

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Cleveland Chapter American Guild of Organists

May 13, 2018

The meeting was held at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brecksville. Seventeen members and friends attended the meeting which featured a worship service planned by Sub-Dean Ruth Draper and host Joanna Pretz-Anderson, music director of the church. Guild members who participated in the service were Ruth Draper, Dale Hukill, Don Jackson, Jason Lorenzon, Carmen Massaro, Carol Neff, and Don Verkuilen. Rev. Randy O'Donnell, Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran gave the Sermon.

In the absence of Dean Timothy Robson, Sub-Dean Ruth Draper presided over the annual meeting. Minutes of the 2017 meeting were not available and so could not be approved. However, reports from that meeting are available on the website.

Registrar Paul Guyer reported that the chapter has 135 members. As in the last few years, membership is declining with more members moving into the "special" category. However there is a bright spot in that the number of "young organists" on the membership roles increased. Guyer challenged the membership to reach out to young organists in particular. He reported that two members, Grant Wiswell and Robert Schneider passed away during this year.

Treasurer Don Jackson passed out the Chapter income statement to date. The Expenses came in a little lower than budget due to lower program expenses. Jackson noted that printing costs are lower in part to not having to send out dues statements. The On-Card system means that dues come in throughout the year and the system results in less burden on the local Treasurer. He noted that the Magellan Fund has increased to \$48,749.00 an increase of \$6,178 since 12/31/17. Jackson recommended that some of these funds be used for a special project rather than just sitting in the fund.

In her report, Sub-Dean Ruth Draper thanked members who had assisted with programs throughout the year. She noted that recitals with national artists continue to be the biggest draw audience-wise. These include co-sponsored recitals with churches. The biggest audience this year was for the David Higgs recital at St. John's. Other programs this year were lightly attended. These included an organ and instruments program, a program of Advent and Christmas repertoire and a tour of Oberlin organs. She put the question forward as to whether the chapter should "think bigger?". She also recommended that the new Executive Committee revise the operating procedure to allow for the annual meeting to take place in June as this year's meeting conflicted with Mother's Day. Generally dates in May are problematic as there are so many events going on.

Draper read Dean Robson's report. Robson noted the membership decline which has contributed to the challenge to attract leaders. He believes imaginative programming is needed to address the decline. He reported that the scholarship program attracted only one applicant who was ineligible because the applicant resided outside the area served by our scholarships. He suggested a change to this criterion for next year to include a wider area as otherwise the candidate met our criterion.

Draper announced the incoming officers and Executive Committee members. Continuing officers are Dean: Tim Robson, Treasurer: Don Jackson and Secretary: Fern Jennings. Brian Wentzel was elected as Sub-Dean. New Executive Committee members for a three year term are Robert Day, Carmen Massaro and Don Verkuilen.

Ruth Draper installed these new officers. Jason Lorenzon moved the meeting be adjourned. A Postlude played by Don Jackson concluded the service. A reception followed.

Submitted by

Fern Jennings, Secretary

Report of the Dean 2017/18 Program Year

This year has been one of relative calm in the chapter, with excellent programming coordinated by Ruth Draper, Subdean. I am grateful for all of her work, and for the various participants. Cooperation between the guild and other recital presenters allows the chapter to help sponsor renowned organists in Cleveland. I also thank our other officers and Executive Committee members. Although we have had few in-person meetings, there has been good discussion via email and general consensus about decisions needing to be made.

I do note a worrying trend in our membership: the chart in Registrar Paul Guyer's report is stark: the general trend in total chapter membership is down; the number of "regular" members is smaller; and the number of "special" (i.e. over 60) members is up. Cleveland is not unique in this trend; indeed, it is reported at the national level. The smaller member base has a direct impact on other chapter activities such as programming. It is also a challenge to attract candidates to run for chapter office. We are lucky as a chapter in that we have an endowment fund that can be used for some aspects of programming; and we have established a scholarship fund to support young and beginning organists. But we will need to be imaginative in future programming to appeal to our membership, attract new members, and encourage attendance by our membership. In Cleveland, as in many other places, the crop of new organists in the area is not growing rapidly, and there are now many demands of all sorts on other members that compete with AGO offerings. We must engage with the rest of the American Guild of Organists in wrestling with a fundamental question: Why should the AGO exist in the 21st century?

Carol Neff coordinated our scholarship activities this year. There was one applicant for a chapter scholarship this year; the individual was highly qualified, but because of the wording of the geographical eligibility requirements, the applicant was disqualified. In the next year, I am recommending that the Executive Committee examine the current guidelines and revise them as necessary for our current time, perhaps including collaboration with other northeast Ohio AGO chapters.

Our social media presence on Facebook continues to attract interest, with numerous “likes” of our postings. Anyone can now subscribe to the “weekly update” email newsletters, and there is some evidence that the Facebook and other electronic communications have attracted attendees to AGO events.

