporated into a sing-a-long.

Alpha submitted a bill for about \$125 for advertising for the December program. She will mail it to Jean Roberts, treasurer.

We discussed the possibility of having a hymn festival in October 2016, rather than sponsoring an outside organist. John Ferguson was mentioned as a possible presenter, and perhaps conduct a workshop on Saturday. This will be discussed further at the February meeting.

Robyn mentioned that we need to be thinking of nominations for the officers that are needed: dean, subdean, secretary, and member-at-large until 2019. (This assumes that Jean will remain as treasurer.)

**Next board meeting: Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Vinje, Secretary

## Board Meeting Notes

### Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting February 5, 2016

The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Dean Sally Harmon at the Fargo Fryin' Pan.

Others present were Alpha Roeszler, Jean Roberts, and Robyn Vinje. This did constitute a quorum.

The main item of business was the program to be presented for the Shakespeare Festival on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 PM, at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral in Fargo, with the theme, "If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On". Members playing will be Sally, Peggy Johnson, Bill Tweten, Brad Steen, and guest, Mike Gravly. The Silver Winds quartet will play, and there will be a reading of sonnets by members of Gethsemane.

There was discussion on the reception, with plans to serve about 150 people. Alpha will pick up supplies and food at Sam's and the Paper Warehouse, Sally will get the wine at Happy Harry's, and Jean will line up the workers at the church.

Alpha will prepare the programs, and Boulgers will print them.

We then discussed organists' remuneration for funerals, and decided that Sally will write a letter to the local funeral homes suggesting that they increase the fee. Some organists notify the funeral homes on their own, that they expect a certain amount for each funeral.

We had previously discussed the possibility of having a hymn festival in October, rather than sponsoring an outside organist. Sally has been unable to contact John Ferguson but will keep trying.

Next board meeting and FFL on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Vinje, Secretary



## Board Meeting Notes

### Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at the Fargo Fryin' Pan by Dean Sally Harmon. Other members of the board present were Alpha Roeszler, Bill Tweten, Jean Roberts, and Robyn Vinje.

The minutes of the February board meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. They were approved by general consent.

The treasurer's report was given by Jean, showing a balance in the checking account of \$3582.03. Sally announced that we owe \$50 to the Arts Partnership for membership dues, and bills for the Shakespeare program were \$15 for wine, and \$60 or \$90 for food. We agreed by general consent to pay the Silver Winds flute quartet \$50 for playing.

Sally stated that Reid Froiland had inquired of her what to do about his dual membership with the electronic dues. She referred it to AGO for the answer.

Sally presented a letter which she is sending to the local funeral homes requesting that organists be paid a minimum of \$150 per service.

There was discussion about the possibility of having Dr. John Ferguson present a hymn festival in October. His fee is \$3500 plus housing and food. Included in this fee would be anything else that we would like him to do that weekend, including a master class, workshop, etc. We discussed the possibility of less costly options. Sally is going to contact John about the possibility of a smaller fee, as we do not feel we have the resources right now to cover the quoted amount. Bill offered to help Sally apply for grants, but we wouldn't know until sometime this spring if they would be given to us.

There was discussion about nominations for the offices that are open, but no action was taken.

Robyn Vinje, Secretary

## Board Meeting Notes

### Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting April 1, 2016

Members present were Sally Harmon, Alpha Roeszler, Bill Tweten, Andrew Steinberg, and Robyn Vinje.

Sally reported that she has not had an opportunity to communicate with John Ferguson regarding the possibility of his presenting a hymn sing here for less than \$3500. She will do this when she is able.

Sally sent a letter to the local funeral homes requesting that organist's fees be increased to \$150, but has not received a response from any of them.

A discussion was held regarding possible programs for next year, with the following suggestions:

October – membership drive, contacting old and new members; Bill will work on.

December – continue to hold Christmas Sing-a-long in conjunction with Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club.

March – theme concert, possibly Organ Plus, possibly at Sts. Anne & Joachim.

May – potluck and music exchange.

The remaining program for this year is the program with the Choral Artists at First Lutheran Church on May 7 and 8. Organists playing include Michael Olson, Andrew Steinberg, Peggy Johnson, and possibly one other.

The following slate of officers was suggested:

Dean	Bill Tweten
Sub-dean	Sally Harmon
Secretary	Tom Hanson
Treasurer	Brad Steen
Member-at-large	Jean Hellner

Ballots will be included in The Pipeline, to be returned to the secretary.

