



THE OPUS

Volume 41
Issue No. 3

November 2024

Dean's Message

By the time you read this, the Chapter will have visited Principia College on the bluffs above the Mississippi River. We were treated to two amazing organs, as well as a recital on the college carillon. I hope you were able to enjoy this fall field trip!

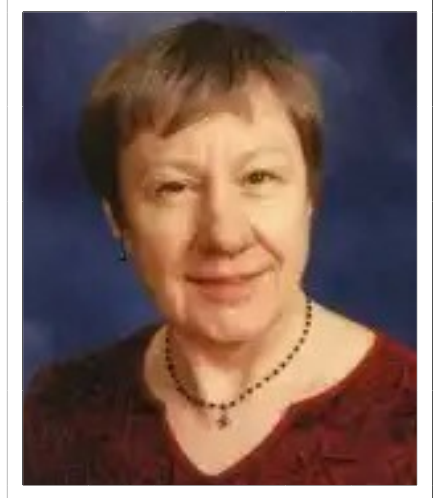
We have received enthusiastic support for our upcoming February Flourish. Suzanne Chisum will tell you more about it on page seven. Save the date now! If you would like to help out in any way, please let Suzanne C know.

By now, you should have received information about the newly-designed AGO National website. Please give it a "test drive" to familiarize yourself. You also need to set up new login credentials, as your former ONCARD credentials did not carry forward to the new site. I strongly encourage you to check your personal profile and make any updates as needed.

Some of you may remember visiting the Scottish Rite Cathedral in midtown St. Louis to see a silent movie accompanied on the Kimball theater organ by our own Andrew Peters. You have another chance to see and hear it! Look on page five for more information on this event from our friends in the St. Louis Theater Organ Society.

I hope to see many of you at the Chapter event on November 18 at Parkway UCC. This is a great opportunity to interact with another musical organization in St. Louis. See you then.

Suzanne Manelli
Dean



Suzanne Manelli
Dean

The Executive Committee will meet on Monday, November 18 at 5:30 p.m., at Parkway UCC on North Ballas Road (prior to the Chapter dinner and program). More information and the agenda will be forthcoming.



Biff Hackman
Sub-Dean

Sub-Dean's Message

Greetings STL AGO members,

It's hard to believe autumn has arrived in St. Louis and 2024 is quickly coming to an end. I hope everyone enjoyed our visit to Principia College on October 19. The music and foliage were fantastic! Thank you to Dr. Rose Whitmore for her hospitality and musical offerings.

Our final meeting of 2024 will be on Monday, November 18 at Parkway

United Church of Christ (Quimby Opus 56 II/23 2001.) We will meet for dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. we will move to the New Sanctuary where Dr. Alyson Moore and the St. Louis Children's Choirs will treat us to a brief performance after which we will be able to observe a rehearsal of the choir. This program will be of interest for anyone who works with children's voices and I'm sure there will be tips that are useful with adult choirs as well. Parkway UCC is located at 2841 North Ballas Road, St. Louis, MO 63131. The cost of the dinner is \$20 payable at the door. PLEASE be sure to RSVP to Cathy Bolduan no later than November 14 at 314-853-5011 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com.



Looking ahead to 2025 we will be hosting our annual Epiphany Party in early January. Stay tuned for more details. Monday, March 17 will be our Member's Recital which will be hosted at St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Juget-Sinclair Opus 32 II/23 2009). Once again, we will partner with Pipes for Parkinson's for this event. If you are interested in performing please contact me at biffhackman@yahoo.com or 314-650-9413. Our Annual Banquet will be held on Monday, May 19.

Here's to a great autumn!

Biff Hackman
Sub Dean, St. Louis Chapter AGO



As we continue to prepare for the 2026 American Guild of Organist National Convention in St. Louis (a little over 600 days away) it's time to get involved!

Print media guru, Spencer Smith, and Website, Social Media and Mobil App aficionado Jeff White are looking for members for their respective committees

These committees are responsible for gathering all information from the various other Convention committees and publishing this information in an artistic and convenient way to disseminate to the Convention attendees in various formats, including a Convention program book, mobile app, website, social media and handouts.

