



**Low Country  
Chapter Officers**

**Jason Wright**  
*Dean*

**Pamela Kane**  
*Sub Dean*

**Greg Hollinger**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

**Gil Campbell (2021)**  
**Geoff Borgelt (2022)**  
**Jeffrey Harbin(2023)**  
*Members at Large*

**Dr. JooSoo Son**  
*Director – Placement  
& Substitutes*

**Dr. Jason A. Wright**  
*Webmaster &  
Facebook*

**Chaplain**  
The Rev. Canon  
Richard P. McDonnell,  
Do D.Min

# June 2020 Pipings

Welcome to the new members of our  
Board of Directors and Chapter Officers



## A NOTE FROM YOUR DEAN



Greetings friends,

It is my hope that this finds each of you, your families, and the congregations that many of you serve, well, especially during these uncertain times of COVID-19.

As the newly elected Dean of our chapter, please allow me to thank you for your vote. Many thanks to the 2019-2020 Executive Board for their commitment and hard work that went into supporting the mission and vision of not only our chapter, but the national chapter over the last year. Thanks to our immediate past dean, Debbie Graves, for her leadership over the past two years; the job of a Dean is not easy! A special thank you to Beth Corry, for her work putting together a slate of excellent candidates to serve this upcoming year. Thank you one and all!

In assuming my new role as Dean, I looked to the *Chapter Management Handbook* (October 2017) as approved by National Council on January 23, 2018 and the article by Carolyn Albaugh, AAGO, entitled, *On Being Dean: Key Elements of Chapter Leadership* to provide me insight on what the national organization deems are key responsibilities of a chapter

dean. In reading each of these statements (all 6 are listed below), commit to adopting them fully.

### **1. Team Playing**

A wise leader is a facilitator. Good ideas will come not only from your own experiences and from executive people but also from unexpected sources. Watch and listen for these. Give credit and appreciation as often as you can. Your chapter is one of many teams. What are other groups doing? Read all the AGO Chapter News reports found in TAO - not just the ones in your own region - and don't forget to send in your own report each month.

### **2. Problem Solving**

Remember that you have a battery of experts available who will be glad to help you work through any problems that arise. Start with your colleagues. Other officers who will be valuable to you in many ways are: your District Convener, Regional Councilor, National Councilors, and AGO headquarters. Asking for help when you need it is a sign of strength.

### **3. Running Effective Meetings**

A written agenda is a basic necessity. Leave room between topics for note taking. Sometimes ideas will be in conflict. Remember to stick to the issues, not to the personalities or the attitudes. Stay on track - socialize after the adjournment. Copies of "The ABC's of Parliamentary Procedure" are available from National AGO. You can also find help with Parliamentary procedure at websites such as [www.robertsrules.com](http://www.robertsrules.com). You may wish to consider the "consensus model" of procedure such as those found at [consensusdecisionmaking.org](http://consensusdecisionmaking.org).

### **4. Visibility**

Promote your chapter through announcements on your own Website and Facebook page (there must be several 'techies' in your chapter who can design one) as well as in newspapers, church bulletins, on radio and by posters. Sometimes it is helpful to schedule programs in conjunction with other community groups: high school band musicians for a brass and organ festival; string players for chamber music using an organ continuo. Above all, involve young people - they will be our future. We are the ones to take responsibility for getting them hooked on our unique instrument.

### **5. Chapter Communication**

Keep in touch with your members via email. Announcements will keep them current on not only what is happening in your own chapter, but in your region and nationally as well.

## 6. Above all, HAVE FUN!

Your term is comparatively short. A successful Dean works very hard. Remember that smiles and thanks and enthusiasm go a long way to attract and hold both old and new members.

As we will soon begin a new season with new leadership, I would encourage each of you, as your leadership has, to renew your commitments to your local chapter, the mission of the National Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and to the organ by:

- ...attending concerts, both Guild sponsored and those of our colleagues around the Chapter and region
- ...attending Chapter events specifically for our membership
- encouraging colleagues in our area who are not members to join, including our clergy
- ...finding avenues that will introduce young people to the organ, especially young pianists (there are many students studying piano in our area)
- ...continuing your love for the organ and its role in both the sacred and secular realms.
- ...continuing to hone your skills by attending regional and national conventions, workshops and seminars related to organ performance & repertoire, sacred music, service playing, choral conducting, vocal pedagogy, and liturgical theology.
- ...continuing to abide by and uphold the Code of Ethics and the Code of Professional Standards (listed on our website)

I look forward to a wonderful year. I hope you will join the fun!

