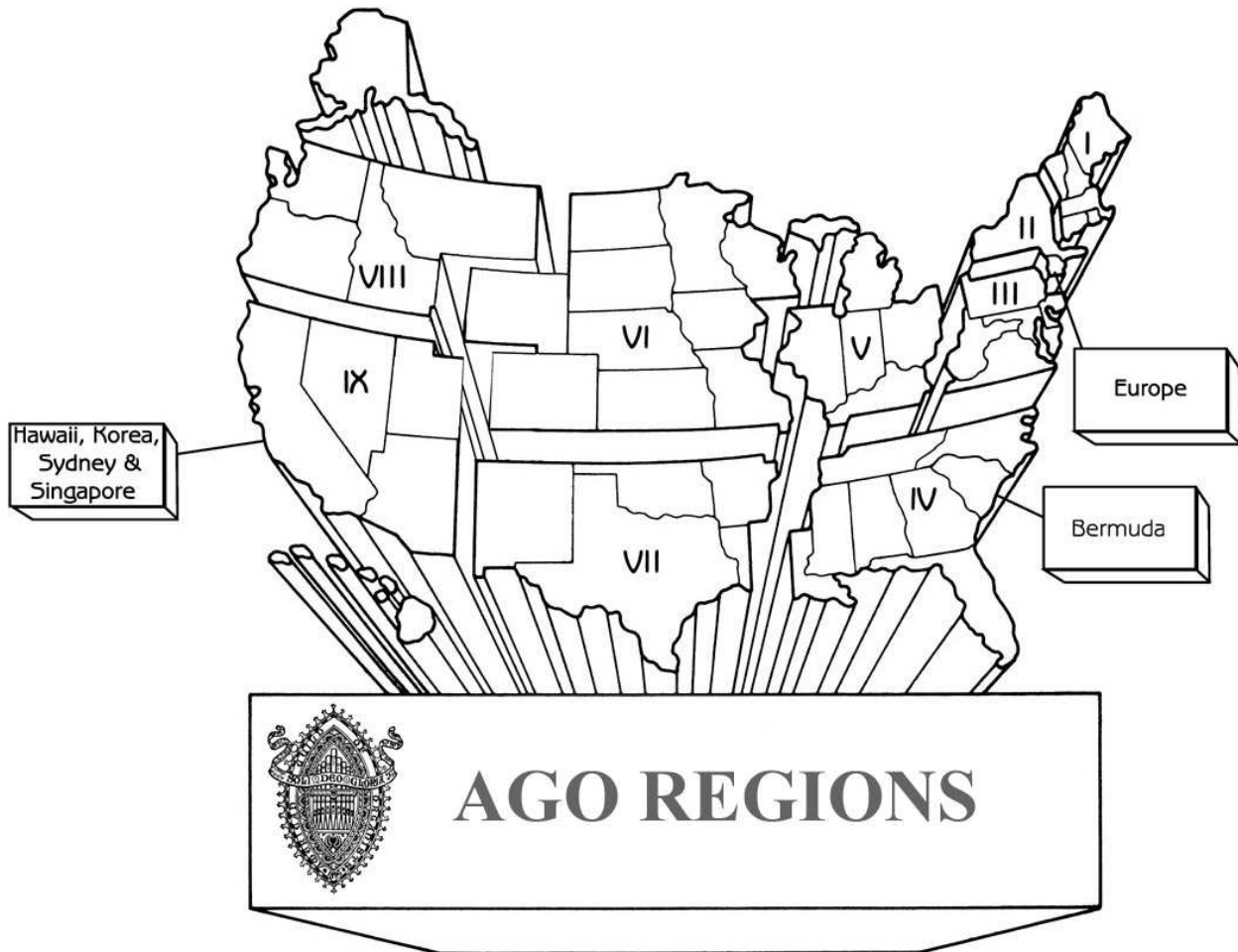


Guidelines for Regional Conventions of the American Guild of Organists



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**GUIDELINES
FOR
REGIONAL CONVENTIONS
OF THE
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

This book is the product of the work of many people. At the top of the list are the hundreds of hardworking Guild members who have planned, organized and presented Regional Conventions. In response to the need for shared wisdom, and a desire to stop the continuous "reinventing of the wheel," the document *Guidelines for Regional Conventions* was first prepared by the National Committee on Conventions and adopted by the National Council in April, 1986. The 2008 edition reflects the most current information.

The Committee on Regional Conventions has reviewed and edited this document, making every effort to be clear in what is required of Regional Conventions and what accumulated wisdom should be shared.

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Foreword

The document *Guidelines for Regional Conventions of the American Guild of Organists* was compiled to provide detailed instructions and information for the successful production of a Regional Convention, from the initial Chapter bidding process to post-convention responsibilities.

All committee chairs should read this entire document, in order to have an understanding of the entire process. Regional Convention committees may copy any part of this document for their use.

The preparation of a Convention is an immensely time consuming task. The challenge is to explore and enrich our musical world, to expand our vision, and to cause our spirits to soar. The hours are long, the challenge great, and the rewards invaluable!

The national organization – through the Councillor for Conventions, your Regional Councillor, the Committee on Regional Conventions, and your Regional Coordinators for Education and Professional Development, as well as the staff at Headquarters and THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine – stands ready to help you and your Chapter make your Regional Convention a truly memorable one.

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THE REGIONAL CONVENTIONS OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

A Philosophical Statement

Convention, n. 1. a meeting or formal assembly, as of representatives or delegates, for action on particular matters.

—**Syn. 1.** CONVENTION, ASSEMBLY, CONFERENCE, CONVOCATION name meetings for particular purposes. CONVENTION usually suggests a meeting of delegates representing political, church, social, or fraternal organizations. ASSEMBLY usually implies a meeting for a settled or customary purpose, as for discussion. CONFERENCE denotes a (church) assembly, the members of which have been summoned for a special purpose; chapel services at some colleges are called CONVOCATIONS. (*The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, New York: Random House, 1967.)

- The ideal Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists fulfills all the definitions set forth above in the synonyms for *convention*.
- AGO Regional Conventions provide attendees the opportunity to celebrate and discuss music for organ, choirs and other instruments. There are specific purposes for our gatherings: concerts, recitals, workshops, services of worship, and times for socializing and collegial good fun.
- Regional Conventions, in addition, are times for inspiration and renewal. Recitals and concerts by performers should be of the highest artistic accomplishment. Workshops must challenge as well as inform.
- Regional Conventions are times for the consideration of our profession, and the role that the AGO can play not only in improving our knowledge and skills, but also in improving the situations in which we work.
- Regional Conventions are also times to put our profession on display. Performers and literature should represent the best of the profession in your region. Regional Conventions shall, for the most part, feature artists, presenters and composers from the region.
- A successful Regional Convention should inspire a renewed sense of professional affirmation and self worth, and provide tangible materials for further learning and growth among the membership.

CHAPTER I

GENERAL POLICIES FOR REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

GENERAL STATEMENTS

1. When a Chapter's bid to host a Convention is approved by the National Council, and the Letter of Agreement is signed, the national organization is granting a "franchise" to that Chapter to hold an event on behalf of the Guild. The Letter of Agreement specifies that the Convention will be planned and conducted according to AGO procedures and philosophy. The national organization, as a corporate entity, is responsible for the oversight of Regional Conventions. With that responsibility comes the corresponding authority to take prudent measures to avoid financial difficulties. These measures include requiring program and budget approval, involving the Regional Councillor and the consultant from the Committee on Regional Conventions (CORC) in the planning process, and adhering to the current *Guidelines for Regional Conventions*.
2. A Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists is the biennial meeting of the membership in each of the nine regions of the Guild. The purpose of these meetings is to provide the opportunity for professional interaction and growth through appropriate emphasis on the unique cultural, ethnic and religious strengths in the Region. Workshops in church music, performance, liturgies and other topics can provide the opportunity for the finest musical and educational experiences.
3. Regional Conventions shall for the most part, feature artists, presenters, and composers **from the region**. The Regional Councillor will be involved in the process of building the Convention program.
4. Each Regional Convention will have as its goal a program which reflects a 50/50 gender balance in each category of persons selected as participants in the Convention program. The target ratio is a balance of at least 60/40 (or 40/60):
 - Performers (including conductors)
 - Composers of commissioned works
 - Workshop presenters/panelists
 - Worship leaders
5. The Convention provides a forum for communication and effective assistance within the organization. Opportunities for informal exchange of interests, ideas and mutual support should be scheduled. A formal regional business meeting shall provide an opportunity for concerns of the regional and national organization to be shared and discussed. Workshops will be scheduled that feature topics related to the Guild's work in Education, Professional Development, Membership Development and Chapter Support.
6. A Regional Convention provides the opportunity for the membership to hear some of the finest emerging musical talent through the AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists and subsequent winner's recital.
7. Conventions also provide an opportunity for fostering new music through commissioned compositions, which may be part of the programming.
8. Although neighboring Chapters may wish to work together on a Regional Convention, a single Chapter assumes overall responsibility as the primary host of the convention. Where Chapters are working together, all arrangements (including financial agreements) should be determined in advance and put in writing. This includes not only expenditures, but also volunteer workers. The neighboring Chapter may wish to make a financial contribution to the Convention as well. An agreement on whether any Convention net revenue would be shared should also be made in advance and put in writing. Some Conventions simply travel for a day to a nearby city.

HOST CHAPTER SELECTION PROCESS

1. Chapters interested in hosting a Regional Convention shall contact their Regional Councillor at least four years before the proposed Convention date. After carefully considering Chapter resources and assessing general interest by Chapter vote, the Dean, with the approval of the Chapter Executive Committee, will notify their Regional Councillor of the Chapter's interest.
2. Chapter bids are submitted on the *Application to Host a Regional Convention* to the Regional Councillor by January 31, three and a half years before the Convention would take place. These bids must include the proposed dates of the Regional Convention as well as the proposed hotel and the name of the proposed Convention Coordinator.
 - **Send one copy of this form to your Regional Councillor.**
 - **Send one copy of this form to the Councillor for Conventions.**
 - **Send one copy of this form to the Director of the Committee on Regional Conventions.**
 - **Send one copy to AGO National Headquarters.**
 - **Retain one copy for your records.**
3. The Committee on Regional Conventions, along with the Executive Director, reviews all bids. CORC makes final recommendations to the National Council prior to Council's spring meeting three years before the Convention date.
4. Upon ratification by the National Council, the National Councillor for Conventions will notify the Chapter Dean of the action.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REGIONAL COUNCILLOR AND THE HOST CHAPTER

1. The Regional Councillor is an *ex officio* member of the Convention Steering Committee, and will be involved in the selection of the Convention Coordinator, the planning of the Convention, monitoring, assisting and advising the host Chapter.
2. The Regional Councillor will promote the Convention by:
 - a. encouraging Convention attendance
 - b. contacting all Chapter Deans to enlist their support. This support could include sponsorship of receptions, concerts, and/or workshops as well as program book advertising and financial contributions.
 - c. contacting all District Conveners to develop a list of potential performers/workshop presenters to assist the Convention Program Committee.
3. By October 1st, 2 years preceding the Convention, the proposed program and budget of the Convention must be submitted in the required format to the Regional Councillor, the Councillor for Conventions, the Director of the Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director.
4. The Regional Councillor will work with the Regional Competition Coordinator in organizing and conducting the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists. The Regional Councillor will approve the selection of the competition organ.
5. The Regional Councillor shall receive and review copies of **all Steering Committee and Program Committee minutes, copies of all budgets, and the Chapter newsletter.**
6. By December 1, one and a half years prior to the Convention, the Councillor for Conventions, the Committee on Regional Conventions (CORC) and the Executive Director must review the budget and program of the Convention. After CORC and the Executive Director have approved the budget, any subsequent revisions must be approved by the Regional Councillor.

7. The Regional Councillor will plan for the regional business meeting in conjunction with the Program Committee. A time of at least one hour shall be chosen when all participants may attend. A meeting for Chapter Deans and other Chapter leaders, District Conveners, and Regional Resource Contacts shall be planned with the Regional Councillor. **The expense for this meeting is paid out of the Regional Councillor's budget.** It is also suggested that a breakfast or lunch be scheduled honoring all Examination Achievers.
8. By the time a Convention is over, the Convention Steering Committee has learned a great deal about organizing a Convention. In order to pass that wisdom on, the Regional Councillor will meet with the current Convention Steering Committee and the Committee for the next Convention in a debriefing session at the end of the Convention.
9. The Convention is responsible for only whatever transportation package is included, if any, and for only official convention meals (i.e. banquet or lunch). A per diem mileage allowance is not provided for the Regional Councillor.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND THE HOST CHAPTER

1. The Guild, as a corporate entity, is responsible for the oversight of Regional Conventions. This responsibility carries with it the obligation to assist the Chapter in the planning of the Convention, including but not limited to the Convention program, sites, personnel, budget, and contractual agreements with other individuals and organizations.
2. The Chapter, in its role as host Chapter of the Convention, agrees to provide the time and creative services of its members, on a volunteer basis, to staff the committee structure for planning and implementation of the Convention.
3. The National Council will appoint the Convention Coordinator upon nomination by the Chapter Executive Committee, in consultation with the Regional Councillor.
4. In the fall of the third year prior to the Convention, National Headquarters, the Councillor for Conventions, and the Committee on Regional Conventions will conduct an orientation session for all Convention Coordinators and Regional Councillors. The expenses related to this orientation session will be paid by National AGO.
5. A Letter of Agreement between the Chapter and the national organization will be signed. The Letter of Agreement should be signed and returned to AGO Headquarters as soon as hotel and dates are final, preferably by August 15 or sooner and no later than September 30 two years prior to the Convention. **Any changes to items covered by the Letter of Agreement, such as Convention dates, Convention Coordinator, or hotel must be approved by CORC and the Executive Director.**
6. By December 1, one and a half years prior to the Convention, the Councillor for Conventions, CORC and the Executive Director must review the budget and program of the Convention. After CORC and the Executive Director have approved the budget, any subsequent revisions must be approved by the Regional Councillor.
7. Regional Councillors and District Conveners should attend their Regional Convention. Either a national officer or the Executive Director will represent the national organization at each Regional Convention.
8. The finals of the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists will be held in conjunction with the Convention. The winner will play a recital as a part of the Convention. Rules for the competition are published in the spring of even-numbered years in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine and are available online. First- and second-prize awards for the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists are provided by Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. These funds, totaling \$1,500 per region, will be distributed by National Headquarters prior to each Regional Convention.

9. National AGO provides liability insurance coverage for its Chapters. The AGO has a Directors and Officers Policy. The Named insured is the American Guild of Organists including all Chapters. The definition in the policy of Insured Person is any person who has been, now is, or shall become a duly elected director or trustee, a duly elected or appointed officer, an employee or committee member whether or not they are salaried, and any other person acting on behalf of the Association or at the direction of any officer or board of directors of the Association.
10. Requests for certificates of insurance should be directed to the AGO's liability insurance administrator:
Old National Insurance
PO Box 1705
Fort Wayne, IN 46801
The AGO's contact people at Old National Insurance are:
Dawn Pequignot, dawn.pequignot@oldnationalins.com, 260-625-7212 and
Melody Hoerl, melody.hoerl@oldnationalins.com, 260-625-7216.
FAX 260-625-7525

Certificates will be prepared by Old National Insurance and sent to the venue and/or Convention's designee upon request.

11. National AGO provides performance licensing through its contract with ASCAP for works by ASCAP composers. The convention is responsible for performance licensing for works not in the ASCAP repertoire.
12. Upon request, AGO Headquarters will provide the Chapter with proof of tax-exempt status.
13. THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine will provide free advertising in the magazine. The editor of the magazine will provide each Convention Coordinator with specific details and deadlines.
14. The Steering Committee will appoint an individual who will submit an article to THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine, reporting on the Convention. The editor of the magazine will provide each Convention Coordinator with specific details and deadlines.
15. National Headquarters will provide at no charge an electronic file of the names and addresses of all members in the Convention's region. Promotional materials may only be mailed to recipients within the region's boundaries. No direct solicitation of members from other regions may be pursued. (Members of other regions are certainly welcome to initiate requests for information and register for any regional convention of their choice.)
16. The Committee on Regional Conventions, the Committee on Regional Competitions for Young Organists, the Councillor for Conventions and the AGO Headquarters staff are available to assist the host Chapter whenever necessary.
17. One of the members of the Committee on Regional Conventions will serve as a consultant to the Regional Convention. **The consultant shall receive and review copies of all Steering Committee minutes, Program Committee minutes, budgets and the Chapter newsletter.**
18. **The Regional Councillor shall also receive and review copies of all Steering Committee minutes, Program Committee minutes, budgets and the Chapter newsletter.**

CHAPTER II

PLANNING A CONVENTION

In order to succeed, it is imperative that Convention steering committees thoroughly assess these three interdependent areas before making detailed plans:

Financial resources

A well-planned Convention will produce a surplus of funds that rewards a Chapter for its hard work. Set a budget that makes a realistic assessment of potential funds:

- registration fees
- gifts and grants
- advertising
- exhibit fees

No decisions about any area of the Convention can be made without reference to the budget.

Available facilities

- available area instruments
- seating capacities
- instruments suited to a specific segment of literature or playing style
- location and accessibility of buildings
- availability of air-conditioned venues
- convention hotel

Decisions about programming and artists are affected by all of the above.

Programming philosophy

- highlight regional resources
- decide if your Convention will have a theme
- determine how regional artists, presenters, and composers can build on a theme
- include repertoire from a variety of periods and levels of difficulty

A Chapter may begin anywhere in the above list, but none of these areas can be ignored.

The Regional Councillor must be involved in and will assist with these initial assessments.

CHAPTER III

CONVENTION COORDINATOR, SECRETARY, AND TREASURER

CONVENTION COORDINATOR

1. The Chapter Executive Committee, in consultation with the Regional Councillor, will nominate a Convention Coordinator, who will be appointed by the National Council. The Coordinator is the senior Chapter official responsible for the Convention.

The Convention Coordinator should be a proven administrator with these abilities:

- to envision and articulate large goals
- to generate enthusiasm
- to delegate responsibility
- to empower others
- to involve others in the planning and decision-making process
- to develop consensus
- to monitor the progress of committees
- to inspire, encourage, and support colleagues
- to make unpopular but necessary decisions (including recommending to the Steering Committee that a committee chair be replaced, if necessary)

Essential personal characteristics include:

- administrative ability
- knowledge of the Chapter membership
- a confident and business-like manner
- insightfulness
- openness to criticism
- a sense of humor
- good mediation skills
- readiness to express appreciation to co-workers

2. In the fall of the third year prior to the Convention, the Coordinator must attend an orientation session at National Headquarters. The expenses for the orientation will be paid by National AGO. The Coordinator should also attend the preceding Regional Convention and wrap-up meeting and speak at the Regional Meeting.

3. The Coordinator, with the Chapter Dean, (and possibly even the Regional Councillor) shall conduct a "brainstorming" session, in which Chapter members can express their ideas about the Convention.

4. Soon after the orientation and brain-storming sessions, the Coordinator recommends a Secretary, a Treasurer, and committee chairs for approval by the Executive Committee of the Chapter. This group serves as the Convention Steering Committee.

5. The Coordinator conducts all Steering Committee meetings, beginning 30 months prior to the Convention, becoming monthly (including summer months) at least two years before the Convention. The Coordinator will be an *ex officio* member of all committees. All committee chairs report to the Coordinator and send minutes of meetings to the Coordinator and Convention Secretary for inclusion in Convention records.

6. The Coordinator directs the formulation of a philosophy and goals for the Convention and will articulate these goals to members of the Executive Committee and Chapter. The creation of a Mission Statement is helpful.

7. The Coordinator requests and oversees individual committee time lines, which will result in a master time line for Convention deadlines, based on the AGO Time Line for Regional Conventions. This determines the order of Convention decisions.
8. The Coordinator is in constant communication with all committee chairs, intervening as necessary. If necessary, the Coordinator recommends replacement of a committee chair.
9. The Coordinator should read the Convention Guidelines frequently, to ensure that all committees are working efficiently and in accord with the Guidelines.
10. The Coordinator, with the approval of the Steering Committee, establishes a budget for reimbursement of the Coordinator's expenses and for secretarial assistance. Committee chairs shall also budget their expenses for Treasurer and Coordinator approval.
11. The Convention Coordinator signs all contracts.
12. The Coordinator ensures that the Final Convention Report is filed with AGO Headquarters by the Convention Secretary **by August 31 of the Convention year.**
13. In extreme circumstances, a Convention Coordinator may have to be replaced. This decision will be made by the Regional Councillor in consultation with the Executive Director and the Committee on Regional Conventions. The Regional Councillor will then meet with the Chapter Executive Committee to appoint another Coordinator.

CONVENTION SECRETARY

1. The Secretary is a member of the Steering Committee and attends all meetings of the Steering Committee. The Secretary takes minutes of all Steering Committee meetings. (Tape recordings are helpful.) Within one week, copies of the minutes are sent to:
 - all Steering Committee members
 - Regional Councillor
 - Consultant from the Committee on Regional Conventions
 - Executive Director
2. The Secretary prepares and distributes a current roster of contact information, including email addresses, for all committee chairs. This roster should be updated as necessary. A copy of the roster and all subsequent changes should be sent to:
 - all Steering Committee members
 - Regional Councillor
 - Consultant from the Committee on Regional Conventions
 - Executive Director
3. At the end of the Convention, the Secretary gathers the information for the Final Convention Report, including all financial data, hotel room block and pick-up reports, and the final reports of all committee chairs. The Secretary, with the assistance of the Convention Coordinator, will enforce the following deadlines:
 - August 1:**
 - A photo and biography of both the first and second place winners of the AGO/Quimby RCYO Competition are due at National Headquarters. E-mail to AGO's Manager of Competitions, Harold Calhoun, hc@agohq.org.
 - August 1:**
 - A programmatic report for THE AMERICAN ORGANIST magazine with official Convention photographs is due at National Headquarters.

August 31:

Final Convention Report due, including:

- Financial statements
- Hotel Room Block and Pick-up Report
- Reports from the Convention Coordinator and all Committee Chairs
- Official Convention Program Book
- Completed Final Regional Convention Report Form (See Exhibits)

Send one copy of this report to:

- National Headquarters
- Regional Councillor
- Councillor for Conventions
- Director of Committee on Regional Conventions
- Coordinator of the next Regional Convention

- One copy of the Final Convention Report shall remain in the Chapter's permanent file

- With the copy of the Final Convention Report that is sent to National Headquarters, include copies of all publicity clippings. Send an additional 10 copies of the Official Convention Program Book to National Headquarters for archival purposes.

August 31:

- Contribution to the National AGO is due as required by the Letter of Agreement, with any additional contributions that the Convention would like to make.

CONVENTION TREASURER

1. The Convention Treasurer is the chief financial officer of the Convention. Practical experience in financial areas is essential. **The Convention Treasurer should not serve simultaneously as Chapter Treasurer.** The Treasurer will secure social security numbers from all artists and the AGO/Quimby RCYO winner.
2. The Convention Treasurer, along with the Finance Committee, develops the budget and monitors it once it is approved by CORC. All budget alterations require adjustments to other line items. **Chapter accounts and Convention accounts shall be maintained separately.**
3. **A proposed budget in the required format is due by October 1, in the second year before the Convention. The Regional Councillor must approve all revisions to the approved budget.**
4. The Convention Treasurer establishes accounting procedures, banking and investment accounts separate from the chapter's operating account, expense authorization procedures, income deposit procedures, and prepares the final financial statement/audit.
5. The Convention Treasurer reports income, expenditures and cash balances at each Convention Steering Committee meeting.
6. The Convention Treasurer supervises all Convention accounts and (generally) signs checks in consultation with the Convention Coordinator. Vouchers from committee chairs, co-signed by the Convention Coordinator, should support all expenses. The treasurer, in coordination with the convention coordinator, may establish a dollar threshold at which both must sign a check.
7. The Convention Treasurer records and deposits all gifts and grants made to the Convention.
8. Checks for all performers' fees are prepared before each event and distributed according to contracted agreements.

