



**Volume 65, No. 9  
May 2015**

**Table of Contents**

Dean's Message .....	1
Dues News .....	1
Our Next Meeting .....	2
Officers .....	2
Nomination of Officers .....	2
Hymn Festival Recap ..	3
News from AGO HQ ....	4
Concert – 6/14 .....	5
AGO Regional Conv. ....	5
Business Directory ....	5

**HAVE A GREAT  
SUMMER**

**DEADLINES  
For the August issue of  
THE WINDCHEST  
the deadline is  
July 15, 2015**

Gina Simpson, Editor  
ginas@chirock.com

**Dean's Message**

A new board will soon take over the reigns of the Omaha chapter. I'm sure the new officers will be happy to hear ideas, hopes, and even well-tempered criticisms from the general membership. Based on what I have seen so far there will be a lot of energy emanating from the new chapter leaders. Please give them the respect and cooperation for which you are known. Special thanks need to be extended to outgoing sub-dean **Gilbert Ward** and member-at-large **Laura Palmer** for their many contributions to the chapter.

Most of you will have gotten renewal notices from the ONCARD system. The system has been refined a bit from when it first rolled out. There is a six minute tutorial that you may wish to watch before you proceed. I tried to gum up the system by clicking every button in front of me, but my renewal still went through without a hitch. So, maybe you won't have any problems either. But if you do, I am willing to assist anybody who needs help or clarification.

Please have a good summer and consider attending the regional convention in St. Louis. I hope to see you all again in the fall.

David Schack  
Dean, Omaha Chapter AGO

**Dues News from AGO National Council**

The **AGO National Council** has established new dues rates for all dues categories. The new rates will appear on the April 1 renewal notices that AGO Headquarters will send to current chapter members renewing for the 2015-2016 membership year. These rates are \$100 for Regular members; \$75 for Special members; \$40 for Student members; and \$75 for Partners. The new rates reflect a \$3 increase in each membership category, with \$2 being retained by each chapter and \$1 allocated to National Headquarters.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

### FINAL OMAHA AGO CHAPTER MEETING OF THE 2014-2015 SEASON MAY 11, 6:00 PM WHEATFIELDS RESTAURANT

The final Omaha Chapter AGO meeting of the year will be held at WheatFields restaurant, at One Pacific Place (Pacific at 103rd Street.) Besides the chance to wrap up the season by eating and socializing, we will hear details about next seasons's program. We will also install the new slate of officers.

The restaurant will prepare a small menu for our group to order from:

#### **Alsacienne Baked Beef**

Slow-roasted melt-away beef pot roast (8oz.) in a rich gravy; twice-baked and served with mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, and a warn butter-bun. (\$14)

#### **Chicken Florentina**

Chicken breast filet, char-grilled and served on a cloud of mashed potatoes, sizzled spinach, mushrooms, onions, and asparagus; drizzled with lemony hollandaise; previewed with a little Swiss Hotel Salad and a butter-bun. (\$14)

#### **Gourmet Salmon**

Pan sizzled fresh Atlantic salmon filet ; drizzled with lemony hollandaise and served on a cloud of mashed potatoes; served with asparagus and a butter-bun. (\$14)

#### **Swiss Hotel Salad**

This is the house signature salad: Greens with fresh grated Gruyère cheese, toasted nuts, and crisp bacon; served with creamy herb ranch dressing and topped with small tomato chunks; served with a muffin or pastry. (\$12)

Add Chicken (+\$2) Add Salmon (+\$7)

It would be helpful to get an initial count of people planning to attend the event. Please respond back to David Schack ([DavidSchack@cox.net](mailto:DavidSchack@cox.net)) when you know if you will be able to attend or not.

## Officers for 2014-15

DEAN: David Schack  
SUB-DEAN: Gilbert Ward  
SECRETARY: Carla Post  
TREASURER: Gina Simpson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (3-year terms):

Julie Sandene (1<sup>st</sup> of 3 years)  
J. Gordon Christensen (2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 years)  
Laura Palmer (3<sup>rd</sup> of 3 years)

## NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee presents the following slate of candidates for chapter officers for the 2015-2016 season.

**Dean** - J. Gordon Christensen

**Sub-dean** - Marie Rubis Bauer

**Secretary** - Greg Johnson

**Treasurer** - Gina Simpson

**Member-at-Large (3-year term)** - Claire Eason

**Member-at-Large (1 year term)** - Jean

Johnson (to serve out Dr. Christensen's final year of his three year term if he he is elected as dean)

(Julie Sandene has already been elected as a Member-at-Large, with two years remaining).

