

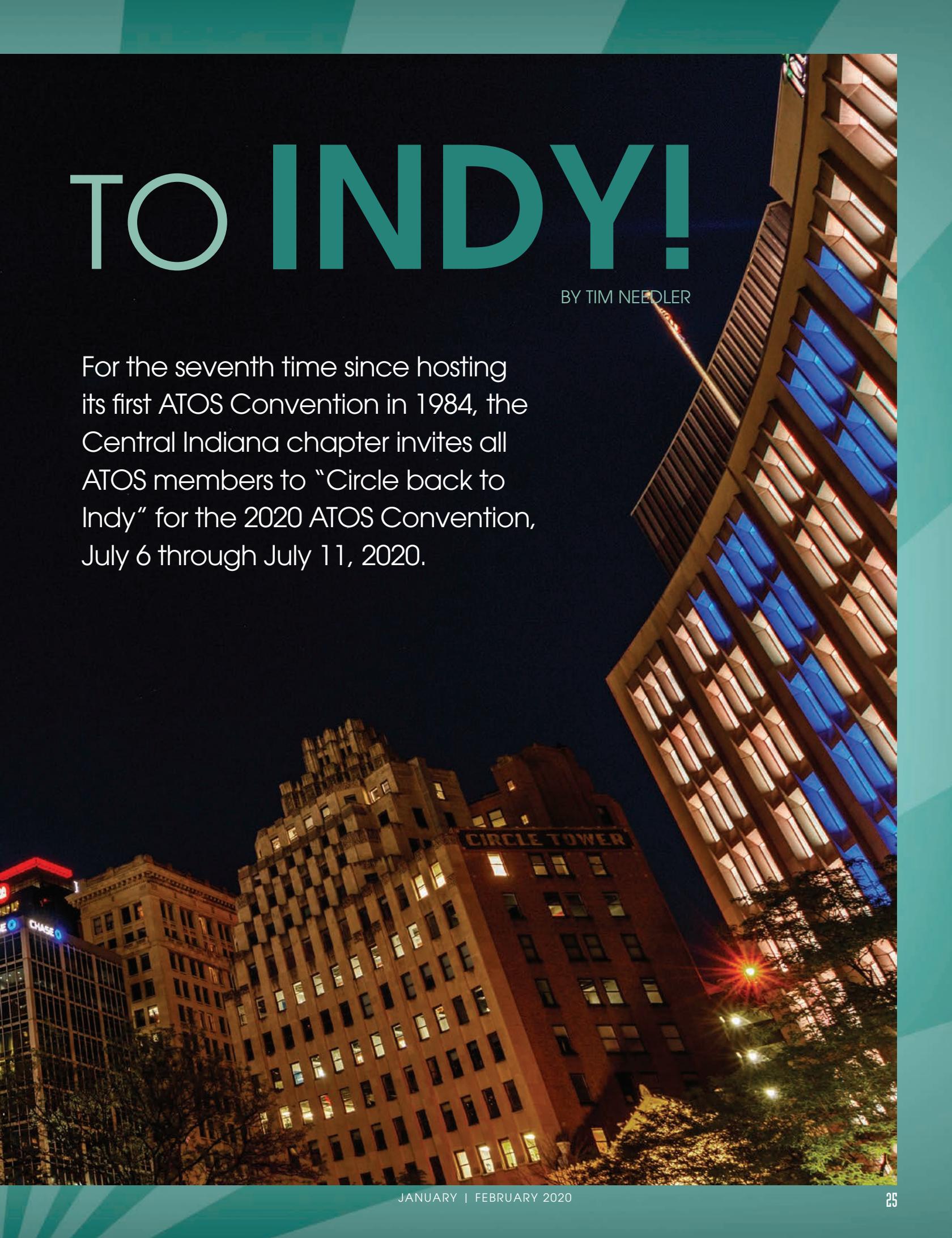
CIRCLE BACK



TO INDY!

BY TIM NEEDLER

For the seventh time since hosting its first ATOS Convention in 1984, the Central Indiana chapter invites all ATOS members to “Circle back to Indy” for the 2020 ATOS Convention, July 6 through July 11, 2020.