9. When large amounts of income are on hand which are not required for immediate expenditure, the Treasurer should be authorized to transfer these funds into interest bearing accounts to maximize the Convention income.
10. The bookkeeping procedures used throughout the Convention must conform to standard accounting practices. You may consult a professional bookkeeper or accountant.
11. The Convention Treasurer must track all payments in excess of \$600 in any calendar year made to presenters, performers, composers, etc. Those earnings must be reported to the recipient and to the IRS on form 1099-MISC by February 28 of the following year.
12. After the Convention financial report is complete, all net income should be transferred to the Chapter's account. If your Chapter's gross income during the tax year July 1 – June 30 is \$25,000 or more, the Chapter must file an IRS Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax). The Chapter should consult an accountant and submit this form no later than three months and 15 days after the close of the Chapter's fiscal year (usually by October 15). All income received by the Convention including registration fees, advertising sales, etc. must be counted toward the \$25,000. Since each Chapter of the Guild operates as a not-for-profit entity, the Chapter will not have any tax liability, but the report is due nonetheless.

CHAPTER IV

GUIDELINES FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Organizing an interesting, effective and well-run Regional Convention is a challenging task. It is extremely important that committee chairs be “team players” who work together to produce a fine Convention, and who are willing to involve the Chapter membership whenever possible. Individual committees should be tailored to the local situation, depending on the specific needs and personnel available. The following areas of responsibility need to be covered:

- Finance, Budget, Gifts and Grants
- Program: Recitals, Concerts, Workshops and Worship
- Logistics, Transportation
- Program Book, Advertising
- Hotel, Hospitality, Volunteers
- Registration
- Exhibits
- Regional Competition
- Publicity, Promotion

Members of the various committees will generally be appointed by the chairs of the respective committees in consultation with the Convention Coordinator. Personnel should be selected on the basis of their expertise, sense of responsibility, and ability to follow through on assignments.

The confidentiality of all committee deliberations is critical. During planning, many individuals and venues are considered. There is a great potential for disappointment, hurt and embarrassment if names and venues discussed in committee deliberations are disclosed prematurely to those not directly related to the decision process. **Every committee chair and member must sign the Confidentiality Pledge found at the end of these Guidelines.**

All committee members are responsible for adhering to the edition of the *Guidelines for Regional Conventions* in effect when the Letter of Agreement is signed.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee consists of the Convention Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, chairs of all committees, the Chapter Dean and the Regional Councillor. Additional committee members might attend those Steering Committee meetings where discussion and action are focused on the particular committee(s).

The Steering Committee should develop an overall philosophy for the Convention, using information gained from the Chapter “brainstorming” session. Developing a mission statement can also be helpful. The Convention philosophy or mission statement should guide both programming and budget decisions. Only after this groundwork has been completed should specific time and event planning begin. The Regional Councillor will participate in this process.

If at all possible, each member of the Steering Committee should attend the preceding Regional Convention.

Duties of the Committee

1. The Steering Committee will convene initially at least 30 months prior to the Convention. At least two years before the Convention, full Steering Committee meetings should be held on a monthly basis. Regular attendance at these meetings by all members is extremely important. Should it be impossible for a committee chair to attend a meeting, a deputy or representative should represent the chair.

2. **The deadline for submitting a proposed budget and program for approval is October 1, two years prior to the Convention. Submit these via e-mail attachment in the formats provided to the Regional Councillor, the Councillor for Conventions, the Director of the Committee on Regional Conventions, and the Executive Director.** The Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director will meet to review the budget and program by December 1, or request further information as necessary.
3. Committee chairs shall submit verbal or written reports at each meeting to maintain good and open communication between the various committees and their work.
4. As members of the Convention "team," each chair's committee and its function is crucial to the success of the Convention. Further, each member of the Steering Committee is responsible for generating and maintaining the good will and "*esprit de corps*" of the Chapter in its Convention effort.
5. The Chapter Dean shall continue to conduct the business of the Chapter and shall serve in an advisory capacity on the Steering Committee. The Dean serves *ex officio* on all committees, or, in small Chapters, may actually chair a committee.
6. The Steering Committee is empowered by the Chapter to prepare and adopt a Convention budget. The securing of any loans must be agreed upon by the Steering Committee and have the approval of the Chapter Executive Committee.
7. After each meeting, the Secretary shall send copies of all minutes to all members of the Steering Committee, the Regional Councillor, the Executive Director, and the consultant from the Committee on Regional Conventions.
8. The Steering Committee should approve a Convention logotype or symbol early in the planning process.
9. **Each member of the Steering Committee will maintain strict confidentiality concerning committee discussions and deliberations. Each member will sign the Confidentiality Pledge.**

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The heart of every Convention is its programming. The program should emphasize regional resources in the selection of performers and presenters. This does not preclude the inclusion of a limited number of nationally or internationally known performers from outside the region. But for the most part, the programming should reflect the region's strengths. A good Regional Convention should not be conceived as a "mini-national" Convention.

No firm program commitments can be made or program contracts issued until the necessary approval of budget and program has been received. Discussions about availability and fees must be held as part of the planning process. But even these must be made clearly tentative until all plans are final and approved. Only then may formal contracts or letters of agreement be issued. Program committees are encouraged to submit a draft of the proposed program early in the process to the Regional Councillor, the Councillor for Conventions, their CORC consultant, and the Executive Director for input and suggestions.

The cooperation of this committee is essential for the well-being of the entire Convention, since it is responsible for planning all recitals, concerts, workshops and worship.

It is possible that the Steering Committee may serve as the Program Committee. In this case, there is still a need for a Program Chair to handle all the details of programming. If a separate Program Committee is appointed, approximately five members, including a secretary, are usually adequate.

The National Council has mandated that every Regional Convention will incorporate the following items in its programming:

1. Gender balance among artists and presenters of 50/50, or at least 60/40 or 40/60. **Inclusiveness in selection of convention participants:** The Guild's current policy on inclusiveness will apply to all conventions. That is, issues of inclusiveness regarding gender, age, and ethnic/cultural diversity will be considered before approval is granted at any level. All AGO conventions will have as a goal a gender balance of 50/50 in each category of persons selected as participants in a convention program:

- Performers (including conductors).
 - Composers of commissioned works.
 - Workshop presenters/panelists.
 - Worship leaders.
2. Feature artists to be selected primarily from the region.
 3. Workshops addressing topics regarding the work of the Guild:
 - Education (examination and certification, encouraging young organists, Pipe Organ Encounter, the new organist)
 - Professional Development (e.g. salaries, contracts, clergy/musician relationships, mentoring)
 - Membership Development and Chapter Support (recruiting and retaining members, Chapter programming ideas, websites, newsletters)
 4. AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists and a recital for the winner.
 5. Regional business meeting (allow at least one hour), scheduled at a time when all Convention participants may attend, planned in conjunction with the Regional Councillor.
 6. Meeting of District Conveners, Education and Professional Development Coordinators, and Deans with the Regional Councillor.

The National Council has mandated that program committees shall not arbitrarily shun non-pipe technologies when structuring their programs, and that issues particular to non-pipe technologies be addressed in workshops.

The Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director must approve the program and the budget of the Convention BEFORE ANY CONTRACTS RELATING TO THE PROGRAM CAN BE SIGNED. The deadline for submitting a proposed program for approval is October 1, in the second year prior to the Convention. Include the AGO region with which each artist, presenter, and composer is identified. Submit these via e-mail attachment in the required formats to the Regional Councillor, the Councillor for Conventions, the Director of the Committee on Regional Conventions, and the Executive Director. (Use Budget Template and Program Narrative Template found in the Exhibits)

Duties of the Committee

1. The Program Committee must begin its work by meeting at least once a month, beginning approximately 30 months before the Convention.
2. A Program Committee Secretary shall be named to maintain complete and accurate minutes of the committee's deliberations and discussions. Copies are sent to committee members, the Chapter Dean, the Regional Councillor, and the consultant from the CORC.
3. The duties of the Committee are to:
 - Select all artists and performing groups for recitals and concerts.
 - Plan all workshops and select workshop presenters.
 - Determine what services of worship will be held during the Convention, and either plan them or provide for the planning.
 - Maintain close communication with other committees as the planning progresses: registration, logistics, publicity, program book and transportation will all be directly affected by the work of this committee. It would be wise to have representatives from these committees attend appropriate Program Committee meetings.
 - Gratefully acknowledge unsolicited program proposals upon receipt.
 - As a policy matter, decide whether or not to invite host Chapter and/or Steering Committee members to perform or present workshops as part of the Convention, and whether they will be paid if they do perform.
4. Important issues to be discussed in the early planning include:
 - Total Convention time frame, buildings and seating capacities, and available organs.
 - Criteria for choices of performers and workshop presenters.
 - Provision for a variety of types of events, a cross section of repertoire, and learning experiences at various

- levels (both practical and scholarly). It is expected that music for smaller instruments, and for choirs and organists with limited training and resources, be included in every Regional Convention program.
- The extent to which commissioning of new music will be a feature of the Convention; the criteria for types of compositions to be commissioned, and from which composers. (The National New Music Committee is available to serve as a resource in this area.)
 - When all artists, presenters and performing groups have been chosen and the program and budget approved by the Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director, the Committee will prepare contracts to be signed by the Convention Coordinator. Graciously inform those not selected that program decisions have been finalized and that they are not included.

All contracts should include a space for the artist's social security number or agent's Federal I.D. number.

Artists

1. After the program and budget have been approved by CORC, confirm contract details with the artist or artist's manager. Be clear as to the committee's expectations, e.g., specify the length of the program and the extent of the committee's control regarding the content, and if the premiere of a commissioned work is an expectation.
2. A fee package should be negotiated with the artist or artist's manager. Elements to be considered include the performer's fee, transportation, complimentary registration, and lodging and per diem expenses. If lodging is provided, be specific about incidentals such as phone, parking, dry cleaning, room service, etc. Negotiating a flat fee is highly preferable. Be sure that everything you expect of the artist is clearly defined in the contract, especially:
 - Date by which proposed program is to be submitted (N.B.: Organ specifications must be provided to the artist well in advance of this).
 - Deadline for submitting biographical materials and photographs (how many and what type of photos).
 - Name(s) and address(es) of persons to whom above materials are to be sent.
 - Recording and/or broadcast release as necessary.
 - How and when payment will be made.
3. Contracts should specify that artists are not to make any disparaging comments about any instrument or builder, nor should they use a regional convention performance to advertise or promote one product over another.

Workshops

1. After the program and budget have been approved by CORC, contact the suggested presenters in writing to confirm contract details. The presenter must provide an exact title and description for use in the program book.
2. Other details to be considered include:
 - Providing audio-visual and other requirements. Be certain to include these costs in the budget.
 - Encouraging presenters to "test drive" their AV equipment before their presentation.
 - Securing biographical information for use in the Convention program book.
 - Including a clause which allows the recording of workshops for future educational use.
 - Ordinarily workshop presenters provide their own handouts. If the Convention agrees to pay for handouts for workshop presenters, it is wise to set a limit on the number of handout pages and a deadline for submission of materials. Be certain to include these duplication costs in the budget.
 - A fee package should be decided upon and be clearly stated. Workshop presenter arrangements must be secured by contract or by a letter of agreement. If a hotel room is to be provided, specify whether incidentals will be included (i.e., phone, parking, meals, etc.). Be specific about all details.
 - Matching the size of the room to the projected attendance.
 - Being sure there are enough workshops to reflect a spectrum of interests.

Reading Sessions

It is of benefit to the attendees and a courtesy to music exhibitors to offer reading sessions as part of the workshop schedule.

Guild Service/Convocation

These services should be intentionally inclusive. It is strongly recommended that the attending national, regional and state AGO officials participate in a service in some way. If there will be a procession, appoint a person to organize it. Such a procession provides an excellent place for participation. Determine as early as possible who will participate, and notify them of the need to bring academic robes.

Worship Services

Model worship services at Guild Conventions should be viewed as essentially educational rather than religious activities. Planners should be sensitive to the impact of potentially exclusionary practices.

Exhibits

Adequate free time to visit exhibits must be carefully provided.

Social events

Social events and receptions should provide a change of pace for the Conventioneers—budget for them. Invite Chapters and businesses in the region to sponsor a social event.

Pre-Convention events

If the Convention plans pre-Convention events, these events should be arranged so that everyone attending the Convention can be accommodated (or identify specific limits in the advance publicity). Events presented by local churches scheduled prior to the Convention may be listed in the program book. Specific deadlines should be established regarding these events if they are to be included in pre-Convention publicity and/or the Convention program book. The possibility of presenting a pre-Convention event should be announced to all the Chapter members.

Public concerts and recitals

The AGO encourages that concerts and recitals, especially evening performances, be open to the public. Convention attendees should be seated first or have space reserved for them. Consider an at-the-door fee (or donation) for individual events. Check with each church for any policy regarding the sale of tickets for concerts at their facility. Budget sufficient funds to cover costs of printing tickets and programs for these public events.

Building arrangements and organs

Arrangements for the use of church premises and buildings must be made as early as possible.

1. Even before substantive discussions are held regarding the selection of recital and workshop locations which will need organs, a survey must be conducted in conjunction with the Logistics Committee. The survey will list all possible organs and the seating provided in the spaces in which they are installed.
2. Contact must be made with the resident musician and the church authorities. Determine exactly who has the authority to commit the use of space in the building.
3. Arrange for a written guarantee of organ condition. If the church is unwilling to tune the organ prior to the Convention, make the proper arrangements for the Convention to pay this cost and reflect this item within the budget. Request organ specifications at the same time you make the other arrangements.
4. Clearly state that it is necessary for the incumbent organist to be present at the recital(s) during the Convention. If possible, arrange for the church's organ technician to be in attendance the day of the performance.
5. All final negotiations must be in writing and should be reconfirmed. The use of the church might be donated if members of the parish are invited to attend the recital or other event.

Some churches and other facilities will require a certificate of insurance. (See **“Relationship Between the National Organization and Host Chapter”**, #10)

Unions

Be aware of musicians' union requirements regarding instrumentalists, concert halls, rehearsals and performances.

Recording of events

If the Convention chooses to record events, all necessary releases and permissions must be obtained. All costs associated with recordings must be budgeted.

Performance Licensing

When a Convention includes public performances of copyrighted music, the Convention is responsible for paying licensing fees to the individuals or organizations that hold the copyrights. The AGO National Headquarters pays an annual fee to ASCAP enabling all Conventions to sponsor performances of music in the ASCAP repertory without further cost or obligation. Program committees should check with BMI and SESAC to determine what fees may apply to public performances of copyrighted music within the repertory of those organizations.

Copyright Permissions and Payments

Be certain that you abide by the law to secure permission to duplicate any work under copyright and that you retain the written consent of the copyright holder. Fees for copyright permissions must appear in the budget. **Written proof of permission to duplicate may be required by printers.**

Commissions

The Program Committee may wish to commission new compositions for organ, with or without additional forces (choral, instrumental, vocal), as well as promote recently composed repertoire as part of the Convention program.

Important considerations in commissioning new works:

- Including works that are within the scope of the various forces available to the diverse range of churches and synagogues in the region, particularly smaller institutions.
- Matching the resources, available instruments, ensembles, and the theme of the Convention.
- Highlighting composers living in the region, including composers from local and regional colleges and universities.
- Establishing a competition for organ voluntaries, anthems, hymn-tunes, etc. Such a competition may be held in cooperation with another organization or a publisher.

The Program Committee is encouraged to:

- Consider programming works commissioned by previous Conventions and local Chapters of the AGO, works by past AGO Distinguished Composers, as well as other organizations connected with the organ, such as international competitions, colleges and universities, and religious institutions.
- Promote the work of composers from the region, including commissions and performances of already-composed works.

The National Committee on New Music Competitions and Commissions is available for suggestions and advice.

Coordination with Other Committees:

- **AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists**
Coordinate the location and time of the regional competition winner's recital with the Competition Committee. Remember to budget the cost for printing this recital program, since it will not appear in the program book.
- **Artists' Hospitality**
Be sure that arrangements have been made for artists' hospitality during the Convention, such as pick-up at the airport, local transportation, etc.
- **Program Book**
If program notes are expected, clearly specify length and a deadline for submission in the contract. If program notes are to be printed in the Convention program book, be aware that they will need to be received in plenty of time to meet the printing deadline for the Convention program book. If they are to be distributed as a separate handout at the performance, allow for their printing costs in the budget.
- **Publicity**
Maintain a close liaison with the Publicity Committee. See that all publicity items are read and reviewed by the Program Committee before publication.
- **Transportation**
Coordinate the transportation schedule with the Transportation Committee to provide the most efficient use of time, smoothness of operation, and maintenance of the over-all schedule.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE/FINANCIAL POLICIES

The Convention Treasurer is the Director of the Finance Committee and in some cases may serve as the entire Finance Committee.

Sound financial planning and strict control of the budget must go hand in hand with creative program planning to have a successful Convention. A preliminary budget must be developed in consultation with the Regional Councillor.

The deadline for submitting a proposed budget for review is October 1, two years prior to the Convention. Submit this via e-mail attachment in the required format to the Regional Councillor, the Councillor for Conventions, the Director of the Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director. The Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director must review the budget by December 1. After CORC and the Executive Director have approved the budget, any subsequent revisions must be approved by the Regional Councillor. (Use Budget Template found in the Exhibits)

Convention Budget

A primary responsibility of the Finance Committee and/or the Convention Treasurer is to participate in planning the budget, and provide strict control of the budget once approved.

All budgets submitted must use the required budget template.

In developing the budget, the following must be considered:

- Research the number of paid registrations at the last two or three Conventions. Compare your metropolitan area to similar areas of past Conventions. **Set an attendance figure that is lower than previous Conventions.** The Convention break-even point (the number of paid registrations needed to cover expenses) should be **very conservatively figured** to ensure a financially solvent Convention.
- Decide on reasonable fees for your region in the present economic climate. The fees include: early registration, regular registration, senior and spouse/partner registration, student registration, non-member registration and daily registration.
- Decide what meals will be included (if any).
- Consult previous Convention reports to get an idea about the percentage of paid registrations in each category.
- Based on the above information, calculate the amount of income from registration fees.
- Set reasonable amounts of income expected from gifts, grants, sponsorships, contributions, ticket sales, advertising and exhibit fees.
- With the total income (registration fees, gifts, grants, contributions, ticket sales, advertising and exhibit fees) in mind, the Finance and Steering Committees are now ready to discuss the expenses. Keep in mind all the financial responsibilities, in addition to programming, that must be covered by Convention income.
- Each Convention committee should prepare an estimate of expenses to be submitted to the Finance Committee in order to create a total working budget. The Convention Treasurer is responsible for controlling the budget.
- The Convention Account and the Chapter Accounts **must be kept separate.**

Pre-Convention expenses

Working capital will be required to meet various expenses that may be incurred before any income is received. These expenses could include:

- Representation at the preceding National Convention and Regional Convention
- Promotional materials and advertising
- Printing of stationery
- Telephone and postage
- Payments on commissions
- Logo development
- Hotel deposits, if required

The first source of pre-Convention financing should be the host Chapter itself. Loans from the Chapter's operating surplus or reserves should be made, as required, and accurately recorded for repayment as soon as possible.

Loans may be arranged through AGO National Headquarters for start-up expenses. They will be interest-free until September 1 of the Convention year, at which time repayment will be requested. If the funds cannot be repaid at that time, interest will be charged (beginning the following month), with repayment terms to be negotiated with National Headquarters. Consider asking the Steering Committee to pay their registration fee early.

Required Convention Expenses

Host Chapters are responsible for:

1. Complimentary Registration:

- Regional Councillor
- District Conveners
- Regional Coordinator for Education
- Regional Coordinator for Professional Development
- First and Second Place Winners of the AGO/Quimby RCYO
- Judges (3) for the AGO/Quimby RCYO

2. Hotel:

- Regional Councillor
- First Place Winner of the AGO/Quimby RCYO
- Competitors of the RCYO *during the practice and competition period*
- Judges (3) of the RCYO *from the time they are required to arrive until the convention begins*

3. Convention Transportation Package: (if separate)

- Regional Councillor
- National AGO Representative
- First Place Winner of the AGO/Quimby RCYO
- Competitors of the RCYO *during the practice and competition period*

4. Convention Meal Package: (i.e. banquet, box lunch – if separate)

- Regional Councillor
- National AGO Representative
- First Place Winner of the AGO/Quimby RCYO
- Competitors of the RCYO *during the practice and competition period*
- Judges (3) of the RCYO *from the time they are required to arrive until the convention begins*

5. \$100 Honorarium:

- Each AGO/Quimby RCYO judge (3)

6. Contribution to National AGO

The Chapter will contribute 5% of the gross revenue of the Convention (not including gifts, grants, contributions, and loans) to National AGO. This money supports the work of the Guild in planning and administration of Conventions and meetings at national and regional levels. This contribution should be budgeted along with other anticipated expenses. Host Chapters are encouraged to contribute additional amounts, either to the Annual Fund, the Endowment Fund, or to a special project or other fund of the Guild. (Contact the Director of Development and Communications at National Headquarters for information.) **This contribution is due by August 31 of the Convention year.**

Financial Responsibility

If a Regional Convention's expenses exceed its income, the Convention Steering Committee and the host Chapter

will attempt to renegotiate fees paid to service providers and venues, tap new income sources that the Steering Committee and Chapter may not have previously accessed, and initiate post-Convention fund-raising campaigns. AGO National Headquarters is ultimately responsible for satisfying the financial obligations of each Chapter.

Tax Status/Legal Restrictions

The Convention is a project of the host Chapter, and the Finance Committee should ensure early in the planning process that the Chapter is in compliance with all AGO, Federal, State and local regulations regarding proper registration as a tax-exempt organization.

The American Guild of Organists holds 501(c)(3) exempt status with the IRS for federal taxes, which includes all local Chapters through a group exemption. **The federal I.D. number and Group exemption number are available from AGO Headquarters.** Exemption from state income and sales taxes should be secured where possible under state laws. **Start this process early!** Other registrations which may be required include state franchise board, attorney general or charities bureau (to be properly registered to do business, raise funds, etc.) or local tax agencies. This may be covered in conjunction with state registration, though such items as admissions taxes may be purely local.

It may be advisable to consult a tax specialist (attorney or accountant) to be sure the Chapter is properly registered.

The Convention Treasurer must track all payments in excess of \$600 in any calendar year made to presenters, performers, composers, etc. Those earnings must be reported to the recipient and to the IRS on Form 1099-MISC by February 28 of the following year.

The Convention's final financial statement is due August 31 as part of the Convention's final report. After the books have been closed, all net income should be transferred to the Chapter's account. If your Chapter's gross income during the tax year July 1 – June 30 is \$25,000 or more, the Chapter must file an IRS Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax). The Chapter should consult an accountant and submit this form no later than three months and 15 days after the close of the Chapter's fiscal year (usually by October 15). All income received by the Convention including registration fees, advertising sales, etc. must be counted toward the \$25,000. Since each Chapter of the Guild operates as a not-for-profit entity, the Chapter will not have any tax liability, but the report is due nonetheless.