Additional nominations can be made by contacting a member of the nominating committee. If candidates that have been suggested are willing to serve, they will be added to the ballot. Nominations need to be finalized by May 1, 2015. Members of the nominating committee are Sally Hodges, Michael Kesar, and Julie Sandene.

## HYMN FESTIVAL 2015 Recap

Omaha Chapter AGO was successful! The **Hymn Festival** held April 19 at First United Methodist Church more than **matched the \$1,000.00 challenge gift** offered to the chapter for programming and/or education purposes. **We raised \$1,020.00.** Kudos, Omaha AGO! We met the challenge!

What made this Hymn Festival and its purpose as a fund raiser successful? Frankly, many, many members of Omaha AGO working together planning and implementing the festival. How so? A committee was formed in July of 2014, meeting monthly for planning sessions. Each member of the committee in turn developed and chaired a sub-committee: **SALLY HODGES**, reception and hospitality; **JEAN JOHNSON**, choir and narration; **MARK KURTZ**, communications with organists, set-up and site preparation; **GREG JOHNSON**, promotion; and **JULIE SANDENE**, Omaha AGO board representative and “cross reference” inquiries regarding agenda and reports. The committee was responsible for recruiting Omaha AGO organists to accompany a hymn concertato and/or perform a hymn-based partita.

Six Omaha AGO organists accompanied the fifty-voice choir and assembly singing hymn concertatos, including **Michael McCabe, Laura Palmer, Marie Rubis Bauer, Rev. Timothy Frank, Claire Bushong,** and **David Schack.** Three organists performed hymn partitas: **Marie Meyers, J. Gordon Christensen,** and **Mark Kurtz.** **Jerry Brabec** was recruited to direct the choir. An additional highlight was the presence of **Solid Brass**, a professional brass ensemble, accompanying the concertatos.

Of interest to the chapter and those in the community who cultivate interest in hymnody: Chapter Dean **David Schack** composed a new hymn for the festival based on a Stephen Starke text. Moreover, he composed a new concertato based on the new hymn. **Mark Kurtz** composed a new partita; Mark also accompanied the choir and assembly singing

a hymn commissioned for the Washington D.C. 2010 National Convention. **Claire Bushong** introduced a concertato based on a recently composed hymn, published in 2014. New AGO member **Rev. Timothy Frank** accompanied a concertato composed by his organ professor. Creativity abounded!

In addition to monetary gifts offered to match the challenge, other gifts included: two couples, wishing to remain anonymous as “**Friends of Omaha AGO,**” donated more than \$500.00 to purchase the choral octavo scores and brass ensemble music for the concertatos; a member of the Omaha AGO donated an honorarium for the brass quartet; **St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs** donated the festival program folders, including the services of the secretary **Rosemary Paul**, who designed and printed the folders. And certainly **thanks to First United Methodist Church, host organists Mark Kurtz, Marie Meyers and the staff of FUMC** for the warm hospitality extended to everyone as they hosted the festival.

Because of considerable, positive feed-back from the chapter and the community, a hymn festival has been scheduled on the 2015-2016 series.

J. Gordon Christensen, AAGO  
Chairman, Hymn Festival Committee 2015

## News from AGO Headquarters

### **CHERRY RHODES AND LADD THOMAS HONORED BY THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS AT GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA GALA**

#### **Celebration of the Lifetime Achievements of Internationally Acclaimed Organists and University Professors Raised \$60,000 Benefitting the AGO Endowment Fund**

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) presented its twelfth annual Endowment Fund Distinguished Artist Award Recital and Gala Benefit Reception honoring Cherry Rhodes and Ladd Thomas on Friday, April 17, at the First United Methodist Church of Glendale, Calif., where Dr. Thomas has served as organist for 55 years. An audience of more than 500 colleagues, students, friends, and loved ones came together to celebrate the lifetime achievements of this dynamic musical couple.

The Gala was sponsored by the AGO National Council and its Development Committee in cooperation with the First United Methodist Church of Glendale. The event raised approximately \$60,000 to be invested in the AGO Endowment Fund in the couple's honor. Annual earnings from the Endowment support the educational activities of the Guild.

The honorees performed a recital that included Mendelssohn's Sonata No. 1 in F Minor (Thomas), Moussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, transcribed by Jean Guillou (Rhodes), and combined their talents on the organ bench in a rare organ duet performance of The Sorcerer's Apprentice by Dukas, as arranged by Rayner Brown for their exclusive use. The Gala Benefit Reception followed at the Hilton Los Angeles North/Glendale Hotel with 200 guests in attendance.