Due to the changing balance of program book and digital applications, this committee will work hand-in-hand with Information Technology/Website and Mobile App. The duties of these committees will have significant overlap; thus, an ability to work together will be essential. We use an outside firm to layout the pages and to secure advertisements.

The Program Book Committee produces the program book for the Convention, a visible and lasting record of the Convention. This book, along with the app, provides practical program information, projects our image as a Convention, generates revenue, and is a publicity vehicle.

The Information Technology Committee oversees the development of the specific Convention website, including its branding and content development that makes it unique from other national or regional conventions. The website is the single most visible and important face of the Convention. This is where the majority of the attendees will look for information and register, where exhibitors will register for display booths, where advertisers will buy advertising, where participants will provide biographies and photos, and where the Steering Committee will provide the latest and most complete information about the Convention. The information, links and interfaces, and forms on the website must be presented in a user-friendly manner and be complete and accurate.

Also looking for additional members is the Gifts and Grants Committee and Exhibits Committee. The Gifts and Grants Committee's task is to seek gifts and grants in support of the Convention and works closely with Advertising, Finance, Exhibits, Program Book/Mobile App/Website, IT, Registration, and Promotion. A coordinated approach to donors/vendors/exhibitors/advertisers by the following committees: Advertising, Exhibits, Gifts and Grants, Promotion, and Workshops will result in a significant saving of time and energy and greater financial reward.

Financial support in the form of contributions or sponsorships of various Convention events helps to keep

(Continued on page 6)

Proud sponsor of the American Guild of Organists

Restoration work from Wicks

Zion United Methodist - Gordonville, Missouri



The original stenciled design of this Jackson tracker organ was hidden under a layer of flaking, yellow varnish.

◀ The pipes were stripped to bare metal, repainted and hand stenciled using copies of the original decorative patterns.



Repairs were made to all of the pipes, and new tuning slides were fabricated.



The organ was pitched to A=440, and given a thorough revoicing to achieve a more cohesive sound.

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Events Calendar

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

Friday, November 1 - 7:00 p.m.

Dennis Bergin, Organ
Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church
1230 Big Bend Road, Ballwin, MO 63021

Sunday, November 3 – 3:00 p.m.

Tom Mueller, Organ
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
15750 Baxter Road, Chesterfield, MO 63107

Sunday, November 3 – 4:00 p.m.

Gateway Ringers
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
327 Woods Mill Road, Manchester, MO 63011

Sunday, November 3 – 5:00 p.m.

Solemn Choral Evensong for All Saints
Church of St. Michael and St. George
6345 Wydown Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63105

Sunday, November 10 – 2:00 p.m.

Nick Renkosik, Organ
Scottish Rite Cathedral
3633 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63108

Sunday, November 17 – 3:00 p.m.

Friends of Music Concert
Eliot Unitarian Chapel
100 St. Taylor Avenue, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Sunday, November 17 – 3:00 p.m.

Jinah Knapp, Organ
St. Joseph Chapel
204 N. Main Street, O'Fallon, MO 63366

Sunday, November 17, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.

St. Louis Chamber Soloists
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
100 East Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Sunday, November 24- 3:00 p.m.

William Sullivan, Organ
St. Joseph Chapel
204 N. Main Street, O'Fallon, MO 63366

Sunday, December 15 – 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Concert: Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
100 East Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO 63122

(Continued from page 3)

registration fees down. The support of a significant sponsor can also increase the visibility of the AGO. Local donors and foundations with an interest in the cultural activity of the host city and the organizations that advertise products to AGO members are the most likely sources for funding.

The last committee I would like to emphasize now is the Exhibits Committee. Under the director of Chuck Chauvin, the Exhibits Committee is responsible for contacting exhibitors and providing them detailed information about exhibiting at the Convention. In addition, this committee is responsible for arranging the exhibit space, supervising the setting up of exhibits, and seeing to the welfare of the exhibitors during the Convention. Exhibitors are engaging in an important convention activity, and every effort should be made to accommodate their needs.