GIFTS, GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE

An individual or a small committee should be appointed to seek gifts, grants and contributions in support of the Convention. **Start early!** This committee should work closely with the Finance Committee and may be a sub-committee, if desired.

Financial sponsorship of Convention events increases income and holds registration fees down. A significant sponsor increases the visibility of the AGO.

Gifts, grants and contributions are distinguished from advertisements in that nothing is expected in return for a charitable donation (gift, grant or contribution). If a company or an individual sponsors an event, that sponsor may also be purchasing advertising as well as making a sponsorship donation. A distinction must be made between how much of the sponsorship money is given strictly as a gift, and how much is paying for a service rendered (i.e. advertising). The amount paid for advertising is subject to the 5% fee to the National AGO as income, but the remainder of the contribution is not.

Duties of the Committee

1. The committee or chair should create a list in spreadsheet format of items which might be sponsored or donated to the Convention. These might include:

- Early registration prizes
- Receptions, coffee breaks or meals
- Convention tote bags and individual items such as guidebooks, maps, pencils and pads
- Commissioned works
- Scores for reading sessions

- Individual recitals, concerts, series of workshops
- Special ensembles (choirs, orchestras, etc.)
- Special instruments
- Rehearsals
- Daily newsletters

Potential sources of support include:

- Steering Committee members
- Chapter members
- Chapters in your region (to host receptions, sponsor commissioned works, place ads in program book, etc.)
- Local congregations (co-sponsorship)
- Organ building and/or maintenance firms
- Music publishing firms
- Retail music distributors
- Suppliers of other equipment (bells, vestments, liturgical furnishings, music stands, etc.)
- Denominationally related agencies such as insurance companies, etc.
- Donors at previous Regional Conventions
- Private individuals
- Private foundations
- State and local arts councils
- Local corporations/businesses
- Local Chapter, American Federation of Musicians (Music Performance Trust Fund grants may be available for performances involving instrumentalists and open free to the general public.)

The Foundation Center www.fdncenter.org is a source that lists foundations by state.

State or municipal arts funding agencies may require that any events funded be open to the public.

Proposals to any source, once the interest of that source has been determined, must be very specific and submitted with due regard for application deadlines. Budget information provided must accurately reflect the Convention's projected needs.

Acknowledge all gifts promptly in writing, as well as in the program book and other places as appropriate.

LOGISTICS COMMITTEE

The Logistics Committee arranges for the locations of all Convention events, and is in charge of the production details of the Convention.

This Committee functions in conjunction with the Program Committee, and most responsibilities begin after major program decisions have been made.

Duties of the Committee

Early in the program planning:

1. The Committee will conduct a survey of all churches and concert locations that might be considered by the Convention. The survey should list:
 - handicapped accessibility
 - capacity of the room
 - availability of air conditioning
 - size and type of instrument
 - location and number of restrooms
 - distance from Convention hotel

- parking availability
2. At the direction of the Program Committee Chair, confirm in writing the use of all churches. Clarify in writing all financial responsibilities.
 3. At the direction of the Program Committee Chair, confirm in writing the use of all concert halls and other buildings which will be used for Convention events, and, if required, negotiate fees for the use of the spaces. Ascertain union requirements in concert halls and all contract requirements and stipulations. Be certain to budget these costs.
 4. Obtain certificates of liability insurance coverage as required by facilities. National AGO provides liability insurance coverage for its Chapters (see Chapter I. D.).
 5. Ascertain the availability for potential rehearsal time (and charges) in the various facilities. Assemble a master rehearsal schedule.
 6. List all equipment needed for a concert or recital—from risers to special percussion instruments, music stands, stand lights, etc. Budget all such costs.
 7. Examine all performance and workshop locations to be sure they meet Convention needs and to identify potential problems.
 8. Contact the Hospitality Committee to discuss ushering requirements and other needs.
 9. Determine audio-visual needs for programs and workshops. Assign or hire personnel to deliver and operate equipment. Work with the Hotel Committee concerning arrangements for workshops that occur in the hotel. Budget all costs in cooperation with the Program Committee.
 10. In conjunction with the Hotel Committee, determine what extra costs will be incurred from the hotel, such as use of a telephone, use of a corkboard for a message center, a piano in a public room, etc. Will there be a service fee charged in addition to the actual cost? Build these items into the budget.

Closer to Convention date:

1. Following the signing of a contract or agreement for use of any building, space, church, etc., it is wise to keep in contact with the building managers, etc., by telephone to be sure that all remains in order for your use.
2. Re-confirm all commitments with specifics two months to six weeks ahead of the Convention.
3. Complete and distribute Master Rehearsal Schedules to all appropriate committee members.
4. Inform all recitalists, instrumentalists, conductors, choruses, etc., of the rehearsal schedule.
5. Assign a committee member to each Convention event. Duties are:
 - Obtain the proper scores for each event.
 - Attend rehearsals, determine needs, distribute and collect scores, supervise stage set-up.
 - Arrive at the recital/concert venue early to check on all details.
 - Act as stage manager to determine signals for starting the performance, operation of house lights, curtains, length of intermission, etc. Coordinate with the head usher or house manager.
6. Cooperate with the Hospitality Committee to place signs at all sites, directing registrants to workshop locations, restrooms, etc.

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

The Exhibits Committee contacts potential exhibitors, arranges exhibit space, supervises exhibit setup and

breakdown, and sees to the welfare of exhibitors during the Convention.

Develop a list of potential exhibitors from exhibitors at previous Conventions in your region, TAO advertisers, area music-related businesses, and others. Send a letter describing your Convention, listing proposed exhibit hours, expected attendance, fees and a reasonable deadline. This letter should also include ad prices for the program book. Consider offering package deals to exhibitors who also advertise in the Convention program book and/or sponsor Convention events.

Duties of the Committee

Exhibit Space and Details

1. Contact the Convention hotel about exhibit procedures and inspect all display space and rooms to be furnished by the hotel. Ideally, your display space should be located in one area – usually 2400-5000 sq. ft. Contact local music stores and publishers, local organ builders and other related vendors to provide a variety of exhibits.
2. If necessary, the hotel can recommend a display company to rent draping and table skirting. You are responsible for making this contact. Be sure to have a committee member on site when the exhibits are set up to ensure that all assignments and signs are correct. Your local Visitors' Bureau may provide booth signs.
3. Provide music dealers with the complete program as soon as possible to allow them to order multiple copies of repertoire and workshop music. Your attendees will want to purchase this music. Be sure to include organ, choral, and handbell music and CDs, as well as church supply items.
4. Make a map of the exhibit room and include it in your program book or as a handout at Registration.
5. If exhibits are in one area, digital organ dealers must provide headphones.
6. **Arrange for security** for all exhibits before, during, and after exhibit hours. **Under the AGO insurance policy, there is no liability for exhibitors' property.** Things that belong to exhibitors should be covered under their own policy no matter where they are – at home, business, or exhibition.
7. Consider having receptions and cash bars near the exhibit area to encourage traffic.

Fees

1. When the Convention budget is set, fees for exhibits must be decided by the Steering Committee. The Convention charges the exhibitor a fee for the booth based on cost to the Convention plus a reasonable profit.
2. At the discretion of the Steering Committee, exhibitors may receive complimentary registration. Special badges should be prepared for the exhibitors, listing company and location.
3. The Program Committee will usually include reading sessions in the workshops. If arrangements are made early enough, publishers or local music stores may be willing to provide packets for these sessions. If the music is provided on a consignment basis, packets that are taken but not paid for are the responsibility of the Convention.

Exhibit Hours

1. **Be sure to include adequate exhibit time at reasonable hours in your schedule in order to attract the greatest possible number of exhibitors!** Exhibits should be considered early in the planning process as an integral part of the schedule; they also provide important convention revenue. The premium hours are after evening events, especially when receptions and cash bars have been arranged in the exhibit area. Scheduling is only effective when convention guests are at the hotel. Exhibit hours often work well in conjunction with opening day registration, free time between events, and even music reading sessions on site. Avoid low traffic scheduling – during early morning hours or while events and workshops are held away from the hotel.
2. Exhibits **must** be closed during a Guild service/convocation, recitals, and the regional business meeting.

3. Clearly list exhibit hours in the brochure and the program book.

VOLUNTEERS COMMITTEE

This individual or committee coordinates volunteer workers for the Convention. Whether or not the Convention requires this committee will depend upon the complexity of the program and the size of the Chapter.

Duties of the Committee

1. List all personnel needs for the Convention by consulting with other committees -- especially Program, Registration, Hospitality and Logistics.
2. Make appeals for assistance through the Chapter newsletter and a separate letter mailed to each member. Include a returnable form from which a master list of volunteers may be made.
3. In April of the Convention year, send a preference and availability questionnaire, with response form. From the responses, begin to assign volunteers. Be sure to make provision for alternates!
4. Communicate with each volunteer regarding duties, schedule, and contact information. Express appreciation for their willingness to serve in this capacity. Volunteers should be readily identifiable!
5. Arrange orientation sessions in cooperation with committee chairs. It can be helpful to gather all the Convention personnel for a session a few days before the Convention to walk through the entire Convention:
 - who does what, when
 - who needs to be where, when
 - what equipment needs to be in place, when
 - where buses will be loading
 - where hospitality, coffee breaks will be, etc.
6. Have a pool of volunteers available to be on call should emergencies arise during the Convention.
7. If the Volunteer Committee is responsible for ushers, one member should serve as the usher director to coordinate with the Program Committee and organize all volunteers. Recruit ushers from the various churches. Ushers should be familiar with the layout of the buildings used for programs, the location of rest rooms, parking arrangements, and be prepared with first aid assistance and emergency phone numbers.
8. A card listing phone numbers for all essential contacts (emergency services, Steering Committee members, etc.) is vital for each person connected with the running of the Convention to have.
9. A celebratory event, scheduled at some point after the Convention, is an appropriate way to thank all members who participated in the work of the Convention.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Transportation Committee arranges for transportation to each Convention event.

Average Regional Convention attendance is approximately 200 to 300 people, many of whom have their own cars available. The number of participants who will drive to events will depend upon the availability and cost of parking at the Convention hotel, the availability of parking at venues, and the complexity of the host city's street system. Chapters should estimate carefully the various factors in arranging for public transportation for the Convention. Keep transportation as simple as possible. If the travel is reasonably complex, it is to the advantage of an on-time schedule to urge the registrants to sign up for the transportation package.

The Transportation Chair tends to work alone until shortly before the Convention. Good communication between the Transportation Chair and the Program Committee Chair is essential. The Transportation Chair needs constant updating from the Program Committee, so it is wise for the Chair to attend meetings of the Program Committee

frequently, and, if otherwise appropriate, to be named an *ex officio* member of the Program Committee.

Duties of the Committee

1. If possible, the program schedule should be arranged so that Conventioneers may walk to some events.
2. Buses will leave from a central point (hotel) most of the time. If the Convention is divided into groups, clearly identify bus departure points and destinations.
3. Set up an itinerary, which is also agreed upon by the Program Committee Chair and the Convention Coordinator. At this time, get bids from local bus companies. Determine that the buses are comfortable and well cared for. Be sure the bus drivers are equipped to handle driving in rush hour, etc.
4. The fee for transportation should be at least a break-even one.
5. Any major changes in the Convention schedule must be reported to the bus company.
6. Transportation is not so much a committee as a pool of people to direct traffic. An assistant chair may be helpful in organizing the people to ride the buses. The Chair will be occupied with getting the buses to and from the proper places. This is a full-time job during the Convention.
7. Special permits and assistance from the police regarding parking spaces may be necessary.
8. Each bus should have an AGO member on board to enforce directions or destinations to the driver and to watch for color coding for correct locations. The guide must enforce departure times or delays will develop which will only compound as the day progresses. Loading and unloading buses must be well supervised. A person should be designated to make a final call or dismiss the last bus.
9. If maps are necessary at the destination, the bus guide should hand them out as each person boards the bus.
10. Before the Convention, decide how to indicate paid bus transportation on the badge. You may also have a daily transportation fee. Consult with the Registration Committee.
11. Consider hiring a bus company supervisor for assistance during the Convention. This person would act as a liaison with the drivers and make sure the transportation proceeds with as little trouble as possible.
12. Adjust the number of buses after each day's events. Utilization of buses usually declines during the week except for the large concerts.
13. Plan for special needs transportation. Persons needing this service will request it on the Registration Form. The Registrar will inform the Transportation Chair, so that necessary arrangements can be made. Each person who has requested special needs transportation should receive a letter outlining the arrangements.
14. It is essential to provide maps with specific information (including venue names, addresses and phone numbers) for the people who want to drive their own cars, walk, or need to take other transportation.
15. Check each site to determine if traffic or parking guides are needed.
16. Make a dry run at the same time of day the buses will be traveling to be certain enough time is allowed. Leave enough time for emergencies and for unloading/loading. Check with city officials to determine whether any proposed routes are scheduled for maintenance at the time of the Convention. Be sure to consider holidays and special events that may impact traffic.

HOTEL/HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Hotel/Housing Committee arranges for the housing of the Conventioneers and Convention participants and is responsible for overseeing, coordinating, and documenting specifications for all convention functions that take place in the hotel.

Duties of the Committee

1. Determine the approximate number of registrants. Review the number of sleeping rooms actually rented for all hotels used during the last three Conventions. Prepare an RFP (Request for Proposals) that you can give to all hotels under consideration that specifies your hotel needs. Consult with the hotel Convention director to block the projected number of rooms. Reserve adequate rooms for pre- and post-Convention activities – for those who come early and/or stay after the Convention.

2. It is best to house the entire Convention in one hotel. This simplifies transportation and maximizes your ability to negotiate for complimentary sleeping rooms, and exhibit and meeting spaces based on the number of sleeping rooms sold. If the option of alternative accommodations is considered, including neighboring hotels and university dormitories, be sure to consider the impact this will have on meeting space costs, bus schedules, and transportation fees.

3. Inspect all meeting rooms and exhibit spaces with the Convention Coordinator, Program Chair, and Exhibit Chair. Determine costs for rooms and charges for equipment and services, such as pianos, audiovisual equipment, computers, message center, telephone, tables, and taxes.

4. Criteria for hotel selection:

- Location, Location, Location – close proximity to performance venues
- availability for proposed dates
- appropriate number, size, and quality of guest rooms
- competitive room rates
- quality of food service
- layout of the hotel
- cleanliness
- availability and fees for parking
- access and security for registration and exhibit areas
- handicapped accessibility
- convenience for convention buses
- number and location of restrooms
- flexibility of hotel contract requirements and room block reservations
- availability of audio/visual support
- attractive meeting rooms, exhibit space and banquet area
- ease in working with hotel staff
- surrounding restaurants and businesses

5. Negotiate a hotel rate and room block for the Convention that extends three to five days before and after the Convention dates. Be very conservative, not overly optimistic, in projecting the number of sleeping rooms needed. Occasionally rates cannot be finalized until one year in advance. Determine parking costs. The discount off standard “rack” rates can be negotiated, and comparisons between hotels should be made based on current rates and discounts. Negotiate for room upgrades for VIPs and other financial considerations or concessions your convention may want or need. Be sure to obtain 1 complimentary room night per 50 sold, though 1 per 40 is better yet. Ask for whatever you want.

6. Hotel and housing costs must be settled by October of the year before the Convention so they can be advertised in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST and local mailings.

7. Negotiate the contract. **Fax a copy to National Headquarters for approval. The contract must be approved by the Executive Director before it is signed by the Convention Coordinator. *This is the only contract which may be signed before the budget and program are approved by CORC and the Executive Director.***

8. Give the hotel a detailed hour-by-hour, room-by-room schedule for all events housed in the hotel, and the set-up/services required for each. These events may include:

- Registration

- Hospitality/Message Center
- Convention Office
- Workshops
- Cash Bars/Receptions
- Banquets/Lunches/Continental Breakfasts
- Meetings—Regional, State, Deans, etc.
- Exhibits

Meticulously review the banquet event orders (BEOs) the hotel prepares for your signature.

9. The Hotel/Housing Committee will work with the committees responsible for the above functions, and with the Regional Councillor for all AGO events (regional business meeting, dean's meeting, etc.).

10. Complimentary hotel rooms are required for:

- Regional Councillor.
- Out-of-town judges for the AGO/Quimby RCYO from the time they are required to arrive for the competition until the Convention begins (unless already provided by the Convention for other reasons).
- AGO/Quimby RCYO competitors during the practice and competition period and for the winner during the Convention.

11. The Steering Committee will determine which (if any) host Chapter Convention officials will need to be housed at the Convention hotel.

12. As the convention approaches, monitor the room pickup closely, week by week. Avoid potentially severe financial penalties that may be imposed when an inadequate number of room reservations are received either by the scheduled cut-off dates or when compared to the overall room block.

13. Arrange for the financial aspects of the public functions. In coordination with the Convention Treasurer, establish a Master Account to which all services ordered by the Convention will be billed. The Hotel/Housing Committee Chair is responsible for giving the numbers of reservations for events served by the hotel. This requires close contact with the Registrar. The Chair should also check all hotel billings for accuracy and give them to the Treasurer for payment. Credit may need to be established and advance deposits may be required. (Deposits to hold sleeping rooms may also be required, but all reservations and payment for individual rooms are handled directly between the individual Conventioneer and the hotel.)

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Registration Committee establishes procedures for registering Conventioneers, receiving and recording fees, and staffing the registration desk at the Convention.

This Committee provides the Conventioneer with the first taste of Convention hospitality. The Chair should be one with some business experience, good judgment, resourcefulness, diplomacy and serenity! Those who staff the registration desk should be hospitable, cheerful and interested in being of service.

Duties of the Committee

Early Registration

1. Consider offering a special early registration rate for members of the host Chapter. This encourages Chapter members' commitment to the Convention and provides funds early on. While it is customary to offer a reduced fee for registrations received by February 1, the Steering Committee can set any deadline it deems to be reasonable. (Remember that the later the date for early registrations, the less early income and the less total income for the Convention.)

2. In addition to the information in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine, contact all AGO Chapter deans in the region to advertise the early registration. A similar announcement should be placed in all regional AGO Chapter

newsletters. Contact information for deans and Chapter newsletter editors may be obtained from National Headquarters.

Registration Form

1. Include as much vital information as possible on the registration form. Be sure to include transportation and any other additional fee items. Specify that the person's last name be identified (caps or underlined) to avoid incorrect alphabetization. Refund policy needs to be clearly stated.
2. It may be necessary to limit registration for certain workshops. Include spaces in the registration form to designate preferences for workshops and any other items that require a choice.
3. Investigate preceding Regional Convention websites for registration form ideas, etc. (websites are listed on the National website).
4. Offer on-line registration, payment and acknowledgements, if possible.

Housing/Meals

1. Housing information should appear on the first registration form and all subsequent forms. Questions should be directed to the registrar. Hotel reservations should be made with the hotel directly.
2. The Regional Councillor receives a complimentary hotel room during the Convention and/or any pre-convention events (such as the AGO/Quimby RCYO).
3. Meals and individual hotel guest rooms will be provided to the AGO/Quimby RCYO competitors during the practice and competition period. The Chapter will also cover hotel and meal expenses for out-of-town judges from the time they are required to arrive for the competition until the Convention begins, unless those expenses are already provided by the Convention for other reasons.
4. If a meal is to be made available during the Convention for an additional fee, clearly list it as an option with the stated amount. Be sure that policies regarding Convention meals and cancellation fees and conditions are clearly stated.

Identification of Groups

Occasionally, a Regional Convention needs to be divided due to restricted seating capacity -- usually in several groups identified by various colors on the Convention identification badges. Those who wish to be in the same group should be required to indicate this on their registration forms and submit the forms together.

Confirmation of Registration

It is extremely important that each person who registers receives a response as soon as possible, confirming the registration and choice of workshops.

Fees

The fee structure is established by the Steering Committee as a part of the initial budget-making process. It should be kept as simple as possible. Categories customarily used are:

- Regular members
- Host Chapter members
- Special members (over 65, disabled)
- Students (full time with current ID)
- Partner members — two regular members who live at the same address
- Non-members
- Daily

It is customary to offer early registration at a discounted rate.

Conventions should offer a reduced fee for students in order to encourage their attendance.

Be clear what qualifications are required for discounted fees.

Daily Registration

1. Daily registrations are customary. The daily registration fee should be high enough to encourage full registration (total of dailies should equal more than full registration).
2. Tickets for special events may also be possible if space permits.

Complimentary Registrations

1. Complimentary registrations are required for the following personnel from the Convention region:

- Regional Councillor
- Regional Coordinator for Education
- Regional Coordinator for Professional Development
- District Conveners
- AGO/Quimby RCYO judges
- AGO/Quimby RCYO First and Second Place Winners

2. Complimentary registration is optional for:

- Artists
- Presenters
- Exhibitors

3. Conventions are strongly encouraged to provide complimentary registration to all AGO/Quimby RCYO Competitors, the Coordinator of the next Regional Convention, and their CORC consultant.

4. The Steering Committee should decide whether any host Chapter members will receive complimentary registrations. At the discretion of appropriate chairs, individual passes might be issued for single events.

Registration Desk

1. Coordinate registration desk hours with program times, bus departures, etc. **Staff the registration desk the entire first day and evening to accommodate early and late arrivals.** The desk can be open earlier or later if needed, as long as people are in line and need help. Recruit Chapter members to staff the registration desk. The local Convention and Visitors' Bureau may provide help at Registration.

2. The registration area should be divided as simply as possible, with clear signs for easy identification. This is when badges and Convention tote bags are distributed. General categories for the registration area should include:

- Pre-registrants (in alphabetical order)
- On-site registration (those not pre-registered)
- Daily registration

Refunds

1. A deadline must be set regarding refunds. Registration fees are usually refunded up to 6 weeks prior to the Convention. A non-refundable service charge is imposed. Decide what to do about meal cancellations. They should not be allowed during the Convention unless the caterer will not penalize the Convention.

Form of Payment

Clearly indicate everywhere what forms of payment are acceptable.

Convention Roster

1. Many Conventions publish a roster of the names and contact information of those attending the Convention. If the Steering Committee decides to produce such a roster, it falls to the Registration Committee to produce it. Some Conventions provide this at no cost to the Conventioneers, and others charge a small fee to cover printing expenses. It is helpful to registrants if this can be distributed at the beginning of the Convention.

2. If the Convention plans to publish a roster, the registration form must inform attendees and offer them the opportunity not to have their information included.

Badges

1. The design and procurement of badges and badge holders is the responsibility of this Committee. Decide the exact information to be shown on the badge (name, Chapter or hometown, title, Guild certifications, options such as bus, etc.) Ribbons or colored badges can be used to identify those with official roles:

- Steering Committee
- Host Chapter Member
- Artist
- Presenter
- Exhibitor
- Regional and National Officers

2. Be sure that the **NAME** on the badge is prominent and in large enough type so as to be easily read at a comfortable distance. Other information may be in a smaller typeface. Local Convention Bureaus might provide name badges.

3. You may wish to provide a place on the back of the name tag for attendees to write their emergency contact information.

Tickets

Tickets for special events, which may be open to the public, should be printed. Arrangements for the sale of tickets and collection of monies should be made early and handled carefully. Some churches have policies that prohibit the sale of tickets to events in the church. Be sure to check.

