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President's Message



My how time flies when you are having fun! To all those people who have made my tenure as president of ATOS the most wonderful of experiences, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To the Board members and officers who have worked so hard starting, implementing, and carrying out such new and ongoing ATOS activities as the Young Organist Competition, the *Theatre Pipes* radio show, the newly established scholarship program, the acquisition of the Cecil B. DeMille Wurlitzer for the Towe Ford Museum, the Home Theatre Pipe Organ Owners group, the Electronic Theatre Organ Group, the Chapter Handbook, the ATOS Archive and their record auction, identification and recognition of Charter Members, a permanent home for the Ben Hall organ, the THEATRE ORGAN index, the educational video and the ASCAP agreement . . . thanks, guys and gals!

Since my philosophy of life is based on the idea that you do the very best you can and then give others the opportunity to do likewise, I shall not pass this way again. There are so many fantastic experiences awaiting us "out there" that, while my heart will always be with ATOS, I will be perfectly happy and content to leave the leadership roles to new faces with new and exciting ideas. I'm still available for behind-the-scenes work, but let the still unknown and untapped resources of our 6000 members be the new leadership for the nineties and beyond. Friends, the possibility for ATOS to grow and make the theatre organ a viable entertainment instrument of the twenty-first century is out there . . . make it so!

Since I have never been one to shy away from somewhat controversial subjects, I would like to leave you with one last thought . . . and I've been saving this one until last as I feel very strongly about it. In all volunteer organizations there is always some "friction" between people. This is generally considered to be natural and expected. Occasionally, people may say things that have not been thoroughly thought out or may not necessarily be correct or true. Most of the time those saying or repeating what they have heard do not do so maliciously. Even so, perhaps we should ask the following three questions before we willingly become a conduit for any rumor: first, do we have all the facts; second, would we be willing to say what we are about to say directly to the person involved; and third, will our comment have any effect . . . will it "make a difference?" If I leave you with no other thought over these past three years, might it be to say a nice thing about someone or say nothing at all. We, the members of ATOS, are bound together through the mutual love of the theatre organ, let us not forget that this should apply also to each other.

To the Board, officers and special people who have so capably assisted and helped point the way . . . a special thank you. And to all of you, once again may I say, Thanks for the memories.

Sincerely,
John Ledwon