



THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF ...off the old blockflute

The Birmingham Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

April 1, 2018

A Word from the Dean

Dear friends,

I hope you can see the light at the end of the tunnel after one of our busiest times of the year. It was good to see so many of you at our home for the March meeting. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and hopefully got enough to eat. It was good to have **Melinda Doyle**, the choral director from the University of Montevallo, join us and provide a very informative program. We look forward to our next meeting on April 9th at the Baptist Church of the Covenant. Dinner and business will be followed by a recital with performers from high school to post-graduate level. We have a good group lined up and hope that you will join us.

Our May meeting will be held at South Highland Presbyterian Church May 14th and our own **Pat Fitzsimmons** and **Jim Cook** will lead the program highlighting the history of the Birmingham AGO chapter. This should be a very enlightening meeting. Hope you will plan to attend.

If you have any ideas for programs for next year, let us know. The Executive Committee is in the process of putting together the 2018-19 Calendar of Events and welcomes your input.

Sincerely,
Dan

APRIL 9TH : CHAPTER MEETING AND STUDENT RECITAL

This month **Dan Lawhon** is hosting us at **Baptist Church of the Covenant**, 2117 University Boulevard, Birmingham 35233. We'll follow our usual schedule of dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the business meeting and 7 p.m. program.

Sub-Dean **Bruce Ludwick** is volunteering his services as the chef for our April dinner. Bruce is preparing pulled pork and chicken/turkey bbq for the entrée, along with charro beans and rice. **Dan Lawhon** is providing Key Lime pie for dessert, and there will be a variety of beverages as well. **Cost of the meal is \$12.00.**

Log on to the chapter website to make your dinner reservation or contact Mike Burt at (205) 201-3838 or treasurer@birminghamago.org.

Following dinner will be an important chapter meeting where the Executive Committee will present tentative plans for next year's programs. We'll also review proposed updates to the Chapter Bylaws and Chapter Operating Procedures for inclusion on the ballot in the May election.

Then we'll move to the sanctuary to hear a recital presented by several **student organists from UA and Samford** and **high school students** studying with some of our chapter members.

Please reserve Monday evening, April 9th to attend! We need your input and support not only for our business concerns, but for our young performers as well. See you there!

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome **Scott Welch** to our chapter. He is a friend of several of our members already, and has been active in the Birmingham music scene. We look forward to getting to know him at a chapter function soon.

HAPPENING THIS MONTH: CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITIONS

As noted in the March newsletter, all three Birmingham chapter scholarships are available this year. The **Minnie McNeil Carr Scholarship Competition** is for high school students and the **Myrtle Jones Steele Scholarship Competition** is for organists of college age – age 23.

The competition for both scholarships will be held *on Saturday, April 28, 2017, at 1p.m.* at Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham.

Deadline for applications is April 10, 2018, for both scholarships. Competition guidelines, requirements, and application forms may be downloaded from <http://www.birminghamago.org/Scholarships.html>.

Deadline for application is April 25 for the **Warren Hutton POE Scholarship**. There is no performance competition for the Hutton scholarship, but there are requirements to be met.

For details and applications for these scholarships, please consult the above website or contact **Dr. Charles Kennedy** at kennedy@cathedraladvent.com or (205) 226-3505

2017 National AGO Convention July 2 – 6 in Kansas City, Missouri

Online registration is open and **reduced rates have been extended through Saturday, April 7th**. Visit <http://www.agokc2018.com/> to register or check out the schedule, workshops, performers, or other fine points of the week, The theme is “Bach, Blues, and Barbecue: Feast Your Ears in Kansas City.”

2018 Election Update

There were no additional nominations from the chapter, therefore the final slate remains as the Nominating Committee presented and is listed here.

Dean: Sherelyn Breland
Sub Dean:
Secretary: Charles Kennedy
Treasurer: Mike Burt

Executive Committee Class of 2016-2019
(One-year term to replace Nathan Smock)
Choose one: **Firmon Hardenburgh**
Mary K. (Mimi) Jackson

Executive Committee Class of 2018-21
Choose up to three : **Dan Lawhon**
Jamie McLemore
Russell Nelson
Brent Nolte
Fred Teardo

Online voting begins Sunday, April 15th. You'll be able to sign in to the Members' Corner of the chapter website www.birminghamago.org to cast your ballot until **midnight Saturday, May 12th**.

If you prefer an absentee ballot, please contact the secretary, Sherelyn Breland, as soon as possible after April 15th to arrange this. She can be reached at secretary@birminghamago.org or 205-664-1373 (home) or 251-455-0967 (cell). We encourage you to vote online if possible.

The 2018 Election Schedule

Sunday, April 15th
Chapter receives email with voting instructions

Sunday, April 15th – Saturday, May 12th
Online and absentee voting open

Saturday, May 12th
Last date to receive absentee ballots; online voting ends at midnight

Monday, May 14th
In-person voting at the chapter meeting will conclude the election. Auditors tabulate the votes. Election results are announced and emailed to the chapter, posted on the chapter website, and published in the next newsletter.

April Opportunities

On Sunday, April 15th at 6 p.m. Christ Episcopal Church in Tuscaloosa will hold an Evensong Service and Dedication of their newly-installed Letourneau Opus 132. This is a 3-manual instrument of 35 ranks.

The Evensong service will feature the church's St. Cecilia Singers and choral music by Martin, McKie, Moore, Rawsthorne, Roberts, and White. **Doff Procter** will conduct with **Scott Roberts** accompanying. Former Birmingham chapter member and previous organist at the church **Tyler Canonico** is returning as the recitalist for the event.

First Presbyterian Church, also in Tuscaloosa, home of the 3-manual, 75-rank Letourneau Opus 129, is hosting **Wilma Jensen** for a recital and masterclass. The recital will be Friday, April 27th at 7 p.m. with the masterclass on Saturday, April 28th at 10 a.m.

Many of you enjoyed hearing this wonderful organ at our POEA 2017 last summer and at several recitals held there since its installation.

Visit <http://letourneauorgans.com/en/opus.php> to see the specifications and photos of these instruments.

Please remember to check the *Coming Events* section of the chapter website home page for additional programs scheduled at area churches and universities. There are a number of them that would be well worth the time to attend.