Registration Packet

Decide what type of packet will be used and what will be included. If there are requests from businesses to include some advertising material in the packet, set a fee for this service, since it is not fair to those who advertise in the program book for others to get free advertising. A separate policy may be established for non-profit and educational groups. The next Convention may wish to include an announcement of some sort in the packet (this should be complimentary). A business may want to provide the packet. If an advertiser has no relationship to music, they should be treated with great care and scrutiny.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

This Committee is most visible at the Convention itself, and the Chair needs to be organized and congenial at all times. This committee will be asked for advice, assistance, and to handle emergencies.

Convention Hospitality includes not only coffee breaks, receptions and special meals (luncheons, banquets, etc.), but most importantly, the creation of a welcoming atmosphere throughout the Convention. Determine what your area has to offer and sell it to your attendees!

Duties of the Committee

1. During the Convention, staff a Hospitality Desk next to the Registration Desk. **Be sure this is staffed the entire first day and evening to accommodate early and late arrivals.**

2. Gather Chamber of Commerce or Visitors' Bureau items such as:
 - City maps
 - Directions to landmarks and places of interest
 - Restaurant list, map and directions (organized by price, location, formal or informal). Be sure this is current!
 - Bus, subway, and public transportation schedules
3. Distribute a map of the Hotel showing areas for Exhibits, Registration and Workshops. This should be included with the Registration packet, but extras should be available at the Hospitality Desk.
4. Plan coffee breaks, receptions and other social events carefully. (The Hotel Committee may arrange for cash bars, continental breakfasts, etc.) Be flexible in menu – for a short break snack, consider an ice cream bar and bottled water. Remember to include tea and hot water at receptions, not just coffee and iced water. If providing a box lunch, be sure that it is easy to manage and that there is adequate seating. Guests with special dietary needs must inform the Registrar. Consider a lunch or breakfast with the Regional Meeting to encourage attendance. Work out details with the Regional Councillor. A meal is usually offered with the Deans' and Regional Officers' meeting.
5. Have first aid supplies available, and know how to contact medical help. Distribute emergency phone numbers to all Convention workers. Consider having a nurse or physician on site for each concert or event.
6. If the Hospitality Committee is responsible for Ushers, conduct a training session. An Usher Director should be appointed to work with the Program Committee in supervising all volunteers. Ushers need to know restroom locations, fire exits, emergency contact numbers and parking areas. If possible, recruit ushers from various churches used for concerts as well as Chapter members.
7. Place signs (in cooperation with the Logistics Committee) at all Convention sites, directing registrants to workshops, restrooms, etc. Place signs in the Headquarters' lobby area directing registrants to Exhibits, Registration and Bus Departure areas.
8. Arrange for artists' hospitality, such as pick-up at the airport, driving to and from rehearsals, etc. in conjunction with the Program Committee. You may wish to arrange for a welcome gift in their hotel room.
9. In cooperation with the Program Committee, determine if recitalists/presenters will be introduced, recruit members to do so.
10. In some cases, the Volunteer Committee and Hotel Committees may function as part of the Hospitality Committee.
11. Hospitality is:
 - warmth, thinking of little details, being eager hosts
 - the Regional Councillor's presence at all events
 - a National Officer taking time and interest to attend your Regional Convention
 - good attendance by members of the host Chapter
 - making sure events start and end on time
 - caring and competent bus drivers
 - smiles, a caring word or two, a pat on the shoulder, a warm handshake
12. Inform area restaurants and stores of Convention dates. Encourage discounts to Conventioneers.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

This committee has two goals:

- promote attendance at the Convention
- increase the general public's awareness of the organ

Knowledge and sophistication in writing, computer use, publicity and promotion, and advertising are necessary skills for this committee.

Duties of the Committee

1. Create a distinctive logo to be used on every piece of literature, advertisement, letterhead, etc. to tie the campaign together.
2. Develop a Website to announce the Convention and on-line registration, if available. Ask National AGO to provide a link to your website. This must be kept current. Be sure to refer to websites from preceding regional conventions for ideas. They are listed on the National website.
3. Meet with your local Convention and Visitors' Bureau. They may be willing to provide banners, nametags, area publicity and other materials without charge.
4. Regional Mailings (restricted to your region only):
 - To the total regional membership in the fall preceding the Convention. This should include advertising rates for the program book.
 - A series of announcements for monthly use in Chapter newsletters.
 - To all regional AGO Chapter deans within your region during the year preceding the Convention.
5. The editor of *The American Organist* will provide deadlines and requirements for advertising. In addition, National Headquarters will send one blast e-mail per convention to all members of the region(s) served by that convention. Detailed information on the e-mail blast will be provided in January prior to the convention.
6. Prepare complimentary ads to be sent to your preceding regional Convention and the national Convention. Contact each to determine format requirements and deadlines.
7. Business meetings are scheduled for each region at National and Regional AGO Conventions. They include time for presentations to promote upcoming regional conventions. Additionally, some steering committees choose to contract for an exhibit booth to advertise their event at the preceding regional convention.
8. Compile a media list for releases such as:
 - Trade magazines (Diapason, Pastoral Musician, etc.)
 - All radio and television stations
 - Denominational papers and magazines
 - Daily newspapers Arts/Entertainment/Religion editors
 - Metropolitan area magazines papers
 - Area arts publications
 - Universities and music schools
 - Music dealers
9. Paid advertising in local concert series programs is great repeat advertising.
10. Provide displays at ALL local AGO Chapter programs, with artist pictures, biographies and flyers.
11. Consider personal contact with local music and arts writers and media program directors. Deliver a press packet with a press pass, information about artists, a Convention brochure and a concise listing of all public concerts. Include a fun gift so they remember you. Invite them to a meeting for suggestions on how to best market the Convention. Some reviewers will not consider an event that is only presented once.

12. Consider making a flyer of “Concerts Open to the Public” and send to all area churches in a 100-mile radius in two sizes: 8½x11 and 5½x8½ for bulletin inserts.
13. Consider creating a large professionally produced poster to advertise public concerts, at least 11x17. Distribute across the city and surrounding area.
14. Consider setting up local radio and television interviews with participating artists. If CDs are available, they may be useful to the radio or television interviewer.
15. Appoint or hire a photographer to cover the Convention. Photos will be needed for:
 - Review issue of TAO (the editor will provide deadlines and requirements)
 - Press releases during the week, or post-Convention reviews
 - Chapter archives
16. The Steering Committee appoints a person to write a programmatic report of the Convention for inclusion in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine. TAO will furnish instructions on how these articles should be submitted.
17. Publish a daily Convention newsletter to highlight daily events and announce any changes in the schedule. The cost of this daily publication should appear in the budget. Consider using different colors of paper for each day.
18. Lay out the entire publicity campaign at one time, including all forms of advertising and publicity media on a carefully coordinated schedule.

PROGRAM BOOK COMMITTEE

This Committee produces the program book for the Convention, the single most visible and lasting record of the Convention. This book provides practical program information, projects your image as a Convention and as a Chapter, can serve as a revenue source, and is a major publicity vehicle.

The Steering Committee must decide whether the program book will be mailed to the entire membership of the region for advertising purposes, or if it will be issued only to those who register.

If the book is *to be mailed* to the entire region, it must be prepared early. To mail it to the region in April, for example, the deadline for all material to be included has to be in January. The necessary lead-time for layout, proofreading, and printing is critical.

If it is *not to be mailed* to the entire region, the book's value to advertisers will be less, as the readership will be limited. The registration brochure and other flyers must be very detailed to attract attention and encourage registration. Deadlines might be slightly later.

The Program Book Chair must have had some experience with editing materials for publication. This committee must work closely with the Program Committee in proofreading to ensure accurate information.

Duties of the Committee

1. **PROOFREAD!!**
2. Determine format
3. Set deadlines/printing schedule
4. Obtain services of layout artist/designer
5. Choose and negotiate with a printer
6. Determine advertising policies
7. Solicit advertising
8. Collect all general Convention information
9. Collect all program information and notes **(Be sure permissions have been secured to reproduce any music for the program book. Artists are usually very aware of this and will supply the necessary permissions.)**
10. Collect descriptive material about workshops and seminars
11. Collect biographical sketches and photographs of all performers and workshop leaders

12. Collect pertinent maps and directions
13. Collect and prepare organ specifications
14. Obtain photos of all organs and venues
15. Edit all submitted materials
16. Obtain mailing lists for bulk mailing
17. Make extra copies of the program as printed in the program book for the general public. This saves a separate setup process.
- 18. PROOFREAD!!**

Layout

1. Present the program book in the most interesting manner, while making it easy for the Convention attendee to find his/her way through the program both mentally and physically. Secure copies of past Convention program books to get ideas for size and format. Obtaining the services of a layout designer is well worth the expense.
2. Consider grouping ads by size, for ease in formatting.

Advertising

1. The Program Book presents a wonderful opportunity for a Regional Convention to realize revenue by selling advertising and soliciting exhibitors. Contact organ builders, regional organists, Chapters, music stores, religious bookstores, etc. to purchase an ad and/or rent a booth for an exhibit.
2. Sources of potential advertisers include: previous Regional and National Conventions, current advertisers in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST, advertisers in previous Chapter publications such as newsletters and yearbooks, area businesses and music schools, and the collective ideas of the committee.
- 3. It is a National AGO policy for each Convention to provide free advertising space of at least a quarter page in its program book to advertise the next Convention in its region and the next National Convention. Contact these Conventions with deadlines and requirements.**
4. Work closely with the Publicity and Exhibits Committees to avoid duplication of effort.
5. Prepare a fee schedule based on printing bids and past Convention experience. Write a letter inviting advertisers to participate, including a style sheet or mock-up which describes the physical requirements for advertisements and booths. Specify the required format.
6. Set a deadline that is reasonable. Be prepared to follow up with emails or calls.

Photographs

When contracts are signed with artists and other program participants, biographical material and digital photographs should be requested.

From National Headquarters

1. National Headquarters will supply an introductory page for the program book. The page will resemble the title page of THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine, including a list of national officials, introductory Guild information, a complete list of the Regional Conventions that year, plus letters and photos from the President and Executive Director.
2. Sample copies of previous Regional Convention program books are available from National.

Other Important Factors

Be sure to include:

- a photo and letter of greeting from the Regional Councillor
- a photo and letter from the Convention Coordinator
- a photo and letter from the Chapter Dean

- a photo of the Convention Steering Committee
- letters of welcome or proclamations from the Mayor and Governor
- a list of **ALL** Convention contributors, including Michael Quimby for funding the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists
- a list of all Convention Committees

If the Program Book is not mailed, it should be included in the registration packet that is given to all Convention attendees.

Be sure to print enough program books for:

- all registrants
- artists and presenters
- exhibitors
- advertisers
- contributors and sponsors
- sales of extra books
- Chapter archives
- copies for future needs
- **Ten copies of the Program Book are to be sent to National Headquarters as part of the Final Convention Report, due by August 31.**

AGO/QUIMBY REGIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

The AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists is an important program of the Guild, encouraging and recognizing young talent. This competition is a part of the Regional Convention, and the committee has the responsibility for its organization. The winner of this competition will play a recital as an event during the Convention.

1. In the spring of the year prior to the Regional Convention THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine carries complete official rules governing the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists. Current rules are available online. These rules govern the competitions at both the Chapter and regional levels. **The Competition Coordinator must be familiar with these rules in their entirety! Failure to follow the rules in their entirety could result in disqualification of a competitor.**

2. The Regional Councillor must approve the selection of the competition organ.

3. The first-place winner will receive a \$1,000 prize, the second-place winner \$500. First- and second-prize awards for the AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists are provided by Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. These funds, totaling \$1,500, are distributed by National Headquarters prior to each Regional Convention.

4. All announcements concerning the Regional Competition for Young Organists must include this statement: **The AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists is made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.**

5. Neither the Regional Councillor, Regional Competition Coordinator, nor the Regional Convention Coordinator may serve as a judge in his/her own region. Consider using local people or those planning to attend the Convention as alternate RCYO judges.

6. Competitors must be housed in hotels to avoid any liability issues with home stays. The convention hotel is preferred for housing the competitors. If possible, establish a student rate for the competitors when negotiating the hotel contract. Each competitor shall be assigned an individual room. Rooms for minors need to accommodate the parent or responsible adult that is required to accompany them (the convention is not responsible for a separate room or any other expenses for the accompanying adult.)

Comparable lodging, closer in proximity to the competition venue, may sometimes serve as a convenient, economical alternative. This can include dormitory housing, if the competition is on or near a college campus. If alternative lodging is used for the competition, a room for the winning competitor should be provided at the

convention hotel for use following the competition.

7. Secure the Social Security Number of the competition winner and submit it to the Convention Treasurer.
8. Following the convention, e-mail photo and biography by Aug. 1 of first and second place winners of the AGO/Quimby RCYO Competition to National Headquarters – Harold Calhoun, Manager of Competitions hc@agohq.org.

HELPING THE NEXT CONVENTION

1. It can be helpful to have Convention attendees complete a Convention evaluation form.
2. Pass on sample copies of all forms.
3. Consider offering complimentary registration to the next Convention's Coordinator.

FOLLOWING THE CONVENTION

By the time a Convention is over, the Convention Committee has learned a great deal about organizing a Convention. In order to pass that wisdom on, the Regional Councillor will meet with the current Convention Steering Committee and the Steering Committee for the next Regional Convention in a debriefing session at the end of the Convention.

Furnish the following items for the national AGO office and the AGO Committee on Regional Conventions:

- **August 1: Photo and biography of first and second place winners of the AGO/Quimby RCYO Competition due at National Headquarters. E-mail to AGO's Manager of Competitions, Harold Calhoun, hc@agohq.org.**
- **August 1: Submit a programmatic report for THE AMERICAN ORGANIST magazine with official Convention photographs due at National Headquarters.**
- **August 31: Final Convention Report due, consisting of:**
 - Financial statements**
 - Reports from the Convention Coordinator and all Committee Chairs**
 - Official Convention Program Book**

Send one copy of this report to:

- National Headquarters
- Regional Councillor
- Councillor for Conventions
- Director of Committee on Regional Conventions
- Coordinator of the next Regional Convention (One copy of the Final Convention Report shall remain in the Chapter's permanent file.)

With the copy of the Final Convention Report that is sent to National Headquarters, include copies of all publicity clippings, and an additional 10 copies of the Official Convention Program Book for archival purposes.

- **August 31:**
 - Contribution to the National AGO is due as required by the Letter of Agreement, with any additional contributions that the Convention would like to make.**

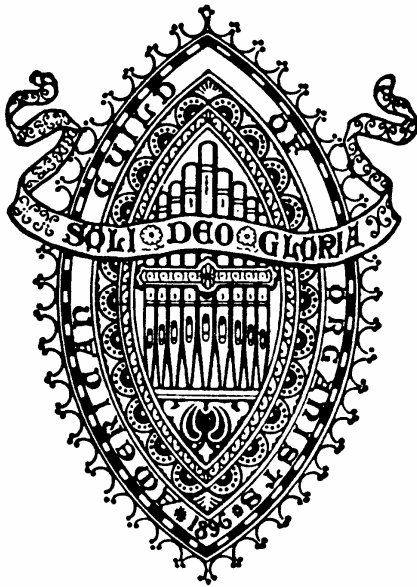
Completed Final Regional Convention Report Form (See Exhibits)

Plan some sort of post-convention gathering where all committees and volunteers can be acknowledged and thanked.

You may be contacted by the Archivist of the Organ Historical Society (OHS) (www.organsociety.org) asking for a copy of your Convention program book. A stamped self-addressed envelope would be sent to you for this purpose. The American Organ Archives are housed at the Talbott Library of Westminster Choir College at Rider University.

EXHIBITS

All exhibits are available online and may be downloaded for your use.



APPLICATION TO HOST A REGIONAL CONVENTION

Date _____ Region _____
Chapter _____ Total Membership _____
Active Members _____
Dean _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____
How many members serve in leadership roles within the chapter? _____
Has the Chapter hosted a previous convention? _____ When? _____
Preliminary dates requested _____
Do you anticipate needing a start-up loan from Headquarters? _____

On a separate sheet of paper:

- a. What recitalists from your region do you anticipate using?
What clinicians (workshop presenters) from your region do you anticipate using?
What composers from your region do you anticipate using?
- b. List locations in your city (churches, concert halls, etc. which can accommodate a Convention of 200-300) that you would anticipate using for the Regional Convention and their proximity to the proposed Convention hotel. If there is an organ in the building, state the builder, year, size, and type of instrument. Describe the acoustics of the room.
- c. List orchestras, choral groups, etc. that you anticipate using.
- d. List other attractions in the area (museums, tourist attractions, etc.).
- e. In narrative format, explain why you think your Chapter could host a successful Convention.
- f. Include a statement of the Chapter's overall financial resources and any reserve or endowment funds.
- g. Include a budget for this year.

Proposed Convention Coordinator _____

Positions held in the AGO _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Proposed Convention Hotel _____

No. of Rooms _____ Exhibit Space _____ Meeting Rooms _____

Alternative Housing? _____

Transportation for Convention Events _____

1. Send one copy of this form to the Councillor for Conventions.
2. Send one copy of this form to your Regional Councillor.
3. Send one copy of this form to the Director of the Committee on Regional Conventions.
4. Send one copy to AGO National Headquarters
5. Retain one copy for your records.

SAMPLE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN AGO AND HOST CHAPTER
(Signed by August 15 or no later than September 30 two years prior to the Convention)

I. GENERAL STATEMENTS

- A. This letter serves as an agreement between the American Guild of Organists, a New York State not-for-profit educational corporation (hereinafter "the "Guild") and its governing body the National Council, and the Rhode Island Chapter (hereinafter "the Chapter"), with regard to the planning and presentation of the 2007 Region I Convention of the Guild (hereafter "the convention").
- B. All parties will plan and operate the convention in accordance with the current edition of the *Guidelines for Regional Conventions* and any updates approved by the Committee on Regional Conventions (CORC) and National Council of the Guild.
- C. The National Council appoints the Convention Coordinator upon nomination by the Chapter Executive Committee, in consultation with the Regional Councillor.
- D. The host Chapter, its Convention Coordinator David Clyde Morse, and its appointed Steering Committee will work with the Regional Councillor and the consultant from the Committee on Regional Conventions (CORC) in planning and operating this convention. The convention will take place within Rhode Island and its surrounding area as the site, and with the The Biltmore, Providence as convention Headquarters.
- E. The convention dates will be June 30 - July 4, 2007.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Guild, as a corporate entity, is responsible for the oversight of Regional Conventions. This responsibility carries with it the obligation to assist the Chapter in the planning of the convention and to have review and approval authority over all aspects of the implementation of the convention, including but not limited to the convention program, sites, personnel, budget, and contractual agreements with other individuals and organizations.
- B. The Chapter, in its role as host chapter of the convention, agrees to provide the time and creative services of its members, on a volunteer basis, to staff the committee structure for the planning and implementation of the convention.
- C. The Convention Coordinator attends a Regional Convention Orientation session, to be held within three years prior to the convention. This session is conducted by the national organization. Transportation and housing costs are paid by National Headquarters.
- D. The Convention Coordinator should also attend the preceding Regional Convention and wrap-up meeting and speak at the Regional Meeting.
- E. The Guild agrees to provide professional administrative, promotional, and financial support as deemed mutually beneficial to the success of the convention. This support will include, but not be limited to, the following:
1. Official franchise to operate as a Regional Convention of the Guild.
 2. Reports from previous conventions, and Guidelines for planning and operation developed from

the experience of previous conventions.

3. The AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine will provide free advertising space. The editor of the magazine will provide the Convention Coordinator with specific details and deadlines.
4. Liability insurance is provided by the Guild.

III. STRUCTURE

- A. The senior Chapter official responsible for the convention will be the Convention Coordinator, David Clyle Morse, whose nomination to that position by the Chapter Executive Committee has been confirmed by the National Council.
- B. The Convention Coordinator, in consultation with the Regional Councillor, will develop a Steering Committee from among the members of the Chapter. This Steering Committee will have primary responsibility for generating all program and budget plans for the convention.

IV. LIAISONS

- A. The Dean, or member of the Chapter appointed by the Dean in consultation with the Convention Coordinator, will be the liaison between the Convention Steering Committee and the Chapter Executive Committee and the membership of the Chapter. This person will be a member of the Steering Committee.
- B. The Regional Councillor, who will be a member of the Steering Committee, will serve as the liaison between the Guild and the Chapter.
- C. A member of the Committee on Regional Conventions will serve as a consultant to the Steering Committee.

V. FINANCES

- A. It is agreed that by October 1, two years preceding the Convention, the proposed budget will be submitted in the required format to the Regional Councillor, the Councillor for Conventions, the Director of the Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director. The Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director must approve the budget by December 1. Subsequent revisions must be approved by the Regional Councillor.
- B. The Chapter will contribute three percent (5%) of the gross revenue of the convention, not including gifts, grants, contributions and loans, to the AGO Headquarters to support the work of the Guild in the planning and administration of conventions and meetings at the national and regional levels. This contribution to AGO Headquarters is due by August 31 of the convention year.
- C. It is agreed that the Chapter will use the budget template provided by National AGO for submitting Convention financial information.

VI. PROGRAMMING

- A. It is agreed that the majority of the artists, the majority of presenters, and the majority of commissioned composers shall be from the region.

B. All AGO conventions will have as a goal a gender balance of 50/50 in each category of persons selected as participants in a convention program: 1) performers (including conductors), 2) composers of commissioned works, and 3) workshop presenters/panelists. It is recommended that there be no more than a ten percent (10%) deviation in either direction (60/40 or 40/60).

C. It is agreed that by October 1, two years preceding the Convention, the proposed program of the Convention must be submitted in the required format to the Regional Councillor, the Councillor for Conventions, the Director of the Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director. The program must be accompanied by a list of the proposed artists, presenters, and commissioned composers, noting the region with which each person is identified. The Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director must review the program by December 1. Following its approval, subsequent revisions must be approved by the Regional Councillor.

D. Issues of inclusiveness with regard to age and ethnic/cultural diversity will also be considered before approval is granted.

VII. REQUIRED EVENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

A. Regional Business Meeting: A separate event of at least one hour with no competing convention events. The meeting is planned and led by the Regional Councillor.

B. Workshops will be presented in the areas of

1. Education
2. Professional Development
3. Membership Development and Chapter Support

C. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists.

1. The convention will include the final round of the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists, following the rules for this event as published in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine in the year prior to the convention.

2. The first prize will be One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000). The second prize will be Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). A total of \$1,500 will be provided by Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. and distributed by National Headquarters.

D. Complimentary registrations will be provided to the Regional Councillor, Regional Coordinators for Education and Professional Development, District Conveners, AGO/Quimby RCYO Judges and AGO/Quimby RCYO First- and Second-Place Winners.

E. The Convention Coordinator will submit a Final Convention Report by August 31 of the convention year.

VIII. MINUTES AND NEWSLETTERS

Minutes of the Steering Committee and Program Committee meetings, as well as chapter newsletters, will be forwarded regularly to the Regional Councillor, the Executive Director, and the consultant from CORC.

IX. AMENDMENTS

This agreement may be amended by mutual agreement between the Guild and the Chapter.

WHEREFORE, we the undersigned officer of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and national officers of the American Guild of Organists, do hereby adopt the above and foregoing Letter of Agreement to govern the 2007 Region I Convention of the American Guild of Organists.

Martha Sobaje
Chapter Dean

Date

David Clyde Morse
Convention Coordinator

Date

James E. Thomashower
AGO Executive Director

Date

Lois Toepfner
Regional Councillor

Date

CONFIDENTIALITY PLEDGE

As members of the _____ Committee, we recognize that confidentiality of committee discussions is crucial and therefore required.

We realize that premature sharing of information regarding artists, worship leaders, workshop presenters, locations, and/or instruments used will be hurtful to those individuals who may not ultimately be chosen to appear.

