



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Chapter Leadership News

July 2021

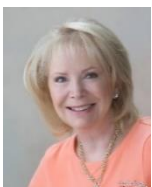
Leadership Onboarding: Preparing Relevant Training and Development Opportunities

Dear Chapter Leaders,

I want to thank all of you who responded to the Chapter Insight Survey. A common need resonated in your responses regarding your desire for more resources and training specific to officer responsibilities. We've heard you loud and clear! In June, for those serving as treasurers, we presented a dynamic webinar, **The Top Four Things Your Chapter Must Do to Be Financially Responsible**. If you were unable to attend the live webinar, the recording and documents can be accessed at <https://www.agohq.org/webinars-and-supporting-documents/>. This month, we will be presenting a webinar, **Growing Your Membership**, presented by district convener Shannon Fore, targeted to membership coordinators and registrars. Shannon, a membership acquisition expert, will share numerous ideas and strategies for recruiting new members. August will feature a webinar for sub-deans on creative chapter programming, and in September we will be presenting a webinar that addresses a variety of processes and best practices for working successfully as a team. Regarding chapter resources, we've got wonderful tools, job descriptions, and templates on our website. To ensure that you know where to find them, on July 19th, I will be presenting **Indiana Jones and the Quest for Chapter Resources on the AGO Website**. I promise you that this webinar is going to be fun and informative, so I encourage everyone to register for it! We are committed to providing you with as many resources and training opportunities as possible.

This issue of **Chapter Leadership News** will cover the following:

- ✓ Profile of the Month: Mark Andersen, District Convener and Dean, Central North Carolina Chapter
- ✓ Upcoming Webinars
- ✓ The Alamo Chapter's Engaging Video for New Members
- ✓ The Year of the Young Organist Chapter Recruitment Contest
- ✓ New York City Chapter Series: The Pipe Organs of New York City
- ✓ Virtually Teaching the AGO Achievement Awards
- ✓ The Dean's Corner from *En Chamade*, Charlotte Chapter
- ✓ From the COMDACS Corner
- ✓ AGO Buffalo and Rochester Chapters' Successful Education Collaboration during COVID-19
- ✓ Help Us Promote the Virtual POE, July 18-23
- ✓ Organfest 2021: The Beauty Endures



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Profile of the Month: Dr. Mark Andersen Dean of the Central North Carolina Chapter



What's sitting on my desk right now: A Mac computer, a MIDI keyboard, my phone, and cards from those whom I love.

If I weren't doing this you would find me working on one of my two home pipe organs. I'm pretty much hands-on with organs from morning to night, whether they be in my studio, at church, or on concert tour.

When I'm not at work I'm: I spend my time doing my favorite creative thing in life, composing music.

The best advice I ever got came from my final organ teacher, March Dupré, who challenged me to play the organ every time I sit at the instrument as if it were the last time I'd ever get to play in this life.

What keeps me motivated serving as chapter dean: The pursuit of the joy that comes from being a part of this world of the King of Instruments, and the even greater joy of seeing and hearing others, especially young people, grow in their own love of music.

Upcoming Chapter Leader Webinars

Monday, July 12, at 4:00 p.m. EDT



Returning to the New Normal: Identifying Recovery Processes and Taking the Time to Grieve

Where do we go from here? What do we want to recover from our pre-pandemic lives? What must we leave behind? Join Sally Powell, director of worship arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Tennessee, and Dr. David C. Cook, dean of the San Diego chapter and director emeritus at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church, as they discuss **The Six R's of Recovery** and processes that will help you find a place of health and well-being. Register [here](#).

Monday, July 19, at 4:00 p.m. EDT

Indiana Jones and the Quest for Chapter Resources on the AGO Website



**Where are those chapter leadership toolkits?
What's with the arrows?
I can't find where the chapter leader webinars are
located!**

Elizabeth George will take you on a treasure hunt through the AGO website to locate all of the leadership resources the Guild provides. Register [here](#).

Friday, July 30, at 4:00 p.m. EDT

Growing Your Membership

Growing your membership need not be daunting! Join membership acquisition expert Shannon Fore, MBA, past chapter dean, Southeast district convener, and professional development coordinator, as he addresses the ABCs of member recruitment. This webinar is targeted to membership coordinators and registrars; however, we encourage everyone to register, because every leader can play a critical part in growing their chapter's membership. Register [here](#).



