



Dean's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

As I near the end of my two-year term as the Dean of the St. Louis Chapter I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude to you, the members of the Chapter. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you and the AGO as your Dean. While the pandemic created many new challenges for all of us, I look back and see that we have weathered the storm rather well. Much of our programming over the past two years had to either be cancelled or reimagined, yet we persevered and have much for which to be proud. We enjoyed a carillon concert at Concordia Seminary by Chapter member, Steven Ball, in October 2020; we managed to facilitate an online version of February Flourish in February 2021 under the leadership of Chapter member, Dawn Riske and her very capable committee; we were once again able to gather in person for our annual meeting in May 2021 at the Cathedral Basilica and enjoy our first in-person social time together in quite a long time; in September 2021 we held our first dinner in almost 18 months at Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic Church followed by a presentation celebrating our 110th Anniversary prepared by Chapter member and Historian, Randy Zerkel; we hosted John Behnke for a joint organ/handbell concert at St. Paul UCC in Belleville, IL in October 2021, with John joining us the next evening for dinner and a music reading session; we met at Little Flower Catholic Church in November 2021 for a presentation on AGO Certification Exams led by Chapter member Certification Coordinator, Brent Johnson; and most recently we enjoyed dinner and a member's recital at Peace Lutheran Church in March of this year. While there were obviously gaps due to the ebb and flow of COVID, we, as a Chapter, did not throw up our hands in dismay or throw in the towel out of frustration, but we persevered. NONE of that would have been possible without the participation of you, the members of our Chapter.



Rick Burk, CAGO

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Early on in the pandemic I feared that we would lose membership even though a lack of full programming, etc., was mostly beyond our control. I am pleased to say that that has not been the case. The net change to our membership has remained very constant. We are indeed a strong Chapter, and I am confident that we will remain so.

I thank the other Officers and Executive Committee members for their diligent work. I thank Elizabeth George and other staff in the National Office for the support and encouragement they have provided. But mostly I thank you – our Chapter members - for persevering with us: for your support, your encouragement, and your participation. Thank you!

Your friend and colleague,
Rick Burk
Outgoing Dean

As of July 1, the Executive Committee is as follows:

Dean	Jeff White
Sub-dean	Mary Beth Wittry
Class of 2023	Kit LaMar Shawn Portell Bill Sullivan
Class of 2024	Sarah Bereza Chuck Chauvin Jill Griffin
Class of 2025	Suzanne Chisum Bob Raymond David Sinden

Report from Yearly Business Meeting, May 23, 2022

Third Baptist Church and their organist, Brent Johnson hosted the Banquet and Meeting of the Saint Louis Chapter on May 23, 2022. Over 40 members shared a festive meal, after which Chapter Dean Richard Burk presided over the annual business meeting. Reports were shared by the Secretary Gaye Anderson, Treasurer Mike Kaberline (in absentia) and Registrar Regina Morris. Sub-Dean Heather Martin Cooper walked us through the events planned for us by the Program Committee for 2022-2023. Chair of the 2026 National Convention Committee Burnell Hackman updated us on plans and progress for this much-anticipated event. Chapter members and family who died in the previous year were remembered. Out-going officers were recognized, and newly elected officers were installed by District Convener Fr. Jeremy Secrist.

Elizabeth George, AGO National Chief Membership Officer, was our featured guest and presenter for the evening. Her long-awaited message (she had been rescheduled from May, 2020,) recognized our part in an organization which is 125 years old and yet is nimble and willing to pivot to be relevant. We have been thrust into 21st century webinars, technology, and means of communication. Elizabeth alerted us to new organizational software (AirMeet is like Zoom on steroids) and collaborative support for leadership. Her notice, "Brace yourselves," led us into the announcement of new management software, iMis, which is uniquely geared to organizations with a large chapter structure. The website will also be updated within the next year. Elizabeth charmed us with her personal touch and interest, as well as with the good news of 1000+ new AGO members during this Year of the Young Organist. Her visit and words of affirmation were well-received and deeply appreciated. –Dawn Riske



*Listening to
Elizabeth George*



*Jeff White, incoming chapter Dean
Elizabeth George, AGO National
Chief Membership Officer
Rick Burk, outgoing chapter Dean*