By our signatures, we make a covenant together to refrain from discussing Committee business with non-Committee members until we have been authorized to do so.

NAME

DATE

_____	_____
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BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Prior to the appointment of any committees, the Convention Coordinator, with the help of the Chapter Dean, should conduct a Brainstorming Session, in which members of the Chapter can express their ideas about the Convention. This will also give them an opportunity to express an interest in the areas where they would want to work.

The session might begin by asking people to think about the strengths of the host chapter and the host city.

Chapter members could also be asked “What makes a good convention?” Some answers might include:

- Learning
- Inspiration
- Good artists
- Good instruments
- Artists well-matched to instruments
- Social activities
- Variety of activities at different levels
- Comfortable pacing
- Comfortable accommodations
- Good transportation
- A sense of good organization underlying the Convention
- Gracious hospitality
- Efficient registration procedures

The session could continue by asking “What makes a bad convention?”

- One-sided (a narrow point of view)
- Poor schedule
- Too long – programs too long
- Poor programming
- Programs too closely scheduled
- Poor lecturers
- Inadequate audio-visual support
- Unsatisfactory housing
- Mix-ups in transportation
- Keeping Conventioneers away from the hotel too long

To get a sense of the needs of the region, it can be helpful to hand out a survey at the previous Regional Convention. The responses to such a survey can also spark conversation at the Brainstorming Session.

All of this information should be used by the Steering Committee as it develops an overall philosophy and mission statement for the Convention.

SAMPLE CHAPTER SOLICITATION LETTER

November 10, 2004

Dear Columbus AGO Chapter Members,

At this time last year, your local chapter leaders surveyed the membership to determine what level of support there might be for our Chapter's hosting of a Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists. The response encouraged those leaders to proceed with the application process, and on May 13, 2004, I received a letter from Karen Rich, AGO National Councillor for Competitions and Conventions, informing the Columbus Chapter that we were unanimously approved to host the 2007 AGO Region V Convention. We are writing to let you know of your next opportunities for participation in the planning for this exciting and historic event.

First, we have scheduled a chapter Brainstorming Session on Monday, November 29, 2004, at Northwest Christian Church, 1340 Fishinger Rd. in Upper Arlington. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. and last for no more than one hour. You are invited to this important part of the planning process to tell members of the Convention Steering Committee your ideas about what would make the Convention appealing to attend.

Secondly, we are asking members of the Columbus Chapter to consider making a **tax-deductible contribution** to the Convention fund to provide seed money for the initial expenses that will be incurred by the Steering Committee as preparations continue.

Please make checks for your gifts payable to **AGO Discovers Columbus** (this is the working title of the 2007 Region V Convention, and a separate account of the Columbus Chapter – AGO for that purpose) and mail them to: Jane Hampton, 50 Hayden Ave., Columbus, OH 43222-1019.

Summarizing, here are the things you can do now:

- Attend the Chapter Brainstorming Session on November 29 at 7:00 p.m.
- Make a tax-deductible contribution to **AGO Discovers Columbus**

Thanks in advance for your consideration of these two opportunities for participation in the early planning of the 2007 Region V Convention of the American Guild of Organists.

Sincerely,

Albert Adcock, Convention Coordinator

James Yeager, Columbus Chapter Dean

SAMPLE EXPENSE VOUCHER

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Region ____ Convention

TO: The Convention Treasurer

Date _____

Please issue a check for \$ _____

Payable to _____

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

For _____

Chargeable to _____ Committee

Attach invoice, sales check, receipt, etc.

I certify this is a legitimate Convention
expense for the specific purposes stated.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE

Approved

CONVENTION COORDINATOR

Treasurer only:

Paid by Check No. _____

Dated _____

REGIONAL CONVENTION LOAN APPLICATION

Date of Convention _____ Location of Convention _____

Host Chapter _____ Region _____

Chapter Official Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapter Dean _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone/Fax/e-mail _____

Convention Coordinator _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone/Fax/e-mail _____

Convention Treasurer _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone/Fax/e-mail _____

Amount of Loan Requested \$ _____ Date of Application _____

Signature of Chapter Dean

Signature of Convention Coordinator

Attach to this application form the following documents:

1. Most recent Chapter financial statement showing both current operating funds and reserve funds.
2. Convention budget, including all projected income and expenses.
3. Current Convention Treasurer's report, showing income and expenses to date.
4. Projection of cash needs during the period prior to the receipt of significant income; include purposes and dates required.

RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

James E. Thomashower, Executive Director
American Guild of Organists
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260
New York, NY 10115

SAMPLE MISSION STATEMENT

AGO Discovers Columbus

June 25-28, 2007

Mission Statement

The mission of AGO Discovers Columbus shall be to empower the members of the American Guild of Organists who attend the Region V Convention in 2007 to use their talents and skills to contribute to aesthetic and religious experiences and to promote the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the organ and its music by persons of all ages and cultures.

Goal: To set a benchmark for the artistic integrity of the profession.

Objective: Create concert experiences defined by organs and artists of the highest quality.

Objective: Create a diversity of worship experiences defined by theological and musical integrity.

Goal: To inspire new levels of artistic energy and skill development in the members.

Objective: Create large and small group activities where members learn core principles of the profession, how to adopt concepts learned to their job situations and how to perform their duties more effectively.

Goal: To introduce young people to the organ as a means of enrichment and employment.

Objective: Feature a hands-on exhibit of how a pipe organ works.

Objective: Design activities through which young people can observe others of their own age successfully playing the organ.

Objective: Design activities through which young people can test their skills at playing the organ.

Goal: To promote the appreciation of the organ as a medium of inspiration and enjoyment to the public at large.

Objective: Define activities that will be available to the public.

SAMPLE REGIONAL CONVENTION TIMELINE #1

Timeline exhibits are merely composites of other timelines obtained from previous Regional Conventions, and are meant only for guidance in the creation of a timeline suited to your Regional Convention.

A.G.O. - TIMELINE FOR REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

3 Years Prior

+Selection/Appointment of site and Convention Coordinator (Spring meeting of National Council)

2-1/2 Years Prior

+Fall Orientation Session for all regions, in New York City, with National Officers, Regional Councillors, Headquarters Staff, and the Committee on Regional Conventions (CORC)

24-30 Months

- +Chapter Brainstorming Session with RC (after Orientation Session)
- +Form Steering Committee (sign Confidentiality Pledge; send RC, Executive Director, and CORC rep all minutes and materials from each meeting)
- +Confirmation of Convention Dates and Hotel (including Exhibit space) - Sign the Letter of Agreement
- +Appointment of Committees (sign Confidentiality Pledge)
- +Assess all facilities (instruments, sites, note restrictions, charges, etc.)
- +Establish Convention Theme (if any) and convention logo
- +Develop Preliminary Budget and Program (break-even determined after careful study and conservative estimates – consult with RC, CORC and Executive Director)
- +Estimate and pursue Gifts and Grants
- +Develop Promotional materials for use at conventions PRIOR to yours – booth or brochures
- +Convention Coordinator must attend PREVIOUS Regional, speak at Regional Meeting and attend Wrap-up Meeting
- +Any Commissioned Works?

15-24 Months

- +Re-read the Guidelines – ALL committees!
- +Study AGO/Quimby RCYO rules
- +Committees develop time lines
- +Program Book – will it be mailed to the region?
- +Local Artists – will they be paid?
- +Negotiate Fees - only the hotel contract may be signed before Budget approved (14 months out) National must see Hotel Contract
- +Finalize programmatic issues and schedule – consider transportation/parking
- +Solicit Exhibitors and Program Book Ads
- +Camera-ready ad to TAO (15 months prior)

14 Months

- +Re-read the Guidelines!
- +Final Budget/Program approval by RC, CORC and Exec. Director (can happen earlier if ready)
- +Apply for Start-up Loan, if needed
- +Finalize all Artist and Venue contracts (consider logistics, ushers, equipment)
- +Steering Committee meets monthly
- +Finalize Artist Hotel arrangements, transportation

10 Months

+Finalize all program book copy

6 Months

+Approval of Program Book by all – deliver to printer

4 Months

+TAO ad copy due for April issue

3 Months

- +TAO ad copy due for May issue
- +AGO/Quimby RCYO – receive names & bios of chapter winners, select judges

2 Months

- +News releases and interviews with local media
- +Appoint reviewer for TAO and convention photographer
- +Finalize schedule
- +Print name badges, ribbons, etc – exhibitors, artists, workers

1 Month

- +Make all signs
- +Check bus routes (drive them and time)
- +Assemble Registration Packets and any inserts for Program Book
 - +Notify AGO/Quimby RCYO competitors and judges
- +Be FRIENDLY, ENTHUSIASTIC AND WELCOMING – Have a GRAND CONVENTION!!!

SAMPLE REGIONAL CONVENTION TIMELINE #2

Timeline exhibits are merely composites of other timelines obtained from previous Regional Conventions, and are meant only for guidance in the creation of a timeline suited to your Regional Convention.

June

24 months out

Steering Committee

Attend preceding Regional Convention.

Program

Continue discussion of artists, composer, presenters, types of concerts, recitals, workshops, worship services and possible locations.

Begin work on daily schedule.

Finance

Start gathering proposed budgets from all Committee Chairs.

Logistics/Volunteers

Survey possible sites and volunteers needed.

Hotel/Housing/Exhibits/Hospitality

Contact person(s) responsible for hotel, exhibits, and hospitality; observe during Regional Convention.

Program Book

Recommend to Steering Committee designer to assist with program book layout/design.

In consultation with Exhibits Committee, draft advertising policy for program book.

Steering Committee discuss and reach consensus on concept/image for program book cover.

Begin to create database of potential advertisers from (1) previous Regional Conventions; (2) local/regional yellow pages directories; (3) internet search of businesses in region.

Publicity

Flyers for Regional Convention packets.

Items for exhibit area at Regional Convention.

Presentation to Convention.

Meet with local Convention and Visitors' Bureau to determine how they can help.

Make plans to develop Convention Website

AGO/Quimby RCYO

Present estimated budget to Finance Committee.

Transportation

Determine probable bus needs based on past regional convention records – submit budget to Convention Treasurer.

July

23 months out

Program

Continue discussions from June.

Begin to contact artists and presenters to ascertain fee and availability.

Begin to contact locations, visiting them if possible.

Logistics/Volunteers

Establish logistics and Volunteer committee (based upon Program Committee's proposed program).

Request completed survey forms from desired, potential locations (if survey not already received).

Begin to negotiate fees of all types.

Program Book

Obtain bids for program book from at least 5 printing firms.

Steering Committee to review covers for program book.

Exhibits

Keep contact if needed with person(s) responsible for hotel and exhibits at previous Convention.

Talk with exhibitors for preferences, ideas.

Transportation

Submit new preliminary budget figures based upon Program Committee report of June.

Solicit bids from bus companies

Hospitality

Keep in contact with Hospitality person from previous convention to see what worked- i.e. receptions, banquet, etc.

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

August

22 months out

Program

Present proposed program to Steering Committee for their input.

Continue working on daily schedule.

Continue to contact artists, composers, and presenters.

Finance

Present proposed budget to Steering Committee for their input.

Hospitality/Program

Determine what receptions, banquet, box lunch, etc. will be needed in conjunction with Program Committee.

Contact Regional Councillor to determine schedule for Regional Meeting and Deans', Officers' and National Representatives' Meal.

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

September

21 months out

Program and Finance

Send revised program and budget to the Regional Councillor, the Councillor for Conventions, the Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director.

Gifts, Grants

Notice in Chapter newsletter.

Letters to foundations and institutions according to the deadlines as indicated by procedural information.

Exhibits

Develop a list of potential exhibitors.

Program Book

Preliminary layout/design of book completed for review/discussion.

Publicity

Contact the next National Convention to secure complimentary advertising in the Program Book

Continue to work on Convention Website

October

20 months out

Program

Begin planning worship services.

Begin drawing up contracts for artists, composers, presenters (which will be sent when the Convention program and budget are approved by CORC)

Gifts, Grants

Second notice in Chapter newsletter.

Program Book

Decision on exact cover for program book.

AGO/Quimby RCYO

In coordination with the Program Committee, secure approval of the proposed competition instrument from the Regional Councillor.

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

November

19 months out

Program

Continue work begun in October

Gifts, Grants

Third notice in Chapter Newsletter

Program Book

Final decision and approval on printing company to be used

Contract drawn up for approval and signatures

Solicit bids from bulk mail facility for mailing program book (if you are, that is)

Publicity

Continue work on Convention website.

Select Convention Photographer

December

18 months out

Program

Approval of proposed program and budget due from National AGO.

Steering Committee

Play for church!

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

January

17 months out

Program

Contracts, with request for publicity materials, equipment needs, program materials, etc., sent when the budget and program are approved.

Logistics

Verify that events are placed on the venues' calendars.

Send letters of confirmation for locations.

Begin list of all equipment needed for all events (riser, special percussion instruments, music stands, lights, etc.).

Gifts/Grants

Letter to individuals a) for personal donations and b) for grants to support specific programs; letters to all chapters in the region to request their financial support.

Transportation

Steering Committee chooses bus company for Convention – sign contract.

Publicity

Flyer or e-mail to regional mailing list.

Continue to work on Convention Website

Hospitality/Hotel/Program

In conjunction with Hotel and Program Committees, plan coffee breaks, receptions, banquet, and box lunches, if any.

Hospitality/Hotel

Work closely with Regional Councillor to plan Deans', Officers', and National Representatives' meal.

Program Book

Finalize database of advertisers for program book.

February

16 months out

Program

Follow-up work on the worship services

Publicity

Continue work on Convention website

Transportation

Deposits made to hold buses

Program Book

Continue work on securing potential advertisers

March

15 months out

Program

Meet ONLY if necessary.

Transportation

Bus captain recruited; they, in turn, recruit bus guides.

Program Book

Start collecting all information that must go in the program book.

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

April

14 months out

Registration

Review all registration policies with Steering Committee.

Program Book

Receive approval for draft of letter and sample contract for advertisers/exhibitors.

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

May

13 months out

Exhibits

Prepare letter and contract for exhibitors, including information about advertising for the program book.

AGO/Quimby RCYO

Obtain official rules governing the competition.

Program Book

Deadline for receipt of artwork for program book cover.

Obtain bids for program book from several printing firms.

Review bids for program book and make preliminary decision.

Steering Committee to review covers for program book.

Artist/presenter biographies/photographs due from Program Committee for insertion into program book.

Transportation

Reconfirm bus needs.

Publicity

Establish Convention Website and link with national website. Publish web address on all national convention promotional materials.

June

12 months out

Program

Present program-related materials to Program Book Committee.

Registration

Rent Post Office Box so that its number is available for registration form and other correspondence. It is strongly recommended that a personal address not be used, in case there is a change in Registrar.

Publicity

Display booth or packet insert at National Convention.

Speaker at regional meeting.

Update Convention Website as needed

Hospitality

Begin to gather Chamber of Commerce items – maps, directions to landmarks, restaurant list, public transportation schedule.

Program Book

Final decision and approval on printing company to be used for program book.

Contract drawn up for approval and signatures.

Letter to mayor and governor from Convention Coordinator asking for letter of welcome, possible proclamation and photographs.

Prepare for proof and insertion into program book layout specifications for all instruments to be used during Convention.

July

11 months out

Program Book

Receive copy of introductory page from national office.

August	10 months out
Program	
Begin to secure any performance licenses needed. National AGO pays ASCAP fees.	
Begin to secure any instrumental parts needed.	
Exhibits	
Send letter and contract to potential exhibitors, with information about advertising in the program book.	
Program Book	
Continued review/discussion of latest draft of program book by Steering Committee.	
Publicity	
Update Convention Website as needed	
September	9 months out
Logistics/Volunteers/Hospitality	
Begin to examine locations for any potential problems and "trouble shoot."	
Work with Hospitality Committee to discuss ushering requirements, potential problems, etc.	
Ascertain all audio-visual needs for programs and workshops.	
Assign or hire personnel to deliver and operate equipment.	
Hotel/Exhibits	
Give information about hotel to person(s) responsible for TAO information, listing, ads.	
Give hotel information and directions to program book chair.	
Publicity	
Second flyer or e-mail to regional mailing list.	
Mailing to Chapter deans of camera-ready advertisements for newsletters	
Send Convention logo, list of artists, clinicians, dates, names and addresses of Convention Registrar to AGO Headquarters and the TAO editor. Post this information on the convention website.	
Secure proclamation of AGO WEEK from mayor or other public official.	
Update Convention Website as needed	
Program Book	
Continue to review/discussion of program book by Steering Committee.	
October	8 months out
Program Book	
Photograph for inclusion in program book taken of Steering Committee at monthly meeting.	
Publicity	
Update Convention Website as needed	
November	7 months out
Program	
Attend to any details requiring attention.	
Registration	
Request an electronic file of contact information for Chapter Deans and other Regional Officers from AGO Headquarters.	
Program Book	
Receive final drafts of maps/directions from publicity committee for insertion into program book layout.	
Program book mailed last week of month.	
Publicity	
Update Convention Website as needed	
December	6 months out
Steering Committee	
<u>Play for church!</u>	

January

5 months out

Program

- Contact those artists, etc. who have not returned contracts and sent requested materials.
- Obtain artists' travel information.
- Begin discussion of how artists are transported while in town.
- Finalize all program-related materials needed for inclusion in the Convention booklet.

Hospitality

- Develop list of emergency phone numbers to be distributed to all convention workers.

Hospitality/Program

- Recruit and assign Artist hosts – arrange for airport pickup, rehearsal transportation and welcome gifts.
- Develop master schedule.

Transportation

- Deposits made to hold buses; contracts signed.

Registration

- Contact Chapter Deans and Regional Officers about the early registration deadline.
- Contact the Regional Councillor, District Conveners, and Regional Resource Persons to remind them that they receive complimentary registration.
- Confirm who will receive complimentary registration, housing, transportation, meals, etc.
- Firm up Registration Committee members, call a meeting, commit to registration hours during Convention.
- If on-line registration will be available, test the program with Steering Committee/Chapter registration before the regional flyer is mailed.

Publicity

- Continue monthly contact with Chapter Deans, providing advertisements or other information for newsletters.
- Mail promotional flyer with registration instructions
- Update Convention Website as needed.

Volunteers

- Call membership to solicit help with ushering, ticket takers, ticket sales

February

4 months out

Program/Hotel/Hospitality

- Reconfirm social events with Hotel and Hospitality Committees.

Registration

- Purchase name tags and registration packets.
- Begin to make appropriate signs for registration tables.

Program Book

- Deadline for receipt of advertising copy for inclusion in program book.
- Final preparation of program overview & daily program detail.

Publicity

- Update Convention Website as needed

March

3 months out

Hospitality

- Create map of hotel showing Exhibits, Registration and Workshop areas for inclusion in registration packets.
- Create map of city showing venue locations and directions.
- Appoint Usher Chair (if needed) – determine ushering needs for all concerts – remember to recruit from host churches.

Transportation

- Investigate any possible construction areas on bus routes.
- Transportation Chair meets with bus company representative to finalize routes and destinations.

Publicity

- Update Convention Website as needed

April

2 months out

Program

Confirm hosts for each artist and presenter, with details about responsibility for all local transportation.

Logistics/Volunteers

Reconfirm all commitments with specifics.
Contact all building managers to reconfirm details.
Visit all locations for a final time.
Complete and distribute master rehearsal schedule to all who need to know it.
Confirm details with recording engineer(s).
Assign committee members to each separate event as Producers

Logistics/Hospitality

Determine and prepare all needed signs – convention sites, hotel lobby, registration and hospitality areas.

Hospitality/Registration

Give map of hotel areas, Convention and Visitors' Bureau items (landmark locations, restaurant list, public transportation info, map and directions to venues) to Registration Committee for inclusion in registration packet.

Hospitality

Conduct training session for ushers.
Recruit hospitality desk staff, set up schedule.
Inform are restaurants and stores of Convention dates- encourage attendee discounts.

Hotel/Exhibits

Let registrar know who exhibitors are for complimentary registrations, badges, ribbons, etc.

Transportation

Get cellular phones and/or walkie-talkies for transportation chair and bus captains.

Publicity

News releases for local papers.
Arrange radio and television spots and interviews with artists, Convention chair, etc.
Flyers for bulletin boards in churches, libraries, etc.
Picture article in Sunday paper preceding the Convention.
Steering Committee appoint an official reviewer for TAO.
Update Convention Website as needed.

Program Book

Final program book discussion before final changes are made.
Fine-tuning of program book done during the last half of month.

May

1 month out

AGO/Quimby RCYO

Obtain the list of the chapter winners from the Regional Councillor.

Logistics/Volunteers/Hospitality

In cooperation with the Hospitality Committee, arrange for all necessary signs to be placed at every Convention location and throughout the hotel.

Hospitality/Hotel

Confirm all banquet, reception and meeting arrangements with the Hotel Committee.

Hospitality/Volunteers

Reminders to ushers, medical personnel and artists' hosts of when they are needed

Hotel/Exhibits

Work closely with hotel in regard to set-up of exhibit space, room use

Transportation

Transportation Chair meets with hotel to arrange bus pick-up points.
Dry run of routes to be taken by the buses at the scheduled times of day.
Meet with bus company representative to finalize plans, routes, and trouble-shooting plans.
Final approval of program book layout & content by Steering Committee, Coordinator, and Regional Councillor.

Final camera-ready layout delivered to printer.

AGO/Quimby RCYO

Notify all Chapter winners of the date and place of the competition.

Send competitors and judges specification, compass, manual layout, number and location of pistons for each division, and other console accessories of competition organ.

Furnish judges with scores of the works to be performed.

Secure practice times for competitors.

Check on transportation and housing for competitors and judges.

Volunteers

Confirm ushers, ticket takers, ticket sellers

Two weeks before convention – set up and distribute schedule for ushers, ticket takers, ticket sellers

Publicity

Update Convention Website as needed

June

0 months out

Registration

Registration Committee meets to fill registration packets.

Hospitality

Set up hospitality desk next to registration desk.

Observe posted hospitality hours.

Include master schedule of artists' schedules for hosts and medical personnel, hospitality desk worker schedule, first aid supplies, extra Convention and Visitors Bureau handouts, and the daily Convention newsletter.

Be available throughout the Convention to “meet and greet” with a smile, a caring word, and above all – a warm welcome!

Hotel/Exhibits

The hotel needs to know exact numbers of attendees for hotel functions (banquet, luncheon[s], etc.).

Supervise setup and breakdown. See to welfare of exhibitors during the convention.

Supervise breakdown of exhibits.

Be at hotel and working with hotel. Check for glitches.

Transportation

Meet with bus captains and guides to confirm directions and instructions; distribute caps/vests to be worn at all times when on duty.

Final check with hotel and bus company representative.

Confirm availability of cellular phones and/or walkie-talkies.

Meet with bus captains and guides to confirm directions and instructions.

Transportation Chair room in Headquarters hotel: available to bus company, hotel, and Convention committee.

Two weeks out – double check bus needs to see if any additional buses are needed based on registration numbers.

Program Book

Have extra copies of the book available for sale at the convention.

Registration

Set up registration tables and observe posted registration hours.

Be available throughout the entire Convention.

Publicity

Convention photos for use with review.

Ongoing media blitz.

Daily newsletter.

Update Convention Website as needed.

Regional Councillor, current Convention Steering Committee, and the Steering Committee for the next Regional Convention meet at the end of the convention, ideally the day after.

July

1 month after

Prepare all materials and send by the required deadlines:

August 1:

- Photo and biography of first and second place winners of the AGO/Quimby RCYO Competition due at National Headquarters.

