



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Chapter Leadership News

January 2022

New Beginnings

Dear Chapter Leaders,

Happy New Year! We have begun a new year that offers us the opportunity to revisit what we've done and how we did it, and reconsider whether we should continue to do things the same way, simply "because that's how we've always done it." I am thrilled that the AGO membership team has been restructured so that we can work more effectively to better serve our chapters. Molly Davey's new position as manager of member engagement and chapter support, will allow her to be a strong leadership resource for all chapter boards. We recently welcomed Phylcia Ross to the membership team as membership operations and database specialist. In addition to focusing on technology platforms, Phylcia's work will support increased member value through the coordination of activities related to new member onboarding, as well as membership renewal, retention, and recruitment. As chief membership officer, I will now have more time to focus on recruitment during the **Year of the Young Organist**, so that we can continue to grow the next generation of young members. On February 6 and 7, we will be presenting our second annual virtual leadership conference, utilizing Airmeet, a new meeting software that will give each of you the opportunity to network and collaborate seamlessly. Each night will feature only one speaker, so that we can provide more time for chapter leader roundtable discussions. The goal of **Leadership 2022: Experiencing the New Age of Volunteer Leadership** is for you to feel confident in revisiting your current board structure and making changes that will enable everyone to work *smarter*, not harder!

This issue of **Chapter Leadership News** will cover the following:

- ✓ Leadership Profile: Mary Eileen Johnston, Dean, Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter
- ✓ Year of the Young Organist Recruitment Updates
- ✓ Upcoming Webinars and Special Events
- ✓ Pennsylvania Northeast Chapter's COVID Outreach Initiatives
- ✓ Fairfield West (CT) Chapter's Young Organist Recital
- ✓ Promoting AGO 2022 Events to Your Chapters and Communities
- ✓ Utah Valley's Alternative to *Pedals, Pipes & Pizza*
- ✓ New Item in the Bookstore: AGO COVID Masks



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Profile of the Month: Mary Eileen Johnston, Dean,
Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter



If I weren't doing this: I can't imagine doing anything else.

What's sitting on my desk right now: my iMac, my financial record book, and Latin Percussion Crickets.

When I'm not at work, I'm at play, in the kitchen, or dancing.

The best advice I ever got was to join the AGO!

What keeps me motivated serving as chapter dean is the ability to bring together people, events, and music!



The Year of the Young Organist Chapter Recruitment Contest Win \$1000 for Your Chapter!

Beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, how many young organists can you recruit? Each month, we will be sending you a new recruitment tip to help your chapter recruit as many young organists as possible. We've created a page on our website that will include each tip and additional resources: <https://www.agohq.org/year-of-the-young-organist-recruitment-contest-2/>.

TIP #7: Include this link, <https://www.yearoftheyoungorganist.com/program-year>, which takes you directly to the recordings of webinars that have been produced over the past few months. A special series of videos focused on **Recording the Pipe Organ**, presented November 28–December 5, can be accessed [here](#). These young organist webinars provide a great “sales pitch” for recruiting new members, so please include this information in your newsletters and in your recruitment emails.

Currently in the Lead:

Small Chapters: Tampa and Central North Carolina are still tied, with a net growth of 7 new young organists each.

Medium Chapter: Denver Rocky Mountain continues to be in the lead, with a net growth of 11 new young organists.

Large Chapter: Los Angeles has a net growth of 11 new young organists.

As of December 16, 2021, we have recruited 495 new young organists!

Fairfield West (CT) Chapter's Young Organist Recital



Kudos to the Fairfield West (CT) chapter! On Friday, November 19, the chapter produced a wonderful recital that featured three of their high school young organist members. The recording can be accessed [here](#).

Upcoming Webinars



Monday, January 10, 2022, 7:00 p.m. EST

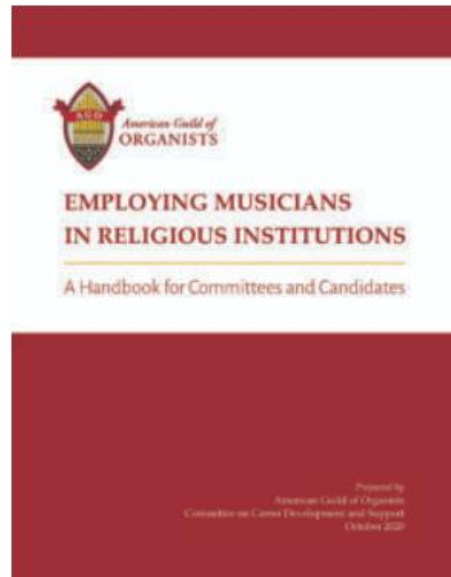
Unusual Repertoire

The Task Force for Gender Equity will host a prerecorded webinar on women composers, followed by a panel discussion on how to achieve gender equity in our programs and leadership. The link to the recording will follow, shortly.