ALAMO CHAPTER OF
THE AMERICAN GUILD
OF ORGANISTS

A Warm and Welcoming Video from the Alamo (TX) Chapter

Kudos to Mark S. Marty, dean of the Alamo chapter, for creating such an incredibly warm, engaging, and welcoming video, in which he shares the board's focus on providing creative programming, opportunities for certification, and member care. Mark discusses the variety of music in the San Antonio area, education offered by private instruction and universities, and the city's many bellwether church music programs. Collaborations with the Austin chapter are also highlighted. Mark, if I were an organist who had just moved to the area and wanted to learn more about joining the AGO and what Alamo chapter membership provided, after viewing this video, I would sign up immediately! I encourage everyone to view this recording <https://www.alamagosatx.org/>.





YEAR OF THE YOUNG ORGANIST

“Investing in the Future”
July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022



The Year of the Young Organist Chapter Recruitment Contest Win \$1000 for Your Chapter!

The game is on! Starting July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, how many young organists can you recruit? Each month, we will be sending you a new recruitment tip to help your chapter recruit as many young organists as possible.

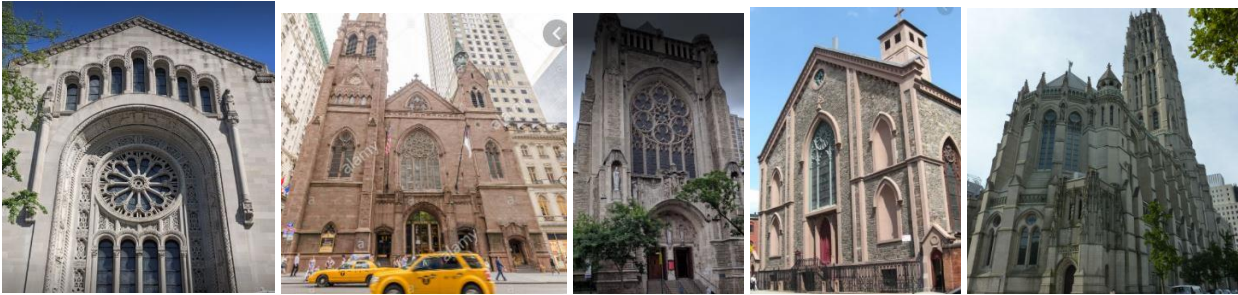
July, Tip #1: Contact the teachers in your area to let them know about **the Year of the Young Organist** and the free membership that is being offered. In your emails or phone conversations, refer them to <https://www.yearoftheyoungorganist.com/>, where detailed program information has been posted, new young organists are featured, and articles written by young organists will appear. Young organists can join or renew here: <https://www.agohq.org/free-membership/>. Ask them to let you know when one of their students has joined, and at the end of each month, be sure to access your membership roster report from **ONCARD**, which will show the new organists you have recruited by their “join” date.

At the end of the Year of the Young Organist, we will run a report to see how many new members you have recruited over the past twelve months. The AGO will award one small (up to 60 members), one medium (61–125 members), and one large (126+ members) chapter with \$1000, each, based on the net increase of *primary* young organists they have recruited (dual memberships will not be counted, so no double dipping)! The number of members you have recruited will be based on the net gain. This means that if you recruited fifteen young organists but lost five, your net gain would be ten, so keeping your current young organists as members is equally important!

On your mark . . . get set . . . go!



The Pipe Organs of New York City Video Series James D. Wetzel, sub-dean, New York City Chapter



The New York City chapter's online profile for years has been defined by the New York City Organ Project (<http://www.nycago.org/Organs/NYC/index.html>), the work of the late Steve Lawson. An ongoing effort, it attempts a comprehensive documentation of all organs, past and present, that have been installed in the five boroughs of New York City.

The Pipe Organs of NYC video series (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVOKK2bMV-cuWpuBAH8zRFw/featured>) is a new initiative that the chapter undertook in this past season, when COVID prevented in-person programming. Beyond a general desire to feature performances in our chapter's digital presence, we had long aspired to add a musical component to the historical descriptions, photos, and stoplists in the New York City Organ Project.

During the first season of the Pipe Organs of NYC, just now completed, we visited seventeen institutions over ten episodes. Three of the larger houses of worship (St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, and Temple Emanu-El) have episodes of their own. For most of the episodes, two churches are paired through some common thread, such as the church's architect, type of organ, or denomination.

My initial canvass of 50 or so colleagues produced an enthusiastic response. In many instances limited access to sanctuaries, deferred tuning, or any number of COVID issues prevented immediate participation. The churches featured were in the order in which the submissions were received. Parameters regarding timing were established; however, it was up to the house organist to select materials that suited their organs. Many performers had help recording from in-house AV staff. But many others (myself included) used their iPhones, with amazingly clear results. Several churches submitted archival videos, including St. John the Divine, as their Great Organ was taken offline after a crypt fire in 2019.

