

A Letter From the Dean

Hello friends and members,

It's the end of August, and I know lots of us are gearing up for the fall – my kids are back in school, the program year at church is starting soon, and the college semester will soon be a-go as well.

You may have noticed that annual AGO elections of officers are not our strong suit here at the Holland AGO, but the board has done some reorganizing lately, and I wanted to give our members a chance to weigh in as well.

For our 2018 elections – I propose two new board members – Rick Van Oss, who is obviously not new at all! (a founding member of our chapter), and Linda Fulton – perhaps the newest organist to Holland, and someone we've all enjoyed getting to know and seeing regularly at events around town.

They will replace some members who are moving on from the board to work on different things. Jim Folkert, our local organ-building expert, who we thank for his input the last two years; Julia Collingsworth, a woman who never seems to stop, and a fountain of energy and ideas, as Sub-Dean the last two years; and Judy Koeman, secretary for many-many years, a long-time member of the chapter and an important part of the organ world here in Holland. Please join me in thanking these folks for their service, and adding your vote to our election for Rick and Linda.

If you'd like to vote - respond to this email which will go to Paul Dalman, newsletter editor (and impartial election coordinator), with your yes (or no) for our slate of officers - Rhonda Edgington, dean; Linda Fulton, sub-dean; Rick van Oss and Roberta Kraft, members at large. Gordon Bruns, our treasurer and Paul Dalman, our newsletter editor, are not elected officers. We are very grateful for their hard work as well!

Your board will be meeting shortly, to put together our program year for 2018-19, and if you have any ideas to share, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact one of us.

This summer, I attended the AGO National Convention in Kansas City, MO, over the fourth of July week. It was a great convention, which proved the nay-sayers wrong, who thought the Midwest wasn't an exiting or suitable location for a National Convention. (East Coast types...) The Kimmel Center, a new performing arts venue right downtown, was a fabulous space for a number of different concerts. There were, to my personal delight, a healthy number of female performers, and also a number of excellent players who aren't over-heard or seen. A personal favorite concert of mine happened at the University of Kansas, where Dr. James Higdon played an all-Alain concert on the Wolff organ in Bales Hall, and it was stunning and inspiring.

I can rave more to you in person, if you ask me next time you see me, but I bring this up for another reason as well. Our chapter partially sponsored a recital at the convention – and we selected a performer from our region to sponsor. Her name is Nicole Keller – she has a Performer's Certificate from Eastman, and teaches at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio. She is about

my age and African-American, and played a program that was made up entirely of American composers, including music by blacks and women! She performed on an EM Skinner from 1950 that is housed in the Unity Temple in Kansas City's Plaza neighborhood. It was a perfect fit of instrument to program, and she played very persuasively. (Her program information is included as an additional attachment to this newsletter. ed.).

Nicole can be heard next summer, at the Great Lakes Regional Convention, which will be held June 30-July 3 in ... (ta DA) – Grand Rapids! In fact, there will even be one day in Holland when Dr. Huw Lewis will be heard on the Casavant at Hope College, David Heinze on the Skinner in Dimnent Chapel, and yours truly on the new Pasi at Grace Episcopal. Besides that, we will hear all the major instruments in Grand Rapids, with some exciting performers like Ken Cowan, Lynne Davis, Katelyn Emerson, Todd Wilson, and Scott Dettra. We will also enjoy Grand Rapids favorites Greg Crowell on the early American organ at the Seventh Day Adventists church, the theater organ at the Public Museum, and Helen Hawley on the carillon at GVSU. I hope I've whetted your appetite for this convention – get it on your calendar, and expect to hear more in the coming months about this.

Keep in mind that Grace Episcopal's monthly Grace notes organ concerts, which have been going faithfully all summer long, will continue this fall and winter with some local and out-of-town artists who I'm excited to hear! Mark your calendars, and thank Steve for all his working organizing this series. The schedule is as follows:

Aug 26 at 1pm – Dr. Dana Robinson, prof of organ at University of Illinois

Sept 16 at 12:30pm– Grand Valley State University New Music Ensemble

October 7 at 1pm – Dr. Carrie Groenewold, Organist/ Choir director, St. Luke's Episcopal, Kalamazoo

November 4 at 1pm – Local legend (and former Grace Church Holland organist!) Alfred Fedak

December 9 at 12:30pm – Dr. Elizabeth West – Hope College, former Holland AGO dean

January 13 at 1pm – Linda Fulton – our favorite newest organist in Holland

February 10 at 1pm – Jane Bosco – another former Holland AGO dean, and organist at Harderwyck

Members! - Don't forget to renew your AGO dues!

Also, here's some info about a workshop coming up in GR with an expert in congregational song -

CONGREGATIONAL SONG WORKSHOP WITH MICHAEL HAWN

Saturday, September 29, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, MI

Michael Hawn, advisory board member for the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship [Vital Worship Grants Program](#), and professor of church music emeritus, Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, will be teaching a congregational song workshop at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids.

To Register - Call or email Shelia: C: 269-908-0509, huishausproductions@gmail.com

Best wishes and happy music making -

Rhonda

Chapter Officers for 2018-2019

Dean - Rhonda Edgington

Sub-Dean – Linda Fulton

Board Members – Roberta Kraft, Rick Van Oss

Hope College Student Board Member – TBA

Ex Official:

Treasurer - Gordon Bruns

Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website - hollandareaago.org

2018-2019 Calendar		
	Watch for details in the September newsletter.	