

THE OPUS

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the American Guild
of Organists

Sub-Dean



St. Louis AGO Chapter



Heather Martin Cooper - CAGO

Dear Members,

Greetings to all!

These winter days have been challenging for many people. We continue to make our way through life and work within the new parameters we have been given. Although sufficiently chilled by the weather, I am trying to find warmth in the blessings, which are abundant.

By all accounts, our February Flourish event was a huge success! We can be thankful for the way technology supported us, but the big blessing is the human resources. Months of careful planning and collaboration paid off. Dozens of people saw possibilities and then generously shared their resources. Creativity, knowledge, care for each other and good humor were in abundance for months as we put together the event. Many more then gathered virtually on the coldest morning of the year and were able to share a measure of community and mutual support for our work as musicians. The best part is that anyone will be able to view much of the day's contents through the magic of technology. We have a chapter YouTube channel. As of this writing, the original five (5) video presentations are posted there and we should soon see the videos of the interactive sessions. Quick links to the videos are available on the home page of our website: ([St. Louis AGO](#)).

This program year has included one live event and two virtual events. It will come as a surprise to no one that the March event with Michael Hey has been cancelled. The May event which was tentatively scheduled cannot take place at the Fox Theatre this year. Our program committee is working on an alternative event, and I hope to begin my April article with all the details.

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

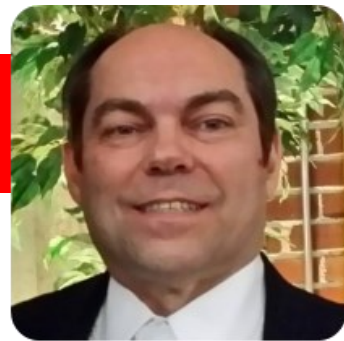
The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22 at 6:30p.m. via Zoom. Members of the Executive Board will receive a link prior to the meeting day. Those in the membership that would like to attend the meeting, but are not on the board, please email Dean Rick ([click here](#)) to get the Zoom link.



Dean



St. Louis AGO Chapter



Rick Burk - CAGO

Dear Colleagues,

After having had to cancel several Chapter events over the course of this past year due to the COVID virus, it felt wonderful to be able to connect with so many people at our February Flourish event this past Saturday. Not only were there many of our own members in attendance, but we met AGO members from other states and Canada. Please see the article from Dawn Riske on page four with more information about the event.

Speaking of Dawn, I would personally, and on behalf of the Chapter, like to shower her with many thanks for all the work she and her committee did to make the February Flourish event so successful. She worked tirelessly (or maybe not so tirelessly some days) on the many details involved. The icing on the cake (pun intended) was having the event take place on her birthday! Thank you, Dawn, and a belated Happy Birthday from us all.

One of the more important responsibilities of our membership in the AGO is to select our elected Chapter officers. Later in the month of March we will have the opportunity to cast our vote in selecting a Treasurer, Secretary and three (3) Executive Committee Members for the class of 2024. The biographical sketches of the nominees appeared in the February issue of *OPUS* and there is more information in this issue regarding the election process. Please vote when the time comes.

Once again, I hope and pray that you and your loved ones remain safe and well until we are able to once again meet in person.

Rick Burk, Dean
St. Louis AGO Chapter



American Guild of
ORGANISTS

[EMPLOYING MUSICIANS IN
RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS](#)

(follow the link to read
more on this handbook)

Music Conference Coordinator

February Flourish 2021 *REPORT*



Dawn Riske - CAGO

In 2018, the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists held a January Jubilee. The response was so positive that we have made it an annual event, moving to a different Church in different parts of the Greater St. Louis area. We have been south, west, and north - - on February 13, 2021 we were virtual! Planning for this year's conference began about the same time the COVID-19 virus upended our routines and our schedules. The ongoing support and conversation of the Flourish Planning Team helped us walk through countless changes and modifications in our preparations for this Church Music Workshop.

Because of the virtual nature of this year's Flourish, several procedures were adapted to provide a worthwhile event. Pre-recorded sessions were prepared by the presenters and posted on the St. Louis Chapter YouTube Channel for viewing before the Saturday zoom Meeting. Registration took place via *Eventbrite*, which helped us collect a modest registration fee and provided means to share links to the videos, program book and zoom meeting. The flow of the zoom meeting on Saturday morning had a different feel, but attendees seemed to take it all in stride. 74 people registered and we were glad to welcome attendees from IL, MO, WI, KY, VA, NY, MA and Ontario, Canada. We are glad it was an international conference!

Five timely and pertinent workshop/webinars were prepared, keeping in mind the unique times we are in and where that places us as church musicians. These recorded presentations are like "Liturgical TED Talks"! Links to them are available on our chapter website on the February Flourish page.

