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Editorial Grace E. McGinnis
4633 S.E. Brookside Dr., #58
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222
Phone: 503/654-5823

Advertising Len Clarke
1839 Weeg Way
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
Phone: 312/692-9399

Membership Douglas C. Fisk
P.O. Box 417490
Sacramento, California 95841
Phone: 916/962-1019

Back Issues & Binders Vernon P. Bickel
1393 Don Carlos Ct.
Chula Vista, California 92010
Phone: 619/421-9629

President John Ledwon
28933 Wagon Road
Agoura, California 91301
818/889-8894

Vice-President Russ Hamnett
Box 543, Hutton Ranch Road
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004
602/523-5628

Secretary Beth Palmer
4 Santa Rita Ranch Road
Templeton, California 93465
805/434-0680

Treasurer Warren Dale Mendenhall
4428 Pennsylvania Ave.
Fair Oaks, California 95628
Phone: 916/967-5060

Executive Director Douglas C. Fisk
P.O. Box 417490
Sacramento, California 95841
Phone: 916/962-1019

Board of Directors
Vernon P. Bickel Laurel Haggart
Catherine Koenig Robert Markworth
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Paul Quarino Alden Stockebrand
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Past President
Jack Moelmann

Corporate Office
American Theatre Organ Society, Inc.
1393 Don Carlos Ct.
Chula Vista, California 92010

Curator - Archival/Library Vernon P. Bickel
1393 Don Carlos Ct.
Chula Vista, California 92010
Phone: 619/421-9629

Journal Staff
Editor Grace E. McGinnis
Editor Emeritus W. Stu Green
Contributing Editor Robert Gilbert
Assistant Editor Paul J. Quarino
Associate Editors Lloyd E. Klos, Robert Shafter
Advertising Len Clarke
Publisher Warren Dale Mendenhall

Design & Typesetting
Stanley LeMaster Typesetting & Design
Portland, Oregon

Printing & Mailing
Times Litho / Forest Grove, Oregon

President's Message



In last month's President's Message I climbed up on my soapbox and discussed what I called the "endangered species" in the theatre organ world. I left off with the warning that I would continue in the same vein this month . . . so, as I climb even higher upon my soapbox, let me continue with the endangered species, "YOU," and a sub species to be called the "volunteer."

In any organization which relies upon volunteer help in order to maintain its projects and goals, there comes a time in which the amount of work outpaces the number of volunteers. We have been very fortunate in that the American Theatre Organ Society has always seemed to be able to come up with what we need in the way of membership help at the time that we needed it. This is true today. However, in many areas that we are working, a very few are saddled with all the work. I would like to challenge our membership to get involved either at the local level or at the national level. There are a multitude of ways you could assist your local chapter . . . just call your chapter chairman or president to find out how many ways! On the national level we need assistance in archives funding, media development (both radio and television), organ acquisition, organ placement, corporate grants, technical instruction (articles, videos, etc.) a national ATOS museum . . . I could go on and on and on!

IF YOU HAVE AN EXPERTISE OR A STRONG INTEREST IN AN AREA, CHALLENGE US TO FIND YOU A REWARDING PROJECT IN THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY!

Even if you don't feel that you are an expert in anything, let me know, and we will do our best to find you some area rewarding and interesting for you.

To go back to the ATOS museum project, we have two viable sites now, one in Sacramento, another in Hollywood next door to the famed Chinese Theatre. Yes, they are both in California. This is why we need *your* help to locate suitable sites in other areas. Another possibility would be small exhibits located in many parts of the country, possibly situated together with another related music, film or nostalgia exhibit. The possibilities are endless . . . unfortunately, time isn't. We need help. Remember my President's Message a while back where I, tongue in cheek, ended by saying I'd warn my letter carrier because of all the letters I would be getting to volunteer help? ONE LETTER!!! I'm not even going to tell him this time.

Grace McGinnis and I have been discussing the possibility of an issue of the THEATRE ORGAN dedicated to the founders of ATOS. Should you be a charter member or, better yet, one of the organizing group let us know, and we will get in touch with you concerning your contribution and remembrances to the fledgling organization.

Don't forget the Detroit Convention coming up in July. There is still time to register. We will inaugurate two new functions for this convention. A Life Member/1988 Donors reception sponsored by yours truly and a Theatre Pipe Organ home installation owner's gathering sponsored by Director Laurel Haggart.

See you in Detroit!!

Sincerely,
John Ledwon



*Music furnishes a delightful
recreation for the hours of respite
from the cares of the day,
and lasts us through life.*

PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON 1743-1826

