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## President's Message



I hope that all of you had a great Holiday Season. Now we are in a new year, 1988, and another great year for ATOS. I am so glad that you are part of it. We had a great year in 1987 with membership growth, a great convention in Los Angeles, and another great regional convention in Buffalo. Our Young Organist Competition was a great success, and our ATOS International News has been met with great approval.

1988 should be just as successful and together we will further the goals and objectives of ATOS. I want to acknowledge the Buffalo Area Chapter for their most generous donation of \$1,000 to ATOS from their great regional convention. Their contribution to ATOS will go for a good cause, and we thank them for their work putting on the convention as well as their financial support of ATOS projects.

Nominations have been opened for the 1988 election of members to the ATOS Board of Directors. A director serves a three-year term and we will be electing three this year. This is your chance, as a member of this great organization, to nominate someone who can assist with your organization's administration, or to volunteer yourself to serve on the Board. Having been a member of the Board for a few years, I think that it is one of the greatest things that our members can do to help. All of our officers and directors are elected to serve. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 1988. See page 15 for nomination procedures.

Once again, we are having the ATOS Young Organist Competition. It is time for chapters to be organizing local competitions and getting ready to submit entries into this year's competition. The winner in each age category this year will be brought to the national convention, in addition to winning a monetary award and competing for the overall winner of the competition. Your help in getting the young people involved in theatre organ and ATOS is vital to the furthering of our success in preserving this art form.

One of the main events in ATOS this year will be the annual convention. This year it will be in Portland, Oregon, and there are many people working long and hard to make it a great convention. Make your plans now to attend.

I hope that among one of your 1988 resolutions is the getting of at least one new member into ATOS. I have a family next door that comes over to my house frequently to hear organ music. I gave them a membership for a year as a gift. Perhaps you have a friend or family member who would enjoy a membership. This is one way of increasing our membership. But go out and get others to join ATOS and be part of this great movement. In addition, we need to ensure that we convince people to continue to renew their memberships after the first year. Please help our membership campaign to increase ATOS.

Sincerely,

JACK MOELMANN

## Executive Director's Message



An examination of membership trends within ATOS reveals some areas where a changed emphasis for some may be due.

During the past two years the Society has increased total membership by about 350. Of that number 50% are affiliated with chapters and the other half are unaffiliated. While the last group is very important to ATOS my comments here concern new chapter members. Of the 175 chapter additions, one chapter (Los Angeles where the convention was held this year) accounted for 100. During the two years four new chapters have been formed. It adds up to virtually NO GROWTH for the rest of the chapters.

Then think about where the day-to-day work in theatre organ preservation is taking place. It is where local chapter members are working in restoration, maintenance and presentation of theatre organs. While none of these activities can be neglected, the addition of new members is also vital if the same functions are going to be successfully carried on 10 to 25 years from now.

The challenge, then, is for chapters to devote more energy to adding to the membership and even paying attention to attracting members with particular skills needed to keep the theatre organ playing. While there are many examples of the need for specific skills, a recent newsletter from Alabama highlighted a new member, Richard Parker, who has contributed extensively using his skill as an electrician. The membership committee could, in fact, make a list of "skills needed" as part of a recruiting campaign. Some prospects respond more readily knowing there is a place for their skills.

It all adds up to the conclusion that tangible preservation is in the hands of the chapters and more members are needed to keep it going. What can be done to get them?

Doug Fisk