

OMAHA CHAPTER OF  
THE AMERICAN  
GUILD OF  
ORGANISTS



# The Windchest

August 2018

Celebrating 100 Years!

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

Recital Dates

Special Events

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## From the Dean...

Professional growth and development this summer is certainly an observed “common denominator” among members of the Omaha Chapter, AGO. Members have attended seminars and conventions, some serving as presenters and performers for the national convention in Kansas City. Members have performed recitals, accompanied hymn festivals, served as guest organists on new pipe organs, and traveled extensively to attend organ-related programs, concerts, and workshops.

The importance of professional growth is vitally important for organists and church musicians. Growth keeps us from repetition of favorite repertoire, requires continuous practice, keeps us focused and refreshed.

Moreover, professional growth raises our standards which in turn raises the standards of those we, as organists and music directors, serve. Seeking resources for growth suggests initiative involving research and exploration. We question ourselves: what opportunities are available that offer programming that will be of benefit to those we serve as organists? What professional growth is available, and what is the purpose of our professional growth? Who will be presenters/performers? Why do we seek these growth opportunities? When and how will professional growth be implemented?

Many members of our chapter have pondered these questions, successfully seeking out growth opportunities that have met and surpassed professional growth needs and expectation. More than a dozen

Omaha AGO members attended the National AGO convention in Kansas City in early July, attending many stellar recitals and concerts, workshops, seminars and displays. Members have attended other organ-related conventions and seminars in addition to seminars, conventions and quorums offered by various denominations.

There are many professional growth opportunities planned for the chapter’s 2018-19 season, to be announced at our Kick-off event on Sunday, September 9. The program for the kick-off event is Dr. Karen Black, North Central Region’s new councilor. The Clergy-Musician Task Force continues to move forward with an intriguing event scheduled in January of 2019. Omaha AGO and CAP plan to co-sponsor Kevin Vogt in recital at St. Cecilia Cathedral, and plans are developing for an organ crawl to see, hear, and play a new pipe organ.

Professional growth is what keeps us young, energetic, visionary and exciting as we lead and collaborate with others bringing the best of music for the “King of Instruments” to congregations, parishes and audiences throughout the area.

Peace and good will. Psalm 100  
Dr. Christensen, AAGO  
Dean, Omaha Chapter





### Kansas City Convention Highlight

The Kansas City Convention, in many respects, was one huge "highlight." The overall theme, centering on World War I history, was anchored by five events, beginning with the opening event in the Kaufmann Center on Monday evening, balanced with the closing event in the same venue on Friday night. Between these two "frame work" events were a hymn festival, a multi-cultural program in an ecclesiastical setting, and the program of sacred motets of J. S. Bach. The convention explored the history of World War I through narrative, dance, worship, choral and instrumental music in creative ways that raised the significance of sacrifice, grief, respect for others and cultural institutions, the Word of God, and patriotism. Every one attending the multi-cultural service will forever remember the silence at the end of the service as we left the church, walking to the busses, reflecting on the content of the program we had just heard, watched, and experienced.

Of course an important highlight for Omaha AGO members was the fact that three of our members were performers, including Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer, Dr. Michael Bauer, and Mark Kurtz! Another member, Timothy Schreiber was an usher for the James Higdon organ recital, reinforcing our anticipation that some day we will attend an AGO convention recital featuring Timothy as an organist on the convention program. Another Omaha AGO member, James Lytton, served on the convention committee.

The Kansa City AGO Chapter is to be commended for a convention program that actually was highlighted by many stellar workshops, magnificent venues, featuring superb organs, --all well organized and planned.

Dr. J Gordon Christensen

This convention will remain firm in my memory because of the connection brought out in programming with World War I. Hearing the opening worship, comments by the Museum's director, the cost of the war in lives lost, the Spire choral ensemble and instrumental works made it a riveting service. I could tell we were in for a treat.

On the trip to Lawrence - seeing Tim Schreiber there as an entering student, already participating as such and welcoming us there - proud of him and excited to see where that takes him. Marie Rubis Bauer played an outstanding recital.

"The Road Home" - the service on the final afternoon, was the most emotional to me. Chaplin Don Saliers comments, Michael Bauer's playing, as well as many other participants, singing a hymn Marie wrote, dancers who brought home the stories of soldiers and their families, scripture, the reading of the Armistice declaration, remembering Stephen Paulus and the contribution he made to the choral world. All capped by the entire assembly singing Paulus' "Pilgrim's Hymn" followed by utter silence....

