

OMAHA CHAPTER OF  
THE AMERICAN  
GUILD OF  
ORGANISTS



# The Windchest

July 2018

Celebrating 100 Years!

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

Tip of the Month

Board Minutes

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## From the Dean...

One of the primary goals the Founding Fathers of the American Guild of Organists is to provide educational opportunities for organists and choral directors. The purpose of these goals is to develop programs that raise the quality of organ and chorale music in worship and cultural living. AGO members and friends achieve these goals successfully developed by the founding fathers, especially when implemented at the chapter level.

To facilitate these goals, the American Guild of Organists developed a certification program that provides a life-time of educational opportunities for organists and choral directors. One, the Choir Master (ChM) is for chorale directors, while four are for organists: the Service Playing Certificate (SPC); Colleague American Guild of Organists (CAGO); Associate American Guild of Organists (AAGO); and Fellow American Guild of Organists (FAGO).

The Omaha Chapter supports the guild's certification program, encouraging members to earn one or more of the professional certificates. Now is the time to define your goals and to begin working on guild certification.

Begin with the Service Playing Certificate (SPC), which is totally practical for the parish organist. Requirements include performance of music appropriate for prelude, offering and postlude music; introducing and accompanying hymnody and chanting; half and whole step transposition of hymns; and accompaniment of choral anthems. The SPC exam is recorded locally under the supervision of a chapter appointed proctor, who sends the recording to National headquarters for evaluation.

Requirements for the five certificates are published annually in the July issue of *The American Organist*. National provides resources for each certificate as well as a booklet of hymns for use in SPC and CAGO exams, two of which are chosen for the test. The local chapter proctor facilitates all arrangements, including communications with AGO headquarters, scheduling the exam performance site, which requires a well-maintained pipe organ, and other details.

The CAGO, AAGO, and FAGO exams are broken into two or more sections which may be taken separately, although once a candidate has successfully passed one section, the requirements of the other sections must be successfully completed within three years. The AAGO and FAGO exams require two full days of testing, evaluated by a team of three members who hold AAGO and/or FAGO certificates.

Earning AGO certification not only raises the skill level of candidates, it offers a solid sense of achievement and accomplishment, confidence as an organist, and increased awareness of responsibilities as a musician leading the "Sung Word."

SOLI DEO GLORIA  
Dr. Christensen, AAGO



## TIP-OF-THE-MONTH

The TIP-OF-THE-MONTH article for July is, frankly, a reinforcement of a practice frequently observed in the membership of the Omaha Chapter, AGO. In fact, the support and encouragement chapter members offer to one another is a habit! And what a terrific habit it is!

Omaha AGO chapter members encourage one another in many different ways and venues. Members contact one another regarding health and well-being concerns; actively and visibly seek one another out at times of joy, prosperity, success and happiness. Chapter members are observed “stepping up to the plate” to help another, not only in connection with professional needs, but personal and family needs as well. And there is always the pleasure of an unexpected greeting, be it extended in a restaurant, following a symphony concert, or while shopping—the list goes on.

Moreover, the email address of one of our members begins with an “instruction” that so well defines the attitude of Omaha AGO members: “buildandencourage.…” So, fellow members of Omaha AGO, let’s continue to “buildandencourage” one another! It’s a habit that strengthens the membership of our chapter, and certainly increases the visibility of who we are throughout the community!



Congratulations to Dr. Jeremy Owens, SPC, who recently was notified he successfully earned the CAGO certificate. Dr. Owens, a member of Omaha AGO, is an Associate Professor of Music at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City where he teaches piano, music theory and music appreciation. Dr. Owens serves as the professional staff pianist as well. He is organist for Morning Side United Methodist Church in Sioux City.

Timothy Conner, SPC, was notified he successfully completed Part I of the CAGO exam, planning to complete Part II of CAGO this fall.

Congratulations are also in order to Timothy Schreiber, who plans to attend the University of Kansas this fall, majoring in organ and church music. Awarded a \$14,000.00 four- year renewable scholarship, Timothy’s organ instructor will be Dr. Michael Bauer. Congratulations, Timothy Schreiber.



Pianist/  
Organist  
Position

### Pianist/Organist Position

Bethel Lutheran Church is seeking a pianist/organist to accompany their worship services and various musical ensembles to help fulfill Bethel's vision to offer authentic, accessible worship. Start date is September 9, 2018. To schedule an interview, please contact Pastor Rebecca Sheridan at [pastor.rsheridan@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.rsheridan@gmail.com) or 402-551-1063. Please provide two professional references and a resume.

