

January 2024

Dean's Corner

Dear Fellow Chapter Members and Friends:

Moving through one of the busiest times of the year, I hope you have been able to find time for celebrating and taking time for yourself to enjoy peace. I also hope you will be able to take time out to join the Chapter Epiphany Party and enjoy some fellowship among colleagues and friends.

Looking ahead, I would like to encourage you to consider attending the 2024 National Convention in San Francisco. I registered on Nov 15, and there are a lot of good sessions and talented musicians lined up. I enjoyed meeting a lot of people from all over the country at the Regional Convention in Minneapolis this past Summer, including the winner of the Young Organists competition.



Jeffrey White—Dean

Trevor Good was this year's winner and is actually from our area, relatively speaking. Currently, Trevor is studying organ at the University of Kansas, and has written the following letter to us:

Dear St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists:

My name is Trevor Good, and I am honored to introduce myself as the winner of the AGO/Quimby RCYO Competition held this summer at the regional convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, and an organ student at the University of Kansas. I was thrilled to compete alongside two other outstanding young organists from the North Central region of the AGO, of which your chapter is a member. You or some of your colleagues may have traveled to attend the convention, and one of you might have even come to the competition or my subsequent recital (if you did, sincerely, thank you!) If anyone in the St. Louis Chapter would like to host an up-and-coming organist, I would be delighted to give a performance in the Gateway City. You can email or send a letter to contact me. Thank you again for your sup-

(Continued on page 3)



Mary Beth Wittry
wittrym@stgabrielstl.org

Greetings fellow organists and musicians!

I wish you all the best during this most beautiful (and most busy) season of the year and I hope and pray all your musical endeavors go seamlessly!

First, a bit of good news! We are going to have our annual Epiphany Party at the home of Sharon Whitlock on Friday, January 5. Please save the date. Sharon has most graciously volunteered her home for the party and is opening her home to us anytime after 5:00 p.m. for the evening. Please bring something tasty to share!

RSVP to Sharon by January 2nd
sharon.whitlock@sbcglobal.net or 815.262.3843
 136 Tuscany Lane, Wentzville, 63385

Another date to share is for our Duo Organ Concert at Third Baptist Church on Sunday, February 11 at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Ann Rigler and Dr. Melody Steed have received many accolades for their duo performances and both ladies have great artistry in musicianship, colors, and the ‘gymnastics’ of playing together at the console!

Here is some background on our two performers:

Ann Marie Rigler is Professor of Music and College Organist at William Jewell College, where she teaches courses in music history, Christian worship practices, and keyboard skills. She also frequently performs with Jewell’s critically acclaimed Concert Choir, whom she has joined as organ soloist and accompanist on three tours of the UK. Off-campus, she serves as organist for First Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO. Hailed by *American Record Guide* as “a jewel of an organist,” her credits as solo recitalist, chamber musician, and presenter include performances at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the Organ Historical Society, the College Music Society, and Musforum.

Dr. Rigler holds degrees from Southern Methodist University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Iowa, and has held faculty appointments at Penn State University, Wayne State College, the University of Northern Iowa, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Simpson College. As a member of the AGO, she has served on the faculties of eight Pipe Organ Encounters, on the national committee for the AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists, on adjudication panels for AGO/Quimby regional competitions and the taped round of NYACOP, and on the Steering Committee for the National AGO Convention held in Kansas City in 2018.

Melody Turnquist-Steed recently returned to her home state of Iowa to serve as a Music Specialist in the Waterloo Community School District. Until January 2018, she served as Associate Professor of Music and Assistant Academic Dean at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, where she was the director of the Bethany College Core Experience and the Bethany College Handbell Ensemble in addition to her duties as College Organist. In 2013 she was honored for her service to the College as a recipient of the Mortvedt Award for Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership. Prior to her appointment at Bethany College, she served as organist at the prestigious Westwood United Methodist Church in Los Angeles.

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port at this year's regional convention, and for everything you do for the king of instruments. I hope to see you soon!

Best regards,
Trevor Good
1406 Weston Sq, Apt 216
Lawrence, KS 66049
trevorgood2@comcast.net

Have a good month, and see you all very soon!

Jeffrey White
Dean, St. Louis AGO Chapter

(Sub-Dean article continued from page 2)

Dr. Steed received degrees in Organ Performance from the University of Northern Iowa, University of Cincinnati, and the University of Southern California. She has studied organ with Marilou Kratzenstein, Jesse Eschbach, Roberta Gary, and Cherry Rhodes. An active recitalist, she has toured Romania as an organ soloist and has performed at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the International Trumpet Guild with trumpeter Keith Benjamin. Their trumpet/organ duo, *Clarion*, has recorded three compact discs: *Clarion*, *New Music for Trumpet and Organ* (1994), *New Vintage* (2001), and *Ripples* (2019). They have concertized throughout the United States and Hungary, and have been featured on the National Public Radio program, *Pipe Dreams*!

