



American Guild of Organists
North Louisiana Chapter

From the Desk of Fred McClanahan, Dean

To all North Louisiana Chapter Members

I am delighted to tell all of you that I'm back from thousands of miles of Summer travel, including the AGO convention in Washington and a "lovely" 9-1-1 convention in Houston.

We have some catching up to do in order to get this year moving forward and I will need help from all of you in that effort.

We have a great kickoff event scheduled for September 19 at First Methodist, Shreveport. Tom Trenney will perform what promises to be an excellent concert including accompaniment for two silent films. One of my goals is to continually bring new audiences to the organ and programs of this type can play a big part. To that end, we are partnering with Shreveport's Robinson Film Center for technical assistance and a marketing push to a new audience.

Promotion of the Organ: Most of you who know me realize that I am a fanatic organ evangelist. I love the organ and have loved it since my first formal exposure at the age of 10. I remember that special evening at the First Methodist Church of Ballinger, Texas like it was yesterday. I believe young people in our churches can have a similar experience and I want to explore ways our chapter can do more to raise the stature of the organ - and ourselves in the process. Pipes, Pedals and Pizza-type programs are a good first start - but with creativity, I think we can find new ways to intrigue young people and parents alike with the King of Instruments.

Visits: I hope to plan visits to all of the churches (and other venues) in our chapter area by the middle of December. I will be contacting each of you in the next few weeks to schedule a meeting.

Web Site: Our web site is under-utilized. Within the year, I hope to have every church, organ, and organist represented with photos, history, specifications, contact information, etc. Please be gathering information and photos we can use. I can scan photos or use digital photos you already have. Other information can be in plain text or Word format. ALSO, please take time to check and update your directory information. If you need assistance with that, contact me at fmcc@mac.com or 318.865.1900. Our web site is a good place to list employment opportunities. If that interests you, I'll create a section just for that.

Recordings: Another major goal of mine is to make sure every pipe organ in our region is recorded. Ultimately, I would like to have a set of CDs with a couple of selections played on each organ. I see this as a historical archive as well as an addendum to our web-based information. Of course the ideal time to do recordings is when the organ has been recently tuned and the temperature is such that air handlers can be turned off for minimal noise. I have the equipment to do the recordings and will work with each of you to find a time.

Chapter Meetings: I really want your ideas here. David Sherman and I will be working together on putting together meeting ideas and locations but I really want us to move around as much as possible. I know the time to drive from Shreveport to Monroe, Natchitoches, or Ruston is hard to find but it works both ways. If you're willing to host a meeting, recital, workshop, etc., please let David and me know. My "hot-button" meeting topics include reaching new audiences for the organ and building a new interest in the organ within our own congregations. I want to hear your ideas - please!

Phone Number: In lieu of an office with a phone number for our chapter, I have set up an unused cell phone number as a contact number for Chapter events. It goes to voice mail and provides an opportunity to leave a message as well as information about upcoming public events. I will check for voicemail several times a day. The number is 318.780.8061.

From the Membership Chairman: There is still quit a number of our members who have not renewed their membership. We need to have that information with dues to our treasurer by September 1 in order to not have magazine subscription interrupted. It was announced at the AGO convention that there will soon be an on-line system for renewal process directly through the AGO national office. Chapter funds will then be electronically remitted to each Chapter's bank account. Until that system is in place, please do it the old fashioned way. There is a printable renewal form on the web site - www.nlaago.com.

Please call me with ideas, suggestions, materials for the web site, directory changes, etc. My work hours are long and often hectic, but I'll do my best to be responsive to all of you.

Remember Tom Trenney's performance at FUMC on September 19th at 7 p.m.



Fred