

September 2023

## Dean's Corner

Greetings! I hope that your summer is going well so far. We are about to embark on another year with some great programs in the lineup. We hope that you will find something that interests you, and that you will join in the fellowship our members enjoy before and after the events.

Our Convention Steering Committee, led by Burnell Hackman, has been busy over the summer. We would like to encourage everyone to make a financial contribution toward the Convention - any amount is greatly appreciated. John Powel Walsh is the lead for Convention fundraising, so any questions may be directed to him ([john.walsh@equity-usa.com](mailto:john.walsh@equity-usa.com)).



Jeffrey White—Dean

As the new program year kicks off in September, I would like to ask each of you to consider opportunities to serve our Chapter. We will be forming a nominating committee later in the Fall to create a slate of new Executive Committee members, (Dean, Sub-Dean, and members at large). If you would like to know more about how our Chapter operates, or about elected and appointed positions, please visit the Chapter website: <https://www.agostlouis.org/chapter-bylaws/>.

I also encourage you to please help publicize your events by emailing [events@agostlouis.org](mailto:events@agostlouis.org). We have our weekly email blast that goes to all Chapter members, which includes upcoming events as well as any up to the minute news.

I am looking forward to another great year and wish you all the best!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey White  
Dean, St. Louis AGO Chapter



Mary Beth Wittry  
[wittrym@stgabrielstl.org](mailto:wittrym@stgabrielstl.org)

Greetings, Fellow Organists!

I am writing this article in very early August; by the time you are reading it we will be entering the month of September. Time marches onward!

I am looking forward to this year ahead with all of you!

As I mentioned in my last article, there are many good things to come, and we will keep you informed along the way. Our Chapter will kick off the year with an opening banquet including a meet and greet and music swap at St. Paul's Episcopal in the historic town of Alton, Illinois, on Monday, September 18. Please bring your favorite pieces of music to share or play and feel

free to bring any music that you would like to pass on to someone else. I hope many Chapter members make the journey to the beautiful town of Alton. Personally, I'm anxious to see the church and hear the organ. We appreciate the invitation from Chapter Secretary, Gay Anderson, to be at her parish for this event.

Bruce Neswick will be giving a concert, co-sponsored by St. Peter's Episcopal and the AGO on the Mander organ on Sunday, October 15. The following evening, Mr. Neswick will offer a workshop on improvisation at our Chapter meeting. This is another "save the date"!

Last year, we had a delightful Epiphany party which was hosted at the home of our Past Dean, Rick Burk. We are still looking for a venue, if anyone is interested in volunteering their home!

Also, we are looking for a venue for our closing banquet in May. It was lovely to be at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, but ended up being a bit costly for use of the space. Feel free to contact me if you have a facility we can use.

Have a great beginning of the "school year," and hope to see you on Monday, September 18 in Alton!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Mary Beth Wittry  
*Sub-Dean, St. Louis Chapter AGO*

## OPENING BANQUET

Meet & Greet  
 Music Swap

**Monday, September 18**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
 10 East Third Street  
 Alton, IL

The cost of the meal is \$20.00.

Please submit your reservation for the dinner in a timely manner out of consideration for the caterer who needs to be able to plan for the proper number of meals. To do so, please contact Cathy Bolduan at [Kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com](mailto:Kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com) or 314-853-5011. Thank you!

# Concert Calendar

**Organ Recital: Dennis Bergin**  
**Friday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church**  
1230 Big Bend Road  
Ballwin, MO

The recital is free and open to the public.

Check the [Concerts and Events](#) section of the Chapter website for more details on this and other recently posted events.

If you are hosting or sponsoring an event, or know of any that may be of interest to the members of our Chapter, please be sure to send that information to [events@agostlouis.org](mailto:events@agostlouis.org) so those events may be posted on the Chapter website. Thank you!

A black and white poster for the Christ the King Music Festival. The background features a collage of musical instruments, including a violin, a trumpet, and a drum set, along with musical notation. A central shield with a cross and the words 'FACIENTES IN VERITATE CARITATE' is prominent. The text 'Christ the King Music Festival' is written in a large, elegant script. At the bottom, there is a QR code, a registration deadline, and a website URL.

