

**2005 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING of the  
AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY (ATOS)  
(Held during the 2005 Los Angeles/Pasadena Annual Convention)**

**Hilton Pasadena Hotel, Pasadena, California  
July 3, 2005, 9:00 AM**

The Annual Meeting of the ATOS Membership was called to order by President Gus Franklin. He noted that the Meeting would be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and that Joy Stephens would serve as the Parliamentarian. A quorum was present to conduct the business given in the notice of the Meeting.

The President made some introductory comments. He thanked the Los Angeles Chapter for hosting this year's Convention, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the founding of ATOE/ATOS, and hoped everyone was enjoying the Convention. The meeting was open to any member of ATOS whether attending the Convention or not. Voting, should it be needed, would be by a member or only one person of a family membership. He noted that the meeting was being recorded for purposes of producing the minutes of the meeting and would not be available to anyone for any other purpose.

The President welcomed new members elected or re-elected to the Board of Directors for a 3-year term: Mike Cierski, who was the Youth Representative to the Board, Russell Holmes, and re-elected to the Board, Carlton Smith.

The Officers, Directors, and Staff were introduced (not necessarily in this order) and present for the meeting: Officers: Gus Franklin, President; Bob Davidson, Vice President; Jack Moelmann, Secretary; Jim Merry, Treasurer; Paul Van Der Molen, Treasurer-elect. Directors: Dan Bellomy, Mike Cierski, Jelani Eddington, Russell Holmes, Ed Mullins, Nelson Page, Carlton Smith, and Jeff Weiler. Youth Representative to the Board John Riester. Staff Members/Committee Chairs: Mike Kinerk, Joy Stephens, Dale Baker, Jim Patak, Harry Heth and Bob Acker.

A motion was made by Tom Hoehn with a second by Bonnie Duncan to approve the minutes of the last meeting in 2004 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as published in the November/December 2004 issue of *THEATRE ORGAN* - Unanimous.

The Treasurer, Jim Merry, gave the treasurer's report: For the past year, the income was \$366,783, expenses were \$299,742 leaving a surplus of \$67,041. The net worth was \$814,219. A motion to approve the report was made by Judy Merry and a second by Bob Acker - Unanimous.

The Secretary, Jack Moelmann, gave a report of actions during the past year.

The ATOS Board of Directors met three times in 2005 since the last meeting in Milwaukee in 2004. The meetings were a mid-year meeting in Tampa, Florida, February 5, 2005, a meeting by telephone conference call on April 14, 2005, and the Annual Board of Directors Meeting here in Pasadena on Wednesday, June 29, 2005.

The following actions were taken:

- a. The Secretary was allocated \$1108 for a new computer system.
- b. A new Chapter, the Binghamton New York Chapter, was approved for activation. This brings the total of active Chapters to 77.
- c. The Convention Artist Honorarium was increased from the current amount of \$500 to \$1,000 effective with the 2006 Annual Convention in Tampa/Sarasota. The Convention profit sharing percentage provision was eliminated.
- d. A bank account was authorized to be established for the Tampa/Sarasota Annual Convention in 2006 with the ATOS Treasurer - Paul Van Der Molen, Bob Maney, Mike Kinerk, Bob Davidson, and Cliff Shaffer being signatories on the account with two being required to sign on checks over \$1,500.
- e. Immediate funding was required for deposits for the Tampa Theatre and the bus company for the 2006 convention. These would be paid out of the ATOS checking account as an advance to the convention account since the convention account could not be established in enough time. \$3,045 was allocated to reserve the Tampa Theatre, and up to \$10,000 to secure the buses.
- f. A 2007 Annual Convention was proposed and approved to be held in the New Jersey and New York area, possibly even around the Atlantic City area. This would be an ATOS-sponsored event with Mike Kinerk and Nelson Page serving as co-chairs.
- g. \$3,500 was approved as seed money to fund the Wurlitzer console poster project. (This ended up being a Wurlitzer console calendar.)
- h. A proposal had been received from Jane Kenamore of Wilmette, Illinois, to analyze the current status of the ATOS Archives with regard to developing a collecting policy with procedures for acquiring new materials and procedures for weeding out documents that do not fit with the proposed policy; to develop policies and procedures for the preservation, cataloging, and access to the historical materials that meet professional archival standards; and to develop a budget to fund the recommendations for the first year of operation. Total professional fees requested were approved in the amount of \$3,360.
- i. There has been a need for original theatre organ installation documentation. This involves locating and acquiring originals or copies of authentic blueprints, drawings, contract and company correspondence of all brands of theatre pipe organs. The goal is to start a technical department to be included in the ATOS Archives. \$5,000 was budgeted for this project.
- j. A prior endowment fund grant request from the Central Ohio Chapter was extended for an additional six months.
- k. A Long-Range Planning Task Force in January 2005 was established to be involved with recommendations for long-range planning and accomplishment of goals within ATOS.
- l. A "Theatre Organ Student of the Year" award was established to recognize a theatre organ student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to and improvement in his/her theatre organ studies. This would be a non-professional and 27 years old or younger at the time of nomination.
- m. Concerning ASCAP (i.e. American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) fees which ATOS pays and the complexities it presents with Chapter-sponsored "weekends" and other multi-concert events, a policy was established where ATOS will use their best judgement based on information provided for the expense and revenue reported by Chapters for all multi-concert events.

n. The policy regarding photos received by ATOS was further refined in that photos received by ATOS will be maintained either by the current *Theatre Organ* Editor or sent to the Archive for permanent file.

o. Jim Merry was given a one-year contract as an independent contractor as the ATOS Executive Secretary effective May 10, 2005 with remuneration at the rate of \$1500 per month effective May 1, 2005. The retiring Executive Secretary will be paid until May 30, 2005 to ensure a smooth transition.

p. \$1,000 was approved to cover the expenses of Jeff Weiler to visit Los Angeles to meet with Stephen Ross to select and acquire items for our Archives from the Simonton materials, including the James Nuttall notebook.

q. Three Special Awards were approved. These would be announced and presented at the Convention Awards Ceremony.

r. Policy: Any person having responsibility for any ATOS program, project, or competition who desires to make the results of any of those available to the membership before they could appear in the Journal – and in so doing would not be violating any Bylaw, Policy, or customary practice of initially announcing the names of most award recipients at our annual awards event – is encouraged to request that said results be posted on the “Web Journal” of the ATOS Website. Such results are not to be posted on any other internet lists or bulletin boards by ATOS members who have such responsibility.

s. Officers appointed for 2005-2006:

President - Fr. Gus Franklin of Illinois

Vice President - Bob Davidson of Florida

Secretary - Jack Moelmann of Illinois

Treasurer - Paul Van Der Molen of Illinois

t. A new Chapter, the Mt. Shasta Chapter in Northern California, was conditionally approved pending receipt of final documentation.

u. Profits from the sale of the Wurlitzer Book and the ATOS Calendar will be earmarked for furthering activities in the ATOS Archive.

v. Wooden plaques will be used to recognize the winners of the Electronic Theatre Organ Competition effective with the 2006 Competition.

w. \$5,000 was put in the budget for Archival Acquisitions.

x. The following grants were approved from the Endowment Fund Grants for 2005:

(1) A \$2500 grant was approved for the American Institute of Arts & Communities at the California Theatre located in Dunsmuir, California, for restoring the Wurlitzer organ which is coming back to its original home.

(2) An \$813.90 grant was approved for the Pikes Peak Chapter located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to help defray the cost of releathering a 3-rank solo chest, replace chest magnet cap gaskets, and a new organ rectifier.