Each episode begins with a historical and musical introduction to the churches to be “toured,” and the length is between 25 and 45 minutes in total. So far, we have visited the more prominent houses of worship in Manhattan, including St. Thomas Church, Grace Church, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, St. Ignatius Loyola, and St. Vincent Ferrer. However, we plan for the series to recommence in the fall and to continue indefinitely, eventually helping to uncover gems off the beaten path, archive endangered instruments, and venture into the outer boroughs.

For those of you who wish to present some engaging virtual programming throughout the summer months, these recordings would be excellent to feature, as their length also provides you with time to include a member Zoom chat afterwards. All can be found on the NYC Chapter’s YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVOKK2bMV-cuWpuBAH8zRFw> .

The Rewards of Teaching Components of the AGO Achievement Awards Virtually

I was delighted to learn from Sarah Harr, dean of the Chattanooga (TN) chapter, that she and AGO member Charles Mizelle decided to try working together virtually on this initiative during COVID-19.

What influenced you to embark on this initiative during the pandemic?

It was Charles’s idea to work on the Achievement Awards. As district convener, he already knew a great deal about the program, and he felt that the modules were more relevant and less intimidating than the certification process. I was no longer teaching lessons due to the pandemic, so working on the Achievement Awards with him virtually fulfilled my desire to teach and his desire to take lessons. It was the perfect way for both of us to feel like we were working toward something and accomplishing something during the lockdown, even though we had to stay apart.

Can you share some of the best practices and challenges that you were able to overcome?

Working together virtually was by far the biggest obstacle. We tried several different platforms, and it was very difficult to hear each other, especially when one of us or both of us were playing the organ. We also realized that our phones only picked up certain organ stops. Some sounds were very loud, and others were imperceptible. Ultimately, we landed on FaceTime, and it worked well. Regarding best practices, we found a good rhythm for working through each module. When we began a new module, Charles first went through all the parts that he already knew how to do. Then we made a schedule for working on the parts he didn’t know how to do and scheduled a goal date to complete the module. That conversation helped to determine our goal, our end date, and our pace.

What areas of the program did you decide to focus on, and how long did it take to complete these?

We didn’t accomplish as many of the modules as we had planned, as Charles had a change of plans, got married, and moved away. The module that was the most memorable was the one that covered registration. We had lengthy conversations about pipe construction, overtones, names of organ stops, organ builders, and registrations for hymn playing and accompanying choirs. I felt like we accomplished a great deal with that one module, and I was able to answer several practical questions

that Charles had because of his organ lessons and experiences playing for worship. I think we spent about three to four weeks on each module from start to finish.

I would absolutely love to have the opportunity to work through all of the modules with an organ student in the future. I strongly feel that any level of an Achievement Award module or AGO certification has a significant positive effect on both the teacher/coach and the student. It is a transformative experience, musically, technically, psychologically, and emotionally. Regardless of the outcome, the process is beneficial in and of itself. My church hasn't returned to in-person worship yet, and none of my organ students has resumed lessons since the lockdown last March. But I know now that it's possible to work on the Achievement Award modules virtually, which gives me and my students something to work on together right now. And we can work as quickly or slowly as we want on whatever material is the most achievable or the most relevant.



~CHARLOTTE CHAPTER~
American Guild of Organists

The Dean's Corner: *On Pivoting* **Mark W. Johanson, Dean, Charlotte (NC) AGO Chapter**

After reading the June issue of *En Chamade*, the Charlotte chapter's newsletter, I was inspired by Mark's words in his dean's message, and I hope that you will be, too.

In April 2020, the well-known Sunday school song "I've Got Peace Like a River" got stuck in my head for about two months.

Like almost all other churches, Christ Lutheran was closed for several months in early 2020, as our church leadership elected to heed CDC recommendations in the interest of public health. The Worship, Music, and Tech team immediately began to pivot in order to stay relevant: we were now an online-only church. You, no doubt, experienced many of the same things we did, dealing with cancellations and preparing virtual worship.

As we pivoted, one thing we explored was how to sing virtually. Our first project was a virtual recording of about nine brave choir members singing the Tim Osiek arrangement of "Peace Like a River" (Beckenhorst Press BP2159). As I edited the video, using stock videos of river water flowing to highlight the text, I gradually became mesmerized at the river water splashing upon and circumventing the boulders, then continuing to flow downstream. Consequently, as I edited the video, the music and the visuals began to get stuck in my head. As the pandemic progressed, the text stayed with me for months, and both the refrain, "I've got peace like a river in my soul," and the images of water flowing felt more and more like a metaphor describing people who were carrying on, despite the pandemic. When COVID-19 and its associated restrictions got in the way, those who adapted flowed around the boulders and found a new way to achieve their goals, instead of fighting the current and consequently getting stuck in an eddy.