*Christ the King*  
*Music Festival*

Register by **OCT. 26TH TO NOV. 2ND 2023**  
Oct. 8th **FULL EVENT SCHEDULE AT**  
**<https://christthekingmusicfestival.com>**

QR code with text: SCAN ME



Your 2026 American Guild of Organists National Convention Officers of the Convention and Steering Committee met for three days in August. The meeting was spent looking over a proposed schedule, which included worship services, performers, venues and other matters pertaining to the Convention. Over the next several weeks committee chairs will be contacting proposed participations and locations to compile a list of fees so we can continue working on a budget.

Valerie Franzen, Director of Conventions and Events for the National Office, attended these meetings and was impressed at how well organized we are and how the entire committee worked together well. Although there is much more work to be done, we are pleased with the progress made.

In the not-too-distant future we will be asking for your input on how you can volunteer at the Convention. When the actual Convention rolls around we'll need many, many hands to make our endeavor run smoothly.

Right now, the most important thing you can do is make a financial contribution to the Convention. Please visit the Chapter website at [www.agostlouis.org](http://www.agostlouis.org) and then click the 2026 National Convention for more details. In the coming months we will be sharing information regarding opportunities for you to sponsor concerts, commissions and various other items during the Convention.

Here is a list of our Steering Committee. They are doing an excellent job. Please thank them when you have a chance.

Convention Coordinator: Burnell Hackman  
 Assistant Coordinator: Rick Burk  
 Executive Secretary: Kendra Ruesler  
 Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair: Mike Kaberline  
 Registrar: Regina Morris; Suzanne Manelli (Co-chair)  
 New Music Chair: Dr. Sarah Bereza  
 Performance Chair: Dr. Steven Ball; Andrew Kreigh (Co-chair)  
 Workshops Chair: Robert Raymond  
 Worship Chair: Father Jeremy Secrist  
 Facilities Chair: Scott Kennebeck  
 Hotel Chair: Biff Hackman  
 Transportation Chair: James Threlkeld; Dr. Bill Wade (Co-Chair)  
 Exhibits Chair: Chuck Chauvin  
 Information Technology/Website/Mobile App: Jeff White  
 Printed Media Chair: Spencer Smith  
 Promotions Chair: vacant  
 Social Media Chair: Suzanne Chisum  
 Advertising Chair: vacant  
 Gifts and Grants Chair: John Powel Walsh  
 Hospitality and Volunteers Chair: Dawn Riske  
 Young Organist Chair: vacant  
 Rising Stars Liaison: Bill Stein  
 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Liaison: Dr. Rose Whitmore  
 National Competition in Organ Improvisation Liaison: Spencer Smith



Burnell Hackman  
 Convention Coordinator  
[Agostl2026@agostlouis.org](mailto:Agostl2026@agostlouis.org)



Chapter members attending the 2023 North Central Regional Convention were Fr. Jeremy Secrist, Biff Hackman, Burnell Hackman, Dean Jeff White, Kevin Huckshold and Bill Stein. They seem to be all smiles, so it must have been a great experience.

### Chapter Yearbook

Notice to Chapter members whose renewal months are July, August, September and October: PLEASE renew your AGO membership by October 1, 2023. This is the cutoff date to be included in the new 2023-2024 Chapter Directory/Yearbook. There are seven (7) members overdue since July, four (4) overdue since August 1, ten (10) members due Sept 1, and five (5) members due October 1, 2023.

Thank you.  
Regina Morris  
Chapter Registrar

### SUBSTITUTES AND TEACHERS

Now is a good time to update the listing of substitutes and teachers on our Chapter website. If you are currently listed in one or both categories but wish to remove yourself from those lists or make updates to your entry OR if you are NOT currently on either list but wish to be included, that information may be updated in your ONCARD account at [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org).

### Pardon the oversight!

The article "A Well Tempered Life" in the Summer issue of The OPUS was submitted by Dawn Riske. Our apologies for that omission.



*An invitation from our friends and supporters at Wicks.*

*Please join us for a memorable afternoon*

## **Martin and Barbara Wick Scholarship Benefit**

**Sunday October 22, 2023**

**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Location: The Olde Wicks Factory  
1100 5th Street | Highland, IL 62249

**Reservations Required**

*Cost \$ 25.00 per person*

Reserve seats online at: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)  
Search for Martin and Barbara Wick Scholarship Event  
or enter the following URL:  
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### *Includes:*

Catered dinner by Cygan-Delany

Dessert

Non-alcoholic beverages

Pipe organ entertainment

Cash bar available for cocktails

This is a reminder that the St. Louis AGO Chapter will reimburse any members who successfully complete a certification exam of the exam expenses. If you're not certified, why not make it a goal this year. If you're already playing regularly for church services, then the Service Playing Certificate is well within your grasp. This basic level of AGO Certification tells employers and other organists that you are very capable of fulfilling the musical needs of just about any denomination. Even if you don't complete the exam, the repertoire can serve as steps to improving your playing skills and your own service repertoire.



