NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

DEAN’S MESSAGE

*The Ministry of Membership*

 This week, I participated in an AGO leadership webinar to discuss the subject of membership. Six people from all over the nation covered a variety of topics, including effective communications, leadership development, and the role of members-at-large on the board. I had a chance to share how our board is working to keep our chapter alive, vital, and growing.

 I described how we have created a cohort of board members who are finding new people to invite. They are helping to create engaging events that will help all of us keep connected. How proud I was to share the INSPIRE recruitment strategy that our Membership Coordinator, Ron Jesse, developed. It has become an effective tool for us, and other chapters want to know more. That’s why I was invited to the webinar.

 The webinar experience went well, but it left me feeling empty. Empty because it was just “technical talk.” I can put up with nuts and bolts only so long before I, myself, want to bolt. There must be something more to our chapter than this, just as there is more to music than scales and arpeggios. In our chapter, we know the importance of belonging to a community that shares a passion for the organ and its music.

 We are a community of people whose focus is on using the tools of music to bring hope and uplift to those in our circles of influence–our audiences. We are, indeed, ministers of music. The posture of ministry is always people-oriented and servant-hearted. Ministry means caring, and caring is individual and personal. Effective ministry asks that we enfold our attention and our care for others’ welfare into our daily interactions, as well as our musical presentations.

 The same is true for us as a chapter. We are not an abstract organizational entity devoted to improving our nuts and bolts. We are a web of personal relationships, and our strength lies in the bonds among us. I believe the key to building our chapter lies in ministering to each other. In fact, the music of membership is ministry. And that’s where you come in.

 Each of us is already a music minister, so being an effective partner in our chapter’s Membership Ministry is simple. Just think of whom in our chapter you already know. It’s not how many people you know, it’s how keep in touch with them. Would you take a moment to check on at least one of the persons you thought of? It’s a small thing, but it is an effective act of Membership Ministry. Your act of caring for one individual will bind all of us together into one powerful gesture of solidarity. That’s all I am asking you to do. Please?!

An even greater act of Membership Ministry would be to think of someone who has not yet joined us or who has fallen away. Our Membership Cohort is ready to contact anyone you can help us with. Just send the name and any contact information you have to our Membership Coordinator, Ron Jesse. Email: jesseeron@gmail.com. There are many isolated organists who would appreciate being invited, and your recommendation will help us enfold them into our community circle. Remember, caring for others is the hallmark of music ministry. Let’s make membership music together!

Chris Cook, Dean

P.S. One more thing: if YOU don’t know anyone in our chapter, please tell ME! I would love to get acquainted with you and to introduce you to some of the great people in our community. Just send an email to dean@agosd.org or call me at (858) 531-0983.