The potluck and music exchange will be held Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at First Presbyterian, at 6:00 PM. Next board meeting Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Robyn Vinje, Secretary



## From the Steering Committee of The AGO 2016 National Convention “Greetings to your Chapter”

The Houston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists are excited to be hosts for what promises to be an outstanding celebration of our art.

Registration opens in October with a special low “early bird” rate for those who are able to register that soon. The main convention website is [www.AGOHouston2016.com](http://www.AGOHouston2016.com).

The Convention Headquarters will be at The Hilton Americas-Houston located in downtown Houston. The hotel opened in 2004 and is the crown jewel of the downtown area. Accommodation and transportation details can be found on the convention website. The Pre-convention schedule begins Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18. Regular convention activities run from Sunday, June 19, 2016 through Thursday, June 23, 2016. Links for details of any given day of the convention are found at the “Schedule Overview” section of the website.

Some areas of interest being presented are:

Worship—The *Opening Convocation* will be held at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church. Other worship services will be *Halle, Halle: We Sing the World Around*—a service of World Music at First Presbyterian Church; *Services of Choral Evensong*—Christ Church Cathedral and St. Paul’s United Methodist Church; *Season of Praise*— St. Luke’s United Methodist Church.

Workshops—Over 60 workshops will be offered over three days of the convention under these topics:

Professional/Organization Concerns

Reading Sessions—(choral and organ sessions)

Pedagogy and Rehearsal Techniques

Instruments

Repertoire and Performance Practice

Development—(“How to Create Events that Attract and Encourage Teenager Organists” and “*A New Kind of Organ Concert: Audience Outreach Through Multi-media*” to just name two)

New Music Bayoubüchlein—The New Music

Committee of the American Guild of Organists 2016 convention in Houston is pleased to announce a call for scores for a special convention publication entitled *The Bayoubüchlein*. This is a collection of chorale preludes for solo organ, representing every season of the liturgical calendar, with each prelude based on chorale hymn tunes composed since 1960. The collection will comprise selected works from this call for scores as well as seven preludes previously commissioned by AGO Houston New Music. It is anticipated that as many as 19 works will be selected from this call for scores, for a total of 26 for publication.

Composers of any age and nationality are welcome to submit works that fit the criteria of the competition. All submissions will be evaluated for inclusion by a panel appointed by the AGO Houston New Music Committee. The decision of the panel will be final.

More details including the “Guidelines for Submitted Works” can be obtained from the convention website.

These are just a few general highlights planned for the 2016 Convention in Houston. Any convention, especially one as unique as this one, relies not only on funds from registration costs and advertisers, but also on donors at the local and nation-wide level to ensure its success. General gifts are always gratefully welcomed. For more donation information, please contact:

Daniel J. Fenn, Co-Chair,  
Gifts, Grants, and Donations Committee

AGO 2016 National Convention

1302 Waugh Drive, #392

Houston, TX 77019

[www.agohouston2016.com/get-involved/sponsor](http://www.agohouston2016.com/get-involved/sponsor)



## RRV AGO Ballot for Officers for 2016-2017

The following chapter members have accepted nomination to the ballot of officers for the following positions:

Dean	Bill Tweten
Sub-Dean	Sally Harmon
Secretary	Tom Hanson
Treasurer	Brad Steen
Member-at-Large	Jean Hellner (2018) (Andrew Steinberg and Alpha Roeszler continue as members-at-large Thru 2016 and 2017 respectively)

Please vote to accept or reject the ballot as listed above by emailing your response to Robyn Vinje at [rsvinje@cableone.net](mailto:rsvinje@cableone.net). AGO year ends June 30, so new officers should ideally be in place by then.

## Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa Offering (POE) Experience for Teens

Cedar Valley Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) will be held on the Wartburg College campus in Waverly, Iowa, from June 26-July 1, 2016. POE is a 5-day residential camp designed for teenagers, ages 13-18, who have achieved an intermediate level of keyboard proficiency. Previous organ study is not required.

Registration is \$475 and includes all meals, housing in air-conditioned residence halls on Wartburg College's campus, transportation to and from POE events, class materials, lesson book, and a one-year student membership in the American Guild of Organists.