Chapter Board members and guest speaker

Back row, left to right:

David Sinden, Regina Morris, Mary Beth Wittry, Suzanne Chisum, Jeff White, Kit LaMar, Fr. Jeremy Secrist, Chuck Chauvin, Sarah Bereza

Front row, left to right:

Heather Martin Cooper, Rick Burk, Gaye Anderson, Elizabeth George, Jill Griffin, Robert Raymond

JOHN S. DIXON Organ Concert
Sunday, August 28, 2022 at 4 p.m.
Dardenne Presbyterian Church
Dardenne Prairie, MO
Free Will Offering - Reception to Follow



Born in England in 1957, John Dixon learned to play the pipe organ at his high school, which to this day has a two manual organ in the assembly hall. He was not active as an organist when he moved to America in 1988. However, he filled the organ bench at his church, Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, during an emergency in 1998 - and has now been organist there for twenty-four years.

He has been composing seriously since 1990 and has close to 900 compositions to his credit, many of them published. He has programmed this recital from his own compositions. The catalog numbers shown next to each piece indicate when the piece was written. His current challenging project is to share his own music in person in all 50 states between his 60th and 70th birthdays – the 50-60-70 project. Today he is reaching the halfway point by checking off his 25th state, not long after celebrating his 65th birthday.

In 2003 John was appointed executive director of the Academy of Music, a non-profit community music school headquartered in Norfolk, VA, a position he still holds.

John currently serves as Treasurer/Councillor for Finance and Development for AGO National.



A Note from Rick Burk:

Website Information

If you haven't looked at the "Open Positions" section of our website recently, I would invite you to take a peek. Thanks to some diligent work by Denis Doelling, that section now has a much sleeker look and is much easier to navigate. Rather than posting the full description of each job opening on the main page, you will now find a list of the various job openings with a hyperlink for more detail. Thank you, Denis, for a job well done.

The information in the "Substitutes and Teachers" section of the website is derived from each member's ONCARD account. To make sure your information is included and is current, make sure that you have provided the correct information in your ONCARD profile. Simply go to www.agohq.org and click on "Member Login" in the upper right corner with your personal login information. On the next screen select "Update Personal Information" then "View/Edit Chapter-specific data" which will open the following section where you may indicate if you would like to be listed as a Teacher (the top section) and/or a Substitute (the lower section).

Additional Information

Chapter Specific

St. Louis Chapter

Do you teach privately?:

You may select up to 4 options.

- ☐ Organ ☐ Piano
☐ Voice ☐ Handbells

What days are you available to substitute?:

You may select up to 4 options.

- ☐ Sundays ☐ Weekdays
☐ Funerals ☐ Weddings

THE OPUS

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for publication consideration.

Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to
newsletter@agostlouis.org.

**Copy deadline for the September
issue is August 18.**

Send address changes or mailing labels requests to:
Regina Morris
3526 Oxford Blvd
St. Louis MO 63143-4209

**ORGAN LESSONS
FOR STUDENTS
OF ALL LEVELS**

David Sinden

degrees in Organ Performance
from Oberlin College (B.Mus.)
and Indiana University (M.M.)

Study on the three-manual
Mander organ of St. Peter's
Episcopal Church, Ladue

CONTACT:
dsinden@gmail.com

AGO St. Louis Programs/Meetings 2022-2023

September 12, 2022	Opening Event/Banquet at Rigali Center	
	Meet and greet Andrew Kreigh, incoming Music Director, Archdiocese of St. Louis	
	Joint event with NPM-St. Louis	
October 15, 2022	Organ Crawl with Martin Ott	at various venues
November 21, 2022	Thanksgiving Service	Venue TBD
January 6 or 7, 2023	January Epiphany Party	at Rick Burk's home
February 10-12, 2023	February Flourish	at Peace Lutheran Church
March 27, 2023	Joint event with Gateway Confluence Chapter AGO	
	Venue TBD	
May 22, 2023	Closing Banquet	Venue TBD
	Installation of officers, Chapter awards	

*Add these to your personal calendar. Dates and places may change, so please watch for
THE OPUS newsletter or check the chapter web site.*

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American Guild of Organists

St. Louis Chapter

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