



Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 26, Number 7

September 2009

Message From the Dean

Greetings!

Fall is quickly upon us – at least today as I'm writing it feels like fall as opposed to the late August date the calendar is showing! With the coming of fall we have the onset of so many wonderful opportunities for personal and professional development. It is my hope that you will find the offerings of the RRV AGO useful and interesting to you.



First up:

September General Meeting

What: General Meeting, Music Swap, CD Exchange

Where: Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral

When: September 20 at 3:00 pm

Why:

- (1) To discuss our future as a viable chapter
- (2) to raise funds for contribution to the AGO Annual Fund
- (3) to explore the programs for the upcoming season
- (4) to join in fellowship with other organists and organ lovers as we share music and cds

This meeting is **EXTREMELY** important to all of us for several reasons. First and foremost, we, as a chapter, are at a significant crossroads due to declining membership and member participation. As it stands now, if only 1 member of the board cannot be present at a board meeting for any reason, we lack a quorum to do business. Do you realize that **NO ONE outside of the board itself has volunteered to chair any committee beyond the newsletter!** We are without a treasurer and 3 at-large board members (actually it should be 4 but Bill Tweeten has been gracious in continuing on as an at-large member). We are without a program chair, publicity chair, archive chair, membership chair, placement chair, chaplain, registrar, or professional concerns chair (and the list goes on, believe me). Simply put, we are now at a critical time for this chapter and I'm certain that not one of us, when asked to serve either as a board member or committee chair,

realized the gravity of our situation. Our future truly depends upon each and every one of us.

Consequently, at the September meeting, we face one of three difficult choices: (1) hobble along as we are with extremely limited programming and an even more limited community impact (2) change the bylaws of the chapter to reduce the number of board members necessary to do business (provided we have at least 25% of the membership present to vote) or (3) **DISBAND**. Of course there is another alternative, we can each agree that the RRV-AGO is an important organization for us and for our community and we can somehow find some time to participate in some way beyond just paying our dues and attending an occasional meeting or concert.

Of course these decisions are not to be made lightly, and a necessary vote of the chapter is required for any action regarding the size of the board. However it is imperative that this be known – if we fail to come together as a chapter and take action very soon, the choice as to whether we disband or not will be taken from our hands.

In my coffee meetings with many of you and via the survey results themselves, it has become clear that there have been difficult moments of disagreement within our chapter and these have cut a deep swath. I understand this clearly and honor each position. As dean, however, my continuing challenges for you are these: are these disagreements going to be the final statement of the RRV AGO or is this chapter worth saving? Are we at a turning point where it is time for us to look forward to a creative, exciting future for organ and organ music in our region or is it time to simply let an old organization go quietly the way of so many others? Clearly, these are challenges we must face together with honesty and professionalism and our September meeting is intended to be, in a clear and concise way, a litmus test for our viability as a chapter.

Please plan to join us as we seek solutions to these challenges and don't forget to bring any unwanted scored or cds for exchange. The more materials we have to share the more fun we will have discovering new treasures!

Peace,
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: 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 AGO board meeting was held on Thursday, August 21, 2009 at noon at Boulger Funeral Home. The following people were in attendance: Michael Olson, Erich Knapp, Bill Tweten, Peggy Johnson, Anna Goodin-Hayes, Gaylord Fagerland.

It is to be noted that, since there was not a quorum of board members present on July 17, it was NOT an official board meeting and those minutes should be amended to read Minutes of DISCUSSION by AGO Board Members on Thursday, July 17, 2009. The motion was approved as amended.

There was much discussion as to how to get former members back in the fold. Bill read off a list of former AGO members from the past ten years or so. Several board members said that they would call different people to see if they would be interested in joining us again – and to perhaps find out why they were not currently members, or why they had let their membership lapse.

On Sunday, September 20 at Gethsemane Cathedral at 3:00 p.m. a discussion will take place regarding “what to do next” in terms of our chapter. It is imperative that all chapter members – or, at least, a quorum – be present to speak their minds and hearts. We’re going to have a music exchange – so bring music you no longer are using to exchange with others. We’re also going to have a CD sale – bring used CDs which will be sold at a nominal fee, the proceeds of which will go towards the AGO Annual Fund.

The organ recital and master class presented by Kim Kasling will be held, respectively, on Friday, October 30 at 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, October 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Michael will check with Peter Nygaard to see if his organ students will be presenting a fall student recital in November as they did this past school year. We would like to host a reception for the students, their parents, and those in attendance at the recital. We were going to do this in the spring last year, but Concordia was in flood-fighting mode at the time.

Discussion took place over whether or not to have the Christmas Carol Sing-along as has been done in past years. It has been decided, at least for now, that this event will not take place this December. Instead, individual chapter members are encouraged to publicize their own events.

Anna reported that the website is “up and running”...you can see it at <http://agohq.org/chapter/redriversvalley>

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Olson, Secretary

Positions Available

Do you know of an organ position that is currently open or one that will soon open? If so, please forward the details to rrvago@hotmail.com for inclusion in the monthly newsletter. It is our hope that all openings can be channeled through this forum so that our membership can have access to all professional opportunities in the area.

Upcoming Event

General Meeting, Music Swap, CD Sale

Sunday, September 20 at 3:00 pm

Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral at 3600 25th 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.)

*Financial Proceeds go to the National AGO General Fund

Cherwien Hymn Sing

David Cherwien will lead a hymn festival at Riverside Lutheran Church in Wannaska, MN on Sun. October 11 at 7:00 pm. David is currently the Cantor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and the Director of the National Lutheran Choir. This event will be the annual harvest festival at Riverside. There is no charge for admission. A free-will offering will support Lutheran World Relief. David will be playing the Moe

Opus One, the first organ built by the Moe Pipe Organ Company, owned by Allen Moe, a son of the Riverside congregation.



An ad hoc choir will sing for this occasion, open to anyone.

Rehearsal will start at 4:30 pm. at Riverside on the day of the hymn festival.

Those interested in singing with the choir should contact Pastor Paul Koch at 218-425-7782.

The church is in Wannaska on Hwy. 89, one block south of the gas station, about 14 miles south of Roseau.

Upcoming Events in the Region

Take a moment out of your day and support the arts in the region. See below for some great opportunities!

September 19, 9:00 am

Leadership for Parish Musicians Course
(Year 1 sequence begins)

Contact: Jennifer Baker-Trinity
(jbakertrinity@mac.com)

September 20, 3:00 pm

General Meeting, Music Exchange, CD Swap
Gethsemane Episcopal Church
Contact: Dr. Peggy Johnson (701.866.5993)

October 11, 4:00 pm

Organ Concert, Dr. Peggy Johnson
Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral
Contact: Dr. Peggy Johnson (701.866.5993)

October 30, 8:00 pm

Organ Concert, Kim Kasling
First Lutheran Church
Contact: Michael Olson (molson@flcfargo.org)

October 31, 10:00 am

Masterclass with Kim Kasling
First Lutheran Church
Contact: Michael Olson (molson@flcfargo.org)

November 1, 5:00 pm

Choral Evensong for All Saints (TBD)
Gethsemane Episcopal Church
Contact: Dr. Peggy Johnson (701.866.5993)

November 14, 9:00 am

What Every Organist Needs to Know About the Body
Gethsemane Episcopal Church
Contact: Dr. Peggy Johnson (701.866.5993)

WE ARE OFFICIALLY IN THE 21ST
CENTURY—WE HAVE OUR OWN
WEBSITE!

C h e c k i t o u t !

www.agohq.org/chapters/redrivervalley

Many thanks to Anna Goodin-Hayes for her
work on this project!

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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

Contact Information

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