

The American Guild of Organists  
Cleveland Chapter  
**Annual Report and Meeting**  
**2015-2016**



**Sunday May 1, 2016**  
Westlake United Methodist Church



## **Agenda**

5:00 pm Member Recital

6:00 pm Reception

6:30 pm Annual Meeting

Call to Order

Acceptance of Minutes from 2015 Annual Meeting

Dean's Report

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

Old Business

Officers signing the revised operating procedures

New Business

Election Report

Installation of Officers

Directions to the Executive Committee

Announcements

Adjournment

Old/New Executive Committee Meeting - May 10, 2016 7:00pm, Paul Guyer's Home

## **AGO Cleveland Chapter**

### **Cleveland Chapter AGO Annual Meeting Draft Minutes**

**Sunday, May 3, 2015**

#### **Church of the Covenant**

**Present:** Paul Guyer, Don Jackson, Jan Jones, Barbara MacGregor, Chris Toth, Matt Skitzki, Grant Wiswell, Carolyn Wipper, James Leek, Patrick Wycliffe, Bryan Wentzel, David von Behren, Joy Parker, Ginny Roedig, James Storry, Tim Robson

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Dean Paul Guyer, with fifteen members present.

The minutes of last year's meeting were accepted as presented in the Annual Report.

#### **Dean's Report – Paul Guyer**

Paul thanked all concerned for the excellent afternoon program, as well as all who helped with chapter activities this year.

He said that 2014-2015 was a good year:

- The Web site is up and running
- Our tax-exempt status with the IRS is restored, with special thanks going to Don Jackson and Fern Jennings for an enormous amount of hard work
- The transition to the ONCARD dues collection system was successful, and 40 members have used it to renew this year already
- Pipe Dreams is back on WCLV thanks to the anonymous benefactor
- Bob Moncrief at Fairmount Presbyterian hosted an excellent Quimby Competition

MailChimp, our new newsletter provider, is working well for Tim.

Paul hopes to visit area organ studios to recruit new AGO members. He visited Todd's studio last year, and this year he hopes to visit B-W and Oberlin.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Don Jackson**

Financial statements for FY 2013-2014 are presented in the Annual Report. The Fidelity account is up \$3000 this year and could support a special project if we need it.

The Pipe Dreams donor is continuing to support the program.

ONCARD is a major convenience for the chapter. The deposits of our portion of the dues come from National every month.

### **Sub Dean's Report – Matt Skitzki**

The program for next year is set. It includes an organ tour/kickoff party, an Epiphany party, two organ recitals, a member masterclass, and Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza. A highlight will undoubtedly be a very special event at the lakeshore home of Dr. Eugene Blackstone, which features an Aeolian-Skinner organ with 82,000 pipes. Todd Wilson will demonstrate the instrument, and members will be able to play it. Dr. Blackstone is donating the space and the use of the organ, and Todd is donating his services to demonstrate it. Members will be encouraged to contribute to a non-alcoholic potluck. This will be a wonderful chance to reach out to other organists and encourage them to learn more about the Guild.

As detailed in the Annual Report, two excellent young organists competed in the Quimby Competition.

### **Registrar's Report – Chris Toth**

Although the decline is gradual, our membership is smaller each year. As membership goes down, so does our income. Members should invite their colleagues to join, and we could send out e-mail news to encourage them. Since members can now join at any time during the year, we receive e-mail notification and dues money every so often.

### **Old Business – None**

### **New Business – Installation of Officers**

Past Dean Fern Jennings installed the following officers:

**Dean,** Paul Guyer, CAGO

**Sub Dean,** Matt Skitzki, SPC

**Secretary,** Janice Jones, SPC

**Treasurer,** Don Jackson

**Executive Committee (Term Expiring 2018)** – David von Behren, Joy Parker, James Storry

Cliff Hill, Chris Toth, and Patrick Wycliffe were thanked as outgoing Executive Committee members.

Tim Robson reminded members to submit calendar events to [newsletter@clevelandago.org](mailto:newsletter@clevelandago.org)

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on June 1, 2015 at St. Theresa's Parish, Garfield Heights.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Jones, Secretary

## Dean's Report

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as your Dean these past two years. I'm so grateful for the help of so many people who volunteered their time and talent this past year. They include:

- Tim Robson for his many hours spent putting out the Weekly Update every week.
- Matt Skitzki and the Program Committee for putting together a year of wonderful events.
- Don Jackson for keeping all our finances in good order.
- Jan Jones for taking the minutes for our meetings.
- Fern Jennings for again leading the nominating committee and producing an excellent slate of candidates for this year.
- Grant Wiswell and Joy Parker for putting out the chapter directory.
- Joy Parker for sending the weekly update to our non-email members.

