

# American Theatre Organ Society

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Over the past couple of months, your officers and Board of Directors have been busy on several projects. One of the most exciting has been the 1986 Young Organist Competition. We had 11 entries spread across the three age groups. The recordings submitted were excellent and the young artists outdid themselves. The judges this year were Richard Purvis, Dennis James, Tom Hazleton, Grant Whitcomb and Gwen O'Connor. Our appreciation to the judges for the time spent

on this very worthwhile program. Their work has not been completed and I won't be able to announce the winners until a later time. We do look forward to even greater participation next year.

There has been interest in an ATOS Newsletter which would provide the more perishable news of theatre organ. With the termination of *The Console* magazine, there has been a void in getting news to our members. Unfortunately, we have not yet received enough financial backing for this project. If you want a monthly newsletter and are interested in supporting one, please let us know. We are working now to determine how we can proceed with such a project, if only on a trial basis.

The ATOS National Convention in Richmond will soon be at hand.

From what the Virginia Chapter has planned, it looks like a great time for all. Please consider attending this year's convention. You will never regret your decision to hear some great organs and organists and be around ATOS members from across the globe.

The election of the Board of Directors for ATOS for 1986 has ended. The votes are being counted and the winners will be announced shortly. We look forward to having them serve on your Board of Directors. The people nominated this year had outstanding credentials and a genuine interest in furthering the goals of ATOS. A big "thank you" to all who ran for election. Not everyone can win a seat on the board and for those that didn't make it this year, we hope you will try again next year and continue your enthusiasm in ATOS.

What would the "President's Message" be without mentioning the need to increase our membership? Well, I just mentioned it and it is vital to the continuation of ATOS!

I am looking forward to seeing and visiting with you in Richmond.

Sincerely,

Jack Moelmann

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Elsewhere in this issue is a list of members who have made contributions to ATOS beyond the regular dues of \$20. The additional funds received are very important in the ATOS financial structure, and the help is quite out of proportion to the dollars received. The reason the extra funds mean so much is that of the basic \$20 dues about \$19.50 is used to send the Journal (\$15.50), dues notices and membership cards (\$1.50) and to keep membership records (\$2.50).

But all additional funds can be used for growth projects like the Young Organist Competition, better help to chapters and, eventually, a permanent home for the archives. Another way to look at the value of the increased income is to realize that it would take about 1500 new members at \$20 to provide the same extra dollars. Next time you pay your dues consider contributing additional funds. All dues, of course, are tax deductible.

When discussing membership in ATOS it should always be pointed out that: a) PRESERVING THE THEATRE ORGAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY IS THE MAJOR REASON FOR THE SOCIETY'S EXISTENCE AND FOR A PERSON TO BECOME A MEMBER — sell the intrinsic value first; b) A member gets THEATRE ORGAN which many will enjoy, but whether it alone is worth \$20 is an individual judgment decision; and c) Membership is tax deductible, which cuts the very low \$20 dues even further. With ATOS classified as tax deductible by the IRS means that the government believes the preservation purpose is worthwhile and in the national interest. Membership continues to increase and we thank the many who have signed up new members, but with the job ahead we will always feel we never have enough. Keep it up!

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Fisk