Jean Johnson





July 17, 2018

Omaha Chapter  
AGO  
Minutes



## Omaha Chapter AGO Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 17 2018.

Cultural Arts Center

Attendees: J Gordon Christensen, Jean Johnson, Sonja Lundgren, Jeff Hoffman

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Dean J Gordon Christensen

Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as printed in the Windchest.

There was no treasurer's report. Three new members have joined.

### Old Business

The board approved Julie Sandene as Education Chair.

Marie Meyers has been appointed as a member of the Clergy-Musician Task Force.

Jeff reported that he is redoing some of the digital historical files and when finished Claire Eason will contact the Douglas County Historical Society about storage of files.

### 2018-2019 Season

- \* Music Exchange will take place at the Cultural Arts Center at the Cathedral on August 4-11. Hours listed in Windchest. Ted Holyoke's estate has offered his music to be available. The event will kick off with a lunch at noon on August 4. Details will be emailed.
- \* Season Kick-off - Sunday, September 9, 5:00-7:00 at Dr. Christensen's. Catered supper and program by Dr. Karen Black newly elected Regional Councilor of North Central Region.
  - \* October - plans being developed, hopefully for the 13th.
  - \* November and December - no meetings scheduled.
- \* January 12 - Saturday morning - Clergy/Musician event with a luncheon - potential presenter being contacted.
- \* February 17 - 3:00 at St Cecelia Cathedral - Organist Kevin Vogt with professional singers. Co-sponsored with the Cathedral Arts Project.
- \* March 9 - Saturday one hour workshop and lunch - potential presenter being contacted.
  - \* April - no meetings scheduled.
- \* May 20 - End of year dinner with certification programs presented. Dundee Presbyterian

Organ lesson opportunities - Dr. C will attend organizational meeting of the National Federation clubs and report. Omaha AGO is seeking collaboration with Central Iowa chapter regarding organ instruction.

Student Organ Scholarships - Jeff is working on revamping the application. \$300 award for beginning student - to be paid to the teacher. Information will be forthcoming and the board will act on applications as received.

### New Business

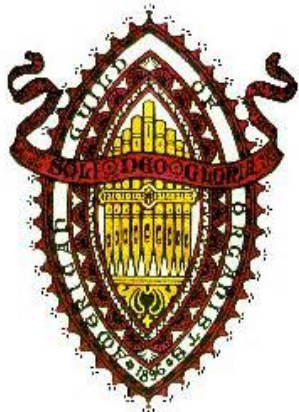
Advertisement availability in the Membership Directory will continue as in the past. Contact Dr. C or Gina Simpson.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Johnson



## 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.

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## UPDATE ON MUSCIAN-CLERGY TASK FORCE

Last season, the task force received input from chapter members at an event held at St. Michael Lutheran Church. Among other things, members expressed a need for communication and collaboration among musicians and clergy. Expectations of each for the other are not always what they seem on the surface. Many good relationships and few frustrations were also shared.

This fall, the task force will be surveying clergy from a number of denominations to discover how they think about their relationships with their parish musicians. Members of the task force will attend various gatherings of clergy to give them an opportunity to share their observations and viewpoints. A case study has been developed as a basis for discussion.

The work of the committee will climax at a chapter event being planned for Saturday, January 12, 2019. Put this date on your calendar and invite the clergy from your church to put it on theirs, as well. A luncheon meeting will provide opportunities for discussion and interaction. Additionally, the task force is envisioning having several clergy/musician teams from several parishes presenting how they work together.

Following this event, the task force plans to conclude its work with gathering a document or paper on best practices for clergy/musician relationships that can be made available to AGO members and clergy.

Stephen Bartelt has been appointed as the new chair of the task force, replacing Jodi Korth, who has moved from the metro. Questions, concerns, or input can be directed to him at [stephenbartelt@yahoo.com](mailto:stephenbartelt@yahoo.com) or (402) 496-6140.



*Pedaling  
Around  
Omaha*



AGO Board  
Members

Committee Chairs



## MUSIC EXCHANGE

The annual Omaha AGO music exchange will begin on Saturday, August 4, ending on the following Saturday, August 11. The exchange will be held at the Saint Cecilia Institute for Sacred Liturgy Music and the Arts, second floor, Cathedral Cultural Center (Msgr. Webster Graham Building), located at 3900 Webster Street, Omaha.

The exchange will be open each day 12:00-4:00. The display will be in Room 207 where a piano is available. Pipe organs are available in 201 and 210 on a first come-first served basis.

Opportunity to have a sack lunch with fellow members and friends is available on Saturday, August 4. RSVP to Jean Johnson at (402) 571-7945, who will place the orders and pick them up. Plan to reimburse Jean for the cost of the sack lunch. Lunch will be in Room 206.