POE Highlights include:

- Daily organ lessons and practice time on a variety of organs
- Workshops and master classes
- Field trip to Dobson Organ Builders
- Experience of Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer
- Organ Recitals by POE Faculty
- A final POE student recital

Scholarship assistance is available through the American Guild of Organists. Contact Karen Black, POE Director, at [karen.black@wartburg.edu](mailto:karen.black@wartburg.edu) or 319-352-8275 for information on initiating the online scholarship application process. In addition, students may also contact AGO chapters or religious institutions if financial aid is needed.

Featured Instruments:

- Dobson, II manuals, 32 ranks Wartburg College Chapel
- Schlicker, III manuals, 57 ranks Neumann Auditorium, Wartburg College
- Wolff, II manuals, 35 ranks Jebe Hall, University of Northern Iowa

Faculty Members:

Faculty will include distinguished concert organists and church musicians from across the country, as well as other university professors and local area organists.

Registration is accessed on the national AGO website at <https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/>.

Please encourage interested pianists or organists to visit the Cedar Valley POE website at <http://www.wartburg.edu/pipes>.



# BENEFIT CONCERT FOR CHURCHES UNITED FOR THE HOMELESS



## MAY 1, 2016 SUSAN CLAMBEY ORGAN CONCERT

The concert will include works by Handel, Pachelbel, Bach, Barber as well as several original works arranged by Susan Clambey.

Susan is a music graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, where she sang in the Concordia Concert Choir. As a commissioned composer, her additional pieces include choral works, vocal solos, instrumental ensembles, two organ books and an elementary level Christmas Pageant entitled "God's Great Gift to You and Me". She is currently working on a commissioned work for cello, flute and piano. Susan is active as a pipe organist, composer, teacher, vocalist, and pianist. Since her youth, in Fergus Falls, MN, she has learned and loved the great music heritage of the church. The literature of Hymnody is rich and inspiring to her. She hopes you will find her organ settings meaningful and worshipful.

Susan is married to Dr. Gary Clambey, residing in Moorhead. They have two grown sons and three precious grandchildren.

*- All proceeds will go to Churches United for the Homeless. -*

4:00 P.M. ELIM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
321 9TH STREET NORTH  
FARGO, ND 58102

CHURCHES UNITED  
FOR THE HOMELESS  
UPDATES

OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC

FREE WILL  
OFFERING

OUR MISSION:  
TO PROVIDE SHELTER  
AND SUPPORT IN A  
SPIRITUAL SETTING





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## Composer's Corner—Joseph Jongen, Belgian Organist, Composer, Educator

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Marie-Alphonse-Nicolas-Joseph Jongen was born December 14, 1873 in Liege, Belgium, where his parents had moved from Flanders. He was a prolific and able composer in many genres, particularly but not exclusively in the field of organ music.

Jongen's musical style is difficult to classify. It is richly romantic, though Jongen drew inspiration as much from such early figures as Mendelssohn and Chopin as from such later stalwarts as Wagner and Franck. He was a superb colorist, especially in his chamber music, showing more than a little influence of Debussy's Impressionism. Ultimately, despite the late, mild influence of Stravinsky he seemed most aligned with the aesthetics of Faure.

On the strength of an amazing precocity for music, he was admitted to the Liege Conservatoire at the extraordinarily young age of seven. He began composing at the age of 13, and immediately exhibited exceptional talent in that field. It wasn't until he was 19 that he joined a locally important organ class, but within four years he was winning the highest honors for his playing. By the time he published his Opus 1, he already had dozens of works to his credit. His monumental and massive First String Quartet was composed in 1894 for which he won first prize in the 1894 Royal Academy of Belgium competition.

During the 1890s Jongen served as organist at churches in Liege, but at the turn of the century he also found time to embark on a four-year tour of Europe. During this period he took composition lessons from Richard Strauss, and met Gabriel Faure and Vincent d'Indy, becoming thoroughly familiar with the Schola Cantorum's educational setup in Paris.

In 1902 he returned to his native land and settled in Brussels. In the following year he was named a professor of harmony and counterpoint at his old Liege college. With the outbreak of World War I, he and his family moved to the safety of England where he founded the Belgian (Piano) Quartet. When peace returned, he came back to Belgium and was named professor of fugue at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels. From 1925 until 1939, he served as director of that institution. After his retirement in 1939 he devoted himself to composing and designing an organ for Belgian Radio.

From his teens to his seventies Jongen composed a great deal, including symphonies, concertos (for cello, for piano and for harp), chamber music (notably a late string trio and three string quartets), and songs, some with pianos, others with orchestra. His list of opus numbers eventually reached 241, but he destroyed a good many pieces. Today, the only part of his *oeuvre* performed with any regularity is his output for organ, much of it solo, some of it in combination with other instruments.