Dr. Rigler and Dr. Steed formed their organ duo in 2017, following years of collaboration and friendship as fellow faculty members for several AGO Pipe Organ Encounters. Their program will feature works by David Briggs, Charles Callahan, Gustav Merkel, C.H.V. Alkan, Robin Dinda, and Naji Hakim.

Blessings for a joyful and healthy 2024!

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

Upcoming Programs

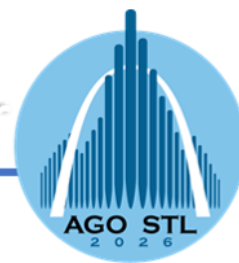
Sunday, February 11 - 3:00 p.m.
Organ Duo: Dr. Ann Marie Rigler
and Dr. Melody Steed
Venue: Third Baptist Church
Host: Brent Johnson

Monday, March 18 - 6:30 p.m.
Dinner and Members' Recital
including Pipes for Parkinsons by Bob Schneider
Venue: Little Flower Parish
Host: Chuck Chauvin

Monday, May 20 - 6:30 p.m.
Closing Banquet
Venue TBD

Convention Coordinator

2026 National Convention



With the 2026 National American Guild of Organist Convention in St. Louis only two and a half years away, plans are in full swing. Let me recap what is happening.

The **New Music Committee** has received all contracts back signed by the composers. By June 15, 2025, composers will submit their compositions which will be sent to the performers to learn.

The **Performance Committee** is in the process of contacting protentional performers to gauge their availability and willingness to perform at our Convention. In addition, the **Facilities Committee** will begin contacting local churches to check their availability to host a recital.

The **Worship Committee** has selected several worship locations in the city to host authentic worship. A Hymn Festival led by a renowned director/composer and organist will be a convention highlight.

The **Workshop Committee** has met and begun their work. They are brain storming workshop ideas and how to best utilize the space we are allotted at the hotel. In December of 2024 an ad will be placed in the American Organist requesting suggestions for workshop presenters. If you know of anyone or have a topic you would like to present, please contact Workshop Committee Chair Robert Raymond at rraymond1969@icloud.com.

The **Transportation Committee** is mapping out bus needs for the convention. They will then forward a Request for bids to several bus companies which will ultimately serve our Convention.

The **Gifts and Grants Committee** has been soliciting Chapter members and friends for donations for the Convention. After the San Francisco Convention, they will begin soliciting area business and organ related industries for contributions. There will be many opportunities to support the Convention by sponsoring concerts, receptions, tote bags and other related activities and items. The Committee will be hosting a riverboat cruise sometime this spring where Chapter members, Chapters near St. Louis and friends will gather to learn about the Convention and how they can help make this all possible.

During the riverboat cruise the **Volunteers Committee** will begin soliciting the many volunteers needed to run the Convention. We will need Information/Welcome hosts and hostesses, bus monitors, help with registration, name badge checkers, concert ushers, and many other activities too numerous to name here.

Chapter member **Spencer Smith** is working on some printed media for the Convention. His first major design is a two-page ad for the San Francisco Program Book. He is also helping plan our exhibit booth for the San Francisco Convention.

It is hoped that most members of the **Steering Committee** will attend the San Francisco Con-

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(Convention Coordinator report continued from page 4)

vention. They will see how their counterparts work and see how we can improve our Convention and staff our exhibit booth. Our Steering Committee and the San Francisco Steering Committee will meet for a hand-off banquet the last evening of the 2024 Convention.

In February of 2024 a Trio from the National Office will be in town to review our work to this point. They will offer suggestions on how we may improve things and guide us in this process. In April of 2024 I will travel to a meeting of the National Council to get their approval of our Convention plans and budget.

As I hope you can see we are right on schedule as we plan for the organ world's visit to St. Louis in 2026. It is my goal for every member of our Chapter to be involved to help welcome the organ community to St. Louis.

We have an awesome Officers of the Convention team and Steering Committee working on plans with many members on various committees. Some committees' work is almost done and others are just getting started. A big THANK YOU to all who are helping! 2024 will be a year full of meetings as we prepare for the first National Convention in St. Louis since 1948.

Thanks!!

