

# Directors' Corner

## ■ Lowell Ayars

ATOS (which for members was once ATOE — American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts) was established to preserve what theatre organs remained in theatres, radio studios and other locations. It is my belief that this effort has been as successful as it could possibly be since it was well into the '50s when it was started and many instruments and buildings were already gone.

The pizza parlor and home installations provided homes for instruments which might well have been destroyed otherwise. They also provided a younger generation with a stepping stone to growth and national recognition.

Now I believe we are faced with new challenges which must be met if our beloved instrument is not to be relegated to obscurity. Two of these are the gradual demise of the pizza emporiums and the disappearing home installations as we of the older generation are no longer able physically nor financially to maintain them, and the present generation is so mobile that there just is not room nor stability to make the home installation feasible.

Perhaps more important is the lack of qualified teachers unless one lives in an affluent area and a real pipe instrument on which to practice is within traveling distance and affordable (if practice time is charged for).

True, our young artists are being brought to light by our contests, but if they are not FEATURED at our conventions how can they possibly be the generation which will carry on the theatrical styling? National ATOS cannot possibly answer all of these demands. Only you, the member, individually or as a chapter, can possibly have the answer.

Lowell Ayars  
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Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302



**Your Ballot  
is coming to you  
by mail this year.  
Watch for it . . .  
Be Sure To Mail It  
By  
May 15, 1990**



## ■ Bob Markworth

I have received all the comments on the *Chapter Handbook* and hope to have a final copy available for submittal to all the Chapter Presidents by mid-summer.

While many of us are undeniably involved with family, our jobs, handbooks, concerts, raising money for our noteworthy organ projects and the like, it seems that we overlook one of the most (if not *the most*) important component of our organization, the MEMBERS. Particularly the NEW MEMBER(S) or the prospective NEW MEMBER. How many times have you had a first time new member attend your chapter meeting and never been seen again? From my experience it has happened too often. I suggest each chapter put in place a "How to make a new member feel welcome" set of guide lines. Surely, at chapter events ALL the Chapter officers should go out of their way to introduce themselves and their families to the NEW member and extend a warm welcome. This **doesn't relieve the general membership** of their part in helping the new member feel comfortable. Just the opposite, I believe most new members are more comfortable talking with just plain ordinary members.

To help express and unite a "Welcome — you are part of the Chapter" feeling to the new member, I have listed a few things that Chapters may consider for their new members and, in some cases, current members.

- Provide a membership card
- Provide a membership roster of the chapter
- Provide a copy of the by-laws of the chapter
- A personal letter from the Chapter President welcoming the new member to their chapter and ATOS. The letter could also include a copy of the latest chapter newsletter and a phone number to contact for any further questions.
- At the next chapter meeting formally introduce the new member to the chapter and encourage him to talk about himself.

Perhaps those new members who *did pay* their dues but only attended a few meetings and never renewed their chapter membership, may have, if they had been made more welcome or more effort was made to *keep* them.

Bob Markworth  
8505 N. 46th  
Omaha, Nebraska 68152

## ■ Lois Segur

When John Ledwon became President two years ago, he appointed each Board member as liaison to several chapters. This has proven to be most interesting. It gives us a chance to have more personal rapport with each chapter, to hear of any problems they might have, to see if they need help in any way, and to discover what they are doing that is of special interest. This is a good idea which I hope will continue in the future.

Education in ATOS has been a long-standing problem for many of us due to lack of people to help with programs, etc., and lack of money for publicity. To help with this, National will soon have available a half-hour public radio presentation of Theatre Organ music which will be distributed directly to the radio stations. More of this later. In the meantime, do set up workshops for your members (and the public) to learn more about the organ. You are doing so well with finding organists for the Young Organist Competition. What are you doing to recruit young technicians? Do work at getting them to help your organ crew repair and tune. We're going to need them in the future.

There will be four interesting seminars at the Convention in Indianapolis. Ashley Miller will do "playing tips," others will cover computer driven relay, Home Pipe Organ Owners discussion and Fund Raising. They all sound fascinating, so be sure your Chapter Representative gets to them.

In the meantime, keep working hard at what you're doing.

Lois Segur  
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### OFFICIAL NOTICE

to:  
**Members of the  
American Theatre Organ Society**  
FROM:  
**Laurel Haggart, National Secretary**  
SUBJECT:  
**Notice of Annual Meeting**

DATE:  
**March 1, 1990**

The Annual Meeting of the members of the American Theatre Organ Society will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 1990, at the Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, Indiana beginning at 2:30 p.m.

AMERICAN THEATRE  
ORGAN SOCIETY  
Laurel Haggart, National Secretary