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact me at agostl@agostlouis.org and I will pass your name along to the respective Committee Chair.

In early 2026 we will be asking EVERY member of the Chapter to volunteer during the Convention. Volunteer Chair Dawn Riske is working out the details of how to welcome around 1,000 people to St. Louis and keep them happy and in the right place at the right time.

We are finalizing many of the small details concerning the Convention and hope to announce all performers and venues at our May Chapter Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, PLEASE contact me at 314.650.9415 or agostl2026@agostlouis.org.

Thank you



Convention Coordinator
2026 National American Guild of Organist Convention
Saint Louis, Missouri

NOVEMBER CHAPTER EVENT

Presentation by Dr. Alyson Moore
St. Louis Children's Choirs

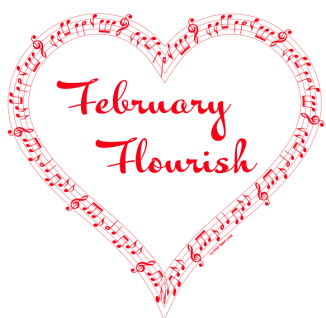
Monday, November 18, 2024

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

Program - 7:30 p.m.

Parkway United Church of Christ
2841 North Ballas Road, St. Louis, MO 63131

For dinner reservations, please contact Cathy Bolduan by Thursday, November 14 at 314-853-5011 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com. The cost of dinner is \$20.00 per person., payable at the door.



The February Flourish 2025 Committee is excited to announce that Michael Burkhardt has agreed to be the clinician on February 16 and 17, 2025 at Kirkwood Baptist Church.

HYMN FESTIVAL ON SUNDAY

February Flourish will begin on the afternoon of Sunday, February 16 with Michael Burkhardt leading a Hymn Festival. Volunteer singers will be asked to meet with Burkhardt earlier that day to learn the music. Please consider if you or someone you know would like to volunteer for this incredible opportunity. More information to follow.

FEBRUARY FLOURISH ON MONDAY

President's Day is Monday, February 17. An afternoon of workshops will be followed by dinner with networking opportunities and vendor displays concluding with an evening choral music reading session. Topics of the workshops to be announced in the coming months.

February Flourish is Sponsored by The St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Concordia Publishing House, Morning Star Music Publishers, Midwest Sheet Music with Support from the St. Louis Chapter of NPM (National Pastoral Musicians). If you know of another organization that would be interested in sponsoring February Flourish, please contact Suzanne Chisum at suzchisum@gmail.com with the organization name and contact person.

Open POSITIONS

(Please note that some positions may no longer be available past the time of going to press.)

For more details on these and other job opportunities, please visit the "Open Positions" section of our website at <https://www.agostlouis.org/job-openings/>.

ORGANIST

First Church of Christ, Scientist Town and Country, Missouri, is seeking an organist for our Sunday and Wednesday church services. Duties include playing hymns and playing service music such as preludes, offertories and postludes. This position also requires the organist to accompany a vocal soloist at the Sunday service. Sunday services are at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday services are at 7:30 p.m. Additional services include a Thanksgiving morning service and a Christmas Sing following a regular Sunday service. If you are interested in auditioning or have any questions, please contact Bruce Bollinger, Music Committee Chair, at 314-971-2258 or bb3340@aol.com.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester, is looking for a Director of Music. Apply your musical gifts and talents as an organist and as the leader of the sanctuary and bell choirs. Organist duties are to coordinate with the senior pastor for hymns and music in worship, recruit accompanists or groups for special occasions and be available for special service and staff meetings. Choir and bell leader duties are to select anthems for both choirs, lead the sanctuary choir and bell choirs at Wednesday night rehearsals and Sunday morning anthems. Contact Kevin@stjohnmanchester.org for a complete position description.

CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barricksvue Road, St. Louis, MO 63125 is seeking a Chancel Choir director beginning January 1, 2025. This person would lead the Church's Chancel Choir in weekly Thursday rehearsals from September – May. The choir usually sings for services twice a month and for special occasions. For

(Continued on page 13)

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Check out our presence on Facebook

Consider following our “Saint Louis Chapter AGO American Guild of Organists” Facebook Page. View photos from the AGO Events and Meetings. Stay abreast of all the organ happenings in the St. Louis area.