- Select music in line with Bethel's vision, which entails less organ music and more piano accompaniment, familiarity with contemporary Christian music.
- Able to play on Sundays September through May 8:30 a.m. through 11:45 a.m., summers 10 - 11:45 a.m.
- Accompany and lead worship songs for congregational singing.
- Coordinate with pastors and office staff for order of worship for the day, copyright permissions, and titles of special music.
- Accompany regular Sunday morning choir rehearsal from September to May, additional evening or Saturday rehearsals as able.
- Able to accompany choir anthems of moderately difficult level and sight-read.
- Coordinate with music director for pieces with the various musical ensembles at Bethel, such as band, brass, choir, and vocal ensemble.
- Provide preludes, offertories, and postludes for Christian Worship.
- Provide music for funerals and weddings when possible.
- Rehearse adequately during the week to prepare for church accompanying responsibilities.
- Contact substitute musicians in a timely manner when needed, or work with pastors and Worship team to determine days off.
- Suggested four unpaid Sundays off annually which is negotiable.

National  
AGO  
Convention  
2018



**Did you go the National AGO Convention in Kansas City?**

**How about writing a report for the next edition of The Windchest?**

**Please send articles and pictures to [rosemarypaul@splc.omhcoxmail.com](mailto:rosemarypaul@splc.omhcoxmail.com)**



## AGO Exec Board Meeting - 18, 2018

Meeting held at St. Cecilia's Cultural Arts Center

Members present: J Gordon Christensen, (Dr. C), Marie Rubis Bauer, Jean Johnson, Jeff Hoffman, Gina Simpson, Sonja Lundgren, Greg Johnson

The meeting was called to order by Dr. C at 9:35 a.m.

It was Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the April minutes as read.

It was MSC to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

Old Business:

- It was reported the Matching Fund challenge has nearly been met.
- Jeff Hoffman reported that the scrap books and other history items are just about ready to go online. What to do the at :4 tubs of "stuff"? Suggested that Jeff contact Claire Eason and the Omaha Historical Society.

New Business:

- It was asked that minutes be made available in the Windchest. Greg will send minutes ASAP to Dr. C who will then send to Board members for approval by email. Then they can be made available via the Windchest.
- It was MSC, to approve Dr. C's list of appointments for Committee Chairs:
  - Clergy-Musician Task Force: Pastor Stephen Bartelt
  - Education Chair: Julie Sandene (awaiting her affirmation response)
  - Programs (208-2019): Marie Rubis Bauer
  - Webmaster, Facebook: Jeffrey Hoffman
  - Windchest Editor: Rosemary Paul
  - Publicity: J Gordon Christensen
- Possible Collaborative events with Cathedral Arts Project and Tentative 2018-2019 program schedule was discussed - with no decisions made other than:
  - The Music Exchange will be held at St. Cecilia's Cultural Center from August 4 (Saturday) thru August 11 (Saturday). Hours on the Saturdays may be longer and possibly a lunch component - TBD, but weekday hours will be 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday hours were not discussed.
  - Kick-Off Social: Sunday, September 9th - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Dr. C's yard featuring a catered supper offered by the host.
- It was reported that the feedback returns from the banquet suggest interest in:
  - Workshop for "part-time" musicians, presented by AGO members.
  - Chapter sponsor one guest organist in recital, featuring an organ that needs to be heard."
  - Hymn Festival featuring Omaha AGO members.
  - More "Social" events.
  - Music Exchange.
- Discussed development of student education opportunities:
  - Dr. C will provide info for the Windchest regarding affiliation with the Nationals Federation of Musicians.
  - Dr. C will send an email to the membership regarding the possibility of teaching organ lessons and Jeff will add into on those willing to teach to the web-site.
- It was MSC, to transfer \$300 to the Scholarship Fund.
- It was MSC, to look at reviewing/updating and possibly expanding current Scholarship program/situation at our July meeting
- Reminder that meetings will be monthly on the second Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the St. Cecilia Cultural Center - unless because of lack of agenda items the Dean decides to postpone to the following month.



