



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

July 2020 Pipings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO **Election Results and Other News**

[Click here to go to the Calendar on our website.](#)

Greetings!

To start my last Dean's message, I want to thank this marvelous Chapter for allowing me the chance to become part of a history that started in 1905. I had a wonderful time as Dean even with the significant challenges we faced and are facing. With that said, I have had to dip further into my reserves, and become creative in brand new ways. But as Dean I received support from members and then I found ways to support others. Then in supporting others I found they could support me in new ways. Our profession is facing huge changes, but here in Boston we have a legacy that is something to celebrate. Yesterday I sat parked in my car between the Public Garden and the Boston Common while talking to someone at AGO Headquarters. I realized that I was "in the middle of history" while talking on a car phone. It felt like a picture of our profession now. The old and the new. We have never known what the new will look like, but now we really don't, though we have our past tools to work with. Kindness is key here. We do not have to agree with each other, but we do need to listen to one another. Listen to the music that members are posting, and then let them know you heard them. You can push "like" or you can write or call. Be kind. Ask questions. Be curious. Many of us have had to become sound engineers. As one who has never done much recording, the learning curve for me did not curve at all. It went straight up and is only now starting to curve a little. But the only reason I became more comfortable with recording was because I was able to share my discoveries and frustrations with others and they with me.



The circle continues even in the midst of confusion.

The new BAGO Executive Committee is full of interesting people. I cannot wait to hear what they will bring to our Chapter. They answered the call. Are you interested in joining the board at some future time? Let our new Dean, Jeremy Bruns, know.

With a grateful heart,

Louise Munding, Dean

Chapter Election Results

Our Chapter elections concluded on July 20th, and the results are in. Of our 327 members

who are eligible to vote, had a 42% response rate. We thank you for taking the time to participate in the voting process

Total number of electronic ballots sent out - 314
Total number of paper ballots sent out - 13
Total number of electronic ballots received - 141
Total number of paper ballots returned - 2
Grand total of ballots received - 143
Percentage of members who voted - 42%

The final vote tally was:

Dean: Jeremy Bruns (139 yes; 3 no; 0 abstain)
Sub-Dean: Mitchell Crawford (136 yes; 2 no; 3 abstain)
Treasurer: Daryl Bichel (138 yes; 1 no; 3 abstain)
Secretary: Jay Lane (135 yes; 2 no; 4 abstain)
Registrar: Lynn Vermeer (136 yes; 2 no; 4 abstain)
Election Coordinator: Claire DeCusati (138 yes; 1 no; 3 abstain)

Members at Large:

Stephan Griffin (135 yes; 1 no; 5 abstain)
Christine Hogan (136 yes; 1 no; 5 abstain)
Cathy Meyer (133 yes; 1 no; 8 abstain)

We did receive a few write in candidates. We thank these members for their interest in serving. The new Executive Committee will be reaching out to you.

Congratulations to the new Executive Committee of our Chapter. We look forward to your leadership over the next years.

New Member Welcome

We welcome two new members of our Chapter. **Christopher Hodges i.** is transferring to our Chapter from the Central Florida Chapter. He will attend Boston University in the fall. **Jack Austin** is a member of the SE Massachusetts Chapter and is a Dual Member with BAGO. We're glad you've joined us and look forward to meeting you either online or when we can gather again in person.

Northeast Regional Meeting via ZOOM - July 24th

Our regional meeting will take place on Friday, July 24th at 7:00pm. You will receive further information about this soon! The meeting will happen via Zoom. Our Regional Councillor, Leslie Smith, sent an email invitation to you this morning with the links and password to the ZOOM meeting.

Save the Dates - Upcoming Webinars from AGOHQ



Upcoming Webinars from AGO Headquarters

AGO Headquarters is sponsoring two webinars in August.

August 13, 2020 4:00 PM ET
Virtual Choir for the Rest of Us, Part 1.

August 20, 2020 4:00 PM ET
Virtual Choir for the Rest of Us, Part 2.

