



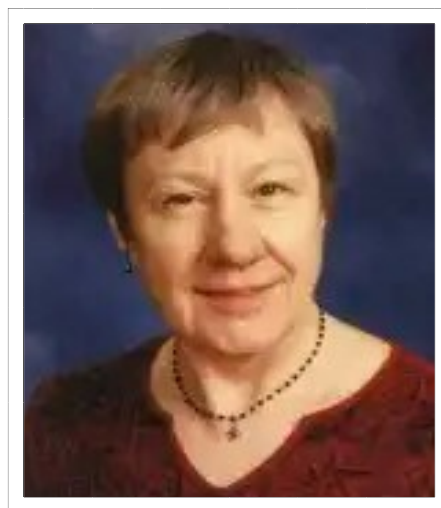
THE OPUS

Volume 41
Issue No. 8

May 2025

Dean's Message

April was certainly a busy month for many of us, what with additional worship services and holy days. That usually entails a bit more practice time (at least for me). While practice is necessary, we also need to take time to walk away from the bench. That's right - back away from that keyboard! As with our electronic devices, spending long periods of time leaning into the console is strenuous on our bodies and minds as well. We need to get up occasionally and hit the "Reset" button.



Suzanne Manelli

At our September meeting, Katelyn Emerson emphasized the importance of body positioning and posture to help us play with greater comfort and less effort. She noted that we need those occasional breaks, both mentally and physically. I use YogAlign, a method of breathing and muscle engagement to reset good posture during practice. Many performance artists employ the Alexander Technique to the same purpose. Whatever your preference, it's a good idea to occasionally break away from the keyboard - or your cellular devices - or the TV - to stretch, align, and relieve tension. It just may give you that little bit of refreshment needed to keep going.

Blessings on the services you perform - and the preparation it takes to get there!

Suzanne Manelli

Dean



Biff Hackman

Sub-Dean's Message

Greetings STL AGO,

I'd like to thank all the of participants in our Member's "Pipes For Parkinson's" Recital on March 17. It was a great evening of music for a great cause. The event raised over \$1000! Special thanks goes to host Barbara Raedeke for organization and hospitality.

Our final program of 2024-2025 will be our Annual Meeting (with dinner) on Monday, May 19 at St. John's Lutheran Church located at 3738 Morganford Road, St. Louis, MO 63116. We will be joined that evening by AGO President Eileen Hunt, who will provide updates on recent changes to the AGO. We also have exciting updates on the 2026 AGO National Convention, including the official reveal of the Convention schedule, including performers and venues.

Please stay tuned for the announcement of our 2025-2026 Program Year.

Thank you,

Biff Hackman
Sub Dean, St. Louis Chapter AGO

Monday, May 19

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting

St. John's Lutheran Church

3738 Morganford Road

St. Louis, MO 63116

Please RSVP by May 15 to Cathy Bolduan at 314-853-5011 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com to make your dinner reservation.

Cost is \$20.00 per person.

ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the following Chapter members recently elected to serve on the Executive Committee:

Secretary: Gay Anderson

Treasurer: Mike Kaberline

Class of 2028: Joseph Arndt, Luella Foster and Matthew Gerhardt.

These newly elected Executive Committee members will be installed at the May 19 annual meeting. They will officially begin their duties effective July 1, 2025.

IN MEMORIAM

Our belated condolences to the family of William F. Bust

William Bust, age 86 of Highland, IL, died Saturday, March 15, 2025, at his residence in Highland, IL. He was born on Monday, November 21, 1938, in Potosi, MO, the son of Robert and Barbara (nee Mayer) Bust.

He was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church. He was also a member of Lee Iten Post #439, American Legion, V.F.W. Post #5694, Highland National Association of Pastoral Musicians, National Association of Railroad Passengers, National Railroad Historical Association, Co-founder and member of the Gateway East Chapter of The American Guild of Organists.

From September 5, 1961 to December 1, 1964 he served on active duty with the U.S. Army as Post Chaplain's Assistant at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, Indiana. Upon completion of military service, he moved to Highland, IL, to work at the Wicks Organ Company, retiring as service manager after 53 years. In addition to his position at Wicks, he served St. Paul Parish in Highland as the past Minister of Music and organist for the St. Paul Mixed Choir. He served St. Paul parish as an organist for 50 years.

A funeral Mass was held on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at St. Paul Catholic Church in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Catholic Church or HSHS Hospice.



During our Chapter's Annual meeting on Monday, May 19 we will announce the performers and venues for the 2026 National AGO Convention in St. Louis. Many hours and many different versions of the Convention schedule have been proposed and we are confident that the version we will announce at the Annual Meeting will be very close to being final.

Please see the flyer on page six of this issue of The OPUS about the Convention Fundraiser. We hope to have a fun and profitable event. This will only happen with your help!

