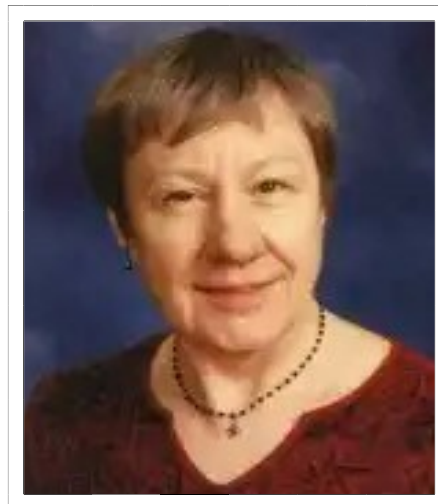


September 2025

Dean's Message

Recently, I was privileged to meet with our Chapter's 2026 National Convention Steering Committee in a dinner and status meeting. Although it was August, the conversations around the table concerned fall activities, Advent plans and Christmas programs. We who are engaged in the musical activities of worship, teaching and conducting never simply rest "in the moment". We plan forward so that our students, congregations and audiences can bask "in the moment" when they experience our musical and spiritual offerings.



Suzanne Manelli

As you plan for the coming months, please include our AGO Chapter programs in your schedule. We begin our season with a recital by Nicole Keller on September 21 and a dinner and presentation on September 22, both at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church. See further articles in the Opus for more details and information about upcoming events. The October program should be especially fun!

I hope to see you soon,

Suzanne Manelli

Dean



Biff Hackman

Sub-Dean's Message

Greetings STL AGO,

I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer. If you were able to attend either AGO Regional Convention, a Denominational Music Conference, or any other musical or spiritual retreat, you are prepared to hit the ground running this Fall.

We will have our first meeting of the 2025/2026 Program Year on Monday September 22 at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church. We will gather for dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by a prestation at 7:30 p.m. by Dr. Nicole Keller. Dr. Keller is the Assistant Professor of Organ and University Organist at the University of Michigan. She will speak on the organ music of Florence Price. She will present a recital on September 21 at 3:00 p.m. at the church. This will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the installation of the Schoenstein & Co organ. Please remember to RSVP for the dinner to Cathy Bolduan via email at kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com.

On Friday October 24 we will attend a fundraiser for the 2026 AGO National Convention at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Midtown St. Louis. This event will include a cocktail reception starting at 6:30 p.m. with a Halloween themed members' recital following at 7:30 p.m. There are still spots available to perform at the recital. This is a unique opportunity to perform on the historic Kimball organ. Please contact me via email at biffhackman@yahoo.com or by phone at 314-650-9413 if you are interested in performing. You will also find more information about this event on page six.

Please stay tuned for the rest of our program year.

Thank you,

Biff Hackman

Sub Dean, St. Louis Chapter of
the American Guild of Organists

biffhackman@yahoo.com

Monday, September 22

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:30 p.m. - Program

Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church

9450 Clayton Road

St. Louis, MO 63124

Please RSVP by September 18 to Cathy Bolduan at 314-853-5011 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com to make your dinner reservation. Cost is \$20.00 per person.

Letter to the Editor:

The Beauty of Connection through AGO

It's hard to imagine becoming a "new" organist at the age of 60—but that's my story! I have only been a paid church organist for the past three years, and I owe my connection to the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) to the encouragement of my organ teacher, Regina Morris.

Since beginning organ lessons, I've had the privilege of serving as an organist for many different faith traditions—Roman Catholic, Christian Scientist, and Episcopal—and in a variety of languages: Latin, Croatian, Czech, and of course, English. This week alone, I'm preparing for a Croatian Catholic Mass on Friday, an English Catholic Mass on Saturday, and a bilingual Czech/English Mass on Sunday. My organ bench and office are piled high with music for each service. It keeps me busy!

One of the most remarkable things about being a member of AGO is the spirit of cooperation and generosity among its members—a willingness to help one another that I've rarely experienced in other professions.