To begin the process, a candidate for the Service Playing exam must apply at [www.agohq.org/certification](http://www.agohq.org/certification) anytime between September 1, 2023, and February 1, 2024. The exam must be completed by March 31, 2024. There is no written component to this exam, and the playing can be done on any organ you choose. Complete requirements for each certificate are available at [www.agohq.org/certification](http://www.agohq.org/certification). If you have questions about the process, feel free to contact our chapter's Certification Coordinator Brent Johnson at [brent@brentjohnson.net](mailto:brent@brentjohnson.net).

## CHAPTER ARCHIVES

At our Chapter program in September 2021, Chapter Historian, Randy Zerkel, shared some interesting tidbits of our Chapter's history with many items on display. Later, in October 2022, the Chapter Executive Committee approved a request from the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) to have our historical archives stored and catalogued at their Research Center here in St. Louis. Shortly after that October meeting, Randy presented the SHSMO St. Louis Research Center with six boxes of materials.

If you are curious as to what has been submitted, or if you are wanting to do any research on our Chapter's history, please visit <https://collections.shsmo.org/manuscripts/saint-louis/s0363>. Once you reach the landing page, you will want to click on the "[finding aid](#)" link, which will bring up the preliminary inventory for the materials. If you identify anything you want to view, you may contact AJ Medlock, [medlocka@shsmo.org](mailto:medlocka@shsmo.org), and schedule an appointment to view the materials at the SHSMO St. Louis office located at 222 Thomas Jefferson Library, 1 University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121. The facility is open Tuesdays through Fridays, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They are also happy to fulfill digitization requests if the request isn't too extensive (i.e., requesting an entire box be digitized).

Randy Zerkel  
*Chapter Historian*



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By Suzanne Chisum

### Looking for Pics of Your Organ

If you have any pictures of your organ, pipes or console, please consider sharing them with me so that I may post them to Instagram or Facebook. Please send photos to [suzchisum@gmail.com](mailto:suzchisum@gmail.com).

### Have you joined the STL AGO Member Group yet?

If you are interested in joining a dynamic group of other organists of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, you may message me on Facebook at Suzanne Olszewski Chisum, or scan the QR Code to the right. This is a place that you can share information as well as questions with other AGO members. Hope to see you there!



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Tel 314.345-0298 EMAIL [cjdoyle9051@gmail.com](mailto:cjdoyle9051@gmail.com)**2023-2024 Leadership Team****OFFICERS:**

Dean - Jeff White  
 Sub-Dean - Mary Beth Wittry  
 Secretary - Gaye Anderson  
 Treasurer - Mike Kaberline  
 Past Dean - Rick Burk

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**Class of 2024

Sarah Bereza  
 Chuck Chauvin  
 Jill Griffin

Class of 2025

Suzanne Chisum  
 Bob Raymond  
 David Sinden

Class of 2026

Stephen Jones  
 Mark Lawson  
 Sharon Whitlock

**APPOINTED POSITIONS:***2026 Convention Coordinator*

Burnell Hackman

*Auditor*

Denis J. Doelling

*Certification Coordinator*

Brent Johnson

*Dinner Reservations*

Dr. Cathy Bolduan

*Directory Editors*

Jeff White &amp; Regina Morris

*Educational Resources*

Dr. Barbara Raedeke

*Historian*

Randy Zerkel

*Membership Coordinator*

Mary Beth Wittry

*OPUS Editor*

Rick Burk

*Photographer*

Simeon A. Layne, Jr.

*Placement*

Denis J. Doelling

*Professional Concerns Liaison*

Shawn Portell

*Programs*

Mary Beth Wittry

*Publicity Liaison*

Dawn Riske

*Registrar*

Regina Morris

*Social Media Communications*

Suzanne Chisum

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## THE OPUS

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You are invited to submit material for publication consideration.  
Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to [newsletter@agostlouis.org](mailto:newsletter@agostlouis.org).

**Copy deadline for the October issue is September 15.**

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

Regina Morris  
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