

Directors' Corner

■ Gary Jones

WOW! What an exciting year! In all of my exposure to ATOS, I've never seen a more positive year than 1991. Many wonderful things have been happening — all as a direct result of each and every member's input.

The Electronic Theatre Organ Owners Group, the Theatre Pipe Organ Owners Group, the tremendous interest in YTOE and the YTOE competition, the Endowment Fund, the Scholarship Fund — all of these things and so many more have made our organization "worthy" and appealing like never before.

Your new chapter liaisons are now in place and should be contacting your presidents and secretaries soon. Each of these liaisons act as a funnel to regionally help with different aspects of running chapters. Whether it's exchanging ideas, coordinating area chapter efforts, or relaying specific information to and from the Board of Directors or specific committees, the liaisons are ready to act and react on your behalf. USE THEM!

I know many chapters have had very successful campaigns to raise funds. The Grants and Other Funding Committee is in process of sending out to each chapter a questionnaire in order to gather information and pass around the good and beneficial ideas (and also the not-so-good so that we all don't make the same mistakes!) Whether it's cookbooks, audio recordings, or capital campaigns, we can all learn from one another and progress. Imagine where we'll all be before the end of this decade — and century!

Theatre organ is poised on the verge of its third renaissance. With so many new installations going in, with the concern and care being exercised to preserve the true essence of the instrument and its original intent and purpose, and with the importance being stressed on good quality installations, I believe we'll have this wonderful thing to share with future generations.

And while I'm on the subject, a quick thought: Let's continue to encourage our younger members. After all, they are the ones who will be filling our shoes one day in the not-too-distant future. I've seen and been exposed to some cases where chapters "eat their young" only to look around one day and have nobody there willing to continue the immense amount of work required to keep everything going. What a waste. It's up to you and me to insure that these emotive, powerful instruments are available to future generations. Let's "just do it."

■ Dorothy VanSteenkiste

What a privilege it is to work with the wonderful young people we find in our organization. Our young organists, the technicians learning the ropes of stage production, the young people working the concession stands, working as ushers, clean up, you name it. Of course I would be remiss not to mention that I truly appreciate all the work of our other members.

I have been fortunate to have the backing of my colleagues on the board and also the members of the society on the programs I am involved in. As Vice-President, I hope to continue serving the goals of our organization and feel honored to be working with Vern Bickel as President and the past and current board members.

I would like to share the experience of meeting and working with the winners of our annual competition. We had such a great time in San Francisco. A big thank you to Dick Clay, Rudy Frey and Bill Schlotter for treating myself and the young contestants royally. In fact, all the crew at the Berkeley Community Theatre were on hand to help. These young artists were thrilled with the experience of their trip to the United States.

I really wish our budget could include bringing all the contestants to the convention so that they could all meet one another. I also wish all our members could hear the tapes of all the contestants so that they could see how hard these young people work and what the future holds in theatre organ music. Edith Rawle has suggested that we set up an Exchange Student program. This would give students the opportunity to study with another teacher. I think it is a wonderful idea.

Our Adjudicators did an excellent job again. I wonder if we realize just how much time and effort goes into their listening over and over to the tapes to be sure of their evaluation, and then writing helpful suggestions for improving their techniques. It is sure dedication on their part. This year we had our first former overall winner as a judge, Dwight Thomas.

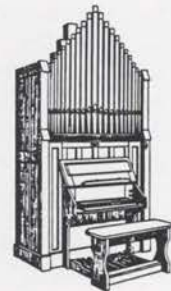
All the rules and regulations for the 1992 Young Theatre Organist Competition went out in August. They also included the rules and regulations for the Scholarship Program and for the new off-shoot of our competition program. The Hobbyist Division. They were sent to all chapter Presidents, former contestants, and personal requests.

A suggestion — your libraries have in-

formation on who the contact person is in the music department of your local college. Call or write them letting them know that we have scholarships available and invite the students and teachers to come and enjoy your theatre organ. Believe me, it works. When you have a school program and the band directors or music teachers are in the audience, invite them up to play the theatre organ. The kids love it. You should hear the response.

We have wonderful programs going. There is something for everyone to become a part of. Join in. Volunteer your talents! Spread the word and, most of all, let's keep letting people know we are one of the oldest and greatest arts THEATRE ORGAN and we are keeping it going with both old and new innovative ideas.

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When I look at the membership RANKS OF ATOS, I am AMAZED at the diversity of represented backgrounds. To paraphrase JFK, "Ask not what ATOS can do for you, ask what you can do for ATOS."

Elsewhere in this issue, you will see the announcement of the Opening of Nominations for the Board of Directors. We are talking some serious business here and we want, no, we NEED new faces and ideas. The current Board is doing a marvelous job, but three positions will open up next spring and here is your opportunity to either volunteer to serve or talk to someone you know who can be a positive voice and influence in the running and administration of our ORGANization. The pay (let's remember that all good things are not measured in dollars, pounds, calories, or cholesterol) is in your satisfaction that you have made a positive contribution to the operation and growth of ATOS.

Like the Marines, we are looking for a few good people to serve.

Harry Heth, Chairman
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