

THE OPUS

MAY 2021



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

Dean



St. Louis AGO Chapter



Rick Burk (CAGO)

It is with cautious optimism and guarded excitement that we look forward to finally having an in-person even in May. Our annual chapter meeting will be held on Monday, May 24 at the Cathedral Basilica where there will be plenty of room for us to gather together while maintaining safe distances from one another. But if you prefer not to attend in person, plans are also being made to live stream the event. Check the events page on our website closer to the date for more details. In addition to holding a brief business meeting we will be installing newly elected officers and executive committee members as well as presenting the Avis Blewett Award. You will find more information about these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am also looking for someone who might be willing to step forward and take on the task of serving as the editor of *The OPUS*. The “term” is for however long you are willing to serve. Our current editor, Ted Cronbaugh, has done an excellent job, but has recently relocated to Iowa and must resign from this position. If you have any interest at all, please contact me as soon as possible. Ted is willing to overlap with his successor to help make the smooth transition.

In the month of May there will be the celebrations of both the Christian Pentecost and the Jewish Shavuot (also often referred to as Pentecost). Both of these events recall and celebrate God’s bestowal of His love and blessing on His people: Shavuot as it recalls the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai and Pentecost as it recalls the bestowal of the Holy Spirit on the early Christian community. In whichever tradition we choose to celebrate, may we find comfort in God’s continued bestowal of His grace upon us even during these challenging times.

Your servant,

Rick Burk – Dean
St. Louis AGO Chapter



NATIONAL AGO CONVENTION

July 6-10, 2026

SAVE THE DATE

FILL OUT THE SURVEY AT:

www.agostlouis.org

AVIS BLEWETT AWARD

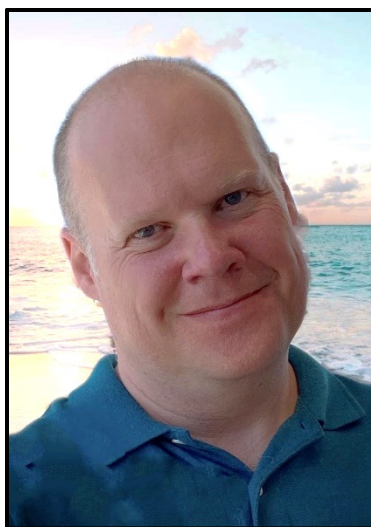
ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER



The St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2021 Avis Blewett Award is Mr. Scott Schoonover.

Scott Schoonover is the Founder and Artistic Director of the critically acclaimed Union Avenue Opera in St. Louis, Missouri. At UAO, he has served as conductor for more than 60 productions over the past 25 years, including 2019's *Candide* and *Glory Denied*. Other UAO credits include: *Lost in the Stars*, *Carousel*, Wagner's complete *Ring Cycle* (Dove reduction), *Dead Man Walking*, *La Traviata*, along with *Albert Herring* and *Doubt* both starring world-renowned soprano, Christine Brewer. Schoonover also has conducted for several other regional companies. Productions include *West Side Story*, *Don Giovanni*, and *La Traviata* for Asheville Lyric Opera, *Le Nozze de Figaro*, *Rigoletto*, *Pagliacci*, *Samson et Dalila*, *Werther*, *Don Pasquale*, and *Wise Women* for Winter Opera St. Louis, and *Le Nozze Figaro*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *The Merry Widow*, world premiere of *Abe*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and *The Mikado* for Muddy River Opera Company in Quincy, IL. He conducted the world premiere of Barbara Harbach's opera, *O Pioneers!* at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and regularly conducts Webster Opera Studio performances at Webster University.

Also active as a choral conductor, Schoonover is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Missouri Women's Chorus and has acted as a guest conductor and clinician for several choruses in the St. Louis area. He serves as Director of Music at Union Avenue Christian Church in St. Louis where he has led the Chancel Choir on two European concert tours, and more recently led a choral concert tour of England and Ireland in June 2015.



Scott Schoonover

Congratulations!

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER

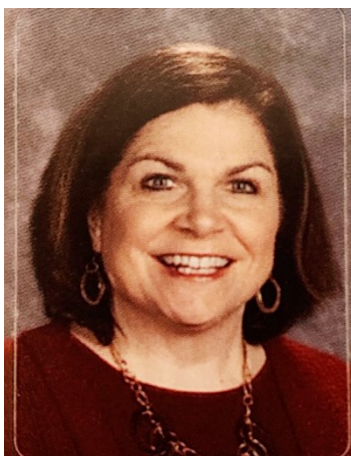


EXECUTIVE BOARD

CLASS OF 2024



Dr. Sarah Bereza



Jill Griffin



Dr. Kirsten Rutschman

SECRETARY



Gaye Anderson

TREASURER



Mike Kaberline

Kathryn (Kit) LaMar has been appointed to fill the vacated term of Gaye Anderson in the class of 2023.