We are still looking for a Gifts and Grants Committee Chairperson and a Young Organists Committee Chairperson. If you are interested in serving, please let me know.

Would you like to be a part of the Program Book Committee? The Committee will have its first meeting on Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church. The group will look at what needs to be included in the Program Book and what should go on the Convention APP. The Committee will be responsible for gathering the information and deciding how many pages the book will contain. We will have a professional designer lay out the book and we will need to proofread the book before it goes to press. Spencer Smith is Chair of this Committee so please contact him or me if you have any questions.

Also, as part of the Convention we will feature an organ-related cocktail each evening. Be thinking about original cocktails the hotel can promote each evening of the Convention with great organ-related names. (A bombard, a sypher, and muddy mixture, etc.) We'll visit the cocktail quandy after the first of the year.

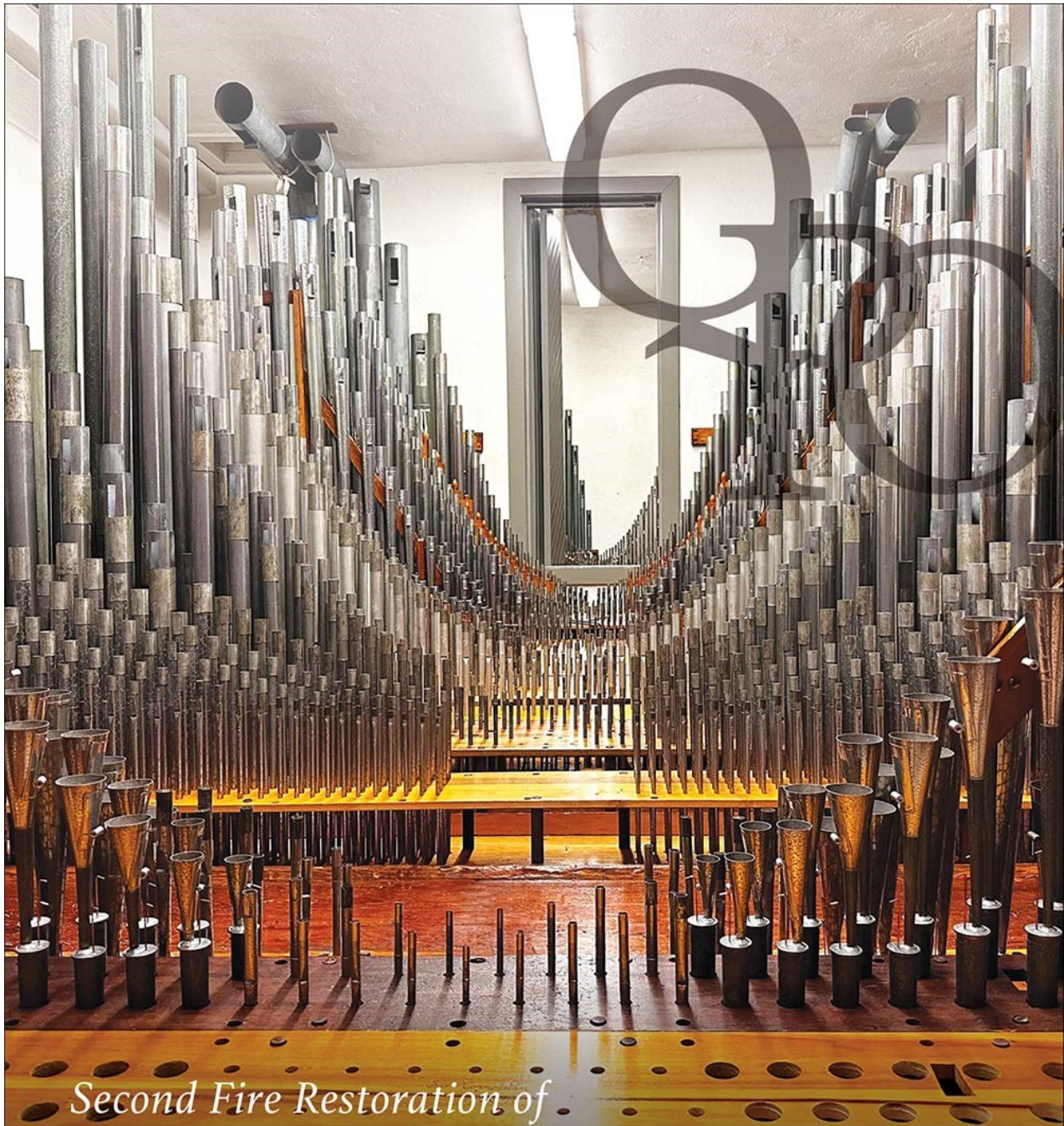
As we get closer to the actual Convention, please be ready to say "YES" if you are contacted to serve in one capacity or another. There will be many, many opportunities.

