

**2008 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING of the  
AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY (ATOS)  
(held during the 2008 annual convention in Indianapolis, Indiana)**

**Hyatt Regency Hotel Ballroom  
July 6, 2008 10:00 A.M.**

President Ken Double called the annual meeting of the ATOS Membership to order at 10:04 A.M. With approximately 200 members present a quorum was present pursuant to ATOS Bylaws Section 3.5(a)

Following brief introductory comments, the President introduced the Officers, Directors, and Staff of ATOS.

Officers 2008-2009: President - Ken Double, Vice President - Craig Peterson, Secretary - Bob Evans, Treasurer – Paul Van Der Molen

Directors elected for the term 2007-2011: John Apple, John DeMajo, and Bucky Reddish

Other Directors: Doug Powers, Don Near, Donna Parker, Jelani Eddington, Allen Miller (excused), Michael Fellenzer, and Tyler Morkin (ATOS Youth Representative 2007-2009).

ATOS Staff: Jim Merry (Executive Secretary), Jeff Weiler (ATOS Journal Editor/Parliamentarian), Jim and Dolores Patak (ATOS Archives), Robert Ridgeway (Convention Reviewer), Michael Kinerk (ATOS Convention Planning Coordinator)

The President acknowledged outgoing directors Michael Cierksi, Carlton Smith, and Vern Bickel.

The membership listened to a report of the damage incurred in the floods in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Darren Ferreter reported that both the Cedar Rapids Paramount and its Wurlitzer were damaged severely. The console is in need of complete restoration or replacement.

**Old Business:**

Secretary Bob Evans prepared a report to the membership outlining the significant achievements of the Board over the past year. The minutes of the Board meetings (mid-year and all teleconferences up to April 11, 2008 had been published in the journal. One addition was made to the report-the addition of information about the new profit split between ATOS and the local chapters was not included in the report. The new profit sharing structure allows for the local chapter to retain 60% of the profits and ATOS to receive 40% of the profits from an Annual or regional convention.

The President entertained a motion to accept the Secretary's report.

**Motion: John Valentino, Second: Robert Salisbury**

Treasurer Paul Van Der Molen presented the Treasurer's report to the membership. He stated that ATOS is in good financial shape. He noted that because of the economy and the investment market the dividends on some of the accounts were down. Generally, however, the Society is on sound financial footing.

Motion:

The President entertained a motion to accept the Treasurer's report.

**Motion: Rob Vastine, Second, Ron Carter**

The President entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting held on July 4, 2007.

## **Motion: Rob Vastine, Second, Bob Salisbury**

President Double then called upon several board and staff members to report.

Executive Secretary Jim Merry spoke of the decline in ATOS membership. Jim stated that the primary reasons were that some members were in poor health and some had passed away. He mentioned the need for local chapters to recruit new members. He stated that local chapters are the front line in securing new members for our organization.

Jim also mentioned the fact that some chapters have a “friends” or “associate” category of membership, while others require that any member of the chapter belong to ATOS. This sparked some discussion of the pros and cons of requiring membership in ATOS and a chapter having “friends” or “associate” members

Mike Kinerk, Convention Planning Coordinator noted that for the first time in recent history, ATOS has conventions scheduled for three or four years in advance.

Jelani Eddington reported that six young organists entered the Young Theatre Organist Competition this year. This is an encouraging increase in entries.

President Double then strongly encouraged the membership to seek qualified candidates to run for the ATOS Board of Directors. He stated that each and every member should solicit individuals to run for the Board.

## **New Business:**

President Double reported that he is actively and aggressively approaching entities for fundraising. We have created a mission and vision statement for the organization. Ken Double explained that the mission and vision statements are necessary for the active solicitation of grants and other funds.

### **ATOS Mission Statement:**

*The American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) is the leading international organization dedicated to pursuing a positive difference in conserving and promoting the theatre pipe organ and its music, preserving original instruments where possible. We provide support and guidance to all ATOS chapters and others, with promotional and educational opportunities to both those within the Society, and to the public worldwide through the Internet, publications, conventions, and personal contact. We are passionately devoted to providing professional leadership and resources so the theatre pipe organ will thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

### **ATOS Vision Statement:**

*A growth in the number of active theatre organs, membership expansion, and public awareness brings a new generation of theatre organ audiences, supporters, technicians, and artists into the fold of a flourishing ATOS. Professional leadership provides abundant financial, technical and educational resources, facilitating a thriving theatre organ presence worldwide.*

President Double then explained that the ATOS Board of Directors had voted to abolish the policy allowing recording at conventions. This change in policy would not take place until after the 2009 Annual Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

Many members expressed their dissatisfaction with this change in policy and promised to communicate their concerns to the Board.

President Double then called upon Doug Powers and Bob Evans to explain the new position of President and CEO of ATOS. The Board voted to create this paid, full time-position.

Mr. Powers explained to the membership that in order for ATOS to survive and grow, we need a full time person to address the many issues that face the organization. Doug told those in attendance that the Board

felt the time had come to seriously address the problems of decreasing membership in our organization, adequate funding of our programs, and public awareness of the theatre organ. The entire Board wholeheartedly endorsed the creation paid, full-time leader to address these problems.

Bob Evans noted that the Board also agreed that Ken Double was the ideal candidate for this position. His marketing, public relations, and performance skills made Ken the logical choice.

President/CEO Double will assume his duties on September 1, 2008. The Board expects the position to be financed by contributions from fundraising activities.

The membership responded to the announcement with a round of applause.

Doug and Bob then explained the bylaws change necessitated by the creation of the President/CEO position.

The positions of Chairman of the Board and Vice Chairman of the Board will replace the former positions of President and Vice President.

Hearing no further business from the membership, President Double entertained a motion to adjourn.

**Motion: Jack Moellman, Second: Ron Carter**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Evans, Secretary ATOS