

American Theatre Organ Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is hard to believe that it is Spring once again. Of course, this depends in what part of the country you live. Spring also brings to ATOS the election of members of the Board of Directors. In this issue of THEATRE ORGAN is a ballot and a listing of those who have been nominated for this most important position in your organization. Last year, the number of ballots returned was very disappointing. Just as in any election, the membership has a responsibility to elect

those whom they want to be a part of their leadership for the coming year. I solicit your interest in this most important event in ATOS. Please return your ballot with your choices for the Board.

We are coming close to the cutoff for entries for the Young Organist Competition for 1986. Your committee has been working hard getting the best judges to evaluate the entries and determine the winner. This year we are honored to have Richard Purvis, internationally known organist and an ATOS member, as our senior judge. As I have stated before, we have restructured the program a little so that we will have three age groups this year.

The 1986 ATOS National Convention is getting close. It will be an exciting time. The Virginia Theatre Organ Society members have been working hard to give us a memorable experience in Richmond; not only great organs and organists, but also the opportunity to visit an historic part of our land. The dates are July 6-11, 1986.

Response has been good to the request in the November/December issue of THEATRE ORGAN for finding a group within ATOS to take re-

sponsibility for the Ben Hall Memorial 2/5 Wurlitzer organ which has been installed in the Carnegie Hall Cinema in New York City. The organ has been disconnected and is in the process of being removed. The future location of the organ, and which group will receive it, are unknown at this time. After the entire Carnegie Hall Cinema situation and the proposals received have been reviewed by the Board, we will be able to announce what the future plans are for the instrument.

Although this may sound like a broken record, I must keep on saying it — WE NEED MORE NEW MEMBERS! While we do manage to get some new members, it always seems that some do not renew their membership for some reason. While chapters are perhaps the greatest source of new members because of their activities, our very valuable unaffiliated members are also important in getting their friends to join. Who knows, a chapter could evolve out of a small group, as has happened in many cases before. Please help ATOS and get a new member or two. Give a friend a membership as a present.

ATOS is moving ahead. As we continue into the summer, let's work hard at our many local and society-wide projects.

For those of you who have been following my military career, I have now been promoted to full Colonel. This means I will leave Omaha in July and head for St. Louis (Scott Air Force Base) as the Deputy Inspector General for the Air Force Communications Command.

Sincerely,

Jack Moelmann

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The past weeks have been consumed by receiving, opening, coding and input of the renewals of 65% of the ATOS membership. Then came getting out membership cards, follow-ups to those who did not respond to the first notice and running and mailing chapter membership lists. Along with the routine tasks, many letters are received with questions and comments that often mean research before they can be answered. The last part is most enjoyable, as I learn so

much in coming up with answers. And I try to be prompt in my replies, though it is not always possible.

One of the assignments that goes with this position is to assist in putting the Society on a sound financial footing. The financial report appearing elsewhere in this issue shows that for the first time in many years ATOS paid all of the current year's bills with money received for that year. Future budgets will reflect fiscal soundness.

The next task is to examine more ways to increase activities that will meet long-term goals. Doing so will require many hours of dedication and effort by members working through chapters or on projects they wish to handle individually. A case in point: James Weber, a member from Decatur, Illinois, and not affiliated with a chapter, is enthusiastic about ATOS to the point where he has secured over ten new members during the past year. He has written a very thoughtful letter to the Board expressing his ideas about what can be done. Recently he arranged to be a guest on a radio "talk show" where the theatre organ and ATOS received publicity that will result in more new members. And he holds a full-time job. The point of this is that so much can be done if members individually decide "I can do something this year and I will do it." Let us hear from 100 "James Webers" this year.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Fisk