Have a GREAT Summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bunell L. Hawk".

Convention Coordinator - 2026 National American Guild of Organist Convention
agostl2026@agostlouis.org / 314-650-9415

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The St. Louis AGO Chapter
and
The 2026 National AGO Convention
are hosting a fundraiser for the Convention
on Friday, October 24, 2025
at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in St. Louis.

6:00 - 7:00 pm - Hors d'oeuvres and bidding on silent auction items. Chance to purchase tickets for a 50/50 raffle. If you can help contact Michele Sliger (michelleysliger@gmail.com or text 314.580.3242) to volunteer to help or provide a gift basket.

7:00 - 8:00 pm - Concert with intermission (Chapter members are invited to play a Halloween selection in costume or provide other musical entertainment). Halloween Costume Parade. Please contact sub dean Biff Hackman (biffhackman@yahoo.com or text 314.650.9413 to volunteer to play.

8:00 pm - Dessert and awarding of Baskets and 50/50 drawing.

Proceeds will be used to support the 2026 National AGO Convention.



Tickets go on sale July 1, 2026.

Restoration work from Wicks

Zion United Methodist - Gordonville, Missouri

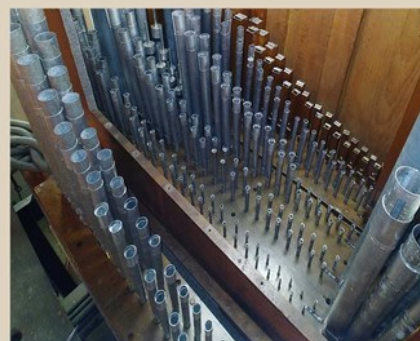


The original stenciled design of this Jackson tracker organ was hidden under a layer of flaking, yellow varnish.

◀ 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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Concert 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.

If you or your church or organization 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.

Sunday, May 4 - 3:00 p.m.

The Organ Dedication Anniversary Recital

Dr. Damin Spritzer, Organ

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

100 E Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO

Celebrating the anniversary of the Casavant Frères pipe organ

Sunday, May 4 - 3:00 p.m.

Early Music Missouri presents:

Vivaldi's Four Seasons

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

110 North Warson Road, Ladue, MO

Friday, June 13 - 7:00 p.m.

Dennis Bergin, Organ

Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church

1230 Big Bend Road, St. Louis, MO



**Sundays at
7:00 AM**

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**May 4 Marcel Dupré
May 11 Austin Organs
May 18 Hollins and Friends
May 25 Northwestern University**

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Open POSITIONS

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

Due to limited space the listings below are only the location and job position. For more details on these job opportunities and how to apply, please visit the “Open Positions” section of our website at <https://www.agostlouis.org/job-openings/>.

Zion Lutheran Church, 123 Carson Road, Ferguson, MO. Organist or Pianist.

Calvary United Church of Christ 2501 Hartland Avenue, Overland, MO. Organist or Pianist.

Incarnate Word Catholic Church. Music Director.

Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis, MO. Part-time Director of Music and Organist/Choir Director.

Christ Church Cathedral, Louisville, KY. Part-time Organist AND part-time Director of Music (may be combined).

St. John’s Episcopal Church, Tower Grove. Part-time Music Director and Organist

Parkway United Church of Christ. Part-time Choir Director AND a part-time Organist/Pianist.

Steinway Piano Gallery, Maryland Heights, MO. Associate in sales and marketing.

First Church of Christ, Scientist Town and Country, MO. Organist .

St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester. Director of Music.

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1211 W. Homer M Adams Pkwy, Godfrey IL. Organist/Pianist.

Memorial United Methodist Church, Farmington, MO. Organist.

First Unitarian Church of St Louis, Central West End. Organist/Accompanist.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Clarkson Valley, MO. Organist.

St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Sullivan, MO. Organist or Organist/Choir Master.

Third Baptist Church, St. Louis. Tenor section leader.

Eldon United Methodist Church, Eldon, MO. Organist/Pianist.

Friedens United Church of Christ, Marissa, IL. Part-time Organist.

New Baden (IL) Zion UCC. Part-time musician to fill several different roles.

First Presbyterian Church, Alton, IL. Part-time Organist.

St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, O’Fallon IL. Part-time Organist or Organist/Choir Master.

BOARD OFFICERS



2024-2025 Chapter Leadership Team

OFFICERS:

Dean - Suzanne Manelli
 Sub-Dean - Biff Hackman
 Secretary - Gay 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

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Suzanne Chisum

Webmaster

Brent Johnson



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.

THE OPUS

American Guild of Organists

St. Louis Chapter

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The Official Publication
of the St. Louis Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists
3526 Oxford Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63143-4209
May 2025 - Vol .41, No. 8

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 Summer issue is June 20.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

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