August 1:

- Review for THE AMERICAN ORGANIST magazine with official Convention photographs due at National Headquarters.

August 31:

- Final Convention Report due, including:
- Financial statements
- Reports from the Convention Coordinator and all Committee Chairs
- Official Convention Program Book

Send one copy of this report to:

- National Headquarters
- Regional Councillor
- Councillor for Conventions
- Director of Committee on Regional Conventions
- Coordinator of the next Regional Convention

- One copy of the Final Convention Report shall remain in the Chapter's permanent file

- With the copy of the Final Convention Report that is sent to National Headquarters, include copies of all publicity clippings. Send an additional 10 copies of the Official Convention Program Book to National Headquarters for archival purposes.

August 31:

Contribution to the National AGO is due as required by the Letter of Agreement, and any additional contributions that the Convention would like to make.

Completed Final Regional Convention Report Form (See Exhibits)

Steering Committee

Celebrate together in Honolulu!

SAMPLE CONVENTION PLANNING FORM

Lehigh Valley Chapter, American Guild of Organists

AGO REGION III CONVENTION

June 24-27, 2001 Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

QUESTIONNAIRE

We of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, AGO, host of the 2001 Region III Convention to be held in Bethlehem, PA, would like your input! Please take some time to think about the following items. Give us your observations and ideas. What works? What doesn't work? What would you like? What can we do? This questionnaire is purposefully open-ended to solicit your free thoughts, opinions, comments, and suggestions!

PROGRAM

Content? Schedule? Workshops? Recitalists? Recitals? "A la carte" Programs?

EXHIBITS

Kinds? Exhibit Hours?

LOGISTICS

TRANSPORTATION

REGISTRATION

HOTEL/HOSPITALITY

PUBLICITY

PROGRAM BOOK

REGIONAL COMPETITION

OTHER

NAME _____ CHAPTER _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ PHONE _____

Return this questionnaire to our Exhibit Booth and you will be entered into our drawing for a beautiful Star of Bethlehem. Thanks for your help!

Come to Bethlehem and see!

REGION ____ CONVENTION BUDGET TEMPLATE

Regional Convention Budget

Region _____ Year _____

INCOME			<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
101 REGISTRATION					
	Early Registration Due: _____				
A.	Regular -Early			\$ -	\$ -
B.	Regular			\$ -	\$ -
C.	Special* - Early			\$ -	\$ -
D.	Special*			\$ -	\$ -
E.	Student with ID			\$ -	\$ -
F.	Chapter Members – Early			\$ -	\$ -
G.	Chapter Members			\$ -	\$ -
H.	Non-Members			\$ -	\$ -
I.	Daily			\$ -	\$ -
	*includes Seniors and Spouse/Partner				
102 EXHIBITS					
A.	Booth Rental			\$ -	\$ -
103 CONCERT TICKET SALES					
	List Events				
104 PROGRAM BOOK					
A.	Advertising				
	1. Cover ads			\$ -	\$ -
	2. Full page ads			\$ -	\$ -
	3. Half page ads			\$ -	\$ -
	4. Quarter page ads			\$ -	\$ -

	5. Professional Card ads			\$ -	\$ -
	B. Registration Packet Enclosures			\$ -	\$ -
	C. Program Book Sales			\$ -	\$ -
105 LOANS					\$ -
106 INTEREST					\$ -
			<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
107 GIFTS AND GRANTS					
	A. Grants				\$ -
	B. Business Donations				\$ -
	C. Donations from Chapter Members				\$ -
	D. Quimby Prize Money				\$ -
	E. Donations from other AGO Chapters				\$ -
	F. Donations from Individuals				\$ -
	G. Co-Sponsorships				\$ -
108 TRANSPORTATION				\$ -	\$ -
109 OTHER INCOME					
	A.			\$ -	\$ -
	B.			\$ -	\$ -
	C.			\$ -	\$ -

TOTAL INCOME					\$ -
EXPENSES					
201 PROGRAM					
A.	Artists' Fees				\$ -
B.	Workshop Presenters' Fees				\$ -
C.	Commissioned Compositions				\$ -
D.	Contracted Musicians				\$ -
E.	Program Printing				\$ -
F.	Other Program Expenses				\$ -
202 TRANSPORTATION				\$ -	\$ -
203 HOSPITALITY					
A.	Hotel				
	1. Banquet (Regular)				
	2. Banquet (Comps & Extras)			\$ -	\$ -
			<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
	3. Receptions			\$ -	\$ -
	4. Coffee Breaks and Snacks			\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
B.	Away from Hotel				
	1. Box Lunches			\$ -	\$ -

	2. Box Lunches (Comps & Extras)			\$ -	\$ -
	3. Coffee Breaks and Snacks			\$ -	\$ -
204	PROGRAM BOOK				
	A. Layout and Design				\$ -
	B. Printing				\$ -
	C. Postage				\$ -
	D. Mailing Labels				\$ -
205	CONVENTION OPERATING EXPENSES				
	A. Letterhead and Postcards				\$ -
	B. Postage				\$ -
	C. Telephone and Fax				\$ -
	D. Photography				\$ -
	E. Audio Visual				\$ -
	F. Nametags				\$ -
	G. Totebags				\$ -
	H. Door Prizes				\$ -
	I. Photocopying				\$ -
	J. Miscellaneous				\$ -
206	LOAN REPAYMENT				\$ -
207	AGO/QUIMBY REGIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS				

A.	Competitors				
	1. Hotel (____ nights)			\$ -	\$ -
	2. Meals			\$ -	\$ -
	3. Local Transportation			\$ -	\$ -
			<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
B.	Winning Competitor				
	1. Hotel (____ nights)			\$ -	\$ -
	2. Meals			\$ -	\$ -
	3. Local Transportation			\$ -	\$ -
	4. Convention Registration				\$ -
C.	Judges (3)				
	1. Hotel			\$ -	\$ -
	2. Honoraria			\$ -	\$ -
	3. Meals			\$ -	\$ -
	4. Local Transportation			\$ -	\$ -
D.	Competition Awards				\$ -
208 AGO OFFICIALS					
A.	Regional Councillor				
	1. Hotel (____ nights)			\$ -	\$ -
	2. Meals			\$ -	\$ -
	3. Convention Transportation				\$ -
B.	National HQ Representative(s)				
	1. Meals			\$ -	\$ -
	2. Convention Transportation			\$ -	\$ -

209 PUBLICITY					
A.	Pre-Convention Promotion				\$ -
B.	Ads in Newspapers, Magazines, Etc.				\$ -
C.	Website				\$ -
D.	Posters and Brochures				\$ -
E.					\$ -
210 CONVENTION HOTEL					
A.	Exhibit Costs				\$ -
B.	Meeting Space				\$ -
C.	Other				\$ -
211 OTHER EXPENSES					
A.					\$ -
B.					\$ -
			<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
C.					\$ -
212 CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL					<u>\$ -</u>
(5% of Income less Gifts, Grants and Loans)					
TOTAL EXPENSES					\$ -
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES					\$ -

The details in each of the above categories may vary from convention to convention. Use the categories as listed so future conventions may benefit from your experience.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE TEMPLATE

Time	Date/Day	Date/Day	Date/Day	Date/Day	Date/Day
7:00 AM					
8:00 AM					
9:00 AM					
10:00 AM					
11:00 AM					
12:00 noon					
1:00 PM					
2:00 PM					
3:00 PM					
4:00 PM					
5:00 PM					
6:00 PM					
7:00 PM					
8:00 PM					
9:00 PM					
10:00 PM					

Remember to include:

- 1) Open hours for registration and exhibits
- 2) Bus boarding times
- 3) Bus departure times/walking departure times
- 4) Free time/breaks
- 5) Meal and reception times
- 6) RCYO practice and competition time
- 7) Exhibitor setup and tear down time

Feel free to adjust the times in the left column to suit your Convention's needs. In addition, you may find it helpful to include times in the daily schedule boxes as well.

REQUIRED COMPS CHART

	Registration	Hotel During Convention	Convention Transportation Package	Convention Meal Package	Honorarium	Hotel, Meals, and Local Transportation During Practice and Competition Period	Local Transportation During the Convention	Hotel and Meals if Judges must arrive before the Convention would normally begin
Regional Councillor	X	X	X	X				
District Conveners	X							
Regional Resource Contacts	X							
RCYO Judges	X				\$100 each			X
RCYO Competitors						X		
RCYO 1 st place winner	X	X	X	X			X	
RCYO 2 nd place winner	X							
National Officer Attending the Convention			X	X				

These comps apply only to personnel from the Convention's Region.

SAMPLE BUILDING USE AGREEMENT

AGO Region____ Convention _____

Facility Name_____ Address_____

Contact Person/Phone Number_____

How building access is to be handled (keys, alarm system) _____

Date/s and Time/s_____

Event_____ Performer_____

Room required_____ Fee for use of space_____

Setup and tear down_____

Date/s and Time/s_____

Event_____ Performer_____

Room Required_____ Fee for use of space_____

Setup and tear down_____

Emergency contact person/phone numbers

I agree that:

- 1. The instrument provided shall be in excellent tune and working condition.
- 2. The incumbent musician or his/her designee is to be present at all events.

Signed for the venue by:

_____ Title:_____

_____ Date:_____

(Name – print)

Signed for the AGO _____ Chapter

_____ Title:_____

_____ Date:_____

(Name – print)

SAMPLE CONVENTION SITE INFORMATION

American Guild of Organists

Region ___ Convention, _____ (dates)

NAME OF SITE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ -STATE _____ ZIP _____

SITE CONTACT PERSON _____ PHONE _____

ARCHITECTURE (GOTHIC, CONTEMPORARY, OCTAGONAL, ROUND, AUDITORIUM, ETC.)

ARCHITECT _____

SITE DESCRIPTION

MAIN FLOOR CAPACITY _____ BALCONY CAPACITY _____ OTHER _____

LOCATION FOR PIANO(S) _____ GRAND? _____

SPACE FOR BELL CHOIR: FRONT _____ BALCONY _____ OTHER _____

SPACE FOR VOCAL CHOIR: FRONT _____ BALCONY _____ OTHER _____

ARTWORKS AT SITE

MAIN ROOM: STAINED GLASS WINDOWS _____

WALL HANGINGS: _____

OTHER: _____

ARTWORK IN REST OF SITE _____

BROCHURE AVAILABLE: YES ___ NO ___ COPY ATTACHED: YES ___ NO ___

GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE? YES ___ NO- ___

THE SITE ORGAN

BUILDER _____

DATE INSTALLED _____

ACTION: MECHANICAL _____ TRACKER _____ ELECTRO-PNEUMATIC _____ OTHER _____

MANUALS: LIST _____

NUMBER OF RANKS _____ STOP LIST AVAILABLE? YES _____ NO _____

LIST IS ATTACHED? YES _____ NO _____ LOCATION IN ROOM _____

ORGAN IS STATIONARY _____ MOVABLE _____

OTHER

INFORMATION _____

OTHER ROOMS FOR EATING, WORKSHOPS, REHEARSALS, ETC.

1. _____ CAPACITY _____ TABLES? _____ CHAIRS ONLY? _____

2. _____ CAPACITY _____ TABLES? _____ CHAIRS ONLY? _____

3. _____ CAPACITY _____ TABLES? _____ CHAIRS ONLY? _____

4. _____ CAPACITY _____ TABLES? _____ CHAIRS ONLY? _____

EATING ACCOMMODATIONS

FULL-SIZED KITCHEN _____ KITCHENETTE _____ OTHER _____ NONE _____

FOOD ALLOWED TO BE CATERED IN _____

FOOD ALLOWED BUT DONE BY SITE PERSONNEL _____

NO FOOD ALLOWED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE _____

AGO CONTACT PERSON _____

SAMPLE EVENT BOOKING REQUEST

American Guild of Organists

Region ___ Convention, _____

NAME OF CHURCH _____

DATE(S) REQUESTED _____

ROOM(S) – name or number _____

FUNCTION _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXPECTED _____

TIME OF ENTRY _____ A.M. _____ P.M.

TIME OF DISMISSAL _____ A.M. _____ P.M.

CHAIRS – NUMBER NEEDED _____ (DRAW ARRANGEMENT DIAGRAM ON BACK)

TABLES – size and number needed (circle size and indicate how many)

Four foot _____ six foot _____ eight foot _____ round _____

Projector – 16mm _____ overhead _____ slide _____

Tape Recorders – cassette _____ VCR _____ Big screen VCR _____

Portable Chalk Board _____ whiteboard _____ bulletin board _____

Screen _____ VCR Screen _____ Podium _____

Microphone _____ portable microphone _____

Powerpoint - Projector and Adapter _____

OTHER:

KITCHEN - Use facilities _____ Coffeemakers _____ Dishes _____ Dishwasher _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS _____

AGO CHAIR FOR EVENT _____ PHONE _____

CHURCH CONTACT PERSON _____ PHONE _____

AGO CONTACT PERSON _____ PHONE _____

+++++

CHARGES: ROOM RENT _____

CUSTODIAL _____

KITCHEN _____

OFFICE _____

OTHER _____

TOTAL EXPENSES _____

PAID IN FULL: DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

SAMPLE LETTER OF AGREEMENT – ARTIST NOT UNDER MANAGEMENT

Date
Performer
Address
City

Dear _____,

We are pleased to send you this letter of agreement to confirm our previous invitation to you to be a concert presenter for the _____ Region ____ Convention of the American Guild of Organists in _____, on _____. Please look over the details of this agreement carefully. If the details are correct, please sign one copy and return it to me at the address below by _____ and keep one copy for your records. If any information is inconsistent with your understanding, please apprise us of the changes needed so that we can prepare a corrected form to resubmit to you.

It is agreed that you will present the following event:

A (____) minute organ recital
(Day, date, time)
at (Location)
(Phone and Address of Venue)

It is understood and imperative that all concerts begin and end on time. Your program should not exceed (____) minutes in length. We will send you specifications of the organ and any other pertinent information. Your program information must be submitted by _____. If possible, we would also like to include written program notes in our convention program book. Please submit these with your program.

Honorarium and Travel

In consideration of your participation, you will receive an honorarium of \$_____, plus reimbursement for travel costs up to \$_____ to be paid at the conclusion of your concert. You will need to provide us with a copy of your travel receipts. We will provide transportation between the airport and convention site. We will also provide transportation to and from your concert venue for practice sessions and the program. If you wish to use a rental car, it will be at your expense.

Lodging, Meals and Registration

You will also be provided with up to _____ night's lodging at the convention hotel (basic room charge and taxes; you will be responsible for any other charges), a meal stipend, and a complimentary convention registration (includes admission to all worship services, workshops and concerts, lunch and the banquet, and bus transportation.) Should you wish to attend convention events, you will need to submit a registration form for scheduling purposes. A convention registration form will be available online at the convention website_____in the near future or upon request.

Biographical Information and Photo

With your contract, please submit a (size)_____photo and biographical information for inclusion in the convention website and the program book by _____. If you are able to send your information digitally, send it to the email address listed below. If not, send the information and a clear black and white or color photograph to _____ at the address below. Photos are not returnable.

Both parties agree that should the performance of any of the covenants of this Agreement on the part of either yourself or the AGO, be prevented by Act of God, fire casualty, physical disability, the acts or regulations of public authorities or labor unions, labor difficulties, lockout, strike, civil tumult, war, riot, blackout, air raid alarm, air raid, act of public enemy, epidemic, interruption or delay of transportation service or any other cause, of a similar or different nature, beyond their control, you and the AGO shall respectively be relieved of their obligations hereunder with respect to the performance so prevented. If the presentation of concerts at the time herein specified shall be prevented for any of the foregoing reasons, you shall be under no obligation to present concerts at a different time or to compensate the AGO for any expenses incurred in connection with such concerts.

Thank you for agreeing to share your talents with the musicians at our convention. We are looking forward to your

concert as an important part of what promises to be a wonderful experience of music, learning, and good fellowship.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Name
Title
Address
Phone/Fax
Email

Name of Presenter (print) _____
Signature _____
Telephone _____ Cell _____
Email _____
Fax _____
Date _____ S.S. Number _____

Signature of Convention Coordinator _____

SAMPLE LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR COMMISSIONED WORKS

between

_____ and _____

Regional Convention

American Guild of Organists

This letter will constitute the agreement between the _____ Regional Convention, American Guild of Organists (***indicate coordinator or contact person's name***) (referred to as "Commissioner" and _____ (referred to as "Composer"). The Commissioner and Composer agree to the following:

1. That the Commissioner commissions and the Composer agrees to compose a(n) _____ (***Indicate precisely the intended use of the composition. For example, state that the work should be something suitable for a prelude in church. Specify whether the piece should be service or concert music and give an example of a published work. Indicate the level of difficulty, such as easy, moderate, advanced.***) within _____ minutes in length, to be performed at the 200_ AGO Regional Convention in _____. The work must fall within this time frame in order to be acceptable.

2. That the Composer will deliver two complete, bound, camera-ready, computer-set copies of the score of said work to: _____ on or before (***date***). (***See a, b, c, d below.***) The Composer will retain, as personal property, the manuscript of the score. Following the performance specified above, the Commissioner will retain single copies of each part **for** archival purposes only; all other copies will be returned to the composer. One copy will become the property of the Commissioner for the AGO archives. The Commissioner will consider failure of the Composer to deliver said copies of the score as agreed a material breach of this agreement. (***Number 3 states what the end result will be if there is a breach of the agreement.***)

a. Organ Solo: See wording of number 2 above.

b. Organ and Instrument(s): That the Composer will deliver two complete, bound, camera-ready, computer-set copies of the full score and of each instrumental part to:

c. Organ and Choir: That the Composer will deliver two complete, bound, camera-ready, computer-set copies of the full score to: _____. The Commissioner will reproduce at its own expense sufficient quantities of the choral score for performance.

d. Organ and Orchestra: That the Composer will deliver two complete, bound, camera-ready, computer-set copies of the full score and of individual parts of said work to: _____. The Commissioner will reproduce at its own expense sufficient quantities of the instrumental parts for performance.

3. That the Commissioner will pay the Composer a fee of \$ _____, one half of which (\$ _____) will be paid upon signing of all parties to this agreement. The balance of the fee will be paid upon receipt of and approval by the New Music Committee of two complete, bound, camera-ready, computer-set copies of said work delivered to:

_____. If, in the opinion of the New Music Committee, the composition fails to meet the stipulated criteria, the remaining fee will be withheld pending acceptable revisions submitted within one month. If the composer is unwilling or unable to make these modifications, the remaining fee will be forfeited.

4. In order for the Composer to attend the premiere and to participate in a workshop or a panel featuring composers (*indicate other events for which the composer should be present*), the Commissioner will provide complimentary convention registration and lodging for (*indicate number of days.*) The Commissioner will also provide up to \$_____ toward travel expenses (coach or economy class only) and up to \$_____ for meals upon submission of receipts. The Composer shall advise _____ (Commissioner) no later than (*date*) of intent to attend the premiere.

5. That the work will be wholly created and composed by the Composer and that it does not infringe upon any copyright of another. If a text is not in public domain, it is the responsibility of the composer to secure and pay for the rights to use the text.

6. That the Composer will grant to the Commissioner the exclusive right to present the world premiere performances of the work described above, provided that such performances be presented during the 200_ Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists, in (*location*).

7. That the Composer grants the commissioner the right to make an archival audio and/or video recording of the world premiere performances for review purposes only.

8. That the original manuscript and any published editions of the work shall bear, on the title page or at the head of the first page of music, the following acknowledgment as specifically requested by the convention New Music Committee:

“Commissioned by the American Guild of Organists
for the _____ Regional Convention
(city, state)_____, (*date*)”

9. That the Commissioner reserves the exclusive right to make the first public announcement of this commission up to one year before the convention.

10. That the Commissioner shall have the right and obligation to publicize the commissioned work and the Composer as part of its promotion of the ____ Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists.

11. That the Composer will furnish to the Commissioner a biographical sketch and two head-shot photographs of the Composer, suitable for publication, on or before (*date*).

12. That the Composer warrants that nothing contained in this agreement contravenes any preexisting agreement with any publisher or any other party. The composer agrees that any subsequent agreement with a publisher shall be subject to the rights granted to the Commissioner in this agreement.

13. That all rights in the commissioned work not otherwise granted to the Commissioner in this agreement are reserved to the Composer. The Commissioner agrees not to lend, sell, rent, or in any other way make the commissioned work available to any other musical group without prior written permission of the composer.

14. That this agreement is made solely between the parties named at the outset and that nothing in this agreement shall be interpreted to imply any right or obligation on the part of the ***(name)*** Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, a duly authorized subordinate unit of the commissioner.

15. That this agreement will be in effect upon the signature of all persons named below, and will be interpreted and governed by the laws of the state of ***(indicate state)***.

For American Guild of Organists, 200_

Composer

_____ Date _____

_____ Name _____ Date _____

Convention Coordinator,
AGO _____ Regional Convention

_____ Social Security #

_____ Address

_____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone

_____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone

_____ Cell Phone _____ FAX

_____ E-mail

_____ E-mail

This letter of agreement is meant to serve as an example to highlight important considerations. It should be modified as necessary for each commission. Details about the instrument, the performer, or other pertinent information may need to be included.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURES FOR COMMISSIONING NEW MUSIC

1. Develop a specific commissions timeline to supplement the overall Convention timeline.
2. Consider a range of composers. Committees should investigate using composers from local and regional universities, as well as those recognized in the fields of organ, choral and church music.
3. Contact potential composers for preliminary discussions regarding interest, availability and fees. All preliminary conversations must be kept confidential and clearly tentative until final approval. It is advantageous to have all discussions with composers or their agents documented in writing.
4. Develop a budget for commissions which is within the means of the overall Convention budget. Budgetary considerations include:
 - Composer fees (gratis commissions are discouraged).
 - Copying costs.
 - Allowance for composer travel, housing, per diem, registration to attend Convention premiere as possible and appropriate.
 - Any expenses related to the premiere.
 - Any rental costs and licensing fees.
5. Obtain gifts and grants for commissions; corporate sponsorships and matching grants; co-commissions from performers, organizations, local religious institutions, and denominational organizations.
6. Propose commissions and/or competitions to the Steering Committee for approval. As a part of the entire Convention program, proposals should reflect the diversity of the national AGO, including gender, ethnicity, and the range of academic and religious affiliations of the membership.
7. Obtain clear and consistent details for preparation of contracts. It is customary to pay half of the total fee upon the contract signing and the remainder upon receipt of the finished composition.
8. Select performers and venues to provide the optimal premiere of each work. Performers should be chosen who have an affinity or positive track record in performing new music.
9. Consider utilizing commissioned composers in performances and workshops as appropriate. Additional areas of expertise apart from composition should be explored.
10. Obtain photographs, biographies, programs, and program notes from composers as needed by the Program Book and Publicity Committees.
11. Determine needs for performance licensing and copyright clearances (such as the reprinting of a text or tune), and secure these as early as possible.

Contract Considerations:

Contracts and letters of agreement for composers must include, in addition to the provisions listed above:

- Firm deadlines for delivery of scores (at least six months prior to the Convention to allow adequate time for preparation by performers and conductors).
- A penalty clause if the deadline is not met.
- A statement that performance of the commissioned work is not guaranteed.
- Specifics regarding the format in which the score and parts are to be delivered, the number of copies required, and the responsibility for copying. An allowance for copying (usually no more than 10% of the commissioning fee) may be included in the contract, or the Convention may hire a professional copyist.
- Specifics regarding other involvement the composer may have, such as conducting or performing the premiere.
- Broadcast/recording waivers.

