



February 2025

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Deadline for March Newsletter is February 10, 2025

Next Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2025

CLERGY & ORGANIST PANEL DISCUSSION ON TWO PRESSING ISSUES

(a) The Decline in Church Membership & Attendance

(b) The Shortage of Organists for Part-Time Jobs

Monday, February 24, 2025,

Dinner 6:00PM, Meeting 7:30PM

St. John Lutheran Church

601 Washington Ave.

Carnegie, PA 15106

Three clergy and three organists from the Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will discuss concerns and potential solutions to the decline in organists and church attendance. To make sure that topics are of interest to the chapter, please submit your suggestions, questions, and concerns to Dr. Wayne Earnest (liaison for the event), 1804 Saint Andrews Dr., Washington PA 15301, musicmanwayne@outlook.com; 724-206-8854. Those suggestions, questions, and concerns will then be collated and the most important selected for the panel discussion.

Dinner will be catered by Atria's. DINNER IS NOW \$20/adult and \$10/student. The board has decided to use available funds to subsidize dinner costs. Late reservations will be \$35/person, as available. Please send reservations to Regina at drdckettering@gmail.com by Feb. 17th.

Notes From the Dean

February 2025

Greetings Pittsburgh Chapter Members and Friends!

I compose this month's *Dean's Notes* just a few days after our January Executive Board meeting. There are several items to share from that gathering!

First, the **Chapter Nominating Committee** is beginning to assemble a slate for the upcoming Chapter elections, which will be held in early May...via mail and/or online methods! The committee is made up of Ellen Gross, Alan Lewis, and Sr. Cynthia Pock. If you are contacted, please consider serving your Chapter!

We need to have two candidates for each position up for election, which include:

Officers: Sub-Dean, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar. (*Current Sub-Dean Regina Kettering has agreed to serve as Dean*)

Current Officers have each served for two 2-year terms and are NOT eligible to be up for re-election with the exception of Registrar Bob Senay, who was elected in 2023 to replace me when I was promoted to Dean. Bob is choosing not to be re-nominated.

Four Executive Board Members for a 4-year term expiring in 2029.

From information I have, there is no term limit for members of the Executive Board, so all are eligible to be nominated for another 4-year term. (*I apologize if my information is incorrect!*)

Look for the official slate and short bios of the candidates in the April issue of *Pipelines*!

A long discussion was held regarding the decreasing attendance at our monthly dinners and meetings. It was determined that a major reason is the ever-increasing cost of providing the meals. Because your Chapter is financially very stable, **the board unanimously voted to reduce the cost of the meals for the remainder of this year, as well as for the next program year!**

The difference in the costs will be absorbed by the Chapter. ***The new rate will be \$20.00 per member (and guests), and \$10.00 for Students with a Student ID.*** (The \$5.00 late fee will remain the same.) Please note that the few of our members who have paid for Standing Reservations will receive a refund of their over-payment!

A VERY IMPORTANT item: The new AGO Membership Database! Bob Senay has printed out a current roster for the board members. We need you to make sure that you have gone onto the database, and checked and updated (if necessary!!) your information, and make sure your dues are current! Bob will put a separate article in this issue of *Pipelines* as to how you go about doing this. Our current roster has less than 140 members – about 35 less than last year!

Finally, I look forward to hosting the next Chapter meeting at Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Carnegie on Monday, February 24th. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, with some wine and cheese available shortly after 6:00 PM. Come and enjoy some fellowship and an interesting ***“Clergy and Organist Panel Discussion on The Decline of Church Membership and the Shortage of Organists for Part-Time Jobs,”*** which will be moderated by Dr. Wayne Earnest.

A Happy and Blessed Groundhog’s Day to each of you!

Jeff Gray
Dean

Important : Personal Information.

Message from Registrar

As our Dean stated in his message, AGO has updated both the webpage and online system. It is very important that you review your personal information. If you find outdated or incorrect information, I have included steps for making corrections.

Steps for signing in, viewing, and if necessary, making corrections to your profile.

1. Access to AGO main webpage

<https://www.agohq.org>

2. Sign in

https://www.agohq.org/Shared_Content/ContactManagement/Sign_In.aspx?LoginRedirect=true&returnurl=%2f

3. Enter your user name, (This is now your email address that you use in correspondence with AGO and PITAGO).

4. Click your name (found in the upper right and corner of the webpage “Hi, Mr. Joan Smith”

5. When your profile page appears you will find a curser next to your name (looks like a pencil). Click on the pencil and your information page will appear.

