

# American Theatre Organ Society

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



With the mid-year National ATOS Board meeting just adjourned, a report to you is certainly in order. We had a very good meeting and I feel that considerable progress is continuing to be made with each passing month of our operation. As the full minutes of this two-day meeting in San Francisco will be appearing in THEATRE ORGAN, I will merely touch on a few of the highlights. But first, an item of happy news!

In my last message I mentioned the formation of a new group of theatre organ enthusiasts in Omaha, Nebraska. I am pleased that I can now welcome these good people as the latest chapter to join our Society. They are now known as the RIVER CITY THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY. Our sincere thanks to ATOS Director Lt. Col. Jack Moelmann for his considerable aid in River City's organization. In my next message I expect to be able to report ANOTHER new chapter now in the process of formation in Fresno, California.

One of the first items of meeting business on Friday, February 22, was to ratify the appointment of Director Dale Mendenhall as National Treasurer. Dale will continue to hold his seat on the board, as our bylaws permit his serving in both positions, and he will be working closely with Doug Fisk, our Executive Director.

You will be interested to learn that the possible publishing of a monthly ATOS NEWSLETTER was a subject on the agenda which came under considerable discussion. Many of you have indicated that you would welcome something of this sort, a publication consisting purely of current NEWS items of interesting happenings in the world of theatre organ, but one which would not encroach in any way upon our fine THEATRE ORGAN journal. Such

a publication, we believe, is quite within the realm of possibility and it even seems likely that we can assemble the necessary manpower to put it together. However, there is a formidable cost factor to be reckoned with. It is not permissible for a society like ATOS to circulate such a publication on a strictly subscription basis, and as our general fund is currently insufficient to support it, some other means of financing must be found. Your board will certainly welcome any ideas or suggestions you may wish to offer.

Our YOUNG ARTISTS AWARD COMPETITION is progressing very well and it appears that a good representation of our chapters will be entering promising contestants this spring at the national level. This year's national winner will be introduced and given a performing opportunity, along with the \$1000 award, during the August Convention in Chicago.

You will soon be hearing about an exciting competition tying in with our current drive for new members. It's one I feel will greatly interest all of you and everyone will have a good chance of being a WINNER! Remember, plenty of new ATOS members are NEEDED if our Society is to continue to grow and prosper! YOU can do your bit to accomplish this by bringing in just ONE new member! Also, if you have not yet renewed your membership won't you PLEASE do so today?

Best wishes and here's hoping we see you in Chicago. A great convention is in the making.

Sincerely,



Rex Koury

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



One of the common frustrations or criticisms in associations like the American Theatre Organ Society concerns getting information to the person who wants it from the one who has it. Yes, "communications" can make or break an association very rapidly.

The binding force within ATOS has been THEATRE ORGAN where, in addition to feature articles, other departments or columns cover chapter activities, national board minutes, promotion material on the national convention and several other "news" items. During the past year the employment of an executive director whose responsibilities include prompt replies to queries is a step forward in improving communications. And as I learn more about the Society the answers to questions should improve when I find the best sources to tap in a particular situation. Comments on how to improve are always welcome.

There is one more big communications area not covered at present. It could be defined as *timely* news about the many "happenings" relative to artists, concerts, organs, theatres and many other related topics. *The Console* was a privately owned publication that did much of this work for several years but has ceased publication. Thus a rather immediate goal of the Board of Directors is to find a way to publish a monthly newsletter within ATOS. It would cover some of the news-type stories now published in the Journal and would allow more feature space in that publication. Above all, however, it would cover areas now unreported that would be helpful to all members of ATOS.

Budget limitations do not allow setting a date to begin publication, but its vital role as the third element in ATOS' communications package is recognized. The board and others will not rest until a monthly publication is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Fisk