Carol Spradling, Director of Music at a Congregational church in New England, decided that the COVID “stay at home” order was going to mean that her small but mighty choir was going to adapt, rather than disband. Using Zoom rehearsals, smartphones, electronically distributed music, and the online digital audio workstation BandLab, she and her choir started scaling the learning curve between live choral singing and digital recording. This is a hands-on, nuts-and-bolts course in how to produce socially distanced audio recordings of your choir or ensemble (from home), using smartphones, laptops, and free software.

Registration is required for both sessions. For registration and more information, [click here](#)

Substitute List Update

We are in process of updating the Substitute List for a current listing in September. Please remember that you must be a member of BAGO to be on the list. If you have not renewed your Chapter membership, now is the time. You can review the data on the substitute list [here](#), and update any information [here](#). (You will need the website password to access the Members Area).

Is it time to renew your AGO Membership?



This time of year, our Chapter normally has a large number of memberships coming up for renewal. AGO Headquarters has extended a member’s expiration date with a three month grace period; however, when a membership becomes inactive, it will result in suspended delivery of TAO. During this time, encourage you renew your membership by credit card, utilizing ONCARD.

A video with instructions on how to renew through ONCARD can be found [here](#). If you are not comfortable using ONCARD through the <http://www.agohq.org> website, the member services team is here to help! Please call 212-870-2311 and follow the voicemail prompts. They are most happy to help in processing anyone’s membership renewal by credit card!



Moving On

The following Chapter members are moving on to new positions:

Diane Meredith Belcher has accepted the position as Director of Music at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in New York City.

Stuart Forster and **Michael Murray** are moving to Florida where Stuart has been appointed Associate for Music and Liturgy at the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach.

Michael Olbash has been accepted the position of Music Director at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, MA.

Congratulations and best wishes on these new endeavors!

BAGO Contributes to the Atlanta National Convention Expenses



As we know, the 2020 National Convention in Atlanta was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. As stated in the July 2020 edition of "The American Organist" (TAO) magazine:

'The AGO National Council, The Committee for Conventions, and the Convention Steering Committee for the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists regret to announce the cancellation of the AGO 2020 National Convention schedule for July 6-10 this summer. The uncertainties surrounding the spread of the coronavirus required us to take this action. We felt that we could not adequately guarantee the health and well-being of our convention attendees, performers presenter, exhibitor, worship leaders, and all others who would have been involved in the convention. We are deeply saddened at having to make this very difficult decision, but we feel it is in the best interest of all AGO members, their families, friends, and colleagues.'

The BAGO Executive Committee has decided to donate our advertising fee to assist the Atlanta Chapter with their prepaid expenses. Acknowledgment of this gift can be found on page 10 of the July issue of the TAO.

2021 Regional Conventions Cancelled

From Michael Velting:

Hello, friends. As Councillor for Conventions and Director of the Committee for Conventions, I can say that the decision to postpone the 2021 Regional Conventions was a very difficult one. The Committee for Conventions listened carefully to the 2021 Regional Convention Coordinators, who were concerned about whether or not they would be able to raise adequate and necessary funds over the next 12 months to put on a convention, given the current climate of great uncertainty. There is, of course, also uncertainty around venues, airlines, the ability to congregate or to sing, or to secure artists....and on and on. Many of you have very clearly stated the concerns already above. We heard the concerns of the convention leadership and went to National Council, who agreed with the CFC, that the wisest thing to do was to postpone. We did this reluctantly, and primarily out of great concern for the health and welfare of our colleagues and constituents, which we always want to be able to ensure in a convention setting. We do it also as a prudent financial move. We have already had to pay hotel cancellation fees for each of the hotels, but have gotten a very good percentage of those fees credited toward our 2023 conventions. Had we hedged our bets and then been forced to cancel at a much later date given an ongoing pandemic, we would have lost that gamble and owed a much larger sum of money. We're all disappointed, over missing the Atlanta convention and now missing the 2021 Regionals. Please understand the difficulty of this decision and know we made it because we felt we ultimately didn't have a choice. We look forward very much to seeing you in person in 2022 in Seattle.



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