Dr. Steven Ball recorded his comprehensive presentation at the Tampa Theatre in Florida: "Approaching the Theatre Organ from a Classical Organ Background: Why It Matters More than Ever".

Dr. Sarah Bereza guided attendees thoughtfully through: "Flourishing Inside the Pandemic Box: Finding Fulfilling Musical Expression amid Disruption and Constraint."

Dr. Cathy Benton brought great ideas and amazing examples to the "Handbell Roundtable: Ringing More with Less."

Jeff White (CAGO) and parish staff shared a practical case study: "Use of Technology within Worship during a Pandemic and Beyond."

Fr. Jeremy Secrist brought healing and insight through: "Pastoral Care for Musicians in a Time of Pandemic."

The moderators for each session helped to share questions from chat and to keep a smooth dialogue going: thanks and admiration go to Sub-Dean Heather Martin Cooper, Beth Duello, Burnell Hackman, Joy Elowski, and Mark Scholtz.

Dr. Sarah Bereza lifted the beginning of the morning with the Gigout *Toccata*; Ben Blasingame led us all in a closing hymn, "When in Our Music God is Glorified," sung on the recording by Angela Rocchio and Scott Kennebeck, and we were happy to have Regional Councillor Dr. Karen Black with us, sharing regional and national news of the organization.

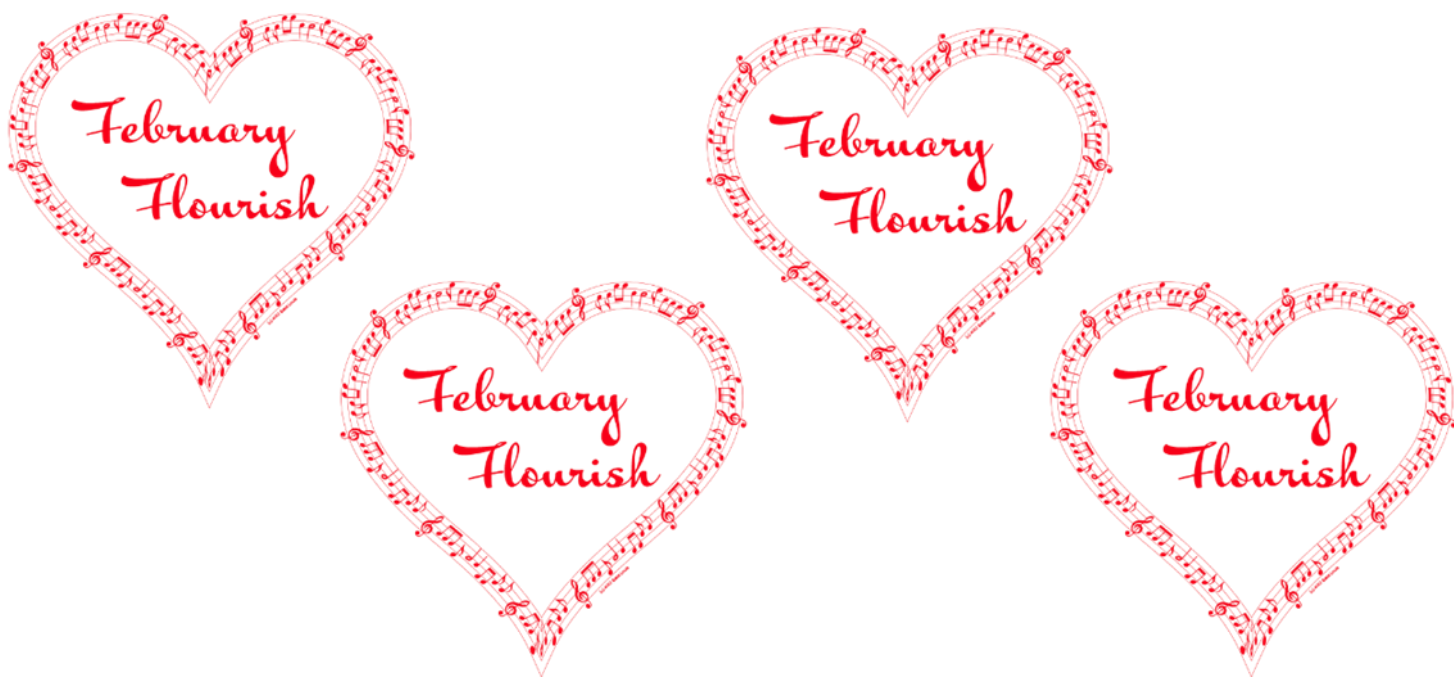
FEBRUARY FLOURISH REPORT CONT:

A virtual zoom meeting would be awkward and limited without skilled zoom coordinators. Dr. Bill Wade (CAGO) took the lead in that area, assisted by Dean Rick Burk (CAGO) and Rene Zajner. *BRAVO* for organists who are willing to use their intelligence and skills by training themselves in a whole new area of expertise. Registrar Matthew Gerhardt and Treasurer Mike Kaberline became *Eventbrite* gurus and helped us with tracking registrations, sharing reports and communicating using this new (to the chapter) means of registration.

