



The official publication of the St. Louis American Guild of Organists



BURNELL HACKMAN

DEAN
ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

Dear Fellow Members:

This is my last letter as your Dean. It has been an exciting two years! We hosted two remarkably successful February Flourishes (with another one planned for February 2021), hosted a fantastic Pipe Organ Encounter and hosted a chapter level round of

the Young Organist Competition. This is in addition to our regular meetings and programs. I thank each of you who made these events a reality.

During my tenure as Dean, we were able to submit a proposal for our first National Convention since 1948! I thank all who had input into the proposal document. Our proposal was successful!!! We will host the 2026 National Convention. Our first priority is to secure a convention hotel and exhibit space. This is handled by a company contracted by the National Office. We will begin forming committees in the next year and then the real work will begin in late 2022. This effort will require **EVERY** member to step forward and lend a hand! What a great time to show off St. Louis, our wonderful organs, venues and FANTASTIC chapter members!!!

As I depart as Dean, I must thank Cathy Casey who served as secretary and sub-dean. Cathy's untiring efforts on behalf of the Guild is an inspiration to us all. Rick Burk served one year as secretary. He is a joy to work with and I look forward to his leadership as Dean for the next two years. A most important job was ably handled by Mike Kaberline. Being the treasurer of an organization such as ours is no easy task – but Mike was a trooper and top-notch treasurer! All three of these people served as sounding blocks with difficult decisions needed to be made. The Executive Committee has been a very dedicated group of individuals that had the best interest of our chapter at heart. There are many others to thank for making my term successful, but I want to name Past-Dean, Mark Scholtz. Mark was Dean before me and was a great help in the transition from sub-dean to dean and always there for moral support with a phone call and kind words. THANK YOU, Mark! I also appreciated the counsel of our Executive Committee – both elected and appointed. Their insight and wisdom were always appreciated. I also appreciated the many e-mails and phone call with words of encouragement.

I have lovingly been called the “Pandemic Dean”. These last few months have been a struggle for our country, states, counties, cities and churches. As things begin to (hopefully) return to normal, please keep your fellow members in your thoughts and prayers.

I know your Program Committee is working hard to line up a meaningful set of programs for the next year. They are not sure what the format may be, but are working to make however we meet educational and informative.

I thank you – the members of the St. Louis Chapter for making this a **GREAT** Chapter with GREAT members! May you have a peaceful and restful summer. I hope we can meet (in person) in the fall.

God bless,

Burnell Hackman, Dean
St. Louis AGO Chapter



CATHY CASSY
SUB-DEAN
ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

As I close out my year as Sub-Dean, I want to take the time to thank Burnell, Mike, Rick and the Executive Committee for being such a wonderful team to work with. It's not often one gets to work with such a professional and talented group of people who are organized, efficient, effective, collaborative, and a lot of fun. It is because of your talents and dedication that we have a successful chapter.

St. Louis is fortunate to have so many professional and talented musicians, composers, organ builders, choral directors, technicians, IT specialists and more. The talent here is “World Class.” We will celebrate 110 years in existence in 2021 which is a true testament to the work and dedication of our members through the years. Thanks for being there, responding to the call for help or service when asked, and coming up with creative solutions. It's been an absolute pleasure to work with you as Board members and with the many talented, professional members. Sincerest appreciation to you all.

I sincerely want to publicly name and thank the class members of 2020: Bill Stein, Luella Foster and Lisa Cripe for their work as they complete their terms on June 29th. Wes Kassulke has the good fortune to be able to retire in Florida, so we sadly say thanks to him and best wishes.

As warm welcome is extended to our incoming Officers: Rick Burk – Dean; Heather Martin Cooper – Sub-Dean; and the class of 2023: Gaye Anderson, Andrew Peters, Shawn Portell and Bill Sullivan who will finish Wes's term.