The meetings was adjourned at 11:05

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Johnson, secretary

*Pedaling  
Around  
Omaha*



AGO Board  
Members

Committee Chairs



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

'Tis the season for membership renewals, especially for members who have held AGO membership before the digital registration program was implemented. While several improvements have been made to ONCARD registration procedures, challenges continue to emerge.

For the upcoming registration year, National has provided some changes, simplifying the procedure for both new and renewal membership enrollment. Step-by-step directions are offered at each phase of registration, options are more clearly stated. Moreover, the applicant is reminded of items overlooked, missed or incomplete, before the application is forwarded to National AGO headquarters.

Questions? Members are encouraged to communicate with the national office regarding registration needs by calling (212) 870-2310; email: [info@agohq.org](mailto:info@agohq.org); or by contacting your local chapter leadership.

Registration challenges? Contact National, Gina Simpson or Dr. Christensen for direction and help!

And be persistent! Your membership is important not only to the chapter, but for opportunity for you own professional growth and development as well.

**CURRENT AGO BOARD  
MEMBERS  
2018–2019**

**Dean: J Gordon Christensen, AAGO**  
**Sub-dean: Marie Rubis Bauer**  
**Secretary: Gregory Johnson**  
**Treasurer: Gina Simpson**

**Members-at-Large (3 year terms)**  
**Jean Johnson: 2016/17 -2018-19**  
**Sonja Lundgren: 2017/18 -2019-20**  
**Jeffrey Hoffman: 2018/19 -2020-21**

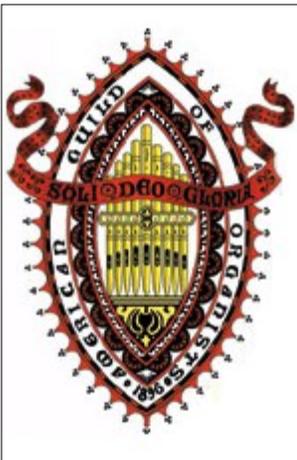


**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Clergy-Musician Task Force:	Rev. Stephen Bartelt
Education (AGO Certification)	Julie Sandene
Chapter Historian	Claire Eason
Organ Historian	David McCain
Membership	Julie Sandene
Membership Directory	Gina Simpson
Professional Concerns	Jerry Brabec
Programming (2018-2019)	Marie Rubis Bauer
Publicity	J GordonChristensen
Referrals	Julie Sandene
Webmaster, Facebook	Jeff Hoffman
<i>Windchest</i> Publisher	Rosemary Paul

The **American Guild of Organists (AGO)** is a national organization of academic, church, and concert organists in the U.S., headquartered in The Interchurch Center in New York City. Founded as both an educational and service organization, it was chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York in 1896, with the authority to grant titles of associate or fellow to members who passed required examinations. Henry Houseley was a Founder of the American Guild of Organists, and Clifford Demarest played an important role in its first two decades. The Guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music.<sup>[3]</sup>

Membership is not limited to professional organists, but is open to anybody with an interest in the organ and organ music. There are approximately 16,500 AGO members in all categories, of whom 14,500 are voting members as of 2017.<sup>[4]</sup> The AGO's current president is Michael Bedford, elected in 2016.



### **American Guild of Organists**

**Formation** January 1, 1896; 122 years ago<sup>[1]</sup>  
**Type** Professional association  
**Legal status** 501(c)(3)  
**Headquarters** New York, New York  
**Location**  United States  
**Membership** 16,500  
**Official language** English  
**President** Michael Bedford, DMA, AAGO, ChM  
**Vice President** Eileen Hunt, DMA, AAGO  
**Treasurer/Councillor for Finance** Barbara Adler, DMA, SPC  
**Website** www.agohq.org

**From:** Wikipedia

### **Mission, Vision, and Value Proposition**

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. The vision of the American Guild of Organists is to engage, support, and uplift every organist. Value Proposition (A Value Proposition is simply a promise of value to be delivered—a statement of the specific benefits you can expect through AGO membership.) As a member of the American Guild of Organists you can connect with other organists enhance your skills as an organist and choral conductor celebrate the organ in historic and evolving contexts discover news of the organ and choral world online and in The American Organist nurture new organists of all ages share knowledge and expertise enjoy camaraderie at chapter events and conventions find inspiration and challenge receive encouragement from colleagues experience great organs and organists access career opportunities and job listings earn professional credentials through AGO certification Approved by National Council May 9, 2016; revised by National Council June 7, 2016.

