

2010 ATOS AMATEUR THEATRE ORGANIST COMPETITION REPORT

This year, we had only one competitor from the Rocky Mountain Chapter in Colorado. Our total monetary outlay was \$85.00 for postage and supplies.

The last few years have been disappointing, to say the least, in terms of the number of competitors in the adult/amateur area. In order to improve the level of participation from this group, the chairpersons are suggesting the following:

1.) We DO NOT have a competition for Amateur status for the 2011 year. This way we can overhaul the division and try to make it more appealing to the amateur theatre organist. We MAY suggest implementing the competition on an every-other-year basis.

2.) We will be making suggestions to the board with respect to increasing the prize award for first and second place winners. If we want the amateur group to participate in this competition we must have better way of marketing the competition, be it advertising or other manners of promotion. We feel that the word is not getting out to the Amateur Theatre Organists. We must also give them a good reason to compete in this division. We have already implemented having the winners of the competition have a “one-on-one” session with a professional artist, if the winners go to the annual convention. This seems to be very popular with the competitors, but it alone is not enough.

3.) We would also like to make this division based more around the education for the participants that a straight, all out competition. There are many good suggestions made by the judges to the competitors regarding their style, musical ability, registration, etc. We believe that improving one’s playing ability is the most important factor for this group.

We would like to work closely with the ATOS board in making dramatic changes to the Amateur competition. We believe this is a very important group within ATOS. The majority of the general audiences hear amateur artists in theatre, auditorium and home installations. The better the amateurs can play, the better it will be for ATOS, its chapters and for theatre organ itself.

We look forward to working with the ATOS Board of Directors to improve the Amateur Theatre Organist Competition.

Wayne Tilschner, Susa Cole-Shaw
Co-Chairpersons
ATOS Amateur Theatre Organ Competition