This year's Music Exchange is organized by Jean Johnson, Julie Sandene and Marie Rubis Bauer. Julie indicated music left after the last music exchange will be on display. In addition, the organ music library from Ted Holyoke's estate will has been offered and will be available.

Mark your calendars!

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## 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:  
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
Programing (2018-2019)	Marie Rubis Bauer
Publicity	J Gordon Christensen
Referrals	Julie Sandene
Webmaster	Jeffrey Hoffman
<i>Windchest</i> Publisher	Rosemary Paul

## Open Positions

**Wanted: Director of Music Ministries Part-time Position** First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Omaha is looking for a part-time Director of Music Ministries to oversee the church's music program for Sunday morning and special worship services. Responsibilities shall include worship and music planning, teaching, directing rehearsals and performances of vocal and instrumental music and leading the congregation to actively participate in worship through music.

The successful applicant must have a strong Christian faith with an understanding of the drama and flow of worship, be proficient in leading both traditional and contemporary Christian music, and be a team player with the ability to teach, direct, support, encourage and motivate others. A degree in music and five years experience are preferred. The successful applicant must also pass a background check.

The position is expected to require 10 – 15 hours per week with salary commensurate with education and experience. Please mail your resume to Personnel Committee, First Christian Church, 6630 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68132 or e-mail [fccomaha@firstchristian-omaha.org](mailto:fccomaha@firstchristian-omaha.org). Learn more about us on our website: <http://www.firstchristian-omaha.org>

### Morning Star Lutheran Church Position Description

**Position Title:** Director of Music Ministries

**Primary Function:** The primary scope of this position is to provide musical and administrative leadership for a comprehensive choral and instrumental music ministry. This position will plan, coordinate, and lead in these areas for the purpose of enhancing the worship experience at Morning Star Lutheran Church as determined through the consultation of the Pastor, musicians, and the Worship and Music Committee.

#### Administrative Responsibilities:

- Plans, organizes, and supervises the ministry of music including, but not limited to: children; youth; adults
- Participate in consultation with the pastor, the preparation of a comprehensive annual budget for the music program
- Operate within the guidelines of the congregationally approved budget for music ministry
- Will assist in the selection of hymns and special music with the Lead Pastor and other music staff
- Participates in regular staff meetings, attends Worship and Music Committee meetings, and participates in an annual review process with the Pastor and Personnel Committee
- Regularly maintains and updates the Morning Star music library
- May participate in continuing education opportunities as available within budget
- Works in collaboration with the Lead Pastor and Worship and Music Committee to develop a vision for a comprehensive music ministry, including collaboration in worship planning and other areas for growth including: special programs: bell/chime choirs; concert series
- Accept other duties or responsibilities as assigned by the Lead Pastor

**Accompanist Responsibilities:** (position may supervise/schedule organists/accompanists as required)

- Schedule an accompanist/organist for worship services on Sunday mornings and Saturday evening or other worship services as appropriate
- Schedule maintenance and tuning of instrument and report annually on its condition.

#### Director of Choirs (8:30 worship) and Music Ensembles (10:30 worship)

- Oversees the direction of weekly rehearsals for the Adult Choir as appropriate for worship (September through May)
- May serve as an accompanist or select an appropriate accompanist for the choir and/or the 10:30 worship music ensemble
- Schedule appropriate music for non-choir Sundays
- Plan, organize, and supervise the volunteer and/or contract musicians for the 10:30 worship service including, but not limited to: children; youth; adults
- Prepare in advance, in collaboration with the Pastor, choral music for festival Sundays
- Identify, recruit, and equip new members for the choir, worship music ensembles, and others with gifts appropriate for music leadership
- Expected to be present during all major worship festivals of the church year, i.e. Christmas Eve and Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost Sunday, and Reformation.

#### Qualifications and Skills:

- Bachelor's degree in music or related field (In some cases, prior musical experience may substitute for educational background)
- Experience directing choirs of all age groups as well as music ensembles, including vocalists and other musical instrumentation
- Knowledge of appropriate church music, including an understanding of appropriate music within the guidelines of Lutheran liturgical settings
- Knowledge of instruments, especially organ, as well as keyboard with ability sufficient to sight read hymns, liturgies, and anthems
- Experience with collaborative team ministry, including solid interpersonal skills and the ability to work well with others
- Ability to lead a Christian lifestyle above reproach
- Agree to work within the parameters and boundaries of the Morning Star Safe Church Policy, including a criminal background check

**Status:** Part-time (four weeks of vacation)  
**Overtime Status:** Exempt  
**Supervised by:** Pastor  
**Reports to:** Pastor  
**Responsible Ministry:** Executive Committee

