

October 2017

This newsletter will include:
Contact information for the Riverland Chapter Board
Letter from Dean, Louise Temte
An overview of future events

2017-2018 Riverland Chapter Board

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By the time you receive this letter an event, in addition to those listed by Louise, will be completed. On Saturday, Oct 28, First Presbyterian Church was host to a half-day outreach to UWL piano students of Dr. Mary Tollefson. Four chapter members served as teachers, performers, food servers and mentors. Details of this event will follow in the next newsletter. It is event similar to other Pipes, Pedals and Pizza!! events we have offered.

Letter from Our Dean

Greetings to members and friends of Riverland Chapter, AGO.

I am so grateful to a special friend of our chapter, Sue Retzlaff. Sue recently retired from public school teaching, and she is willing to help our chapter with technology now. What a blessing this is! Thanks to Sue, we now have a chapter website.

Go to www.agohq.org/chapters/riverland and you will find our website. It is hosted, at no cost to us, by the national AGO office. Please put it on your phone or computer, and check it now and then.

Music is Medicine was presented Sept. 22nd by our fellow member, Dr. Dean Whiteway. About 25 of us enjoyed a meal from Ciatti's restaurant, good fellowship, and Dean's wonderful multimedia presentation, at Our Savior's in La Crosse.

Pipescreams and Bellchill was presented at English Lutheran Church, 1509 King Street, La Crosse, on Sunday, Oct 22, at 7:30 pm. The program consisted of spooky organ and handbell music, pumpkin carols sung by all, the "Dracula Suite" was performed, an appearance by both Hannibal Lecter and Alfred Hitchcock, many costumed organists and a frightened audience of 125 souls. It was a chilling success.

Welcome to Nancy Matchett, who recently joined as a Chapter Friend. We now have about eight supporters who pay \$25 to be Chapter Friends. To become a Chapter Friend, you enroll online and pay with your credit card, but all the money is returned to Riverland Chapter. How to become a Friend? Go to www.agohq.org and click on the Membership tab. Go down to 'Join the Guild' and click. A sub-menu pops up so you can click on Chapter Friend and follow the prompts.

We all need to know about the February, 2017, ruling of the Federal Trade Commission. This ruling requires the AGO to change in fundamental ways. It does not affect our goal to be a thriving community of musicians who focus on the organ and its music. It does affect our various employment matters. For full details, go to www.agohq.org and at the bottom of the home page are several articles which explain. Do contact me if you have any questions.

We now enter the latter part of the calendar year which is always very involved for musicians. I wish you happy planning for Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and other observances.

Louise Temte, Dean

COMING EVENTS

On Saturday November 11 at 10:30_am we will have a brunch at a local restaurant for members and friends of the Riverland chapter. The site is yet to be determined, but you will be informed in due time. We have found that these informal gatherings are very enjoyable and worthwhile. It is a chance to visit, share ideas, share music. Do you have some music you would like to give away?

On Sunday December 17 at 7 pm the Annual Advent Carol Sing will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 111 N. 9th Street, La Crosse. Dean Whiteway, organ, with the La Crosse Chamber Chorale, Paul Rusterholz, Director. The event is free; we are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items for WAFER.

EVENTS IN THE PLANNING STAGE

We will have Lenten Recitals this year. The details are being worked out.

The last couple of years we had organ crawls with the Rochester Chapter. We hosted their members and they hosted us. While at Rochester we even got to climb to the top of the iconic Plummer Building and hear, first hand, a carillon concert, a treat no longer permitted because of the potential danger of climbing the steep, long staircase.

This spring we hope to join the Rochester group for an organ crawl in Winona, a city with a rich history.

If any of you have thoughts about future programming, subjects you would like to cover, performers you want to hear, let us know.

Our chapter is blessed to have donations to underwrite our projects. We thank Arthur and Carolee Beutler of Greendale, WI, for their generous support of our chapter in memory of Art's sister, Elizabeth Mittelsteadt. Betty died in 2012. She was a longtime member of Riverland Chapter and a fine teacher and organist.

Thanks to their gift, we were able to give three full scholarships to the Pipe Organ Encounter at Dordt College. The recipients were Lieba Schwalbe, Michaela Johnson, and Sofia Stutesman. All three students have performed in recent chapter programs.

In closing, thanks to members and friends who help make this chapter active and vital.