



En Chamade

Newsletter of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter,
American Guild of Organists

June 2018



From the Dean...

I was very happy to see so many members and guests at our closing event of the program year at AQ Chicken House in Springdale. This is my third AGO chapter, having belonged to just two chapters in Connecticut, the second of which was formed by a merger that ended the first. In all of these chapters, I've noticed that you rarely see more than 10 to 20 percent of your membership at any one event, with the exception of those that offer a full meal. We must like to eat together!

Fortunately, we can and should create connections in other ways. One is through the monthly newsletter and accompanying calendar of events, delivered by email. Another is through our Website, which takes some of that same data and shares it with a wider world, including those who find us through a Google search or through a linkback from the chapter's page on agohq.org. A third, which our incoming Dean Scott Montgomery demonstrated, is by using Facebook Live. He shared his entire "Goodbye Moller" recital at CUMC Fayetteville using this tool. These are just a few ways that technology can serve to edify the chapter.

However, our chapter is only as great as the combined contribution of all of its members. As dean, I was sometimes frustrated that we didn't grow our membership more, increase our bank balance significantly so that we could sponsor more events, and begin listing the specifications of the wonderful organs in our geography. But these are long-term goals, and in retrospect, we did make some progress in each of these areas.

Thanks to Jeannie Lee's leadership, we embraced Fayetteville's three new full-time organists at our opening dinner. And oh my, they've already contributed to our chapter in return. Our bank balance didn't balloon, but for the first time in years, it is markedly over \$1000 at the close of our program year. Why? Part of the reason is that we

NWACAGO ELECTED OFFICERS 2018-19

Scott Montgomery, Dean
Annette Zehring, Sub-Dean
Robbie Hubbard, Treasurer
Ernest Whitmore, Secretary

Let's have a great year!!

added a new line item of giving called chapter friends. As a result, a small but meaningful amount is added to our top line that we didn't have before. As for listing our instruments, I'll take credit for starting that. I just created a new menu and posted the first instrument, that of First UMC of Bella Vista. You are welcome to do the same -- just provide a stop list and some optional commentary in PDF format, and I'll add it to the menu.

I just finished eight years as a member of the NW Arkansas chapter—half of which as either Sub-Dean or Dean. I am stepping away from the chapter for the next year as I transfer my membership to Tulsa. I'm not going anywhere, at least for the moment, but concluded that it is time to make some new connections and to spread my wings. I will continue to administer the NWACAGO Website as long as that is requested and hope that you will keep in touch. Meanwhile, please do your best to support the new leadership, and to keep the organ alive in the face of all the pressures against us!

Soli Deo Gloria.

Broc