

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT FOR 2020

Dave Calendine

My second term as the Chairman of the American Theatre Organ Society has proven to be an interesting one!

Last year's very successful convention, hosted by the Rochester Theatre Organ Society, was a first for ATOS, as it was a convention hosted not by a chapter of ATOS, but an affiliate organization. It could not have been a better convention, and I thank everyone involved at RTOS for a wonderful week and look forward to joining them again in the future for more great meetings.

Shortly after the annual convention, I made the trip down to Atlanta to help with and be a part of the Summer Youth Adventure. It was an amazing week, seeing the youth so involved and to see and hear their great improvement by week's end proves to me that the theatre organ will be in good hands into the future. Their enthusiasm for the instrument, as well as the workings of the instrument, is something that we need to keep fueled in the future.

Our finances have been solid throughout the whole pandemic as well. Both the regular financial report and the Endowment Fund financial reports will show where we stand. With no convention income, we are still in good shape.

ATOS' programs are still working well, and I'm not going to retell their stories, as all of the reports are posted for everyone to read. All I will say is that I believe that there is a great team within ATOS keeping the programs going. They have adapted as necessary to the current COVID-19 situation, and, like the rest of us, are ready to jump back into action when it is safe to do so.

Almost everyone has turned in reports for the board and membership to review. I am, however, highly disappointed in those who, even though they were given well over a month to get their reports completed and turned in, did not do so. They were reminded several times yet felt compelled to say nothing. This is a concern, as they were elected to work for the membership, and yet, nothing is said. I feel that this is a great disservice to the membership of the organization, and you, as members, should be greatly concerned that those elected to positions of leadership are failing in one of the most fundamental responsibilities of office, communication..

After the annual meeting, I will be making a "State of ATOS" Chairman's Video Update which will highlight all our programs. It is my goal to keep the membership informed of things going on in ATOS, and I feel that the best ways are through our wonderful Journal and the video updates.

Speaking of our Journal, I do have to give a huge shout-out to our editor, Mike Bryant, as well as the good folks at Sleeping Giant Creative, who do the design and typesetting of each Journal. We are very lucky to have such a great team and magazine!

The decision to postpone the 2020 convention came at the worst possible time in the Journal's production schedule, yet the team (with considerable assistance from Ken Double, Jonas Nordwall, and Robert Kingdom, authors of articles scheduled for future issues and therefore not completely finished at the time) pulled together and turned out great May/June and July/August issues in record time.

Lastly, I know that with the current pandemic, many things are shut down. Thankfully, many have posted virtual concerts on venues that they were able to gain access to. With that, there have been some great events posted online for everyone to enjoy. I hope that they continue, and I hope that everyone sends a link to us at ATOS so that we can post them all on our website for everyone to enjoy.

As always, I am very interested to hear what the membership has to say about ATOS. I have been contacted by several members, some expressing concerns and others just saying thanks. I have been able to attend several board meetings of chapters across the country thanks to virtual meeting rooms such as Zoom. Being able to work one on one with chapters is great, and lets me know what is going on at the local level, as well as being able to keep the chapters updated on what is going on at the national level. I hope to be able to be a part of other chapter board meetings throughout this next year as well (just send me a link to your meetings!).

Here's looking forward to another successful year of ATOS!

All the best,

Dave Calendine