Monday, January 31, 2022, 7:00 p.m. EST

Using the New “Employing Musicians” Handbook: Your Compensation Package

In this discussion moderated by councillor for membership Vicki Schaeffer, members of the Committee on Career Development and Support will address all of the elements to help you evaluate, propose, and research the data for your compensation. Participating from the committee will be Nicole Cochran, Doris Dabrowski, Andrew Johnson, Anthony Rispo, and AGO executive assistant Eric Birk. Please register [here](#).



A lot has happened over the past two years that has radically impacted your board's leadership capabilities. This conference will focus on revisiting your current board structure and identifying opportunities to help you work smarter -- not harder! Each night there will be multiple opportunities for peer-to-peer networking, that will address every facet of what it takes to help you support your chapter and engage your members.

Click [here](#) to submit your email address. You will then receive a link to complete your registration.

Pennsylvania Northeast Chapter's Choir Robe Giveaway/Music Swap



Sub-dean Carl Ruck shared:

Our local AGO chapter covers a large geographic region, so we decided to schedule two identical events in one week, approximately 35 miles apart, to accommodate the travel considerations of our members. Because of declining membership, several churches of various denominations had closed, or had merged in the past few years.

Forward-thinking officials from those

churches contacted our chapter to see if we could arrange to find new homes for many of the music ministry materials they had been using. Several churches donated their entire libraries of choir anthems, and we also received complete organ libraries from several organists who had either retired or passed away. Four different (and complete) sets of adult choir robes and 25 children's choir robes, along with miscellaneous acolyte and confirmation robes, were also donated. A local community children's choir director was thrilled to finally have choir robes for her young choristers! A four-octave set of handbells was also donated. One church had established a handbell program and was especially grateful for the opportunity to add additional octaves of bells. We advertised a "Music Giveaway/Swap" to all the churches in the region, as well as to community choirs and schools. Over 500 complete sets of anthems were made available, free of charge, to any church, school, or organization that could use them. The closed and merged churches entrusted us to be good stewards of their items, and we did our best to give those items new homes where they would be used, appreciated, and valued.

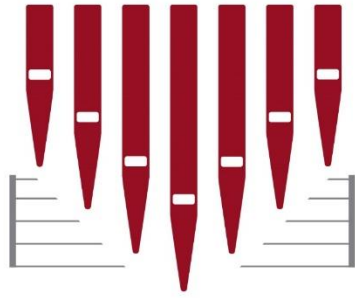
Promoting AGO 2022 Events to Your Chapter and Community

1.



Send (or help with travel, hotel, or registration costs) your dean or another chapter leader to the National Convention, July 3–7, in Seattle, Washington. **Registration is now open at <https://agoseattle2022.com/>.**

2.



American Guild of Organists **PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS**

Encourage members to reach out to young people ages 13–18 and adults 19 and up about the Pipe Organ Encounter opportunities at <https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/>. Consider hosting a POE event—full information is available at <https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/poe-videos-downloads/>.

3.

inspiration for the soul
inspiration for the mind

January Jubilee
inspiration for the body

AGO

If you are in the Southeast, North Central, or West regions (or near the host cities), consider promoting January Jubilee/February Flourish events to your members. In 2022 three February Flourish events will occur in Nashville, St. Louis, and Salt Lake City. Full information is available at <https://www.agohq.org/education/january-jubilee/>.

Utah Valley Chapter's Alternative to Pedals, Pipes & Pizza



Dean Miranda Wilcox recently sent me information about the alternative program to Pedals, Pipes & Pizza that her chapter recently presented. She shared: *We canceled our in-person activity because we did not want to contribute to the surge of*

COVID cases among children in our area. Instead, Glen Hicks performed, Mike Carson narrated, and Harold Stuart filmed Daniel Burton's Rex: The King of Instruments. The chapter obtained a six-month license from MorningStar Music to share the video on our YouTube channel.

Their amusing presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Stylish and Safe COVID Protection That Also Promotes the AGO

The AGO store now has masks that you can purchase. Our masks have three layers, are washable and durable, have a wire insert around the nose, and are extremely comfortable to wear for long periods of time! Unfortunately, Diane Bish was unavailable for our photo shoot, so yours truly ended up modeling them.



These can be purchased from the AGO store on our website for \$10 each.

https://ams.agohq.org/members_online/members/createorder.asp

Please send me photos of you wearing the mask so that I can share them in future issues of this newsletter!