

June 2010

Dear AGO friends,

This is my first letter to you as the new Dean of the Greater Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. It is indeed an honor to have been voted into this office, and I assure you that your new Board is working feverishly to plan a truly magnificent 2010-2011 season of workshops and concerts for both your enjoyment and also for your educational and professional benefit. A complete listing of the upcoming calendar will be placed on our website by August so that you can start planning your yearly events ahead of schedule.



This month our chapter is delighted to be hosting the 2010 Pipe Organ Encounter (POE), here in Columbia from June 13-18. Twenty high school students will be taught by ten faculty members and their weekly lessons will culminate in a recital on Friday, the 18th. Although the daily lessons and sessions for the pupils will be closed to the public, we would like to make you aware of the evening recitals that will be available for the general public to attend. Please see the calendar listing on this website for a complete listing of recitalists, venues, and information regarding the location of the concerts. Lastly, I would like to thank the volunteers, members of the POE Board, faculty members, local church administrators, and music directors who have set aside countless hours of time in making preparations for this event. I look forward to seeing you all at the POE concerts!

As a final note I would personally like to thank Mr. Tony Roof, the former Dean of our local AGO chapter. Tony served on the Board for years and gave freely of his time for this organization. Under his leadership, he made it possible for all high school and college-age pupils to receive free student membership to the Guild and he encouraged new musicians in town to join our ranks. Tony will now be helping to organize the 2013 Regional AGO Convention, which will be held here in Columbia, South Carolina. So, we continue to thank him for his work for our musical association. Tony, you are brilliant!

Wishing each of you a marvelous summer filled with music and relaxation,

Patrick Hawkins, DMA