Support from other area church music groups also made this a stronger offering. The St. Louis Chapter was glad for collaboration with the Gateway Confluence Chapter of the AGO, the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis, and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

How do we get the word out and share that this event is indeed happening in 2021? A brochure was prepared and shared within the *Eventbrite* page, and shared with church musicians near and far through e-mails to Chapter Deans, AGO Young Organists, Church Musicians of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, the St. Louis Theatre Organ Society, and the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis. Rene Zajner prepared eye-catching art for our social media, and posted recorded testimonials and invitations on Facebook and Vimeo. The National AGO included our event as a “slider” on their home page. The *OPUS* newsletter, word of mouth and personal invitations to attend also brought in registrants.

Just as the February Flourish ended officially, the question was raised about next year. Church Musicians in the Greater St. Louis area enjoy this time of continuing education, connecting with colleagues, and welcoming new people into the Guild.



Reminders/Information

St. Louis AGO Chapter 2020-2021



P IPE
O RGAN
E NCOUNTER

The Kansas State University/Manhattan Chapter of the AGO will be conducting an in-person POE this summer: Jun 21-26, 2021 on the campus of Kansas State University. This is the only in-person POE for youth that is still scheduled for this year. If you have a student or know of anyone who might be interested in attending, more detailed information may be found at this link: ([click me](#)) Note that faculty and students will follow whatever COVID-19 protocols that Kansas State University has in place at the time.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS:

This year we will be electing a Treasurer, Secretary and three (3) members at large for the Executive Committee Class of 2024. The names and biographical information of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee appeared in the February issue of *OPUS*. Additional nominations may be made by petition if each petition is signed by five (5) Chapter members in good standing and submitted to the Chapter Secretary (Cathy Cassy) within thirty (30) days of the announcement of the slate to the Chapter membership but no later than March 15. As per our current Operating Procedures, the annual election shall take place via online voting by April 15. Paper ballots will be provided upon request made in advance to ensure return of the ballot by voting deadline by contacting the Secretary, Cathy Cassy. After March 15 all current members of the chapter who have a valid email address will receive instructions for voting online. Please make sure your contact information in [ONCARD](#) is accurate.

AVIS BLEWETT AWARD

Dean Rick Burk has appointed the following Committee to select this year's recipient of the Avis Blewett Award:

- Mark Scholtz (Chair)
- Dr. Kathleen Bolduan
- William Aitken

OUR APOLOGIES

In early February, the Dean sent out a mass email to all Chapter members, but due to a snafu in the email program, the message everyone received led them to a link which would unsubscribe them from receiving future emails. Rest assured, even if you clicked on that link, no one will be unsubscribed from future emails. We apologize for any confusion and have worked to fix the bug in the email program. As has often been said, technology is great – when it works!!



Open POSITION

St. John's UCC of Smithton, IL is seeking a part-time Music Director for 20-25 hours per week. The Music Director will select, play and lead music for worship services. They will collaborate with the worship committee and pastor, and also establish opportunities for other music-related activities within the church. Please follow this link for further details. ([click here](#))



SUNDAY
MARCH 14, 2021

OFFICERS:

Dean – Rick Burk (CAGO)
Sub-Dean – Heather Martin Cooper (CAGO)
Secretary – Cathy Cassy
Treasurer – Mike Kaberline
Past Dean – Burnell Hackman

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Class of 2021
Martha Shaffer (CAGO)
Bob Chamberlin
Tim Jansen
Class of 2022
Dr. Steven Ball
J.D. Brooks
Dr. William Sullivan
Class of 2023
Gaye Anderson
Andrew Peters
Shawn Portell

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

2026 Convention Coordinator
Burnell Hackman
Auditor
Denis Doelling
Dinner Reservations
Dr. Cathy Bolduan
Directory Editor
Al Black
Educational Resources
Dr. Barbara Raedeke
Exam Coordinator
Brent Johnson
Historian
Randy Zerkel
Membership Coordinator
Kendra Ruesler

OPUS Editor
Ted Cronbaugh
Photographer
Rene Zajner
Professional Concerns Liaison
Shawn Portell
Publicity Liaison
Dawn Riske (CAGO)
Registrar
Regina Morris
Social Media
Rene Zajner
Webmaster
Brent Johnson

2020–2021