



En Chamade

Newsletter of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter,
American Guild of Organists
September 2017



Your NWACAGO officers have planned
an enjoyable and informative season for 2107-18!
We want to see you at ALL of these great events! —Jeannie

SEPTEMBER **MUSICIANS' MEET & GREET**

Monday, September 11, 6:00-8:00pm
The Garden Room, 215 W. Dickson St., Fayetteville
Cost: \$12.50/person RSVP by **Tuesday, Sept 5**
RSVP/Contact: Jeannie Lee, 479-283-5500 or jeanniekecklee@gmail.com

OCTOBER **REFORMATION HYMN FESTIVAL**

Sunday, October 29, 4:00pm
First Presbyterian Church, 901 NE J St., Bentonville
Contact: Jeannie Lee

NOVEMBER **ROGERS ORGAN CRAWL: MUSIC AND THE REFORMATION**

Saturday, November 11, 9:30am
Likely Sequence of Churches: 1) Peace Lutheran, 805 W. Olrich St.
2) First Presbyterian, 1901 S. 26th St.
3) Central United Methodist, 2535 W. New Hope Rd.
Contact: Ernest Whitmore (479-549-8247) or Jeannie Lee

JANUARY **JUST ADD PEDALS?? II: ORGAN BASICS FOR THE PIANIST**

Saturday, January 27, 9:00am
Music Building, U of A, Fayetteville
Contact: Jeannie Lee

FEBRUARY **VISIT WITH AGO SW REGION COUNCILLOR VICKI SCHAEFFER**

Friday, February 9, time tbd (dinner meeting)
Eleven Restaurant, Crystal Bridges Museum, Bentonville
Contact: Broc Hite

MARCH **"FUN NIGHT" MEETING: DINNER & CONCERT**

Friday, March 9, dinner (venue tbd) followed by Dublin Guitar Quartet
10x10 Concert, Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville
Contact: Broc Hite

APRIL **MUSICAL POTLUCK: BRING A DISH TO SHARE AND A HYMN TO PLAY**

Saturday morning Brunch, likely April 28
Grace Episcopal Church, 617 N. Mt. Olive, Siloam Springs
Contact: Ernest Whitmore (music) and Robbie Hubbard (brunch)

From the Dean...

"He who sings, prays twice." Catholics say this quote was first uttered by St. Augustine, whereas some Protestants will politely swear it was coined by Martin Luther. No matter who said it first, I hope this season will feature plenty of good song and organ playing among our AGO colleagues.

We NWACAGO officers—along with those of most other chapters, no doubt—are striving to develop concrete strategies to invigorate our membership and grow the chapter. We are faced by an evident paradox: Our Chapter health does not reflect the robust overall growth of our area of the country. Perhaps this may be explained by the fact that, in contrast to chapters in long-established cities, Northwest Arkansas's 'big money' did not arrive until the popularity of organs and organ music had fallen substantially in the eyes of local religious bodies and potential philanthropists. For organ activities to capture the attention and draw the support of the cultural elites in this day and age is likely optimistic at best.

So what can we do to upgrade NWACAGO to a solid-to-thriving manifestation of the national organization? Though we have a loyal core, we know that we have a long way to go. How may we promote the visibility of organ in our region? How may we strive to attract a higher percentage of the area's organists and other church musicians, whether longtime residents or recent arrivals, to our membership? And while we're at it, we must attract more Chapter Friends, because a project of this magnitude cannot be managed effectively only by those who are on the bench every week!

Our three new organists in Fayetteville offer an immense opportunity. Let's commit to reaching out to them—starting Sept 11!—and to learn from the wealth of their diverse experiences.

As I look to the future of NWACAGO, here is my condensed wish list, or commitment list, which can largely happen only with the support and wholehearted involvement of like-minded members and friends:

- Personally invite organists throughout our area to join us. Follow up with those who decide not to join, and use their input as an opportunity for self-analysis and development. What may we offer to increase our membership?
- Build an online inventory to document the wealth of fine instruments in our area.
- Establish separate funds to expand our educational and special programs outreach to organists of the future and to offer programs that aren't possible given our current limited annual revenue.

What are your visions for the chapter? What are you willing to do in support of the "King of Instruments" in Northwest Arkansas? Your constructive ideas, your presence at our events, and your resilient support are crucial for our progress. And hey, thriving is fun! Let's do it!

Broc