

American Theatre Organ Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Your Executive Committee met during the last weekend in January in Sacramento, California, to evaluate where we are and where we are going and to make recommendations to the Board of Directors prior to their meeting which will be held during the ATOS National Convention in Los Angeles at the end of June. I thought I would give you some of the highlights of that meeting and the recommendations that will be made to the Board.

It is being recommended that the *ATOS International News* be continued and even expanded to eight pages and that we move the Classified Ads from THEATRE ORGAN to the newsletter. It will further be recommended that the newsletter be mailed independently of the Journal. Next, Allen Miller is working hard to have the new technical manual ready to be presented at the Los Angeles Convention; this has been a large effort and will be a valuable publication for you. It was also the feeling of the committee that the ATOS Board should become involved in Regional Conventions; this will be discussed further in Los Angeles, and some specific recommendations will be made at that time. One of the big projects we are investigating is a permanent location for the ATOS Headquarters, Archives and Library. During our meeting, we had an opportunity to tour a museum complex in Sacramento which had been suggested as a possible site for ATOS Headquarters. We did form a committee, headed by Vern Bickel, Library and Archives Curator, to further investigate this long range project.

It is election time again for the ATOS National Board of Directors. We have some super people who have been nominated for the three positions to be filled on the Board. Enclosed in this issue is your ballot for voting for the Board. I hope that you will take the time to vote for the people you would like to see run ATOS and represent you. Voting in the past has been poor. Please help your organization with your vote this year.

The Young Organist Competition is well underway. We have some excellent young people entering the competition this year. The overall winner will be heard at the Convention in Los Angeles. We are very happy to have Lyn Larsen as our head judge this year. His credentials are well known, and he is an avid supporter of the young people pursuing the theatre organ.

Information is out on the National Convention being held in Los Angeles. The Convention Committee has some exciting events planned for us, and I do hope you will be able to attend. It is always a great time to bring people together who have a common interest — that of theatre organ. I hope to see you there.

Again, we always need new members, and we need to keep the ones we have. If each of you would get just one new member, we could double the size of ATOS. PLEASE HELP ATOS GROW!

Sincerely,

Jack Moelmann

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The question asked in the November / December issue, "Why do members drop their membership in ATOS?" brought several thoughtful responses from which some conclusions may be drawn. Three points in particular seem worthy of consideration:

1) When a person joined, they were not sold the most important point for the Society or the chapter to exist, and that is to band together to PRESERVE THE THEATRE ORGAN.

The most important part of what a member gets for the dues is the intangible idea of being part of the whole supportive fabric of preservation which is international, national and local in scope.

2) People joined a chapter expecting to participate, but they were never included and, after a year or two, looked elsewhere for a place to contribute and enjoy the social aspects of belonging, which are a significant part of all group activity.

3) They came expecting to see some progress toward some goals, but

ended up feeling the chapter had no goals but just struggled from meeting to meeting and saw no preservation progress.

While these points are apparently valid in some instances, there is no reason why these negatives cannot become positives in every chapter. We might consider inviting new members to do more than just attend an occasional concert by putting them to work. Communicate your enthusiasm at being a part of preserving this art form and its music. Put forth the idea that everything is important to success — from cookies to cleaning to planning meetings or being a chapter officer. It all has to be done! Set goals and develop specific plans to accomplish them. Cover all of the details and make a point of including new members in the execution of the plans.

And when things are done, say "Thank you," and "Thank you!" again. We all want our efforts to be recognized and appreciated. These steps may — no, they will — help keep members active and, by so doing, will help us in our preservation goal.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Fisk

