

Directors' Corner

■ Bob Markworth

For the last seven years or so ATOS has been encouraging the young organists (the future Jesse Crawfords and Ann Leafs) to come forward and participate in both local and national activities. We have been successful in finding these talented young people due to the hard work of the Young Organist committee and, to a greater extent, by our local chapter members such as yourself. These same grass roots members have, I believe, also been responsible for the recent increase in ATOS memberships.

Members, ATOS needs your help again. Let me explain. I have a concern that we may be overlooking the talents of our current membership. Not necessarily for their ability to play the organ, but for their ability to help direct the operation and ongoing organization of ATOS. I am of the opinion that there are unsung fountains of wisdom and experience within our organization, particularly the senior members, that I believe could make a significant contribution and difference in the ATOS.

We are all sorry to see ATOS Treasurer Dale Mendenhall retire. Dale's many years of hard work and dedication will be an inspiration for all members for years to come. And it is to this point that I would like to see those silent, talented members come forward and be willing to serve as an officer or committee member at the national level. If you feel that you have something to offer ATOS, please contact Tom DeLay before the convention and let him know of your interest. His phone number is 209/431-4305. Remember, YOU make the difference within our organization! See you in San Francisco!

Robert Markworth
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■ Byron Melcher

As the new "kid" on the block, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for their vote of confidence. I would also like to express thanks, on behalf of the Awards and Recognition Committee, to Lowell Ayars for his contributions through the years and his continuing effort to insure a smooth transition. As of this writing, the committee and its procedures will continue as it has in the past.

Now, on to another subject. Reference is made to the number of members ATOS now has (6000 and growing, according to the NEWS). While this membership has been increasing at a good rate, it seems to me that there still needs to be some extra effort put into telling some of those beginning young musicians just how much fun it is to be involved with the King of Instruments.

I believe one approach would be through some exposure of the theatre organ with service clubs (Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.). The next time your chapter has a meeting, why not extend an invitation to service club members and their families to join in the fun? Another suggestion would be to invite local P.T.A. groups. After all, learning and preserving the theatre pipe organ can be educational as well as entertaining.

It's not very difficult for me to recall my feelings when I first heard the beautiful sound of Tibias and Voxes, and the tremendous sound of the ensemble combined with all those wonderful toy-counter effects. I get goose bumps just thinking about it. I vaguely remember almost falling out of the balcony trying to get a glimpse of the console. From that time on, I knew I would play the organ. What a thrill!

Impart that kind of excitement to the service clubs, especially those people with children. I know your enthusiasm will rub off on that youngster just starting his first music lesson. Music is a powerful thing on the theatre organ.

Byron Melcher
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■ Lois Segur

This time of year is a very exciting time for ATOS. We can look back at all that has been accomplished throughout the previous year *and* look ahead in anticipation of what is now happening and what we wish to happen. Our hopes and plans were finally realized when John Ledwon was successful in getting the Cecil B. De Mille organ donated for the Towe Ford Museum in Sacramento, our first installation open to the general public in a museum-like atmosphere and sponsored by the *national* organization. Now if someone could just "pull strings" and get us into the Queen Mary and Spruce Goose complex — think of the thousands that would see and hear us weekly! Any takers?

Yes, spring is exciting — there is so much happening. We will soon be voting for new members for the National Board to replace those who have served their terms. The nominating committee has done a commendable job; now, did you remember to vote?

The plans for the Young Organist Competition are finalized and the tapes of the contestants will arrive by April 1 for judging. Dorothy VanSteenkiste has been a great guiding light in this endeavor. Can you guess how many hours she devotes to the competition? It's mind-boggling, believe me! And this year the scholarship program has been added to her duties. Do you know of any young people who could benefit by our help? Talk to the music teachers in your area, they may have useful suggestions.

Don't forget San Francisco (Nor-Cal) and plans for the "Ninety-One-Derful" Convention, beautiful instruments and top-of-the-line performers; circle the dates on your calendar — July 5 to 10 — you won't want to miss it!

I'll close with a message that is very important. For many years we have continually asked: "Can each of you get one new member to join ATOS this year?", but I don't see it happening. Do you realize the growth *and* potential if everybody did this? Please, let's try it and watch ATOS *grow*. Now that would be excitement!

See you at the convention,
Lois F. Segur
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