Burnell Hackman
Convention Coordinator
Agostl2026@agostlouis.org

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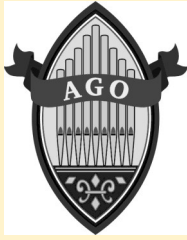
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St. Louis Chapter

2023-2024 Yearbook

Chapter Yearbook

From the Chapter Registrar:

All currently paid AGO members should have received their 2023-2024 Chapter Directory/Yearbook via US Mail. If you have not received your directory, please contact Regina Morris at 314-647-0475 or morrisrp@swbell.net.

I tried a few new things with the directory this year, to cut the printing and mailing costs. I was successful in this endeavor...but in the process made a few errors:

I apologize to Dawn Riske, our 2023 Avis Blewett award winner, who was unintentionally omitted from the list of recent awardees in the Directory.

I also apologize to those members whose advanced degrees were incorrectly listed: Lucas Fletcher, DM; William Sullivan DMus; Cornelia Tolbert DSM; and William Wade MPH.

If I have missed anyone, please let me know, so that I can correct my copy for next year.

I hope that you all enjoyed the return of the “Reverse Directory” in the back of the book. This is a feature that had been included in the past, but not in recent years.

Many thanks to our Directory advertisers, (Wicks Organ Co., MorningStar Music Publishers, and Christopher Soer Pipe Pipe Organs LLC) whose generosity greatly offset the cost of the printed directories.



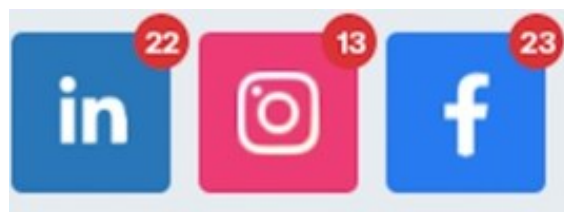
San Francisco, California, June 30-July 4, 2024

(hosted by San Francisco and Palo Alto Chapters)

Visit the convention website at www.sfago2024.org.

CHAPTER SOCIAL MEDIA

The St. Louis Chapter has a presence on social media with Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages. We are also represented by a Member Group on Facebook, where all members may post information and questions to the group.



If you have not yet done so, please consider checking out our pages! Make sure you hit “Like” or “Follow” on Facebook so that you will get updates in your Facebook feed.

If you need assistance in locating the groups or how to follow them, please contact Suzanne Chisum at suzchisum@gmail.com.

We Want to See Your Pipe Organ!

Our social media pages feature pictures and stories of area organs. Please send pictures of your organ pipes or console so that we can all share our love of the organ with others! If you have time to write up a short paragraph on your relationship with the organ, please include it. Send photos and stories to suzchisum@gmail.com.

WEBINARS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

Monday, January 8th, 6:00 p.m. CDT

The Weekend Organist:

New Year's Resolutions You Can Keep in 2024

Presenter: J.W. Arnold, Marketing & Communications Specialist, AGO

As a professional musician, what resolutions do you make for the new year – practice more, develop new skills, learn new repertoire? In this interactive webinar, J.W. Arnold, author of The Weekend Organist column in The American Organist magazine will share some practical and fun strategies to keep those resolutions. All registrants will receive a free download of an accessible new organ work by John Dixon, as well as a tip sheet to make 2024 your best year yet. Please register [here](#).

Tuesday, January 16th, 6:00 p.m. CDT

You Got the Interview...Now What?

Presented by the Committee on Career Development and Support

Following a series of webinars on the AGO's new *Employing Musicians in Religious Institutions* handbook, the National Committee on Career Development and Support presents tips and tricks for nailing the job interview. In addition to short mock interviews with some typical tough questions presented by the committee, audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions in a Q&A session with our committee panel. Participants at any point in their careers can benefit from this refresher on job interview skills. Please register [here](#).

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If interested, please contact Jennifer Lynch at jenniferl924@yahoo.com.

Congratulations to Sarah Bereza and Brandon Tan on the birth of their daughter, Robin Eliza on December 6. Mom, dad and her two brothers are excited to welcome Robin into their lives.

It's a girl!

Concert Calendar

Check the Concerts and Events section of the Chapter website (www.agostlouis.org) for upcoming events. When visiting that page, be sure to click on the heading of each concert listing for full details including contact information and an interactive map.

If you or your church has an organ/musical event that you would like to have included in the calendar, please send an email to David Sinden at events@agostlouis.org. You are also advised to "cc" Brent Johnson at brent@brentmjohnson.net.

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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 & 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

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Mary Beth Wittry

Publicity Liaison

Dawn Riske

Registrar

Regina Morris

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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.

Copy deadline for the February issue is January 15.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

**Regina Morris
3526 Oxford Blvd
St. Louis MO 63143-4209**