AGO President John Walker, FAGO, presented the honorees with the AGO Endowment Fund Distinguished Artist Award "for their exemplary careers as stellar performers and passionate teachers, and their lifelong service to the AGO and the sacred music profession."

Established in 1994, the AGO Endowment Fund provides income to educate new organists and to cultivate new audiences for organ and choral music. Tax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity to produce continuing income for essential Guild programs and educational projects. The AGO's annual Gala travels around the country to celebrate distinguished members of the organ world. Past AGO Gala honorees have included Marie-Claire Alain (New York City), Charles Callahan (St. Louis), David Craighead (Philadelphia), Gerre and Judith Hancock (New York City), Joyce Jones (Fort Worth), Marilyn Keiser (New York City), Marilyn Mason (Ann Arbor), Thomas Murray (New Haven), John Obetz (Kansas City), Frederick Swann (Los Angeles), and John and Marianne Weaver (Philadelphia).

Those unable to attend the 2015 AGO Gala will receive a copy of the commemorative program book with their contribution of \$50 or more to the AGO Endowment Fund. Contributions in honor of Cherry Rhodes and Ladd Thomas can be made online at [Agohq.org](http://Agohq.org) or by mailing a check to: AGO Endowment Fund, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115. All gifts will be acknowledged in The American Organist. For information, please call 212-870-2311, ext. 4308, or e-mail [gala@agohq.org](mailto:gala@agohq.org).

## CONCERT – Sunday, June 14

**Mark Babcock, Organist**  
**Sunday, June 14, 2015 at 3:00 P.M.**

**Mark Babcock**, will continue the **Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church 2015 Organ Concert Series** (2650 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE) with a concert on **Sunday, June 14 at 3 p.m.** Mark Babcock holds the M. Joan Farver Endowed Chair of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Central College and Organist at Westminster Presbyterian in Des Moines, Iowa. The concert is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the concert in Fellowship Hall.

The year-long series of concerts, featuring noted organists from across the country, celebrates the completion of the refurbishment of our Aeolian-Skinner Organ, Opus 1090. Built by the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts, in 1949 and originally dedicated on Oct. 15, 1950, to commemorate the sacrifice made by Kountze's members in the Armed Forces, the organ was fully refurbished in 2014 by Schoenstein and Co. of Benicia, California.

Visit <http://www.kmlchurch.org> for additional information on the Organ Concert Series.

## AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION



The North Central Regional Convention takes place **June 22-24 in St. Louis**. Concerts include recitals by Christopher Marks, Thomas Murray, Anna Myeong, Daryl Robinson, a hymn festival by John Behnke, the St. Louis Children's Choir, the Gateway Ringers of St. Louis, and much more. Workshops presenters include Barbara Adler, Barbara Harbach, Clifford Hill, Marilyn Schempp, James Thomashower, and more.

To register, visit [www.ago2015.org](http://www.ago2015.org). Or contact convention registrar Regina Morris at [morisrp@swbell.net](mailto:morrisrp@swbell.net) or 314- 647-0475.

Also be sure to book your hotel room at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza. Room rates start at \$109 per night plus tax. Be sure to book your room through the convention website so that you get the AGO convention rate.

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Louis

## 2014-15 OMAHA CHAPTER BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

(402)-420-7662

### **BEDIENT PIPE ORGAN COMPANY**

1060 SALTILLO RD.  
ROCA, NE 68430  
[bedientorgan.com](http://bedientorgan.com)

(712)-251-4101

### **RICK DARROW DARROW PIPE ORGANS**

721 PEARL STREET  
ONAWA, IA 51040

(402) 720-5205

### **CLAIRE RAE ROEHRKASSE EASON, SPC, CAGO** CHURCH SERVICES, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS

[creeason@gmail.com](mailto:creeason@gmail.com)  
Home & Answering Machine: 402-652-3366

(402) 593-9400

### **GREGORY JOHNSON KEYBOARD KASTLE**

7013 DODGE STREET  
OMAHA, NE 68132

(402) 488-8644

### **GERALD OEHRING CHURCH ORGANS OF NEBRASKA**

2701 NORTH 48<sup>TH</sup> ST., SUITE #3  
LINCOLN, NE 68504

(605) 539-1900

### **DAVID RUSSELL SALMEN SALMEN ORGANS**

38569 HWY. 34  
WESSINGTON SPRINGS, SD 57382