Sub-Dean



St. Louis AGO Chapter



Heather Martin Cooper (CAGO)

Dear Members:

Springtime greetings!

Our program committee has been at work on the upcoming program year. Programs will include several events 'in person.' We are focusing on programs that will allow us to gather in ways we have come to understand as safe, at least in terms of pandemic safety, and be satisfying both musically and socially. We feel very positive about this and look forward to announcing the program year at the May meeting.

This year's annual end-of-the-year reception/meeting is set for Monday, May 24, 2021; (Please note the date change) 6:30pm, inside and outside the Cathedral Basilica. We will have our business meeting inside the church, with live music sprinkled into the program. To be clear, the only wind instrument you may hear will be the

organ and there will be no singing. We anticipate this portion of our meeting to last no longer than 45 minutes. This portion will be available via livestream or zoom for everyone not able to attend in person. Afterwards, we will move to the beautiful outdoor prayer garden. The chapter will be treating all attendees to a light reception provided by "As-You-Like-It" catering.

Thank you to Dr. Horst Buchholz for hosting the chapter in the Cathedral spaces for this event. I can think of few other places where social distancing is more possible, and none more beautiful.

We need an accurate count for the catering order, please see details at bottom of this page. I hope to see you in a few weeks.

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

Reception/Awards Meeting

NOTE DATE CHANGE:

Monday, May 24, 2021 6:30pm

St. Louis Cathedral Basilica

4431 Lindell Blvd St. Louis, MO 63108

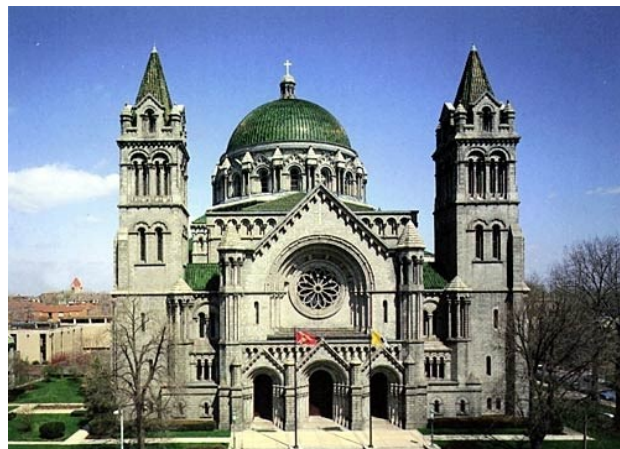
RECEPTION RESERVATIONS

(Please make by May 17, 2021)

Contact: Dr. Kathleen Bolduan

Phone: 314-853-5011

Email: Kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com



Reminders/Information

St. Louis AGO Chapter 2020-2021



SUBSTITUTES & TEACHERS

ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER



Please help us keep the list of substitutes and teachers in our Chapter current. You may do this by making sure that the information you have entered through ONCARD is up-to-date and accurate. A quick way to see if you are on either of these lists and for what services, you may visit our website at www.agostlouis.org and click on "Substitutes and Teachers" along the left side of the screen. For those of you who may be looking for a substitute or a teacher, don't forget to go to this same source to see a list of those who are available.

Open POSITION

OPUS NEWSLETTER EDITOR: This position will be available after June 2021. Responsibilities include editing/putting together the *OPUS* newsletter September through June of each year. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact Rick Burk – Dean. Transition help will be available.

HANDBELL DIRECTORS & RINGERS

If you are looking to purchase handbell music, please consider visiting the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis "Music Sale" by visiting their website at www.stlbells.org. There is a variety of music and a limited number of copies available for each title. You may be able to add an extra copy you need to some of the music you already have in your files or you might discover some pieces you are not familiar with. Purchases will be invoiced via PayPal through the website.



MORE INFORMATION

ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER



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THE *LAST* PAGE



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

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Brent Johnson

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Randy Zerkel

Membership Coordinator

Kendra Ruesler

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Ted Cronbaugh

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Rene Zajner

Professional Concerns Liaison

Shawn Portell

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2020 – 2021