ATOS Annual Convention 2020

The convention headquarters will be the beautiful 100% smoke-free Westin Hotel in the heart of downtown Indianapolis, a short cab ride from the Indianapolis Airport which many have said is the most enjoyable and convenient airport in the country. Convention daily rate at the Westin with its 575 guestrooms and suites will be a reasonable \$125, single or double room, plus tax. Our highway convention buses will load and unload right in front of the main hotel entrance, and a bevy of fast elevators will transport all conventioners swiftly to and from their rooms.

In the hotel is the well-known *Shula's Steak House*, which will also be open for breakfast and lunch, while the *No Name Lounge* is ideal for cocktails and lighter fare (close to the near-by Hammond Lounge!). In addition, for quick early-morning breakfast, guests can visit the *Capitol Grounds* in the hotel lobby for coffee and pastries. All hotel guestrooms will feature complimentary WiFi and lovely views of the city.

Monday, July 6 - Preglow

For eager conventioners, we offer the optional "Preglow Monday" on July 6 with a visit to Union City, Indiana, and its Firehouse Pipes with Justin LaVoie at the console of the 3/12 Page. Lunch will be served along with a tour of the Art Depot. All attendees will receive a lovely gift basket filled with local treats and chocolate. After a short ride to the Dayton Art Institute in Dayton, Ohio, Clark Wilson will accompany a feature silent film on the 2/21 Skinner in the Mimi and Stuart Rose Auditorium of this beautifully renovated 1928 complex. Returning to the hotel will allow a leisurely evening in downtown Indianapolis with friends.

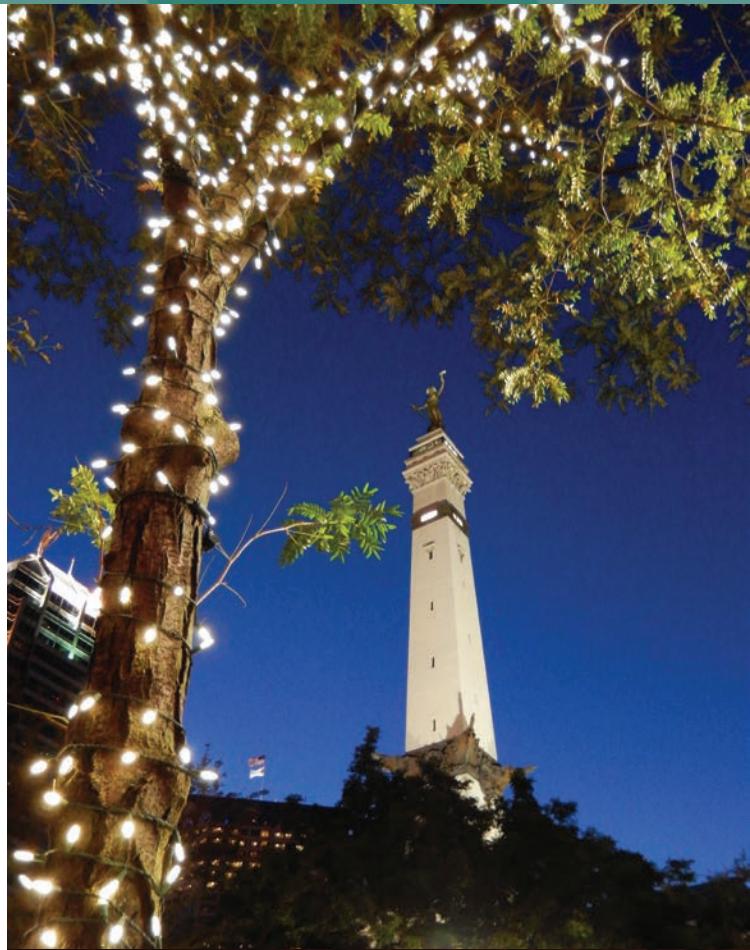
Tuesday, July 7

Tuesday, July 7 begins the convention with ATOS meetings in the morning, followed by the Young Theatre Organists Competition at Warren Performing Arts Center's 3/18 Barton in the afternoon.