A key responsibility of any professional organization's leaders is to maintain relevancy as the needs of the membership change. On that note, I'd like to take a moment and recognize the accomplishments of outgoing dean Nancy Watson and sub-dean Kathy Alexander, who worked to help keep our chapter running and relevant while still observing public health guidelines during 2020, a year that will live in infamy. It would have been much easier for them to just close up shop and ride out the pandemic, but they didn't; I am grateful for their hard work and adaptability, and I hope you will join me in reaching out to them to express your appreciation. So, where do we go from here?

I feel strongly that any professional organization that does not continue to pivot, and thus serve its members when circumstances change, is an organization doomed for failure. Music-makers have an abysmal future if we expect life to be exactly the way it was before the pandemic, to say nothing of patrons and friends of the arts, prospective organ students, and church members ("Y'all come back to church now, ya hear?"). As our world sees the light at the end of the "COVID tunnel," I see Charlotte AGO poised in the unique position of helping its members move forward. I know of several colleagues who were furloughed or laid off during the pandemic. The desire for livestreamed worship isn't going away, which is daunting for some, perhaps even detestable for others. Life has changed, and rather drastically. While I am not saying that COVID has changed the music, I am saying that COVID changed the way people experience and consume music, perhaps now more than ever before. As I ponder how our chapter is going to continue serving its members beyond this wretched point in human history, the thought of losing chapter members is an even more immediate supposition of mine. What happens if we fail to pivot, too? Will we become irrelevant?

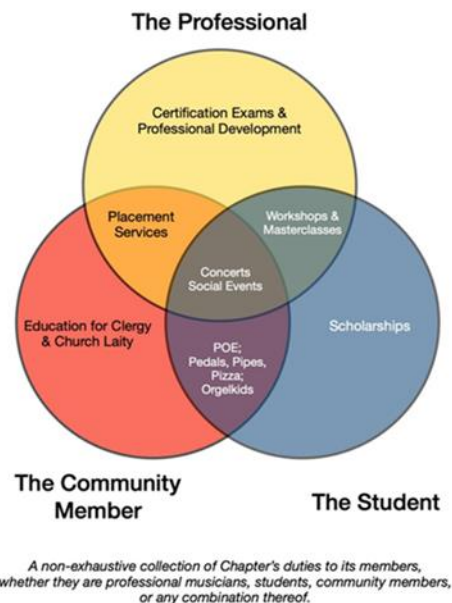
I needn't remind you of our chapter's proud past. The Charlotte AGO Chapter has been an incredibly important organization in the lives of countless musicians, organ enthusiasts, and students over the past seven decades. Incidentally, we are about to celebrate the chapter's 75th anniversary. But, as we begin to transition out of this pandemic, with so much around us having changed, I feel strongly that we must continue to pivot and encourage our members to do the same. In the short term, our chapter must find ways to serve people whose lives have been negatively impacted as a result of the pandemic, and who need assistance in the performance of their duties. In the long term, our chapter must innovate, in order that we can successfully continue the sometimes daunting but always necessary task of recruiting new members and encouraging young musicians to appreciate and pursue the instrument.

The question I ask you is, to whom are we remaining relevant? Whom do we serve? Visualize with me a Venn diagram with three sections. In these three sections are:

1. The professional: This is the individual who finds their profession, mission, vocation, and passion overlapping in the pursuit of their employment. This could include an organist, an organbuilder or technician, or another person whose employment relates to the organ.

2. The student: This is the individual who is in the process of learning. It is not merely those who are enrolled in lessons, trade school, or undergraduate/graduate/doctoral studies, but rather all of any age who seek to learn and grow as performing musicians and/or educated appreciators of music performance, organ building, and maintenance.

3. The community member: This is the individual whose role in the chapter is to further the efforts of the chapter through time, talent, and wealth. They may or may not be a performer, or even musically gifted, but they appreciate the role of music in their life and see the benefit that music provides to others.



This three-part model is not particularly innovative. In fact, it's rather simple. Where its complexities arise is when the three areas begin overlapping. As I begin serving as dean of this chapter, I will be encouraging our board to re-identify our purpose and mission. As we move forward with our programming, this model will help us ensure we are providing opportunities that are useful and relevant to those whom we serve.

The English author H.G. Wells once said, "The path of least resistance is the path of the loser." Based on that statement, I don't think Wells ever went whitewater rafting! In fact, I happen to disagree with him; sometimes, you have to go where the water takes you, even if it means you have to pivot.