Have you joined the STL AGO Member Group yet?

Our “[AGO St. Louis Members](#)” Group is a private group where you can find humor, post questions and ask questions of others in the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

For more information on either, please contact Suzanne Chisum at suzchisum@gmail.com.

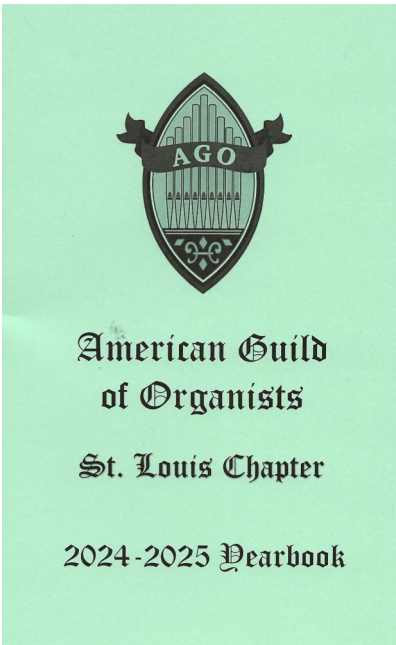
Visit and *Like* the 2026 Convention Facebook page at:

AGO National Convention - St. Louis 2026

In Memorium

Chapter member, Dr. Dolores P Grebe -Jones, passed away on September 19, 2024. In addition to owning and running a chiropractic clinic for over thirty years she was also an accomplished pianist and organist. She earned her chiropractic degree in 1989, and she was still in practice up until August of this year. Her first degree was from the St. Louis Institute of Music where she graduated with a degree in piano pedagogy and taught piano for many years. She was an active member of the Missouri Chiropractic Physicians Association. She was also an active member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and in that capacity she was frequently called upon to be a substitute organist. She also raised three boys with her first husband James Grebe. Once Dolores put her mind and will to do something it got done.

A memorial service of remembrance was held at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Caseyville, IL.



All current Chapter Members should have received their copy of our 2024-2025 Yearbook.

For any Chapter Member who renewed their membership or joined after October 1, please contact me as I should still be able to provide you with a printed copy of the Yearbook

Regina Morris, Registrar
morrisrp@swbell.net

A message from the AGO National Chief Membership Officer, Elizabeth George: Please note that Chapter Friends must now join and renew their memberships directly through their chapter. AGO headquarters will no longer be accepting checks or processing membership renewals for Chapter Friends.

This hand-written note was sent to the Chapter just a few weeks after her September visit:

Dear St. Louis Chapter of the AGO,

Thank you so much for sharing so much of your time and enthusiasm with me during my all-too-short visit to your wonderful city a few weeks ago! It was such a joy to meet and be able to chat with many of you, and I hope to cross paths with more of you in the future – and many of you again!

Thank you especially for the inspiring work you do for music, for the organ, and for organ music. It was a privilege to learn from you all and to share such a music-filled weekend! Thank you so much!

Katelyn Emerson

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Nov 24	Emma Lou Diemer

Sponsorship opportunities are available.
Email koi@kingofinstruments.show.

The Rockford (IL) AGO Chapter is hosting the Great Lakes Regional January Jubilee this coming January 18. It will be hosted at the historic Court Street United Methodist Church in downtown Rockford. A registration flyer will be coming out in the near future. Registration (in person) will begin at 8:00 a.m., and the event will end at 3:30 p.m.

Topics will include:

- Organ Registrations
- Transitioning from Piano to Organ
- Maximize your Practice Time
- Creative Introductions, and Hymn Playing
- Manual and Pedal Technique
- Anthems for the Aging (and smaller) Choirs (including SAB and SB anthems)
- Professional Concerns Discussion
- A session on ringing choir chimes

A session on ringing handbells (for beginners and intermediate ringers)

Lunch will be included, as well as refreshments throughout the day.