6. From your information page you will be able to update or change any incorrect information.

At this time, I do not see a way to change your level of education or AGO certifications. I did have a conversation with a staff member at headquarters and was told that my questions would be referred to someone who could help. I'm waiting.

Cheers, Bob S.

Musical Events

Sunday, February 9, 2025 3:00 p.m., Shadyside Presbyterian Church

As part of the “Music in a Great Space” concert series at Shadyside Presbyterian Church the Pittsburgh Camerata presents “Portraits” featuring a work of Michael Markowski commissioned to honor the Camerata’s 50th Anniversary

As part of the “Music in a Great Space” concert series at Shadyside Presbyterian Church the Jade Piano Trio presents “City Beats” featuring music inspired by the urban landscape. Works by Bunch, Schoenfeld, Adams and Okpebholo.

For more information go to <https://www.shadysidepres.org>

Substitutes

It is the policy of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists that only current members in good standing may list their names on the Substitutes List. Employers may contact organists directly or ask the coordinator for assistance. The AGO assumes no responsibility for the musicianship, reliability, or conduct of substitute organists, and background checks are the responsibility of the employer. Persons listed as available substitutes may be required by employers to present clearances; e.g. Child Abuse History Clearance; Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Checks for Employment; and/or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Fingerprinting.

Services: W-Weddings, F-Funerals, E-Evenings, S-Saturdays, L-Liturgical Only, N-Non-Liturgical

Substitute Organists Available for Sunday Mornings

NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	SERVICES
ALEY, Philip	412-302-8653	philwa66@verizon.net	WFE
ANDERSON, Gerald	412-251-6718	org723@gmail.com	WFESLN
CAFARO, Ross	412-885-1625	rpcafarro@comcast.net	WFES
DOBBINS, Craig	412-400-5996	cdobbins620@gmail.com	FLN
EARNEST, Dr. Wayne N.	724-206-8854	musicmanwayne@outlook.com	WFESN
GROSS, Ellen	610-509-9028		FSLN
HILL, Thomas	512-421-1484	tom.hill.music.studio@gmail.com	WFES
JANKO, Ray	724-681-0874	rayjanko@gmail.com	WFES
KETTERING, Regina	412-477-5547	reginakettering@gmail.com	WFES
LA RUE, Elizabeth (SPC)	412-999-4812	aargon@hotmail.com	WFESLN
LEE, Alice	724-554-2346	aglee@washjeff.edu	WFESLN
LINDSEY, III, C. Dennis	918-409-6467	c.dennis.lindsey@gmail.com	WFES
LYNCH, Robert	724-787-7447	RLLynch2013@gmail.com	WFES
PINKERTON, Rich (AAGO)	412-841-3937	rbpinkerton509@gmail.com	
REILAND, Michael	412-882-5521	mc081946@verizon.net	WFESLN
ROLLETT, Tony	412-726-8569	anthonyrollett@icloud.com	ES
RUBRIGHT, Sandy S.	724-994-8872	wpmaa@yahoo.com	WFE
SALMON, Michael	904-718.7622	oriolefish@gmail.com	WFEL
SHAW, Pamela (SPC, MA, MLS)	412-425-5962	pamelashaw2000@gmail.com	WFESLN
SHAW, Richard	386-846-0566		WFESLN
SKROUPA, Dane	724-265-4840	dgskroupa@yahoo.com	FLN

Substitute Organists *NOT* Available for Sunday Mornings

NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	SERVICES
CLEMENS, Kevin M. (CAGO)	443-604-5072	kevinclemens@mac.com	WFES
CYNAR, Philip	412-926-6151		FL
DANIELS, J.R.	412-389-6658	jr@jrdaniels.org	WF
MILLER, Jane	412-526-6618	organistjane@yahoo.com	WF
RIZZO, Elmira (CAGO)	724-612-2029	erizz646@gmail.com	WFES
SCHALL, Stephen	412-215-2971	stephenschall@msn.com	WFE
SENAY, Bob	724-255-0488	rsenay@comcast.net	WFES
SPENCER, George (MSM, CAGO)	412-731-3324	spencer986@comcast.net	WFES
TYILLIAN, Jon	724-456-5135	jtyillian@gmail.com	WFES
VANDERLAAN, Brett (SPC)	301-919-1835	brettvanderlaan@aol.com	WFES
WILL, Nicholas (AAGO)	412-566-9597	nicholas.jos.will@gmail.com	WFES