SAMPLE LETTER OF AGREEMENT – PERFORMING ENSEMBLE CONTRACT

Date
Name of Ensemble
Director
Address
City

Dear _____,

We are pleased to send you this letter of agreement to confirm our previous invitation to the _____ensemble (hereafter referred to as “Performer”) to present a concert for the _____Region ___Convention of the American Guild of Organists in _____, on_____. Please look over the details of this agreement carefully. If the details are correct, please sign one copy and return it to me at the address below by _____ and keep the other for your records. If any information is inconsistent with your understanding, please apprise us of the changes needed so that we can prepare a corrected form to re-submit to you.

It is agreed that the Performer will present the following event:

(Name of Concert)
(Day, Date, time)
at (Location)
(Phone and Address of Venue)

We will facilitate the scheduling of a rehearsal(s) at _____ prior to the concert.

Repertoire

Repertoire for the program is at your discretion; the program should not exceed _____minutes in length. You will be presenting a program for organists, church choir directors, organ builders and music appreciators in general. There is a piano available, or you may choose to do solely *a capella* works. (For an orchestra, we specified here that the selection of repertoire would be negotiated by the organ soloist and the director, facilitated by myself). You will need to turn in your program by _____. If possible, we would also like to include written program notes in our convention program book. Please submit these with your program.

Honorarium

In consideration of their participation, the Performer will receive an honorarium of \$_____. (For an orchestra, we specified here that the convention would cover any music rental or purchase fees, and that any music purchased would become the property of the orchestra).

Information and Photo

With your contract, please submit a (size)_____photo of the (ensemble) and a description of the group for inclusion in the convention website and the program book with your contract by _____(date). If you are able to send your information and photo digitally, send it to_____ at the email address listed below. If not, send the information to _____and a clear black and white or color photo to the address below. Photos are not returnable.

Both parties agree that should the performance of any of the covenants of this Agreement on the part of the Performer or the AGO, be prevented by Act of God, fire casualty, physical disability, the acts or regulations of public authorities or labor unions, labor difficulties, lockout, strike, civil tumult, war, riot, blackout, air raid alarm, air raid, act of public enemy, epidemic, interruption or delay of transportation service or any other cause, of a similar or different nature, beyond their control, the Performer and the AGO shall respectively be relieved of their obligations hereunder with respect to the performance so prevented. If the presentation of concerts art the time herein specified shall be prevented for any of the foregoing reasons, the Performer shall be under no obligation to

present concerts at a different time or to compensate the AGO for any expenses incurred in connection with such concerts.

Thank you for agreeing to share your talents with the musicians at our convention. We are looking forward to your concert as an important part of what promises to be a wonderful experience of music, learning, and good fellowship.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Name
Title
Address
Phone/fax
Email

Name of Presenter (print) _____
Signature _____
Telephone _____ Cell _____
Email _____
Fax _____
Date _____ S.S. Number _____

Signature of Convention Coordinator _____

SAMPLE LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR WORKSHOP PRESENTER

Date
Addressee
Address
City/State

Dear _____

We are pleased to send you this letter of agreement to confirm our previous invitation to you to be a workshop presenter for the _____ Region ___ Convention of the American Guild of Organists in _____, (dates)_____. Please look over the details of this agreement carefully. If the details are correct, please sign one copy and return it to me at the address below by _____, and keep the other for your records. If any information is inconsistent with your understanding, please apprise us of the changes needed so that we can prepare a corrected form to re-submit to you.

It is agreed that you will present the following events:

Name (as it should appear in the program)
(Title of Workshop, date(s) and time(s))
at (Location)
(Phone and Address of Venue)

Please feel free to select titles for your workshops that would more accurately reflect their content.

It is understood and imperative that all sessions begin and end on time. Each workshop session is scheduled for sixty minutes. There will be a volunteer assigned to each session to assist you.

Honorarium and Travel

In consideration of your participation, you will receive an honorarium of \$_____ plus reimbursement for travel costs up to \$_____ to be paid at the conclusion of your presentations. You will need to provide us with a copy of your travel receipts. We will provide transportation between the airport and convention site. We will also provide transportation to and from your presentation venues. If you wish to use a rental car, it will be at your expense.

Lodging, Meals and Registration

You will also be provided with up to _____ nights' lodging (basic room charge at the convention hotel and taxes; you will be responsible for any other charges), a meal stipend, and a complimentary convention registration (includes admission to all worship services, workshops and concerts, lunch and a banquet, and bus transportation. Should you wish to attend convention events, you will need to submit a registration form for scheduling purposes. A convention registration form will be available online in the near future at: _____.

Biographical Information, Photo and Workshop Description

Please submit a (size)_____photo and biographical information for inclusion in the convention website and program book with your contract by _____ (date). If you are able to send your information and photo digitally, sent it to_____. If not, send the information and a clear black and white or color photo to _____at the address below. At this time, we will also need a paragraph

description for each workshop you are giving. Photos are not returnable.

Handouts for Your Workshop

If you have handouts for your presentation (up to 5 pages, 8.5x11, black and white) - we will make the required number of copies. We need to have the unfolded originals by _____. Please send to _____ at the address below or by email as listed below. If submitting electronically, send as an attachment.

Audio-Visual or Other Equipment Requirements (rhythm instruments, etc.)

If you will need audio-visual equipment or other equipment, please list it here:

Both parties agree that should the performance of any of the covenants of this Agreement on the part of either yourself or the AGO, be prevented by an Act of God, fire casualty, physical disability, the acts or regulations of public authorities or labor unions, labor difficulties, lockout, strike, civil tumult, war, riot, blackout, air raid alarm, air raid, act of public enemy, epidemic, interruption or delay of transportation service or any other cause, of a similar or different nature, beyond their control, you and the AGO shall respectively be relieved of their obligations hereunder with respect to the performance so prevented. If the presentation of workshops at the time herein specified shall be prevented for any of the foregoing reasons, you shall be under no obligation to present workshops at a different time or to compensate the AGO for any expenses incurred in connection with such events.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the address below.

Thank you for agreeing to share your expertise with the musicians at our convention. We are looking forward to your presentation as an important part of what promises to be a wonderful experience of music, learning, and good fellowship.

Sincerely,
Name
Title
Address

Phone/fax
Email

Name of Presenter (print) _____
Signature _____
Telephone _____ Cell _____
Email _____
Fax _____
Date _____ S.S. Number _____

Signature of Convention Coordinator _____

SAMPLE ADVERTISER LETTER AND CONTRACT

2005 AGO Region VI Convention
P.O. Box 50112
Colorado Springs, CO 80949-0112
719-598-3324
wesphy@gbronline.com

September 1, 2004

The Colorado Springs Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) is honored to host the 2005 AGO Region VI Convention June 26-29, 2005. We invite you to place an advertisement in our Convention Program Book.

The Convention Program Book is a marvelous opportunity for you to reach this select audience of professional church musicians. You can showcase your talents as a performer or presenter, your business, or your church or educational institution.

In addition to advertising in the Program Book, we invite you to consider sponsoring or underwriting a specific Convention event- concert, reception, worship service, or workshop. Event sponsors will receive special recognition in the Convention Program Book. Several Convention events will be open to the public, providing additional visibility for sponsors. Please contact me for more detailed information.

Most attendees will come from AGO Region VI, which includes Eastern Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Further specifics on our Convention and area attractions are available on the Convention website at www.csago2005.org.

Also attached are pages with contract information and an order form showing sizes and prices. I would be glad to answer any questions. Feel free to contact me at the above phone number, by e-mail, or by mail at the Convention address.

We look forward to sharing in this great event with us!

Sincerely,

Phyllis Nielsen, Chairperson
Program Book Committee

Encl: Advertising Guidelines
Advertising Contract
Ad Specifications and Rates

Advertising Contract

Official Convention Program Book

Deadline for Space Reservation, Payment and Advertising Materials:
December 1, 2004

Advertiser Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: (Please print) _____

I/we have read and understand the schedule terms and conditions of this agreement and will abide by them.

Signature/Title: _____ Date: _____

- BW Inside Front Cover (Depending on availability)\$375
- BW Inside Back Cover (Depending on availability)\$350
- BW Full Page.....\$250
- BW Half Page (horizontal)\$150
- BW Half Page (vertical)\$150
- BW Quarter Page (horizontal)\$100
- BW Quarter Page (vertical)\$100
- BW Eighth Page (horizontal).....\$50
- BW Eighth Page (business card).....\$50

See reverse side for size and price information.

Microsoft Word will be used in publication consolidation and Adobe Photo Deluxe or Microsoft Photo Editor will be used to manipulate graphics. Please submit all graphics in high quality JPG, EPS, or TIFF format files to ensure quality reproduction. Please submit all text using any standard Microsoft Word fonts (e.g., Times New Roman, Arial). If nonstandard fonts are required in your ad, please group text and graphics and save as graphics in the applicable size and quality.

Ad Cost: \$_____

Total: \$_____

Return this order along with full payment. No refunds or cancellations after November 15, 2004.
Please make checks payable to CS/AGO 2005.

Please send Contract and Payment to:

2005 AGO Region VI Convention, P.O. Box 50112, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-0112
wesphy@gbronline.com

ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Official Convention Program Book

General

The AGO 2005 Colorado Springs Official Program Book is published by the Convention Steering Committee (hereafter referred to as “Publishers”) in cooperation with the American Guild of Organists for the 2005 Convention. The American Guild of Organists is a non-profit, education organization chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York in 1896.

Publishers reserve the right to decline any advertisement, before or after the published closing date that does not meet with their approval. Improper copy will not be accepted. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement. Publishers reserve the right to head and/or box advertisements that, in their opinion, bear confusing resemblance to editorial manner.

Contract and Copy Regulations

Publishers will not be bound by any condition, printed or otherwise, appearing on any order blanks, insertion orders, or contracts when they conflict with the terms and conditions of this advertising schedule or any amendment thereto.

Advertiser and/or advertising agency assumes liability for all content (including text and illustrations) of advertisements printed, and also assumes responsibility for any claims therefrom made against Publishers and agrees to indemnify Publishers against any expense and loss suffered by reason of such claims.

Payment must be made in U.S. dollars, either by international money order or by a check drawn on a U.S. bank. All display advertising requests must be confirmed with a completed reservation (enclosed) or letter of request. Inside front and inside back cover reservations will be honored on a first-come, first-serve basis, depending on receipt of order and payment. Ads must be in black and white only and have borders or boxes.

An advertiser using an advertising agency is responsible for any debts incurred by the agency in the advertiser’s name. If an advertising agency defaults on payment or declares bankruptcy, the advertiser will pay all cost directly to the Publishers, regardless of whether the defaulting agency has already been paid for the space.

Submission Requirement

All ads must be submitted on computer disk as outlined on the Advertising Rate Sheet. We cannot design or typeset advertisements. If advertiser is unable to submit in the required format, it may be possible for Publisher to arrange for conversion at additional charge to advertiser. Please contact the advertising coordinator for details. Placement of advertising assumes agreement with all stated policies of this advertising contract.

Advertising Specifications and Rates

Full Page (black & white only)		
Inside Front Cover		\$375
Full Page Ready Print Size:	7.0" wide x 9.0" tall	
Inside Back Cover		\$350
Full Page Ready Print Size:	7.0" wide x 9.0" tall	
Full Page in Book		\$250
Trim 8.5" wide x 11.0" tall		
Full Page Ready Print Size:	7.0" wide x 9.0" tall	
Half Page (black & white only)		\$150
Horizontal Page Ready Print Size:	7.0" wide x 4.5" tall	
Vertical Page Ready Print Size:	3.5" wide x 9.0" tall	
Quarter Page (black & white only)		\$100
Horizontal Page Ready Print Size:	7.0" wide x 2.25" tall	
Vertical Page Ready Print Size:	3.5" wide x 4.5" tall	
Eighth Page and Business Card (black & white only)		\$50
Horizontal only Page Ready Print Size:	3.5" wide x 2.25" tall	

Mechanical Requirements

Acceptable formats for submitting ads:

- 1) Mac or PC text files with standard Microsoft 2000 Word fonts.
- 2) Mac or PC high-resolution JPG, EPS, or TIFF files.

All image files should be at least 300 dpi.

All files must be accompanied with a printout of the ad.

Media accepted on 3.5" disk or CD-ROM.

Deadline for space, reservation and payments is December 1, 2004.

SAMPLE EXHIBITOR LETTER AND CONTRACT

American Guild of Organists
Region V Convention, 2003
David T. Powers, Exhibits
6408 Nelwood Road
Parma Heights, Ohio 44130-3211

December, 2002

Dear Exhibitor,

Thank you for taking the time to consider exhibiting at what promises to be the best Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists in 2003.

To verify what I am saying, please feel free to log onto the Cleveland Chapter web site at agocleveland.org to view the entire convention schedule. It is spectacular, indeed.

We will be headquartered at the newly redecorated Cleveland Renaissance Hotel on Public Square in the very heart of downtown Cleveland. This luxurious setting will be the place where all exhibits will be received by attendees to this marvelous convention, which includes the fabulously refurbished E.M. Skinner at Severance Hall, home of the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra, and the brand-new C.B. Fisk organ at Finney Chapel in picturesque Oberlin, Ohio. And that is only the beginning!

I have lobbied for maximum exposure for our esteemed exhibitors, so you are assured of the greatest impact with attendees. In addition, more than one major reception is scheduled to take place in the exhibitor area. This will be the place to be!

So, for all of the attendant costs, this will prove to be the best (and most profitable) place for you to be as far as the American Guild of Organists is concerned for 2003.

May I be of further assistance to you? (We do want you to come!) Please feel free to call me at 216/226-6780 (w) or at home at 440/888-8757. I always return calls.

Let me hear from you. Or, better yet, let me include you. You and your company will NOT be disappointed. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

David T. Powers, chair
Exhibits Committee
Region V Convention, and
Dean, the Cleveland Chapter,
AGO

**Information Sheet
Region V Convention**

**Convention Headquarters
Renaissance Cleveland Hotel
Tower City Center
24 Public Square
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216/696-5600
fax 216/696-0432
www.renaissancehotels.com**

Proposed **Official** Exhibitor Hours:

Sunday: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
and 10:00 PM to 12:00 AM

Monday: 12:15 PM to 6:00 PM
and 10:30 PM to 12:00 AM

Tuesday: 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM
and 10:00 PM to 12:00 AM

Wednesday: 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Exhibits Close and must be removed by 6:00 PM.

Instructions for registering to exhibit:

- 1) Please fill out the contract and make a copy for your records. Make checks payable to Cleveland Chapter AGO. Return exhibitor materials to the Exhibits Chair. A copy of the contract with your booth assignment will be sent to you, upon receipt of your contract and check, securing your exhibitor space for the convention. Thank you for your support.
- 2) Included is a map of exhibitor locations in Ambassador Ballroom for your selection, but please be aware that the Exhibits Chair has the final right of assignment according to the demands made upon the exhibit area, especially for that of sound-producing displays. Thank you for your understanding.
- 3) Also included in this mailing is complete information about advertising in the official convention brochure. You may opt to exhibit and advertise, exhibit without advertising or merely advertise at your discretion. We welcome all patronage from our commercial friends.
- 4) When your exhibitor fee and contract has been received, you will be placed on the list to receive information regarding registration for the convention. Convention registration **is** included with your exhibitor fee, and name tags will be provided according to your request. Hotel reservation information will also be included. Reservations must be made directly with the hotel at special convention rates. All of this information will be provided with the registration materials.

To contact the Exhibits Chair:

David T. Powers
6408 Nelwood Road
Parma Heights, Ohio 44130-3211
(w) 216/226-6780
(h) 440/888-8757
fax 216/529-3555 (w)
e-mail Dtpowers@cs.com

American Guild of Organists
Region V Convention
June 22-25, 2003

Exhibitor Contract

Reserve for our exhibit _____ tables at \$500 apiece. All tables include dressing and a sign listing the exhibitor's name, city, state and table number. Tables include approximately 8' x 10' of space each. Make checks payable to the Cleveland Chapter, AGO. Please return the exhibit space diagram with your first three preferences marked on the booth spaces desired. Preferred deadline is March 30, 2003.

ALL EXHIBITORS MUST AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONVENTION, AS SHOWN ON THE REVERSE SIDE AND WHICH ARE A PART OF THIS CONTRACT.

Lettering for the sign should read as follow:

Company name: _____

City, State _____

Exhibitor's listing in the program brochure should read as follows (please type or print):

I/we have read the entire contract, including the rules and regulations on the reverse side and I/we agree to abide by it.

Signature(s)/Title(s): _____

Date: _____

To be filled out by exhibits chair:

Table(s) assigned: _____

Date: _____

Signature/Initials: _____

American Guild of Organists
Region V Convention
June 22-25, 2003
Rules and Regulations

CONTRACT FOR SPACE – The application space and the formal notice by the 2003 Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists constitutes a contract for the right to use the space allotted. In the event of fire, strikes or other uncontrollable circumstances rendering the building unfit or unavailable for use, this contract shall not be binding.

RESTRICTIONS IN USE OF SPACE – All demonstrations, interviews or other sales activities must be confined to the limits of the exhibit booth. No exhibitor shall assign, sublet or share the whole or any part of the space allotted without the knowledge and consent of the Management or without the approval of the terms thereof. No exhibitor is permitted to show goods other than those manufactured or dealt in by him/her in the regular course of business. Displays shall not be placed in such a manner as to interfere with other exhibits.

SOUND-MAKING EXHIBITS – Exhibits which include the operation of musical instruments, talking motion picture equipment, public address systems, or any noise making machines must be conducted or arranged so that the noise resulting from the demonstrations will not annoy or disturb adjacent exhibitors and their patrons. Operators or noise-making exhibits must secure approval of operating methods before the exhibit opens.

INSTALLATION & TEARDOWN – A fact sheet listing installation and opening hours of the exhibit, as well as the deadline for teardown will be mailed to each exhibitor.

DISMANTLING – The exhibitor expressly agrees not to dismantle his/her exhibit or do any packing before the final closing hour of the exhibit. Goods must be crated or packed for shipment by the exhibitor following the close of the exhibits. Goods and materials used in the exhibit shall not be removed from the exhibit hall before the time unless a permit for removal is obtained. All exhibits must be removed within 6 hours of the end of the convention. Those exhibitors wishing additional times must make special arrangements with the management of the hotel for storage materials until they can be removed.

LIABILITY AND INSURANCE – The American Guild of Organists, and the hotel will not be responsible for the safety of the property of the exhibitors, their agents or employees from theft, damage by fire, accident, or other causes, but will use reasonable care to protect exhibitors from such loss. Exhibitors wishing to insure must do so at their own expense.

CIRCULARIZATION AND SOLICITATION – Circulars of advertising matter of any description may be distributed and patronage may be solicited only within the booth assigned to the exhibit. No firm or organization not assigned space in the exhibit area will be permitted to solicit business in any manner within the exhibit hall.

FIRE PROTECTION – All electrical wiring must conform with the National Electricians Code of Safety and Rules, and with the Electrical Code of Safety Rules of the city of Cleveland. Any failure to comply will result in possible cancellation of the exhibit. Fire regulations must be complied with.

RESTRICTIONS IN OPERATING EXHIBITS – The Management reserves the right to restrict exhibits which because of noise, method of operation, or any reason become objectionable and also to prohibit or evict any exhibit which in the opinion of the Management may detract from the general character of the exhibit as a whole. The reservation includes persons, things, conduct, printed matter, or anything of such a character which the Management determines is objectionable to the exhibit. In the event of such restrictions, the American Guild of Organists, and the hotel are not liable for any exhibit expense.

CARE OF BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT – Exhibitors or their agents shall not injure or deface walls or floors of the building, the tables and dressings, or other equipment. When such damage appears, the exhibitor is liable to the Management.

Sample VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ____ CONVENTION

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail address** _____

Please look over the volunteer opportunities for our Chapter's hosting of the ____AGO Regional Convention in _____ and check the job(s) that seem to call your name. Then either e-mail me or call to sign up, or return the form to me at :

A large part of the success of this convention will depend on the support and participation of all of our members! Please sign up early and often!

Jobs to Be Filled	My Choices
Publicity Committee	
1. Run copy machine	
2. Write articles and press releases	
3. Prepare and distribute media kits	
4. Prepare copy-ready monthly announcements for chapter newsletters and others	
5. Prepare informational materials for booth at National Convention	
6. Prepare daily newspaper for conventioners	
7. Prepare roster for distribution to attendees	
8. Provide liaison with Webmaster	
9. Prepare pictorial displays of daily activities at convention	
10. Serve as official photographer for the convention	
Registration Committee	
1. Help prepare the general mailing of applications to all Region members	
2. Work with chairman to acknowledge receipt of applications	
3. Prepare roster of applicants for Registration Desk and Publicity Committee	
4. Prepare registration packets and badges	
5. Staff the Registration Desk	
6. Distribute registration packets and badges on opening day	
7. Provide signage to direct registrants to function areas	
8. Prepare tickets for public events	

9. Maintain computer records for tracking participants	
Logistics Committee	
1. Serve as assistant to committee chair	
2. Help in assembling materials, equipment and setup/breakdown for workshops	
3. Operate equipment at workshops	
4. Help in liaison with venues	
5. Assist in compiling and distributing a Master Rehearsal Schedule	
6. Help in finding non-participants to assist with ushering, etc. at venues	
Transportation Committee	
1. Bus Captains	
2. Mini-van Drivers	
3. Lobby signage for boarding locations	
Program Book	
1. Help in preparation of Program CD mailing	
2. Help proofread	
AGO/Quimby Competition	
1. Hosts for contestants and judges during pre-convention competition	
2. Drivers to chauffeur contestants and judges to and from practice sites	
Hospitality Committee	
1. Help with snack presentations between sessions	

SAMPLE WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS *Taken from Region VI 2005 Convention -Colorado Springs*

A detailed Master Schedule, with links from performers' names to their bios
Pictures and descriptions of Performing Groups, pictures and bios of Directors, links to their websites
Pictures and bios of Artists
Pictures and bios of Workshop Presenters
Detailed Workshop descriptions, with links to Presenter bios
A Workshop Schedule, include venues,with links to Presenters and Workshop descriptions
Information about Hymn Festival Choir or Performing Group
Information on procuring concert tickets
Hotel information, include pictures of hotel, how to make reservations online, link to hotel website, convention registration code
Information about Hotel parking garage/lot
Local tourist information, include pictures, map, links to local and statewide websites
Information on travel to a high-altitude location
Detailed Driving Instructions from all possible directions
Airport Shuttles, Bus and Rail information
Things to see and do – list tourist attractions by travel time from hotel,walking distance; brief descriptions and website URLs
Link to comprehensive news/information website sponsored by a local TV station
A page with downloadable Registration Form, 1-pg. convention schedule, and 2.5 pg. workshop description arranged in blocks
Transportation Information to assist in deciding whether to purchase optional bus pkg. – info on walking, driving/parking, bus package, downtown shuttle, weather
Map of Venues –include distance from hotel and between venues
Information page for RCYO, with pictures of competition venue and organ, with info copied from the National AGO website
Sponsorship Opportunities –listed events to sponsor and how to do so, contributor categories
Advertiser Information –cover letter, ad specs, guidelines and contract
Exhibitor Information – cover letter, information sheet and contract
Organ Gallery – thumbnail pictures of organs that could be enlarged, heading includes builder, opus number, year, electro-pneumatic/mechanical/other, number of manuals, key compass, stops/ranks/number of pipes, organist at church; linked page for each organ with stoplist and different pictures of organ and church/chapel/auditorium
Page with Steering Committee member pictures, name and title
For Saturday arrivals – list of Sunday worship times at downtown churches and any special music planned
Restaurant List for Sunday– close to hotel
Questions? – E-mail link to a contact person

You'll need a Web Editor (often the Program Committee Chair). Even though it is possible for anyone to contact the Webmaster through the site, all input should go through the Website Editor.