A few weeks ago, the priest from the Croatian church where I had once been a long-term substitute organist reached out. Their organist was in the hospital, and he asked if I could play for Sunday's Croatian Mass. The problem? I was already committed to playing at St. John Nepomuk Chapel for an English Mass with some Czech hymns and a Czech choir.

At first, I thought I'd have to say no. But I reached out to fellow AGO members, and suggestions began to flow. That's how I connected with Heather Martin Cooper—someone I met through AGO four years ago—who happened to be available. Heather was more comfortable with the English Mass that included Czech hymns, so I checked with the parish administrator, who gladly approved. This allowed me to step in for the Croatian Mass.

Meanwhile, I posted on Facebook to see if anyone could cover the Croatian Church long-term. To my amazement, I heard from a young man who plays for the Vietnamese Mass at Resurrection Parish—he was willing to help!

In the end, both churches were covered, the needs were met, and two communities continued their worship without disruption. Moments like this remind me why I'm so grateful to be part of AGO. It's more than an organization—it's a network of generosity, friendship, and shared purpose.

~Suzanne Chisum

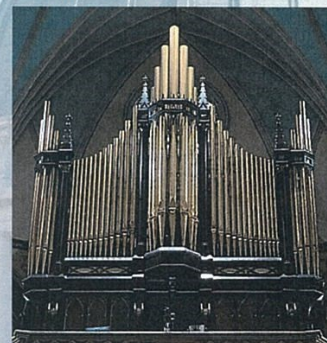


WICKS ORGAN L.L.C.
HIGHLAND, ILLINOIS

Meet me in St. Louis!

Wicks is proud to have a part in the upcoming 2026 National Convention! Registration begins Fall 2025, but in the meantime, here is a small preview of some of our local instruments...

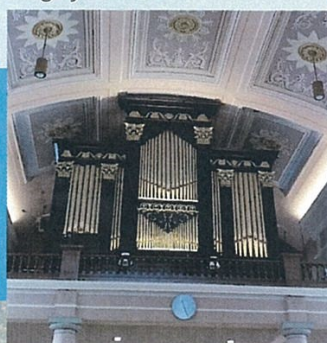
*St. Alphonsus Liguori
Catholic Church*



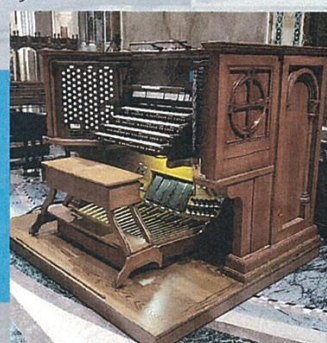
Pilgrim Congregational Church



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Visit the Convention website at www.agostl2026.org where you will find information such as a list of performers, workshop titles, commissioned works and more. Updates will be occurring frequently over the next several months. Most importantly, you may also make a donation through this website. Every contribution, large or small, will help cover the costs of the Convention helping to provide an enjoyable and meaningful event for all the AGO members who will be visiting St. Louis to attend this Convention.



**American Guild
of Organists**

St. Louis Chapter

A friendly reminder to renew your membership when your renewal date approaches. Only those memberships which are current as of October 1, 2025, will be included in our Chapter Yearbook (aka Directory). Our Chapter has a great program year planned for 2025—2026. Your membership dues help fund these events. Being a member of the St. Louis Chapter allows you to enjoy camaraderie with other organists in our area. Membership also includes a subscription to The American Organist (TAO) Magazine in printed and digital form or in digital form only as well as our Chapter newsletter, The OPUS. To renew, visit <https://www.agohq.org/>.

Additionally, with the 2026 AGO National Convention taking place in St. Louis in July, 2026, there is an added incentive to be an AGO St. Louis Chapter member. Chapter members who volunteer to help with the Convention are eligible for a discounted Convention registration fee (which does NOT include bus transportation). All other attendees will pay the full Convention registration fee, which includes transportation.

Friday, October 24, 2025

Convention Fund Raising Gala

Organists are needed from the Chapter to play Halloween related music on the Kimball Organ of the Scottish Rite Cathedral. There will be Pre- and Post-recital refreshments, a 50/50 drawing and Gift Baskets to bid on in a silent auction. (If you would like to donate a gift basket or help with the reception please contact Michelle Sliger at michelleysliger@gmail.com).