The opening evening convention concert will be at the Hilbert Circle Theatre, a short walk from the hotel (or ride shuttle buses), and will feature a reunion of the Paramount Music Palace organists, Bill Vlasak, Donna Parker, and Dwight Thomas at the Circle Theatre's 3/24 Wurlitzer, playing favorites from their years at the beloved Indianapolis pizza parlor. Meet and greet these artists afterward at the Hammond Lounge in the Westin Hotel lobby.

Wednesday, July 8

Wednesday will be a travel day to the beautiful Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre with its original 4/16 Page organ where Brett Valliant will play the morning concert. This will be followed by a catered luncheon in the adjacent Embassy Ballroom. After lunch, Richard Hills will sound forth on the Embassy Page, and the convention will then travel back toward Indianapolis with a stop at the Anderson Paramount Theatre where Jelani Eddington will perform on the 3/12 original Page before returning to the Westin. In the evening there will be an optional Jam Session at the Hedback Theatre with its 2/11 Page/Wurlitzer organ.





ATOS Annual Convention 2020





Thursday, July 9

On Thursday, the convention will travel to Lafayette, Indiana, where we will hear Ron Rhode on the Long Center's 3/21 Wurlitzer. Returning to Indianapolis for lunch on your own, approximately half the convention attendees will travel to Seymour, Indiana, to the fascinating home of John Rust to hear the only Compton theatre organ in the United States, played by England's Kevin Grunill, while the other convention attendees will have their afternoon free, or can visit other Indianapolis interesting facilities, such as the famed Scottish Rite Cathedral with its original Skinner organ, or the Goulding & Wood Pipe Organ facility. Also optional will be a short program and open console hosted by Justin Nimmo at the recently installed 4-manual 56-channel Hauptwerk organ (Paramount 431 and others) in the Greenwood United Methodist Church.

Thursday evening will feature the optional Annual Convention Banquet at the beautiful 1920s Indiana Roof Ballroom we have visited each time to high acclaim and which is just across the street from our Westin Hotel.

Friday, July 10

On Friday morning we travel a short distance to the south side of Indianapolis to hear Ken Double play the Manual High School 3/26 Wurlitzer. At the hotel following the concert, there will be plenty of time to sample nearby restaurants for lunch before the Thursday groups are reversed. Those who did not visit John Rust's home on Thursday will board the highway buses enroute to his home and the Compton organ, again played by Kevin Grunill. For those staying in Indianapolis, the aforementioned tours are available.

The convention-closing evening concert will be at Warren Performing Arts Center (3/18 Barton) with Pierre Fracalanza at the console doing what Pierre does best, showing off the organ and possible audio-visual aids to enhance the experience as only Pierre can, a fitting climax to the convention that the CIC-ATOS chapter does so well.

Saturday, July 11 - Afterglow

As those who have experienced it before know, the optional Cincinnati Afterglow on Saturday will be a wonderful, relaxing day of sights and sounds not to be missed, beginning with a concert by Mark Herman at the beautiful residence of Ron Wehmeier on Ron's immaculate 4/37 Wurlitzer in the Music Room. Lunch will be served in the newly restored Union Terminal, now called the Cincinnati Museum Center, which has undergone a complete restoration back to its 1920s magnificence. The Center has a large classic E.M. Skinner pipe organ that will be remotely played for us as we tour the building after our lunch. The final gala concert event will be Walt Strony at the console of the 3/31 Albee Wurlitzer in the Ballroom of the legendary Cincinnati Music Hall.

Following this concert, we will board our buses for a short ride to the riverside to board our stern-wheeler riverboat for a relaxing 2-hour Ohio River cruise, complete with no-host cocktails and a catered buffet dinner served on deck. It will be a full but enjoyable day with return to our Indianapolis Westin Hotel about 10 p.m., in time for a final toast to a fun time being had by all, and the conclusion of yet another of Central Indiana chapter's hosting, the ATOS 2020 Convention.

Mark your calendars now for this most pleasant get-together, and Circle back to Indy this July!