The chapter had several achievements this year that I want to highlight.

- Website – the website continues to grow with some new sections added this year: scholarships, pedals, pipes, and pizza, church music links, and the directory supplement
- Facebook group – the size of our Facebook group increased to 48 members.
- ONCARD – in addition to providing administrative tools, the new rolling membership policy has made it easier for people to join the chapter.
- Membership - we actually have a net increase of 2 this year. This may not seem like much, but it follows years of declining membership.
- Pipedreams – thanks to our anonymous benefactor for sponsoring Pipedreams. WCLV has moved the program to Sunday morning at 7:00am
- Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza – our outreach efforts to create the next generation of organists deserve special recognition. Thanks to Barbara MacGregor for putting it all together.
- Reaching out to students – visited Nicole Keller's studio at Baldwin Wallace, had students from CIM and Oberlin at several of our events this year.

Thanks to the outgoing executive committee members: Annie Kaschube, Grant Wiswell, and Ginny Roedig. Your service, hours, talent, and wisdom shared are greatly appreciated.

I'm proud of our chapter, its officers, and its members for their many efforts to advance the mission of the AGO. As a reminder and focus for us

*The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.*

*To achieve this, we:*

- *Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;*
- *Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;*
- *Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;*
- *Nurture future generations of organists;*
- *Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and*
- *Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.*

With gratitude, Paul Guyer

## **Continuing Executive Committee Members**

*Term Expires 2017*

Barbara MacGregor

James Leek

Brian Wentzel

*Term Expires 2018*

David von Behren

Joy Parker

James Storry

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Donald Jackson

April 22, 2016

This has been a somewhat uneventful year for the Cleveland chapter. As always our program budget is the largest expense area. The program committee wisely chose to cosponsor several programs with member churches which saved us considerable funds. We will end the year without using any savings or investment funds to pay for normal operations.

A pleasant surprise was receiving an anonymous donation to pay for projection system at the St. John's Cathedral concert last fall. The use of projection for hidden consoles is becoming quite common and greatly appreciated by audiences. I hope the chapter will continue this practice. As with the previous year we are grateful that an anonymous donor contributed funds so that we could be listed as the underwriter of Michael Barrone's *Pipedreams* radio program on WCLV. This program keeps the organ on the air waves and provides some visibility for our chapter.

I am pleased to report that despite the stock market ups and downs the past year, the net impact on our Fidelity account is a minor loss in value of around \$400 since last year. This still puts the account value at one the highest levels in the past 10 years.

The accompanying reports show activity for the current fiscal (program) year. The one area that needs some explanation is Other/Contingency Expense. There are three things here. First, is the *Pipedreams* expense which will have its own line next year. Second, are tickets purchased for the Severance Hall showing of *Phantom of the Opera* accompanied by Todd Wilson on the organ. These were fully offset by Other Income received by purchasers. Third was an unplanned expense for advertising at Severance Hall. We were contacted in January with an option to buy program book advertising at greatly reduced rates. Two ads ran in three program books covering 13 concerts. Like minded listeners saw ads for both the Cleobury recital at St. Paul's Episcopal and the Christian Lane concert at Plymouth. St. Paul's contributed to the cost of the ad for their concert. Feel free to ask questions on other items.

Donald Jackson, treasurer

The accompanying reports are for the end of the last fiscal year were approved by the executive committee and filed with national. I have also included a year-to-date income statement for the current fiscal. The large dollar amounts in the Other Income and Expense lines relate to a donation received to pay for a one year broadcast of *Pipedreams* on WCLV. Feel free to ask questions about other items.

		<b>This Period</b>	<b>2015-16 Total \$</b>	<b>2015-16 Budget</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
	Membership Dues	234.00	3,624.50	4,410	new members in 2016
	Fees/Donations at Programs		0.00	0	
	Advertising Fees		925.00	750	
	Interest/Dividends			0	
	Other		505.00	200	
	AGO National Reimburs.		50.00	200	
	<i>Dedicated Income</i>			0	
	Programming Gifts		1,200.00	1,200	
	Recital Gifts			0	
	Scholarship Gifts		250.00	500	
	Competition Gifts				
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	234.00	6,554.50	7,260	
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
	Dues to National/duals		184.00	200	
	Chapter Programs	851.22	2,381.15	2,800	Lane Concert & PPP
	Newsletter		49.75	50	
	Office/ Misc. Admin.		50.00	150	
	Dean's Expense			100	
	AGO Exams		50.00	200	
	Other/Contingency		3,060.00	1,800	
	Website		40.00	525	
	AGO Annual Fund			500	
	Scholarships			1,000	
	Quimby Competition			0	
	Exam Incentives			500	
	Yearbook		819.89	1,000	
	Projector for Concerts			800	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	851.22	6,634.79	9,625.00	
	<b>NET INCOME</b>	-617.22	-80.29	-2,365.00	
	Transfers from Investments				
	<b>ADJUSTED NET INCOME</b>	-617.22	-80.29	-2,365	
<b>Account Balances</b>					
	Checking	2,859.56			
	Savings	4,958.91			
	Fidelity Market Value	30,294.42	1,949.89	increase since 3/7/2016 report	