His monumental *Symphonie Concertante* of 1926 is a *tour de force*, considered by many to be among the greatest works ever written for organ and orchestra. Numerous eminent organists of modern times (such as Virgil Fox, Alexander Frey, Jean Guillou, Michael Murray and Olivier Latry) have championed and recorded it. The work was commissioned by Rodman Wanamaker for debut in the Grand Court of his palatial Philadelphia department store, Wanamaker's. Its intended use was for the re-dedication of the world's largest pipe organ there, the Wanamaker Organ, as part of a series of concerts Rodman Wanamaker funded with Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Wanamaker's death in 1928 precluded the performance of the work at that time in the venue for which it was written, but it was finally performed for the first time with the Wanamaker Organ and the Philadelphia Orchestra on September 27, 2008.

Joseph Jongen died at Sart-lez-Spa, Belgium July 12 1953.

(Sources: Wikipedia, Biography by James Reel, Meg Ryan's review in WDCH, Los Angeles Philharmonic Association)



### Upcoming Events

*May 7 at 7:30pm and May 8 at 2:00pm, 2016*

FM Choral Artists and Organ Program

First Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND

*May 24, 2016 at 6:00pm*

RRVAGO Potluck and Music Exchange

First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, ND

### Contact Information

American Guild of Organists

Red River Valley Chapter

PO Box 2223

Fargo, ND 58108-2223

[rvago@hotmail.com](mailto:rvago@hotmail.com)

[www.agohq.org/chapters/redrivervalley](http://www.agohq.org/chapters/redrivervalley)

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## From the North Central Regional Newsletter

Our next national AGO convention will be held in Kansas City—right in our region! The Greater Kansas City chapter is working to prepare for this huge event. Watch your TAO for information and encourage members to attend.

The Wartburg College POE in Waverly, Iowa was attended by 14 enthusiastic young people eager to improve their skills at the organ and meet other young people also interested in the organ. The winner of the Great Lakes Quimby/RICO last summer was a student at one of the South Dakota POE's and played in the Rising Stars recital in Houston. The 2017 POE will be held in Sioux Center, Iowa at Dordt College. Regional Councillor Marilyn Schempp from Sioux Falls, SD is looking for chapters to host Poe's in 2018 and 2017 and is available to visit with any chapter interested in this possibility.

A January Jubilee will be hosted by the Wichita Kansas Chapter in 2017. Jubilees are a one day event with workshops in choral, handbells, organ, etc. Part of the purpose of the Jubilee is to gain new AGO members through making them aware of our organization. It is also a good time to gather and share ideas with colleagues. Handbooks and application forms for both the POE and January Jubilee can be found on the national AGO website.

A wealth of information can be found on the national web page. Many chapters have elected new chapter deans who may find the Chapter Management Handbook helpful (available on the national website under Chapter Documents in the quick Links of the Home Page).

The North Central Region has a Facebook page! It can be used to post our chapter events and we are encouraged to share events and pictures to the TAO. The AGO Chapter News section in the TAO is also a great section to get programming ideas for our own chapter.

**AGO Young Organists (AGOYO)** has just finished its first year in existence. The AGOYO is a Facebook youth organization for those under age 30. If you know of young people in this age-range, encourage them to join the AGOYO Facebook page. This is a great way for these young people to connect with other young organists.

It would be great to have more of our members earn their certificates. The Service Playing Exam is very attainable and is worth considering. Contact the AGO Professional Education Coordinator, Jeremy Chesman, for more information.

*(Excerpts and information taken from the North Central Regional Councillor Marilyn Schempp's July 2016 Newsletter)*

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## Publishing News and Events of Interest in the PIPELINE

The PIPELINE is always looking for information about events and/or performances that would be of interest to our RRVAGO members. If you are aware of (or involved in) an event that you would like to invite our members to, even though it is not an RRVAGO-sponsored event, please feel free to pass information regarding the event on to Ruth Discher at [discherjr@cableone.net](mailto:discherjr@cableone.net) or Alpha Roeszler at [aroeszler@i29.net](mailto:aroeszler@i29.net) for publication in the quarterly PIPELINE. We are fortunate to have so much rich and inspiring talent available within our community. We are eager to share this information as an encouragement to all who participate.