(3) An \$882.38 grant was approved for the Kingston Chapter, Odessa Ontario, Canada, to assist with defraying the cost of having Organ Supply Industries replace the current “fill” pipes on the Chapter’s Wurlitzer Tibia rank.

y. A tentative proposal for a theatre organ summer camp was approved. ATOS will fund fixed expenses such as artist fees, teacher fees, lecture and practice rooms, and organ rentals with a budget not to exceed \$5,000.

z. The new Treasurer was authorized to obtain new computer equipment with a budget not to exceed \$1,000.

aa. The budget for 2005-2006 was approved.

bb. Due to the earlier date of the 2006 Annual Convention, the bylaws pertaining to the Board of Directors' Election for 2006 were suspended to allow a cutoff for ballots to be postmarked not later than March 15, 2006 rather than April 15, 2006.

cc. A mass mailing will be made to all Chapter Presidents and Secretaries in September with all of the information concerning ATOS programs for the next year including schedules, requirements, and methods of responding. This replaces the individual mailing of program information to the Chapters in hope that there will be better response. Individual announcements of programs will also appear in the Journal.

dd. Current ATOS membership is 4553 as of June 21, 2005.

ee. Committees and activities and their chairpersons were appointed for 2005-2006:

- Archives/Library - Jim Patak
- Awards & Recognition - Dan Bellomy
- Bylaws - Jelani Eddington
- Chapter Relations - Ed Mullins
- Convention Planning - Mike Kinerk
- Education and Archival Liaison - Jeff Weiler
- Electronic Theatre Organ Competition - Bob Acker
- Endowment Fund - Bob Davidson
- Financial Review - Jeff Weiler
- Executive Committee - Gus Franklin, Bob Davidson, Jack Moelmann,  
Paul Van Der Molen, Mike Cierski, and Russell Holmes
- Inner-City Youth/Schools Program - Ed Mullins
- ATOS Marketplace - John Ledwon
- Nominations - Bob Miloche
  - Election Teller - Fern Siemens
- Organist Scholarships - Carlton Smith
- Young Theatre Organist Competition Chair - Russell Holmes
  - Young Theatre Organist Competition Manager - Harry Heth
- Hobbyist Organist Competition - Dan Bellomy
- Mentor Program - Dan Bellomy
- Membership - Paul Van Der Molen
- Public Relations - Russell Holmes
- Publications Review: - Nelson Page
- ATOS International News* - Harry Heth
- ATOS Web Site - Tom DeLay and Michael Fellenzer
- Restoration & Preservation - Allen Miller
- Electronic Theatre Organ Owners Group (ETONES) - Jack Moelmann
- Smithsonian Organ Project - Nelson Page
- Strategic Planning - Mike Cierski
- Technical - Carlton Smith
  - Technical Consultation Program - Carlton Smith  
(This is a name change from what has been called the "Technical Assistance Program")
- Youth Initiatives:
  - George Wright Memorial Fellowship Program - Jelani Eddington
  - Youth Representative to the Board Committee - Jelani Eddington
  - Theatre Organ Workshops - Mike Cierski
  - Theatre Organ Instructor and Student Lists - Jelani Eddington
  - Student of the Year Award - John Riester

ff. Endowment Fund Board of Trustees for 2005-2006:

Bob Davidson - Chairman  
Nelson Page - Board Member and Recording Secretary  
Paul Van Der Molen - Financial Secretary (Treasurer)  
Alden Stockebrand - Member  
Bob Maney - Member

gg. A mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, January 7, 2006.

hh. The next Annual ATOS Membership Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2006 Tampa/Sarasota, Florida, Annual Convention with the specific time and date to be announced in the *Theatre Organ Journal*.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Comments from members included:

- a. Put historical Journal articles on the Internet or have available in pdf format.
- b. Have ATOS publications available in audio format for the blind.
- c. Have a competition which can use virtual theatre organs.
- d. Attendees/Chapters should have business cards with applicable information to pass around at conventions and other times.
- e. Provide a list of attendees at conventions.
- f. Increase the print size on convention nametags.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a motion from Rich Stewart and a second from Tom Hoehn at 10:10 AM - Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

JACK MOELMANN, Secretary