Some final thoughts to leave with you: Our opening program schedule for the 2020-2021 year is being adjusted for health and safety reasons. Look for more information to be sent at a later date. Remember our May Banquet has been changed to a “Virtual” meeting and will be held on June 29th at 7:00pm. Elizabeth George, National Director of Membership will be on the virtual meeting with us. More details are within this newsletter. “Drumroll” please!!! Thanks to Burnell's diligence and hard work on submitting the paperwork for us to host the 2026 National AGO Convention, our chapter was unanimously selected and Burnell's recommendation to be Convention Coordinator has been approved. A lot of hard work ahead, but wonderful things to look forward to. Congratulations Burnell – and thanks so much.

Cathy Cassy, Sub-Dean
St. Louis AGO Chapter



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will be held on-line on Monday, June 29, 2020 at 7:00pm. We will conduct the annual business meeting of the chapter and install Rick Burk as Dean, Heather Martin Cooper as Sub-Dean, Cathy Cassy, who has agreed to become secretary until the next election, the Executive Committee (Class of 2023) Gaye Anderson, Andrew Peters, Shawn Portell, and taking Wes Kassulke's place (Class of 2022) Dr. William Sullivan .

Reports for the meeting will be on the St. Louis AGO Website the morning of June 29th. Directions to log into the meeting will be e-mailed to you on Friday, June 26th. If you do *NOT* receive the directions, please e-mail Dean Hackman right away.

We hope that you are able to attend the meeting – PLEASE make an effort to do so.

St. Louis AGO web-site (www.agostlouis.org)

Burnell Hackman, Dean (dean@agostlouis.org)



Schantz
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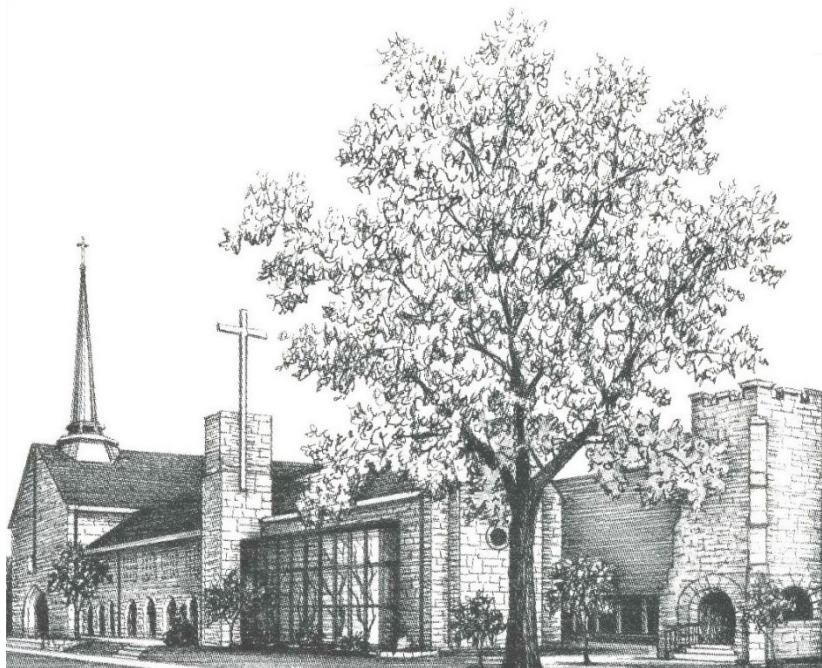
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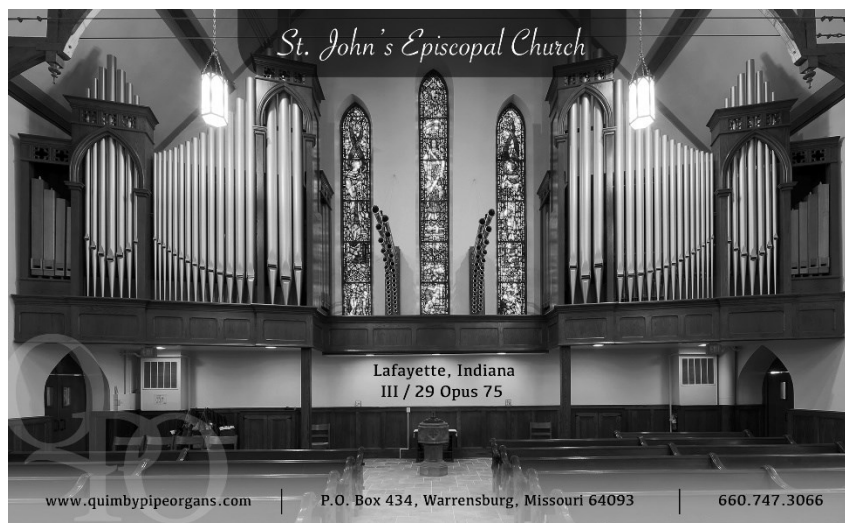
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
Bill Stein, Director of Music