Tickets are \$35.00 for the Recital and Receptions and \$10.00 per person for just the Recital (invite the community and piano students).



**Sundays at
7:00 AM**

**Classic
107.3 FM**

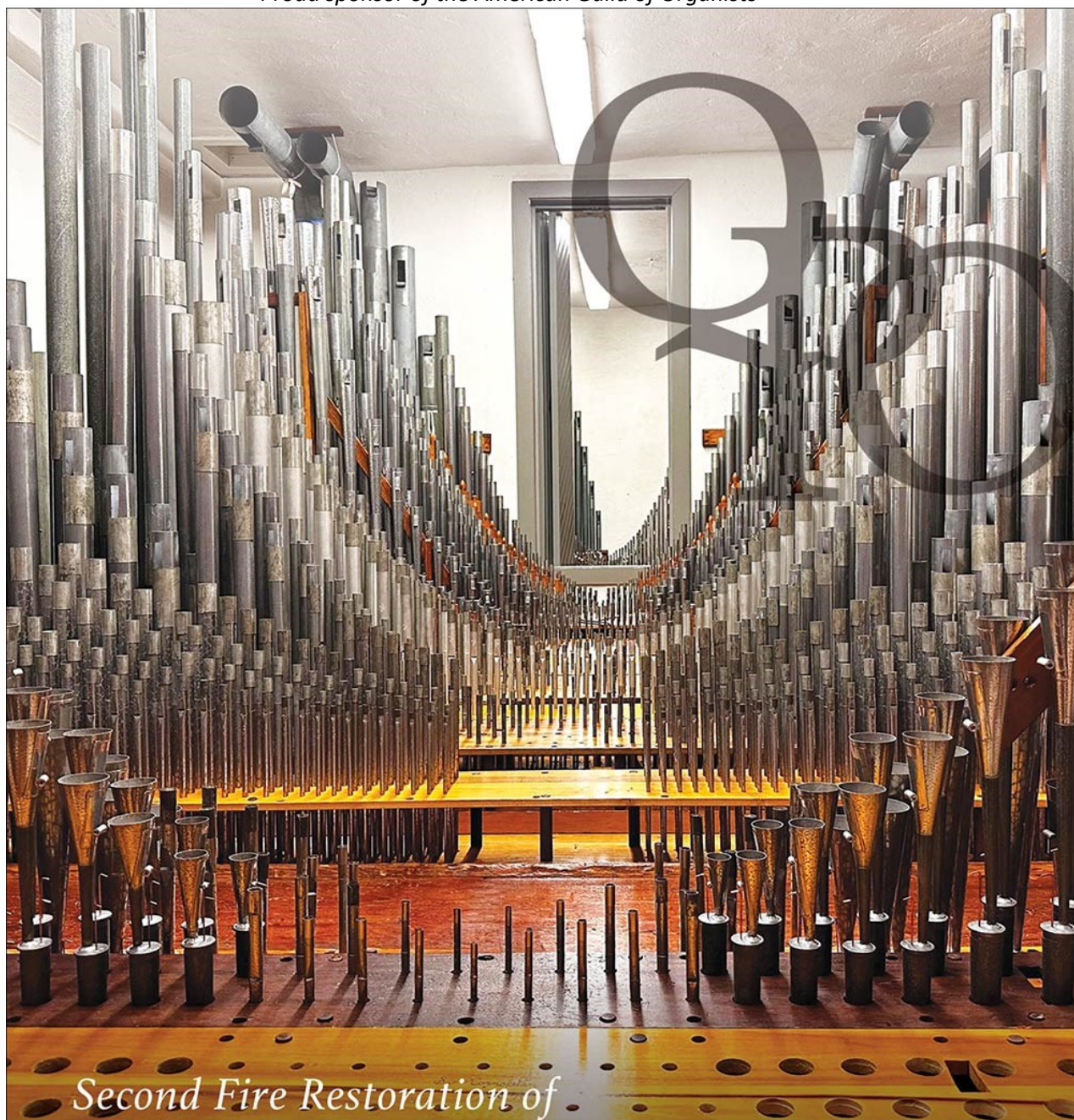
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Open POSITIONS

(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/PIANIST

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, a progressive and welcoming congregation in the Carondelet neighborhood of St. Louis, at 6518 Michigan Avenue, is seeking an organist or pianist each Sunday and for special Holy Days. Duties include playing hymns and service music such as preludes, voluntaries and postludes. Sunday service is at 10:30 a.m. Salary will be based on experience. For more information, or to apply, please contact the Rev. Jeff Goldone at 314-910-8076 or jgoldone@yahoo.com. Visit our website at www.carondeletchurch.org.