SAMPLE CONVENTION EVALUATION FORM

REGION VI 2001 CONVENTION EVALUATION

Thank you for joining us for this convention! Please take time to fill out this form & leave it at the Hospitality Desk. Your input will help future convention planners! Bless You!

The number 5 gives the highest rating:

PROGRAMS		COMMENTS
Opening Convocation	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
John Ferguson Hymn Festival	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
The Chenaults= Recital	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Samuel Metzger Recital	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Tom Hazleton Recital	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Rigler/Bohnert Recital	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Olivier Latry Recital	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
WORKSHOPS		
Rene Clausen <i>Choral Conducting</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Barb Redlin <i>Children=s Choir Technique</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Jo Ann Miller <i>Adult Choral Reading</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Rod Rothlisberger <i>Membership, Chptr. Developmt</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Marian Thomas <i>Professional Concerns</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Denise Lanning <i>Educational Concerns</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Jan Childs <i>Performance Anxiety</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Scott Riedel <i>Church Aoustics</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
<i>Exhibitor Choral Reading Session</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
Michael Olson <i>Organ Reading Session</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____
June Rauschnabel <i>Handbell Technique</i>	5 4 3 2 1 na	_____

Panel Discussion 5 4 3 2 1 na _____
(Ferguson, Nesheim, Thrasher,
Hoffman, Roos)

David Hetland 5 4 3 2 1 na _____
Art as Worship Tour

John Ferguson 5 4 3 2 1 na _____
Hymn Playing

Rigler/Bohnert 5 4 3 2 1 na _____
Service Music/Trumpet & Organ

Peter Nygaard 5 4 3 2 1 na _____
Pianist to Organist

Organ Crawl 5 4 3 2 1 na _____

Tour of Scandinavian
Hjemkomst Center 5 4 3 2 1 na _____

My favorite program was _____

Social functions (Banquet, Breakfast at Concordia College, Box Lunch)

Transportation Services _____

Exhibits _____

Hotel 5 4 3 2 1 na _____

What were the strengths of this
convention? _____

Suggestions for improving future conventions? _____

WHAT TO SEND WHERE...AND WHEN!

What to send where...and when!

	Executive Director	Regional Councillor	Director of CORC	CORC Consultant	Steering Committee Members	Coordinator of the next Regional Convention	Councillor for Conventions
Bid to Host a Regional Convention	January 31, three and a half years before the convention would take place	January 31, three and a half years before the convention would take place	January 31, three and a half years before the convention would take place				January 31, three and a half years before the convention would take place
Signed Letter of Agreement	You will receive this from Headquarters as soon as hotel and dates are final. It should be signed and returned immediately, preferably by August 15 or sooner and no later than September 30, in the fall of the second year prior to the convention.						
Proposed Budget	October 1, in the second year before the	October 1, in the second year before the	October 1, in the second year before the				

	convention	convention	convention				
Proposed Program	October 1, in the second year before the convention	October 1, in the second year before the convention	October 1, in the second year before the convention				
Steering Committee Minutes	After each meeting	After each meeting		After each meeting	After each meeting		
Program Committee Minutes	After each meeting	After each meeting		After each meeting			
Roster of Steering Committee Members	Each revision	Each revision	Each revision	Each revision	Each revision		
Chapter Newsletters	Each issue	Each issue		Each issue			
Photo and bio of AGO/Quimby RCYO	August 1 following the convention						
Review for TAO	August 1 following the convention						
Final convention report	August 31 following the convention	August 31 following the convention	August 31 following the convention			August 31 following the convention	
Contribution to National AGO	August 31 following the convention						
10 copies of the Program Book	August 31 following the convention						

**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
REGIONAL CONVENTION REPORT FORM**

Dates: _____ Host Chapter: _____ Region: _____

Year: _____

Convention

Coordinator(s): _____

The following information will greatly assist the next round of regional conventions. Please enclose your final financial report (with your budget for comparison) and reports from all Steering Committee Members (include any sample forms used). Please send 10 copies of each report to: AGO National Headquarters, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115.

1. Income/Expenses

Attendance/Registration Revenue

<u>Full Convention</u>	Number	@	Rate	=	Revenue
Regular Early	_____		\$ _____		\$ _____
Regular	_____		_____		_____
Special Early	_____		_____		_____
Special	_____		_____		_____
Chapter Early	_____		_____		_____
Chapter	_____		_____		_____
Student	_____		_____		_____
Other	_____		_____		_____
<u>Daily</u>	_____		_____		_____
TOTAL PAID	_____			Revenue	\$ _____
Less Refunds	_____				
(\$ _____)					
Complimentary	_____				
TOTAL Attendance	_____			Net Revenue	\$ _____

Additional Revenue

Exhibit Space	_____	@	\$ _____	=	\$ _____
Concert Ticket Sales	_____		_____		_____
Program Book Ads	_____		_____		_____
Reg. Packet Encl.	_____		_____		_____
Prog. Bk. Sales	_____		_____		_____
Tote Bag Sales	_____		_____		_____
Sponsorships	_____		_____		_____
Interest	_____		_____		_____
Gifts and Grants	_____		_____		_____
Transportation	_____		_____		_____
Other Income (source: _____)			_____		_____
TOTAL Income	Budget\$ _____		Actual\$ _____		

Expenses

Category	Budget	Actual
Program	\$ _____	\$ _____
Transportation	_____	_____
Hospitality	_____	_____
Program Book	_____	_____
Convention Operating Expenses	_____	_____
Loan Repayment	_____	_____
AGO/QUIMBY RCYO	_____	_____
AGO Officials	_____	_____
Publicity	_____	_____
Exhibit Costs	_____	_____
Contribution to National (___% of Income minus gifts/grants)	_____	_____
TOTAL Expenses	Budget\$ _____	Actual \$ _____
PROFIT (LOSS)	Budget\$ _____	Actual \$ _____

2. Lodging/Hotel

- a. Name of primary convention hotel: _____
- b. Hotel rates:
 Single \$ _____ Double \$ _____ Triple \$ _____ Quad \$ _____
- c. Number of room nights blocked: _____ Number used: _____ Peak night pick up _____
- d. Hotel charge for meeting/space \$ _____ (no charge)
- e. Alternate Housing Site: _____ Rate: \$ _____

3. Performers/Workshop Leaders

- a. Total number of performers/ensembles: _____
- b. Number from your Region: _____ Elsewhere in USA _____ Non-USA: _____
- c. Gender Balance _____
- d. Names of recitalists _____

- e. Names of Workshop Leaders _____

4. AGO Concerns (include time and format if these were included, i.e. breakfast, lunch, etc.)

- a. Regional Business Meeting: _____
- b. Chapter Leaders' Meeting: _____
- c. Regional Leaders' Meeting (DC's/RC's): _____
- d. Professional Development Workshop _____
- e. Chapter Development/Membership Workshop _____
- f. Education Workshop _____

5. AGO Officials: How were they involved?

- a. National Officials: _____
- b. Regional Councillor: _____
- c. Regional Coordinator/Prof. Concerns: _____
- d. Regional Coordinator/Education: _____

6. Total Number of Exhibit Hours _____

7. Any Commissioned Works? If so, how many _____

8. List serve of All Steering Committee Members (for future convention contact ease)

9. Evaluation/Recommendations. Did you have an Evaluation Form? _____ # returned _____

Please note any specific concerns or recommendations that would assist future conventions:

Thank you for all of your diligence and dedication to the AGO and for helping future conventions!!!



Sample MIDWINTER REGIONAL CONVENTION Timeline #3

Timeline exhibits are merely composites of other timelines obtained from previous Regional Conventions, and are meant only for guidance in the creation of a timeline suited to your convention. (This timeline reflects a 7 month difference from the summer Regional Convention Timeline #2.)

January

24 months out

Steering Committee

Attend preceding Regional Convention.

Program

Continue discussion of artists, composer, presenters, types of concerts, recitals, workshops, worship services and possible locations.

Begin work on daily schedule.

Finance

Start gathering proposed budgets from all Committee Chairs.

Logistics/Volunteers

Survey possible sites and volunteers needed.

Hotel/Housing/Exhibits/Hospitality

Contact person(s) responsible for hotel, exhibits, and hospitality; observe during Regional Convention.

Program Book

Recommend to Steering Committee designer to assist with program book layout/design.

In consultation with Exhibits Committee, draft advertising policy for program book.

Steering Committee discuss and reach consensus on concept/image for program book cover.

Begin to create database of potential advertisers from (1) previous Regional Conventions; (2) local/regional yellow pages directories; (3) internet search of businesses in region.

Publicity

Flyers for Regional Convention packets.

Items for exhibit area at Regional Convention.

Presentation to Convention.

Meet with local Convention and Visitors' Bureau to determine how they can help.

Make plans to develop Convention Website

AGO/Quimby RCYO

Present estimated budget to Finance Committee.

Transportation

Determine probable bus needs based on past regional convention records – submit budget to Convention Treasurer.

February

23 months out

Program

Continue discussions from June.

Begin to contact artists and presenters to ascertain fee and availability.

Begin to contact locations, visiting them if possible.

Logistics/Volunteers

Establish logistics and Volunteer committee (based upon Program Committee's proposed program).

Request completed survey forms from desired, potential locations (if survey not already received).

Begin to negotiate fees of all types.

Program Book

Obtain bids for program book from at least 5 printing firms.

Steering Committee to review covers for program book.

Exhibits

Keep contact if needed with person(s) responsible for hotel and exhibits at previous Convention.

Talk with exhibitors for preferences, ideas.

Transportation

Submit new preliminary budget figures based upon Program Committee report of June.
Solicit bids from bus companies

Hospitality

Keep in contact with Hospitality person from previous convention to see what worked- i.e. receptions, banquet, etc.

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

March

22 months out

Program

Present proposed program to Steering Committee for their input.
Continue working on daily schedule.
Continue to contact artists, composers, and presenters.

Finance

Present proposed budget to Steering Committee for their input.

Hospitality/Program

Determine what receptions, banquet, box lunch, etc. will be needed in conjunction with Program Committee.
Contact Regional Councillor to determine schedule for Regional Meeting and Deans', Officers' and National Representatives' Meal.

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

April

21 months out

Program and Finance

Send revised program and budget to the Regional Councillor, the Councillor for Conventions, the Committee on Regional Conventions and the Executive Director.

Gifts, Grants

Notice in Chapter newsletter.
Letters to foundations and institutions according to the deadlines as indicated by procedural information.

Exhibits

Develop a list of potential exhibitors.

Program Book

Preliminary layout/design of book completed for review/discussion.

Publicity

Contact the next National Convention to secure complimentary advertising in the Program Book
Continue to work on Convention Website

May

20 months out

Program

Begin planning worship services.
Begin drawing up contracts for artists, composers, presenters (which will be sent when the Convention program and budget are approved by CORC)

Gifts, Grants

Second notice in Chapter newsletter.

Program Book

Decision on exact cover for program book.

AGO/Quimby RCYO

In coordination with the Program Committee, secure approval of the proposed competition instrument from the Regional Councillor.

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

June 19 months out

Program

Continue work begun in October

Gifts, Grants

Third notice in Chapter Newsletter

Program Book

Final decision and approval on printing company to be used

Contract drawn up for approval and signatures

Solicit bids from bulk mail facility for mailing program book (if you **are**, that is)

Publicity

Continue work on Convention website.

Select Convention Photographer

July 18 months out

Program

Approval of proposed program and budget due from National AGO.

Steering Committee

Play for church!

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

August 17 months out

Program

Contracts, with request for publicity materials, equipment needs, program materials, etc., sent when the budget and program are approved.

Logistics

Verify that events are placed on the venues' calendars.

Send letters of confirmation for locations.

Begin list of all equipment needed for all events (riser, special percussion instruments, music stands, lights, etc.).

Gifts/Grants

Letter to individuals a) for personal donations and b) for grants to support specific programs; letters to all chapters in the region to request their financial support.

Transportation

Steering Committee chooses bus company for Convention – sign contract.

Publicity

Flyer or e-mail to regional mailing list.

Continue to work on Convention Website

Hospitality/Hotel/Program

In conjunction with Hotel and Program Committees, plan coffee breaks, receptions, banquet, and box lunches, if any.

Hospitality/Hotel

Work closely with Regional Councillor to plan Deans', Officers', and National Representatives' meal.

Program Book

Finalize database of advertisers for program book.

September 16 months out

Program

Follow-up work on the worship services

Publicity

Continue work on Convention website

Transportation

Deposits made to hold buses

Program Book

Continue work on securing potential advertisers

October 15 months out

Program

Meet ONLY if necessary.

Transportation

Bus captain recruited; they, in turn, recruit bus guides.

Program Book

Start collecting all information that must go in the program book.

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

November 14 months out

Registration

Review all registration policies with Steering Committee.

Program Book

Receive approval for draft of letter and sample contract for advertisers/exhibitors.

Publicity

Continue to work on Convention Website

December 13 months out

Exhibits

Prepare letter and contract for exhibitors, including information about advertising for the program book.

AGO/Quimby RCYO

Obtain official rules governing the competition.

Program Book

Deadline for receipt of artwork for program book cover.

Obtain bids for program book from several printing firms.

Review bids for program book and make preliminary decision.

Steering Committee to review covers for program book.

Artist/presenter biographies/photographs due from Program Committee for insertion into program book.

Transportation

Reconfirm bus needs.

Publicity

Establish Convention Website and link with national website. Publish web address on all national convention promotional materials.

January 12 months out

Program

Present program-related materials to Program Book Committee.

Registration

Rent Post Office Box so that its number is available for registration form and other correspondence. It is strongly recommended that a personal address not be used, in case there is a change in Registrar.

Publicity

Display booth or packet insert at National Convention.

Speaker at regional meeting.

Update Convention Website as needed

Hospitality

Begin to gather Chamber of Commerce items – maps, directions to landmarks, restaurant list, public transportation schedule.

Program Book

Final decision and approval on printing company to be used for program book.
Contract drawn up for approval and signatures.
Letter to mayor and governor from Convention Coordinator asking for letter of welcome, possible proclamation and photographs.
Prepare for proof and insertion into program book layout specifications for all instruments to be used during Convention.

February 11 months out

Program Book

Receive copy of introductory page from national office.

March 10 months out

Program

Begin to secure any performance licenses needed. National AGO pays ASCAP fees.

Begin to secure any instrumental parts needed.

Exhibits

Send letter and contract to potential exhibitors, with information about advertising in the program book.

Program Book

Continued review/discussion of latest draft of program book by Steering Committee.

Publicity

Update Convention Website as needed

April 9 months out

Logistics/Volunteers/Hospitality

Begin to examine locations for any potential problems and "trouble shoot."

Work with Hospitality Committee to discuss ushering requirements, potential problems, etc.

Ascertain all audio-visual needs for programs and workshops.

Assign or hire personnel to deliver and operate equipment.

Hotel/Exhibits

Give information about hotel to person(s) responsible for TAO information, listing, ads.

Give hotel information and directions to program book chair.

Publicity

Send flyer or e-mail to regional mailing list.

Mailing to Chapter deans of camera-ready advertisements for newsletters

Send Convention logo, list of artists, clinicians, dates, names and addresses of Convention Registrar to AGO Headquarters and the TAO editor. Post this information on the convention website.

Secure proclamation of AGO WEEK from mayor or other public official.

Update Convention Website as needed

Program Book

Continue to review/discussion of program book by Steering Committee.

May 8 months out

Program Book

Photograph for inclusion in program book taken of Steering Committee at monthly meeting.

Publicity

Update Convention Website as needed

June 7 months out

Program

Attend to any details requiring attention.

Registration

Request an electronic file of contact information for Chapter Deans and other Regional Officers from AGO Headquarters.

Program Book

Receive final drafts of maps/directions from publicity committee for insertion into program book layout.

Program book mailed last week of month. (if this is being done).

Publicity

Update Convention Website as needed

July

6 months out

Steering Committee

Play for church!

August

5 months out

Program

Contact those artists, etc. who have not returned contracts and sent requested materials.

Obtain artists' travel information.

Begin discussion of how artists are transported while in town.

Finalize all program-related materials needed for inclusion in the Convention booklet.

Hospitality

Develop list of emergency phone numbers to be distributed to all convention workers.

Hospitality/Program

Recruit and assign Artist hosts – arrange for airport pickup, rehearsal transportation and welcome gifts.

Develop master schedule.

Transportation

Deposits made to hold buses; contracts signed.

Registration

Contact Chapter Deans and Regional Officers about the early registration deadline.

Contact the Regional Councillor, District Conveners, and Regional Resource Persons to remind them that they receive complimentary registration.

Confirm who will receive complimentary registration, housing, transportation, meals, etc.

Firm up Registration Committee members, call a meeting, commit to registration hours during Convention.

If on-line registration will be available, test the program with Steering Committee/Chapter registration before the regional flyer is mailed.

Publicity

Continue monthly contact with Chapter Deans, providing advertisements or other information for newsletters.

Mail promotional flyer with registration instructions

Update Convention Website as needed.

Volunteers

Call membership to solicit help with ushering, ticket takers, ticket sales

September

4 months out

Program/Hotel/Hospitality

Reconfirm social events with Hotel and Hospitality Committees.

Registration

Purchase name tags and registration packets.

Begin to make appropriate signs for registration tables.

Program Book

Deadline for receipt of advertising copy for inclusion in program book.

Final preparation of program overview & daily program detail.

Publicity

Update Convention Website as needed

October3 months out

Hospitality

Create map of hotel showing Exhibits, Registration and Workshop areas for inclusion in registration packets.

Create map of city showing venue locations and directions.

Appoint Usher Chair (if needed) – determine ushering needs for all concerts – remember to recruit from host churches.

Transportation

Investigate any possible construction areas on bus routes.

Transportation Chair meets with bus company representative to finalize routes and destinations.

Publicity

Update Convention Website as needed

November2 months out

Program

Confirm hosts for each artist and presenter, with details about responsibility for all local transportation.

Logistics/Volunteers

Reconfirm all commitments with specifics.

Contact all building managers to reconfirm details.

Visit all locations for a final time.

Complete and distribute master rehearsal schedule to all who need to know it.

Confirm details with recording engineer(s).

Assign committee members to each separate event as Producers

Logistics/Hospitality

Determine and prepare all needed signs – convention sites, hotel lobby, registration and hospitality areas.

Hospitality/Registration

Give map of hotel areas, Convention and Visitors' Bureau items (landmark locations, restaurant list, public transportation info, map and directions to venues) to Registration Committee for inclusion in registration packet.

Hospitality

Conduct training session for ushers.

Recruit hospitality desk staff, set up schedule.

Inform are restaurants and stores of Convention dates- encourage attendee discounts.

Hotel/Exhibits

Let registrar know who exhibitors are for complimentary registrations, badges, ribbons, etc.

Transportation

Get cellular phones and/or walkie-talkies for transportation chair and bus captains.

Publicity

News releases for local papers.

Arrange radio and television spots and interviews with artists, Convention chair, etc.

Flyers for bulletin boards in churches, libraries, etc.

Picture article in Sunday paper preceding the Convention.

Steering Committee appoint an official reviewer for TAO.

Update Convention Website as needed.

Program Book

Final program book discussion before final changes are made.

Fine-tuning of program book done during the last half of month.

December1 month out

AGO/Quimby RCYO

Obtain the list of the chapter winners from the Regional Councillor.

Logistics/Volunteers/Hospitality

In cooperation with the Hospitality Committee, arrange for all necessary signs to be placed at every Convention location and throughout the hotel.

Hospitality/Hotel

Confirm all banquet, reception and meeting arrangements with the Hotel Committee.

Hospitality/Volunteers

Reminders to ushers, medical personnel and artists' hosts of when they are needed

Hotel/Exhibits

Work closely with hotel in regard to set-up of exhibit space, room use

Transportation

Transportation Chair meets with hotel to arrange bus pick-up points.

Dry run of routes to be taken by the buses at the scheduled times of day.

Meet with bus company representative to finalize plans, routes, and trouble-shooting plans.

Final approval of program book layout & content by Steering Committee, Coordinator, and Regional Councillor.

Final camera-ready layout delivered to printer.

AGO/Quimby RCYO

Notify all Chapter winners of the date and place of the competition.

Send competitors and judges specification, compass, manual layout, number and location of pistons for each division, and other console accessories of competition organ.

Furnish judges with scores of the works to be performed.

Secure practice times for competitors.

Check on transportation and housing for competitors and judges.

Volunteers

Confirm ushers, ticket takers, ticket sellers

Two weeks before convention – set up and distribute schedule for ushers, ticket takers, ticket sellers

Publicity

Update Convention Website as needed

January

0 months out

Registration

Registration Committee meets to fill registration packets.

Hospitality

Set up hospitality desk next to registration desk.

Observe posted hospitality hours.

Include master schedule of artists' schedules for hosts and medical personnel, hospitality desk worker schedule, first aid supplies, extra Convention and Visitors Bureau handouts, and the daily Convention newsletter.

Be available throughout the Convention to “meet and greet” with a smile, a caring word, and above all – a warm welcome!

Hotel/Exhibits

The hotel needs to know exact numbers of attendees for hotel functions (banquet, luncheon[s], etc.).

Supervise setup and breakdown. See to welfare of exhibitors during the convention.

Supervise breakdown of exhibits.

Be at hotel and working with hotel. Check for glitches.

Transportation

Meet with bus captains and guides to confirm directions and instructions; distribute caps/vests to be worn at all times when on duty.

Final check with hotel and bus company representative.

Confirm availability of cellular phones and/or walkie-talkies.

Meet with bus captains and guides to confirm directions and instructions.

Transportation Chair room in Headquarters hotel: available to bus company, hotel, and

Convention committee.

Two weeks out – double check bus needs to see if any additional buses are needed based on registration numbers.

Program Book

Have extra copies of the book available for sale at the convention.

Registration

Set up registration tables and observe posted registration hours.

Be available throughout the entire Convention.

Publicity

Convention photos for use with review.

Ongoing media blitz.

Daily newsletter.

Update Convention Website as needed.

Regional Councillor, current Convention Steering Committee, and the Steering Committee for the next Regional Convention meet at the end of the convention, ideally the day after.

February

1 month after

Prepare all materials and send by the required deadlines:

March 1:

- Photo and biography of first and second place winners of the AGO/Quimby RCYO Competition due at National Headquarters.

March 1:

- Review for THE AMERICAN ORGANIST magazine with official Convention photographs due at National Headquarters.

March 31:

- Final Convention Report due, including:
 - Financial statements
 - Reports from the Convention Coordinator and all Committee Chairs
 - Official Convention Program Book

Send one copy of this report to:

- National Headquarters
- Regional Councillor
- Councillor for Conventions
- Director of Committee on Regional Conventions
- Coordinator of the next Regional Convention
- One copy of the Final Convention Report shall remain in the Chapter's permanent file

- With the copy of the Final Convention Report that is sent to National Headquarters, include copies of all publicity clippings. Send an additional 10 copies of the Official Convention Program Book to National Headquarters for archival purposes.

March 31:

Contribution to the National AGO is due as required by the Letter of Agreement, and any additional contributions that the Convention would like to make.

Completed Final Regional Convention Report Form (See Exhibits)

Steering Committee - Celebrate together in Honolulu!