NOTES@9 CONCERTS

LIVE STREAMING IN THE MONTH OF JULY

- ** JULY 5:** CLARION BRASS
- ** JULY 12:** SARAH PRICE, SOPRANO
- ** JULY 19:** A MUSICAL TASTE OF KIRKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- ** JULY 26:** PIANO ENSEMBLE

For more information, visit our [web-site](#) or contact [Bill Stein](#), Director of Music





Rick Burk (CAGO)

Dean-Elect

St. Louis AGO Chapter

Greetings Dear Colleagues:

Let me begin by expressing my thanks to all who chose to elect me to be the next Dean of the St. Louis AGO Chapter. I am very humbled to have had this honor bestowed upon me. I will do my best to justify the trust that has been placed in me.

But it must not and will not be a journey of one person alone. I will seek and need the support of not only the other members of the Executive Board, but all members of the chapter. Please know that you may contact me at any time with your thoughts, concerns, suggestions, etc. I may be reached by email at dean@agostlouis.org (after July 1st) or by phone at (630) 818-6265. I am here to serve you, so do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Next, I would like to express my thanks both personally and on behalf of the entire chapter to Burnell Hackman for his service these past two years as our dean. Burnell has worked tirelessly to steer this ship and we owe him much thanks. Even when someone is doing the job that is expected of them, it is good that they receive words of encouragement and thanks, so please consider extending your own personal words of thanks to Burnell when you have the opportunity. As he passes the torch to me, I know for certain Burnell will continue to be active in our chapter in the coming years.

I also would like to thank the members of the Board whose terms will expire on June 30 of this year. They too have worked diligently on our behalf and also deserve a word of thanks from each of us. They are Lisa Cripe, Luella Foster and Bill Stein. Thanks to each of you for your service to the Chapter.

We are living in unusual times with even the near future something of a vast unknown. We have all had to make unexpected adjustments to how we make music and how we lead others in worship. It might be interesting at some point to share some of our experiences, both to underscore that we are not alone in what is happening and to learn from each other through our successes and failures as we discover new ways of doing things.

In this time of what I prefer to call “physical” (not “social”) distancing, what lies ahead for us in the coming program year of our Chapter is also not fully known. When will we finally be able to gather together in the same room and be close enough to chat with one another? What type of programming will we actually be able to provide in a successful and useful format, but perhaps different from the initial plans? There are so many unknowns at this moment, yet we still do need the support and encouragement of each other. Even if the next several (or many) months continue to bring vast changes to how we do things, I do encourage each of you to continue to be a part of the AGO. If your membership is up for renewal any time soon, PLEASE renew.

(continued from page 5)

Keep your membership current. There are still many benefits available to you as a member of this great organization.

You will hear more about this from others, but I wanted to close by mentioning that our Chapter has been awarded the honor of hosting the 2026 National AGO Convention. That means there will be much work to be done over the next six years. *PLEASE* consider saying yes if asked to serve in some way, either large or small. All assistance will be important.

Until we see each other in person or via Zoom (or some other platform), stay safe, smart and healthy!

