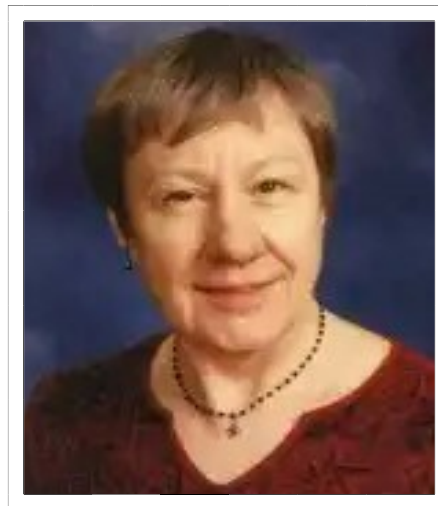


January 2026

Dean's Message



Suzanne Manelli

As you read this, the holidays are winding down. I hope that each of you not only completed but also enjoyed the fruits of your labor during this season. We may be "amid the cold of winter," but Epiphany is near, and that gives us a reason to "arise and shine" at the Chapter Epiphany Party! Plan to join your fellow members on January 2 to celebrate a new year, relax and refresh. Look for further details on page two of this newsletter.

Also, 'tis the season for nomination of new Officers and Executive Committee Members. Please give your thoughtful consideration to running for office if you are contacted. The Executive Committee meets four times a year, on the same evening as a Chapter program. It is willing leadership that keeps our Chapter vibrant. The contribution of your abilities would be greatly appreciated!

Here's looking forward to new accomplishments in 2026!

Suzanne Manelli
Dean



Biff Hackman
Sub-Dean

Sub-Dean's Message

Greetings STL AGO,

I hope everyone is enjoying this Festive Season! To kick off 2026 we will meet for our annual Epiphany Party on Friday January 2, 2026. Our party will be hosted by Dawn Riske at the Monsignor Ryan Center at Christ the King Parish from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The church is located at 7316 Balson Avenue in University City. Food and beverages will be provided and cash donations to offset food costs will be accepted. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to me by email at biffhackman@yahoo.com or phone or text at 314-650-9413 by December 29.

We have several exciting Chapter events left in our 2026 program year. On Monday, March 2, 2026, we will meet at Peace Lutheran Church for a Conversation on Female Composers presented by Dr. Karen Black, Professor of Organ at Wartburg College. She will present a recital at the church on Sunday, March 1 at 3:00 p.m. We will conclude our program year with our Annual Closing Banquet on Monday, May 11 at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Creve Coeur. More details on these events will be in upcoming printed editions of The Opus and via email.

Here's to a great 2026!

Biff Hackman
Sub Dean, St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
[Biffhackman@yahoo.com](mailto:biffhackman@yahoo.com)
314-650-3413

JANUARY CHAPTER EVENT

Epiphany Party

Friday, January 2, 2026

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

**Monsignor Ryan Center
Christ the King Catholic Church
7316 Balson Avenue
University City, MO 63130**

Food and beverages will be provided and cash donations to offset food costs will be accepted.

Please RSVP to Sub-Dean, Biff Hackman by Monday, December 29 via email at biffhackman@yahoo.com or by phone or text at 314-650-9413. "Plus ones" welcome.



News from the 2026 AGO National Convention Registrar

The biggest Convention Registration news for St. Louis AGO Chapter members this month is that the **Super Saver Rates end January 31, 2026.**

We encourage all Chapter members to register for the Convention this month, before that January 31, 2026, date catches you by surprise!.

There is an option to print an invoice and pay with a check. If you give our treasurer, Mike Kaberline, a check, rather than paying online, it saves us the credit card fee. You (or your employer) can also mail a check to the Convention post office box listed on the invoice.

You should have received an email back in November, with a direct link to the Registration site. I will be sending out a reminder email on January 15, 2026.

Before you actually register, I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE you to study the Convention website at <https://web.cvent.com/event/fdadaa37-8ca8-48de-ba86-373c87010edc/websitePage:6e12c009-3562-4eb4-8899-9e944836e4f7>. There is also a link to this site from the St. Louis Chapter website.

The Convention website has **detailed descriptions** of all the Workshops, Workshop Presenters, Performers, Venues, and optional events. You will be much better prepared to go through the Registration process, if you have already made your choices in your own mind (or written them down on paper) BEFORE you start registering. Otherwise, the process may feel a bit overwhelming...

Please contact Regina Morris, the Convention Registrar at agostl2026registrar@gmail.com if you encounter any difficulties.

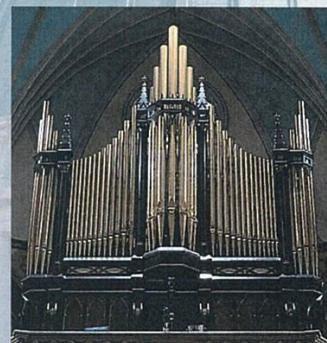


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Meet me in St. Louis!

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...

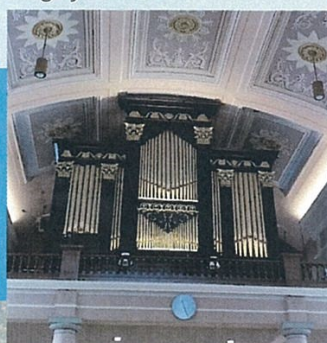
*St. Alphonsus Liguori
Catholic Church*



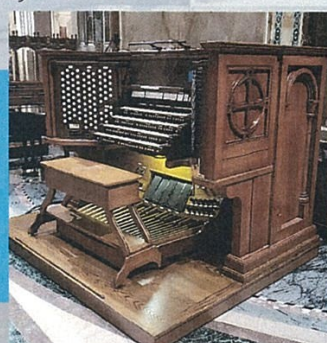
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An Opportunity to Sing for a Special Event

Fellow AGO members,

I would like to put together at least a double vocal quartet to participate in my next organ concert which will be at Third Baptist Church (Grand and Washington) on Friday, March 20, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. This would require at least one rehearsal at a time to be arranged with participants. You will be performing two anthems by John Rutter (“For the Beauty of the Earth” and “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”) along with a plainsong Alleluia (provided in modern notation if you wish). If you have an interest in participating, please contact me by February 1, 2026, at ps72@use.startmail.com or call 314-809-2716 (voice only). Looking forward to collaborating!

Bill Sullivan



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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
Directory Editors
 Jeff White & Regina Morris

Educational Resources
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 Spencer Smith

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Shawn Portell

Programs

Biff Hackman

Publicity Liaison

Dawn Riske

Registrar

Regina Morris

Social Media Communications

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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Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to newsletter@agostlouis.org.

Copy deadline for the February issue is January 10.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

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