Judith Miller: From the COMDACS Corner

The mission of the Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support (CoMDaCS) is to create programs for membership development at the chapter level. It works to develop new sources for AGO membership and to establish achievable membership goals and strategies. It also works to develop programming resources and other forms of support for chapters. Under the leadership of David K. Lamb, past councillor for membership, Vicki Schaeffer, current councillor for membership, and Wayne Peterson, chair, committee members Judy Kohl, Grant Holcomb, Connor McMains, and I presented three webinars during 2020–21: **Building on Your Chapter's Best Practices (as You Seek, Encourage, and Respect One Person at a Time)**, which focused on inclusivity; **Keeping Chapters Healthy During the Time of COVID**, to support member connectivity; and **Re-Igniting, Re-Imagining, and Re-Emerging from COVID-19**, which focused on the unique programs that several chapters had created. All webinars can be accessed on the AGO website under the Education tab (<https://www.agohq.org/webinars-and-supporting-documents/>). What's in the future for CoMDaCS? New challenges and projects, such as the implementation of a **Chapter Awards of Excellence Program**. We look forward to continuing to support our members and deliver programs that help chapters increase and retain their membership!



AGO
BUFFALO

Rochester Chapter



Rewarding Collaborations

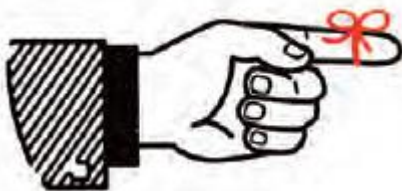
Congratulations to Garrett Martin, sub-dean of the Buffalo (NY) chapter, and Matt Parsons, past dean of the Rochester (NY) chapter, for their ingenuity, resiliency, and determination to produce virtual programs for their members throughout the pandemic. Thirteen programs were offered between October 2020 and May 2021, including lectures, organ crawls, and workshops, and a variety of recitals presented in historic churches and theaters. In the true spirit of collaboration, they also invited neighboring chapters Syracuse and Ithaca to join them. These virtual programs increased their audience with over 20,000 combined views! They plan to continue collaborating on virtual programs throughout the 2021–22 season, to supplement their own in-person chapter events.

Virtual Pipe Organ Encounter – July 18-23, 2021



American Guild of Organists
PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS

The AGO is offering a *virtual* POE for the first time in 2021. There is still time for teenagers (13-18) years old to participate. Please help us promote this rewarding initiative! Full information about the presenters, performers and schedule can be found here: <https://agovirtualpoe.org/>.



***Last Call to Update Your Officer Roster in ONCARD!
Please do this by June 30th. After that date you will
not have access to your officer records.***



AGO ORGANFEST 2021

beauty endures

JUNE 27-JULY 2, 8PM EASTERN

Chapter leaders mark your calendars for a fabulous week of performances, interviews and networking. Full details of each day's schedule can be found here: <http://agoorganfest2021.org/>.

Most importantly, we want *every* chapter officer, as well as chapter members, to attend our virtual Regional Meetings.

Topic: AGO Southeast Regional Meeting

Time: Jun 27, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97601207963?pwd=TW1mRVVPVGVLN29qROhkRHhWdHBJUT09>

Meeting ID: 976 0120 7963

Passcode: 614350

Topic: AGO West Regional Meeting

Time: Jun 27, 2021 09:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91482182220?pwd=ZWg4S2VDQmNEL2hnS1FpRThMeGJHZz09>

Meeting ID: 914 8218 2220

Passcode: 383680

Topic: AGO Southwest Regional Meeting

Time: Jun 28, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96093345387?pwd=YnNYZG1YdzlNVnBhTXg2SGkvUnNsdz09>

Meeting ID: 960 9334 5387

Passcode: 984987

Topic: AGO Great Lakes Regional Meeting

Time: Jun 29, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93889367112?pwd=SUdteCtJdE9OWXhsMG42cldqc0FPdz09>

Meeting ID: 938 8936 7112

Passcode: 086661

Topic: AGO Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting

Time: Jun 30, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97504609275?pwd=SUhWT0xLc29zOFIYaXJuQVpicGZzUT09>

Meeting ID: 975 0460 9275

Passcode: 922444

Topic: AGO North Central Regional Meeting

Time: Jul 1, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95406300128?pwd=REw0SStiVHk1eHBXYTJjRElwdWFYdz09>

Meeting ID: 954 0630 0128

Passcode: 811754

Topic: AGO Northeast Regional Meeting

Time: Jul 2, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96478532781?pwd=Y3NmYWo2eDAxbjFCQmRzaXpJbnp6UT09>

Meeting ID: 964 7853 2781

Passcode: 058834