Rick Burk (CAGO), Dean-Elect
St. Louis AGO Chapter



Heather Martin Cooper (CAGO)

Sub-Dean-Elect

St. Louis AGO Chapter

As a brand new freshman at Salem College, Barbara (of Sidney, NY) and I became fast friends over a southern greeting which was new to us. Where we were from, people greeted one another with a “hi” or “hello”. For the first few weeks of the semester, we laughed about her gut reaction to the charming southern “heeeeey”, which would ring in our ears dozens of times each day. When someone greeted her with “hey”, she would think to herself *hey WHAT?* We joked about the very different meaning it would mean to hear that from anyone from our home towns.

My Yankee friend now is a professor at Tuskegee University and has lived in the south for a great many of the almost 30 years since our college days. When she telephones me, the first word from her mouth is what I say with affection to all of you: “HEY”!!

I am honored to serve you as Sub-Dean of the St. Louis AGO chapter, and look forward to the journey ahead. I hope to say “hey” you in person at our online meeting on June 29th.

Heather Martin Cooper, Sub-Dean Elect
St. Louis AGO Chapter

ANNOUNCEMENTS



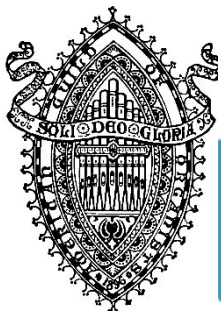
At the February Flourish earlier this year, it was announced that there would be a Handbell Music Reading Session hosted by the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis on Saturday, August 8, 2020. Due to the current pandemic situation and the need for safe distancing as well as the need to make decisions well in advance, the HAGSTL Board determined at their April meeting to change the August 8th reading session from an “in person” event to a “virtual” event. The specific details are still being finalized, so please check frequently on their web-site for the most current information. (click the icon will take you directly to the web-site)



CONGRATULATIONS ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER

Burnell Hackman – Dean, has announced that the National Council unanimously approved the St. Louis bid to host the 2026 National AGO Convention in St. Louis!

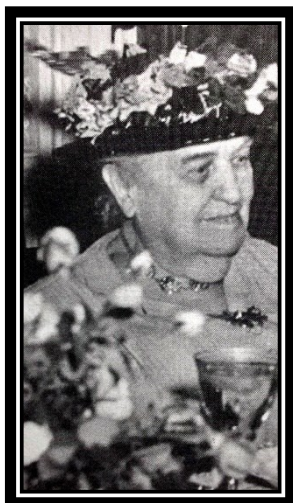
It has also been announced that the Executive Committee of the St. Louis Chapter elected Burnell Hackman to serve as Convention Coordinator of the National Convention in 2026. The National Council will approve that vote at a meeting on June 16, 2020. **EVERY** member of the chapter will need to be involved to make this Convention a great success. Brainstorming sessions where **ALL** can give their input and suggest areas where they want to be involved will be held soon. **STAY TUNED!!**



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For many of us, our Membership Dues are renewable in July each year. This year when you renew, you will have the option of making a contribution to the 2026 National Convention in St. Louis. PLEASE consider helping to get our convention “Off the ground” with a gift! Thank You

Avis Blewett Award



The St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2020 Avis Blewett Award is Mr. Mark Lawson.

Mark W. Lawson grew up in Aurora, Missouri, and went on to earn his Bachelor of Musician education degree from Southwest Baptist University (SBU) in 1979. He received a Master of Sacred Music degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1981.

Lawson served as Minister of Music at Edmundson Road Baptist Church and Kirkwood Baptist Church in St. Louis before becoming owner and president of MorningStar Music Publishers of St. Louis in 1997. In 2015, he became owner and president of ECS Publishing Group in St. Louis.



Mark Lawson

At ECS, Lawson is responsible for the publication development, strategic focus and management of E.C. Schirmer Music Company, Galaxy Music Corporation, MorningStar Music Publishers, and ARSIS Audio. ECS controls the rights to more than 20,000 copyrights and publishes music and books for schools, churches, professional ensembles, and opera companies.