Assets				
Cash Checking				2,860
Savings				4,959
Fidelity Investments (cost basis)				28,946
<i>Market Value</i>			30,294	
Receivable:				0
Prepaid National Dues				184
<b>Total Assets</b>				<b>36,948</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Member dues received for				
2016-17 fiscal year				0
Scholarship Donations for 2016-17				0
Member donations for 2016-17				0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>				<b>0</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>				
Beginning Fund Balance				37,028
Operating Income or (Excess Expense)				-80
Fund Balance				
<b>Net Fund Balance</b>				<b>36,948</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>				<b>36,948</b>

## **Sub Dean's report 2016**

Dear fellow members,

As my term as sub dean of the Cleveland Chapter of the AGO draws to a close, I reflect on our successes and all that we have accomplished together. Candidly, I am in awe of the generosity and commitment that you – my AGO colleagues – have shown to that end. It's the reason we have been able to carry on the fine tradition of organ and choral music in Cleveland.

It's that commitment that is so critically important to sharing our interest and excitement for organ and choral music. Through our programs like the Kickoff Party and Facility Tour at Leek Organ, the Blackstone Organ, Repertory Class, and Pedals Pipes and Pizza, we're doing just that. During this past year, we've reached thousands of listeners through concerts by Tom Trenney and Christian Lane and through our ongoing commitment to Pipe Dreams.

Moreover, these programs create opportunities for networking, fellowship, and mutual support. They educate and inspire, from students to hobbyists to professionals. If you are a chapter member, or have volunteered or contributed in any way, thank you for your part in helping us advance our mission!

I am grateful for the opportunity I've had to be sub dean of this organization, and I'm confident that we'll continue to enrich lives through organ and choral music. Please continue to contribute generously. The work that we're doing today will surely create a stronger and more vibrant AGO chapter tomorrow.

With sincere gratitude,

Matt Skitzki

Sub Dean, Cleveland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

## **Examinations Report**

There were no applicants for AGO Certification Exams this fall. One member applied to take the written portion of the AAGO exam this upcoming May.

Ginny Roedig, Education and Exams Coordinator

## **Scholarships Report**

We awarded one scholarship of \$250.00 this year

## Registrar's Report

We have 145 members as of April 15, 2016.

Our membership is split into the following categories:

	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
<b>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</b>					
Regular	66	65	74	77	87
Special	55	51	50	56	62
Student	6	6	4	5	7
Partner	4	3	3	3	2
Dual	8	5	5	5	8
Student Dual	0	0	4	1	0
Chapter Friends	7	10	13	17	10
Honorary	4	4	4	4	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>179</b>

Our Honorary Members are:

Tony Bianchi  
Karen McFarlane Holtkamp  
Karel Paukert  
Todd Wilson

Former member Evelyn Muranko passed away this year

Paul Guyer, Interim Registrar

## **Installation of Officers**

Installing Official: The Cleveland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents for installation the following duly elected officers.

**Dean**, Nicole Keller, SPC

**Sub Dean**, Richard Nelson, SPC

**Secretary**, Fern Jennings, CAGO

**Treasurer**, Don Jackson

### **For Executive Committee (Term Expires 2018):**

Jason Lorenzon

Leah Templeton

David Uschold

You have been chosen by your colleagues to guide this Chapter during the coming year. This selection shows confidence in your wisdom, character, creativity, and leadership.

Installing Official addresses the officers: Will you severally promise to uphold the National By-Laws of the American Guild of Organists and honor their enactment? If so, respond, "I will."

Will you unite in your common charge as officers to continue the advancement of organ and choral music? If so, respond, "I will."

Will you endeavor to elevate the status of church and temple musicians, encourage continued education, and strive for the enlightenment of the community in which you serve? If so, respond, "I will."

Will you faithfully fulfill the duties of your individual office to the best of your ability? If so, respond, "I will."

Installing Official addresses the general membership: Fellow members, will you support these officers in their service to the Guild? If so, respond, "We will."

Now that our elected representatives have pledged to serve the purposes of the Guild, and we the membership have endorsed their leadership, let us welcome our new Chapter officers. Congratulations. (Applause is appropriate.)