



THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF ...off the old blockflute

The Birmingham Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

May 1, 2018

A Word from the Dean

Dear friends,

I hope that things are going well with you and that you are beginning to see the "light at the end of the tunnel" which will allow you to experience much needed rest during the summer. We had a good turnout at the April meeting and student recital. The students presented a fine program on the Noack organ at Baptist Church of the Covenant. We were very pleased to have five performers.

May's meeting will be at South High Presbyterian with dinner and a most informative program from two of our long time members, Pat Fitzsimmons and Jim Cook. They will be talking about the years that they became active in the Birmingham Chapter of AGO, some of the early leaders, then highlight events of which they were a part. It proves to be a delightful evening. Regretfully, Sherrie and I will be leaving Saturday, May 12th to chaperone the Samford University A Cappella choir which will be touring Poland and Austria for two weeks. I do hope that you will make a special effort to support Pat and Jim, who have contributed immensely to the Birmingham Chapter over the past.

A final reminder to vote for officers and Executive Committee members. Results will be tallied and reported at the May meeting

Take care,

Dan

MAY 14TH : END-OF-YEAR CHAPTER MEETING

Our final meeting of the year will be hosted by **Jamie McLemore** at **South Highland Presbyterian Church**, 2035 Highland Avenue, Birmingham 35205. This will be a very important meeting as we'll conclude the chapter election with in-person voting, and the Executive Committee will provide for your approval the finalized plans and budget for next year's Calendar of Events. Then we'll enjoy a trip down memory lane led by Dr. Pat Fitzsimmons and Dr. Jim Cook, both of whom have been integral leaders and members of the chapter for many years.

This month we'll begin with **appetizers at 5:30 PM** followed by **dinner at 6:00 PM**. South Highland's amazing chef is preparing chicken tetrazzini with salad bar, garlic toast, tiramisu, and water and iced tea. **Cost of the meal is \$15.00.**

Online dinner reservations will be available Friday, May 4th on the chapter website or you may contact Mike Burt at (205) 201-3838 or treasurer@birminghamago.org to make them.

To enter South Highland Presbyterian Church, please park in the area behind the sanctuary located off 13th Avenue between 20th and 21st Street North and enter through the porte cochere doors. There will be signs directing you where to go once you enter this area. Please note that the children's day care will be picking up children in this area until 6:00 PM.

This will be a fun, enjoyable evening as we look back into the chapter's past. Hope you're able to join us!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Richard Byrd has accepted the position of organist at Avondale United Methodist Church. Richard studied organ with **Dr. Jim Dorroh** at Samford University and previously was assistant to Ms. Ann Giambone at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands Episcopal Church. We wish him well in this new endeavor.

WE HAVE A WINNER!!!

MINNIE McNEIL CARR SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Tim Berry, a high school junior from Huntsville, was awarded the chapter's \$500.00 Minnie McNeil Carr Scholarship for high school students on Saturday, April 28, 2018. The announcement was made by **Charles Kennedy**, chairman of the Scholarship and Competition Awards Committee. **Pat Fitzsimmons**, **Paul Mosteller**, and **Fred Teardo** served as judges for the competition which was held at **Independent Presbyterian Church** in Birmingham.

Tim, an organ student of **Jim Cook**, is no stranger to our chapter: He was a student last summer in our Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced held at the University of Alabama's Tuscaloosa campus.

Congratulations to Tim and his teacher Jim Cook, and many thanks to Pat, Paul, and Fred for sharing their time and knowledge in judging the event, and to Charles for making the arrangements. We're also grateful to **Jeff McLelland**, IPC's Director of Music and Fine Arts, and to IPC for their continued generous support of our chapter activities.

2017 National AGO Convention

July 2 – 6 in Kansas City, Missouri

Online registration for this summer's convention continues at <http://www.agokc2018.com/>. There you can 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 Nears Conclusion

Voting is underway for updates to the Chapter Bylaws and Chapter Operating Procedures as well as for officers for 2018-20 and Executive Committee members.

Please take advantage of online voting (sign in to the Members' Corner of the chapter website www.birminghamago.org) which is open until midnight Saturday, May 12th to cast your ballot.

If you prefer an absentee ballot, please contact **Sherelyn Breland** secretary@birminghamago.org or 205-664-1373 (home) or 251-455-0967 (cell) now to request one. Absentee ballots must be returned to the secretary by Saturday, May 12th. You may also vote in person at the May 14th chapter meeting, however **we encourage you to vote online if possible to aid in accuracy and efficiency in tabulating the results.** Your participation in the election is very important as **at least 66%** of the eligible voting membership must cast a ballot for it to be a valid election.

Slate of Nominees

Dean: Sherelyn Breland
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

Election results will be announced at the May chapter meeting and emailed to the chapter, posted on the chapter website, and published in the next newsletter.