Lawson has developed publishing strategies for the Washington National Cathedral, the National Collegiate Choral Organization, the Presbyterian Association of Church Musicians, Baylor University, the National Lutheran Choir, and Duke University Choir. ECS also has been a consultant on two U.S. Papal visits.

Lawson has served as a council member for the National Pastoral Musicians, on the advisory board for Baylor University School of Sacred Music and currently serves on the executive board of Chorus America. He is active in the National Music Publishers Association, and the Church Music Publishers Association.

Lawson and his wife Ginny are active members of Kirkwood Baptist Church in St. Louis, where they sing in the choir, work in the children's choir program, and direct the handbell program. They enjoy spending time with their grandchild and families of their five adult children, as well as traveling, reading, running, biking, watching the St. Louis Cardinals, visiting art museums, and attending concerts.

CONGRATULATIONS MARK!!!



We would like to say THANK YOU and how much we appreciate the Class of 2020 for their service to our Chapter. We also THANK Wes Kassulke for his service on the Executive Committee and wish him well as he retires in Florida!

ST. LOUIS AGO OFFICERS:

DEAN:	Burnell Hackman	dean@agostlouis.org
SUB-DEAN:	Cathy Cassy	subdean@agostlouis.org
SECRETARY:	Rick Burk	burkr@sbcglobal.net
TREASURER:	Mike Kaberline	mike@kaberline.com

ST. LOUIS AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Class of 2020:	Lisa Cripe, Luella Foster (SPC), Bill Stein
Class of 2021:	Bob Chamberlin, Timothy Jansen, Martha Shaffer (CAGO)
Class of 2022:	Dr. Steven Ball, J.D. Brooks, Wes Kassulke

ST. LOUIS AGO COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Educational Resources:	Dr. Barbara Raedeke	Placement:	Denis Doelling
Registrar:	Regina Morris	Membership:	Kendra Ruelser
Media Relations:	Dawn Riske (CAGO)	OPUS Editor:	Ted Cronbaugh
Photographer/Social Media:	Rene Zajner	Exam Coordinator:	Brent Johnson
Directory/Hospitality:	Al & Fern Black	Dinner Reservations:	Dr. Kathleen Bolduan
Auditor:	Denis Doelling	Programs:	Cathy Cassy
Web Master:	OPEN	Historian:	Randal Zerkel

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Full Page (10"x7.1/2")	\$500
Eight (8) Issues in all – except for special circumstances.	
Contact: Ted.Cronbaugh@gmail.com for more info.	
Ad Copy is due by the 10 th of the month prior to issue date.	

Single Newsletter Issue Advertisement (2020-2021)

Ad Size:	Rate:
1/8 Page (2.1/4"x3.7/8")	\$20
¼ Page (4.1/2"x3.7/8")	\$40
½ Page (4.3/4"x7.3/4")	\$60
Full Page (10"x7.1/2")	\$100
Contact: Ted.Cronbaugh@gmail.com for more info.	
Ad Copy is due by the 10 th of the month prior to issue date.	



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(www.youtube.com/YourSundayService)



**SAINT
LOUIS
ORGAN
ARCHIVE**



Webster Groves Presbyterian Church
Gress-Miles 1981 – IV/96

*****NEW*** ***NEW*** ***NEW*** ***NEW*** ***NEW*** ***NEW*****

THANKS to Brent Johnson and our isolation time during this pandemic, he has spent many hours redoing the “St. Louis Organ Archive” website.

The website is now responsive and mobile friendly. You will soon be able to update and edit entries for your church. Be on the lookout for news about this. In the meantime – start gathering those great pictures of your organ console, organ façade and get your specification list prepared/updated!

To see a great example – click on the SLOA logo above and it will take you to the website.

THANK YOU Brent for the many hours you have put into doing this great project!

CHECK OUT THESE LINKS

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