The cost for the event is \$30 per person (if mailed in early), or \$40 at the door.

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(Continued from page 7)

more information or to apply, please contact Director of Music Ministry Burnell Hackman at 314.892.5610 or via email at burnell@peacestlmusic.org. Salary is very competitive and based on experience.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1211 W. Homer M Adams Pkwy, Godfrey IL is seeking an organist or pianist. Duties include playing hymns, Lutheran liturgies, and service music such as preludes, voluntaries and post-ludes. Sunday services are at 10:00 am. Additional services include mid-week services during Lent and Advent, Christmas Eve and special services. Salary is \$150-200 per service based on experience. For more information or to apply please contact Neal at 618-433-1611 or Pastor Jan at 618-250-1608.

ORGANIST

Memorial United Methodist Church, a growing and welcoming faith community in Farmington, MO, is looking for someone to play our pipe organ for our 10:30 .m. Sunday morning service. This person would also rehearse weekly on Wednesdays at 5:30pm with the chancel choir. This person is the chief accompanist for soloists when needed. There are additional special seasonal worship services that would be requested. Resumes should be sent to Shannon Davis, the senior pastor, at Shannon.davis@memorialumc.church or Memorial United Methodist Church, 425 North Street, Farmington, MO, 63640. Pay may be negotiable.

ORGANIST

First Unitarian Church of St Louis, a liberal faith community in the Central West End neighborhood, is seeking an organist/accompanist. This is a 9-month position beginning in September 2024 with options for a 12-month commitment. We have Sunday services at 10:00 a.m. and choir rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Our Dobson organ was built and installed in 1991 and is highly regarded by organists as well as the congregation. Our fine choir focuses on a wide variety of sacred and secular music and is led by an excellent director. Our minister is a key supporter of our music program. To apply, send cover letter and resume to musicsearch1@firstuustlouis.org.

ORGANIST

First Church of Christ, Scientist in Clarkson Valley, Missouri, is seeking a talented organist for our Sunday and Wednesday church services. Time commitment is approximately 3 - 4 hours per week. This role requires a repertoire of religious music and the ability to accompany a vocal soloist on Sundays. If you are interested in auditioning or have any questions, please contact Heather Tibbetts, Music Committee Chairman, at 314-320-6194 or hmtstibbetts@gmail.com.

ORGANIST

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Sullivan, MO is seeking a part-time organist or organist/choir master to begin leading us in music at our Sunday Liturgy as soon as possible. At present, responsibilities include hymn and liturgical accompaniment for the Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass and also the Holy Days of Obligation Masses (always at 7:00 p.m.). If interested in being choirmaster as well, be advised the all-volunteer choir will need your help to become better vocalists. They rehearse an hour before Sunday Liturgy, but also on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Additional hours can be expected during Holy Week and Easter. Possible wedding and funeral work as well, and occasional mid-week services as available. The Pastor, an amateur Bach scholar, loves good music and is willing to pay for it. Remuneration to be discussed. For questions or to apply please call Pastor Fr. Noah Waldman directly at (636) 688-0900.

TENOR SECTION LEADER

Third Baptist Church, St. Louis is seeking application for a Tenor section leader. Third Baptist boasts a remarkably eclectic repertoire in its worship, from Vaughan Williams to Hank Williams, and is led by three of St. Louis's leading musicians. The choir has resumed in-person services, masked, and all singers must be fully vaccinated. Contact the Director of Music for information about this paid position, its responsibilities and expectations: pbarnes@third-baptist.org.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

ORGANIST OR PIANIST

Eldon United Methodist Church, Eldon, MO, is seeking organist or pianist to accompany our Sunday 10:00 a.m. worship service. Pay will be commensurate with experience. Please contact pastoraman-da@eldonumc.org for more information or to apply. Eldon is 30 miles southwest of Jefferson City.