Thanks to our chapter members who agreed to run for office: Brian Wentzel, subdean; and, for Executive Committee, Robert Day, Linda Gardner, Dale Hukill, Carmen Massaro, and Don VerKuilen. Mr. Day, Mr. Massaro, and Mr. VerKuilen were elected for terms ending June 30, 2021. Congratulations to them!

I will be continuing as Dean of the Cleveland Chapter for one more year. I encourage members’ comments about programming and other activities of the chapter. If you’re interested in participating; we’ll find a way for you to participate. Although I raised some serious issues in this report, our chapter is relatively stable financially and organizationally.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Robson

Dean

Subdean's Report 2018
Ruth Draper

The Cleveland Chapter was able to offer a varied and interesting program year, thanks to the support of local churches and AGO members. I would like to thank everyone who helped coordinate and lead events, including Timothy Robson, David Kazimir, Jonathan Moyer, Todd Wilson, Jim Riggs, Anne Wilson, Greg Heiselman, Joanna Pretz-Anderson and Pastor Randy O'Donnell. Without the support and involvement of our local church musicians and other church staff, our guild events would not be possible.

Our most popular programs continued to be organ recitals by well-known recitalists, which were Isabelle Demers, Michel Bouvard, David Higgs, and Henk de Vries. These concerts were all co-sponsored by the host churches, and partly funded by the Cleveland Foundation Teare/Kerns grant.

In addition to traditional recitals, we also hosted an organ and instruments concert featuring three local organists collaborating with different instrumentalists, which was preceded by a workshop/discussion about using instruments with the organ in worship. A second professional development event was an Advent/Christmas repertoire sharing session. Although attendance at these events was low, those who came seemed to get a lot out of them.

In partnership with the Lorain County Chapter, we held a tour of Oberlin organs led by organ curator David Kazimir and organ professor Jonathan Moyer, which gave people a chance to see four fine instruments up close.

Our final event this year was a worship service featuring different organists playing parts of the service, instead of a members recital. Attendance was low due to the poor date, but I believe this could be a meaningful way to end the year if the operating procedures are modified to allow more date flexibility for the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Draper

CLEVELAND CHAPTER, AGO
Income Statement
September 25, 2017 to May 11, 2018

	<u>This Period</u>	<u>2017-18 Total \$</u>	<u>2017-18 Budget</u>	<u>Notes</u>
INCOME				
Membership Dues	1,134.00	4,725.00	4500	
Fees/Donations at Programs			0	
Advertising Fees				
Interest/Dividends	277.46	277.46	175	primarily Magellan dividends
Other				
AGO National Reimburs.			200	
<i>Dedicated Income</i>				
Programming Gifts	10.00	2,128.00	2100	includes Pipedreams
Scholarship Gifts	25.00	225.00	300	
Competition Gifts				
TOTAL INCOME	<u>1,446.46</u>	<u>7,355.46</u>	<u>7275</u>	
EXPENSES				
Dues to National/duals		197.00	197	
Chapter Programs	2,874.16	3,874.16	4200	
Newsletter			25	
Office/ Misc. Admin.	50.00	68.00	100	Ohio registration
Dean's Expense			100	
AGO Exams			200	
Other/Contingency			0	
Website	225.00	305.00	300	hosting renewal, security
AGO Annual Fund			500	
Scholarships			500	
Quimby Competition		340.42	500	
Exam Incentives			0	
Pipe Dreams sponsorship		1,898.00	1898	
Yearbook			0	
Projector for Concerts			500	
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>3,149.16</u>	<u>6,682.58</u>	<u>9020</u>	
NET INCOME	-1,702.70	672.88	-1745	
Transfers from/to Investments				
ADJUSTED NET INCOME	<u>-1,702.70</u>	<u>672.88</u>	<u>-1745</u>	
Account Balances				
Checking	2,104.58			
Savings	4,209.59			
Fidelity Market Value	48,749.00	6,178.78		increase since 12/31/17

For member information only, not for distribution.

Registrar's Report

We have 135 members as of May 7, 2018.

Our membership is split into the following categories:

	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (category totals overlap)					
Regular	50	58	66	65	74
Special	65	56	55	51	50
Young Organist	9	6	6	6	4
Partner (obsolete)	-	-	4	3	3
Dual	11	8	8	5	5
Young Organist / Dual	3	2	0	0	4
Chapter Friends	8	8	7	10	13
Honorary	4	4	4	4	4
PAID OR INVOICED	135	138	146	144	157

Our Honorary Members are:

Tony Bianchi
Karen McFarlane Holtkamp
Karel Paukert
Todd Wilson

Members Grant Wiswell, and Robert Schneider passed away this year

Paul Guyer, Registrar