ORGANIST OR PIANIST

Zion Lutheran Church ELCA, 123 Carson Road, Ferguson, is seeking a regular organist and/or pianist for our Sunday worship services. Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. Please contact The Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse for more information at mrkruse@gmail.com.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Incarnate Word Catholic Church is seeking a Music Director that will be responsible for planning and leading music at three of the weekend liturgies (one on Saturday evening, two on Sunday morning), weddings, funerals, and other major liturgies. They will also be expected to supervise and train other musicians, choirs, and cantors as needed to support worship by the congregation. The position is somewhat flexible and can be offered as either full-time or part-time. Salary is dependent on experience and qualifications. Please send a cover letter and resume to David Olson at dolson@incarnate-word.org to be considered for this position.

ORGANIST

Christ Church Cathedral in Louisville, KY is seeking a part-time Organist. Full job descriptions may be accessed at <https://ccclou.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Music-Director-2025-FINAL-.pdf>.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Christ Church Cathedral in Louisville, KY is seeking a part-time Director of Music. Director may also be able to fill open organist position if they have the skills. Full job descriptions can be accessed at <https://ccclou.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Music-Director-2025-FINAL-.pdf>.

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Parkway United Church of Christ seeks a part-time choir director. If you feel that we could be a good fit for you and your gifts, please send a cover letter and resume to employment@parkwayucc.org. Please indicate that you are applying

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

for the choir director position.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Parkway United Church of Christ seeks a part-time organist/pianist who is dynamic, flexible and eclectic. If you feel that we could be a good fit for you and your gifts, please send a cover letter and resume to employment@parkwayucc.org. Please indicate that you are applying for the organist/pianist position.

SALES/MARKETING

Steinway Piano Gallery, Maryland Heights, MO is expanding their staff to include an additional associate in sales and marketing. The position will offer a career path to someone who would like to represent the world's finest pianos. For more information contact Gerry Malzone at 314-344-1133.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1211 W. Homer M Adams Pkwy, Godfrey IL is seeking an organist or pianist. For more information or to apply please contact Neal at 618-433-1611 or Pastor Jan at 618-250-1608.

Events Calendar

There are currently no events listed on our Chapter online calendar. With more activity beginning in the Fall, 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 and "cc" Brent Johnson at brent@brentmjohnson.net.

BOARD OFFICERS

2025-2026 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 2026

Stephen Jones
 Mark Lawson
 Sharon Whitlock

Class of 2027

Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart
 Earl Naylor
 Spencer Smith

Class of 2028

Joseph Arndt
 Luella Foster
 Matthew Gerhardt

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

2026 Convention Coordinator

Burnell Hackman

Auditor

Denis J. Doelling

Certification Coordinator

Brent Johnson

Dinner Reservations

Dr. Cathy Bolduan

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Jeff White & Regina Morris

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Shawn Portell

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Webmaster

Brent Johnson

If you or someone you know is interested in placing an ad or business card in an upcoming issue, please contact The OPUS Editor at newsletter@agostlouis.org. There is the option to include an ad in every issue of The OPUS for one year (beginning with the September issue), or for select issues throughout the year. Payment must be received in advance to insure that the ad will be included. Credit card payments may be made online via our Chapter website (www.agostlouis.org) under the "Newsletter" section. Payments by check should be sent to our Treasurer, Mike Kaberline, at 2 Holly Ridge Ct., Swansea, IL 62226. Ad rates are listed on the Chapter website.



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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
September 2025- Vol .42, No. 1

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 October issue is September 10.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

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