ORGANIST

Friedens United Church of Christ in Marissa, IL is seeking a part-time organist. Duties include playing organ on Sundays for our 10:00 a.m. worship service as well as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, mid-week Lenten services, and our Pre-Lenten breakfast. Services normally consists of a prelude, 2-3 hymns, some short-sung responses, and a postlude. Position includes four paid Sundays off (except for Easter) for vacation time. To apply or for more information please contact Rev. Brett Palmer at marissafriedens@gmail.com or call the church office at 618-295-2004.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

New Baden (IL) Zion UCC is seeking a part time musician to fill several different roles. The person who fills this position will play at weekly Sunday services, along with various special services such as Ash Wednesday, weekly Lent services, Ecumenical Thanksgiving, etc. Additional possible responsibilities include selecting weekly service music and hymns, directing an adult choir, coordinating special vocal and/or instrumental music, and serving on the worship team. Keyboard skills and church choral experience as a singer or director are preferred. To apply or for additional information, please contact council president Rodney Washburn at rodneywashburn1@gmail.com.

ORGANIST

First Presbyterian Church of Alton, Illinois is seeking a part-time organist. The duties include selecting and performing traditional preludes and postludes for Sunday Morning Worship Service; accompanying the Adult Choir for Wednesday rehearsals from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, as well as Sunday morning pre-service warmup and worship services; providing organ support for the congregational singing in Sunday services, as well as special Advent and Lenten Worship; and consulting with the Music Director/Coordinator and Pastor/Head of Staff to plan cohesive Lectionary based traditional worship in the Reform Tradition. The organ at First Presbyterian was built by Robert Dial Organbuilders in 1991. It has three manuals, 45 ranks, floating chameade and 32' sub-bass (elec.) The console is moveable and has 8 levels of memory. Contact Vickie Oberlink 618-791-2562 or email First Presbyterian Church of Alton at firstpres1831@gmail.com.

ORGANIST (OR ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER)

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, O'Fallon IL is seeking to find a part-time organist or organist/choir master to begin leading us in music as soon as possible. At present responsibilities include hymn and liturgical accompaniment for up to two hours per week (including warm-up) and an additional hour per week if choir practice is involved. A brief monthly planning meeting with parish clergy and minimal time with the parish administrator for bulletin information is expected. Additional hours can be expected around Christmas, during Holy Week and Easter. Possible wedding and funeral work as well, and occasional mid-week services as available. Remuneration to be discussed. For questions or to apply please call Fr. Gregory Wilde at the church office (618-632-6168).

ORGANIST

St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville, IL is seeking an individual to contribute excellent organ and piano offerings for our worship services. Additional responsibilities include assisting the director of music as an accompanist for weekly Wednesday evening choir rehearsals, consulting with the senior pastor and music director to assist in selecting hymns and service music, arranging for the hiring of substitute organists for any absences, including vacations and illnesses, working with the facilities manager to monitor maintenance, tuning, and movement of the organ and pianos, and working with the senior pastor and director of music to establish goals and a plan of organization to contribute to the growth and development of the church music program. The organist will also, in consultation with the senior pastor, serve as a resource for family weddings and funerals. We have a wonderful 49 rank Schantz pipe organ and a Steinway Model B piano in our sanctuary that are both a joy to play. Compensation will be appropriate to the weekly job responsibilities, background, experience, and professional preparation of the applicant. If interested, please send your resume with three references to musicsearch@stpaulucc.org.

BOARD OFFICERS



2024-2025 Chapter Leadership Team

OFFICERS:

Dean - Suzanne Manelli
 Sub-Dean - Biff Hackman
 Secretary - Gaye Anderson
 Treasurer - Mike Kaberline
 Past Dean - Jeffrey White

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Class of 2025

Suzanne Chisum
 Bob Raymond
 David Sinden

Class of 2026

Stephen Jones
 Mark Lawson
 Sharon Whitlock

Class of 2027

Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart
 Earl Naylor
 Spencer Smith

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

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Historian

Randy Zerkel

Membership Coordinator

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Michael Burkhardt
 at February Flourish
 February 16 & 17, 2025
 Kirkwood Baptist Church



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THE OPUS

American Guild of Organists

St. Louis Chapter

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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 December issue is November 15.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

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