Musically, my best,  
Jason A. Wright, DMA  
Dean

## A Note from Retiring Dean, Debby Graves

We have arrived at the end of another year that began with lots of activities and Noon Second Friday Concerts. Our handbell workshop, hosted by Nina Rodman, was a huge success and enjoyed by all participants. Unfortunately, the year ended without some of our planned activities, but I hope and pray you are all safe and healthy.

I'd like to thank the Board for all their help and encouragement throughout the past two years. Beth Corry, Sub-Dean, was a person I relied on frequently for suggestions. We had a good time putting the year's activity calendar together.

Gary Rakestraw continued to give up to the minute Treasurer's reports even through the Pandemic. Greg Hollinger would always prepare an outline for our Board meetings so we would stay on track and then type up the minutes for our perusal. Gil Campbell was not only a member at large but took over putting out the monthly newsletter. Geoff Borgelt and Pam Kane had some very helpful program suggestions. This Board worked very well together and for that I am most grateful.

I'd also like to thank all of the members who performed in our noon time concerts. There is an enormous amount of work put into preparing for an hour's concert.

Your new board members are:

Dr. Jason A. Wright Dean  
Dr. Pam Kane Sub-Dean  
Greg Hollinger Secretary/Treasurer  
Gil Campbell Member At Large  
Geoff Borgelt Member At Large  
Jeff Harbin Member At Large

I want to wish them all a productive year and thank them for stepping up to fill these positions.

God Bless Us All!  
Debby Graves

## Greetings from our new Sub-Dean Pam Kane

It is my pleasure to assume the role of sub-dean for the Lowcountry Chapter of the AGO where I will have the opportunity to team with my friend Jason Wright. Jason and I go back several years to the University of North Carolina Greensboro where we were in graduate school together. While the shoes of Debby and Beth will be tough to fill, we feel confident that, with your support, we can continue their legacy of educating the community about our amazing instrument.

I don't know about you, but I am a very social person and thrive when I am able to collaborate with others so these past few months of isolation have proven to be a mixed blessing. On the one hand, I have missed making music with my handbell, children's and adult choirs, hearing the full congregation in song, practicing hours on a challenging organ postlude, and collaborating with my amazing music team and administrative staff at Saint Gregory the Great. On the other hand, I have grown to love making music with small ensembles as we present the daily and Sunday livestream masses, practicing my soprano and alto recorders, working my organ technique on the piano, doing a jigsaw puzzle over a glass of wine, and taking an evening bike ride followed by playing a board game with my husband and son.

I am very grateful for this time of reverie but can't wait until life returns to Saint Gregory!

## The New Members of the Low Country Chapter Board



Director of Music, All Saints Episcopal Church, Hilton Head Island SC

Dr. Jason Wright, Dean



Music Director, St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, Bluffton SC

Pamela Kane, Sub-Dean



Choirmaster & Organist, Parish Church of St. Helena, Beaufort SC  
Jeffrey Harbin, Member-at-Large 2023

## A Note from your Secretary:

If any Chapter member has information or news needing publicity, please contact Gil Campbell [gilonhhi@gmail.com](mailto:gilonhhi@gmail.com)

New organists have moved to our area, and some members from previous years have not renewed memberships for this year. Please contact Greg Hollinger [greglhollinger@yahoo.com](mailto:greglhollinger@yahoo.com)

When you meet new musical friends please tell them about our chapter and encourage them to join with us at our concerts, programs and activities.



## New Website Launched

We have launched our new website. The website was designed by Nick Ruden, partner of our Dean, Dr. Jason A. Wright. Jason will now oversee the new website and will take over our Facebook account in the coming month.

Jason is looking to collect pictures from 2019 and 2020 to include on certain pages of the website. He is also interested in pictures from the founding year for the history page. If you have pictures, please e-mail them to him at [lowcountryago@gmail.com](mailto:lowcountryago@gmail.com).

The new website has a member's area. To access click the area, hover your mouse over the Membership tab and select "Member Login." **The new password for 2020 is 20AGO20.**

## Facebook

Check out our Chapter **FACEBOOK group page** and "Like" us

Search The American Guild of Organists Low County Chapter #461 and join our group!



**Chapter Web Site** [www.lccago.org](http://www.lccago.org)

**National AGO Web Site** [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)

## ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS:

At the present time there are no programs, events or concerts planned. Covid19 has taken its toll. The Chapter cancelled all scheduled events, including our Annual Meeting. Stay tuned for an announcement of resumption of Chapter programs and events. We all look forward to fellowshipping in person and hearing live music, especially organ music!

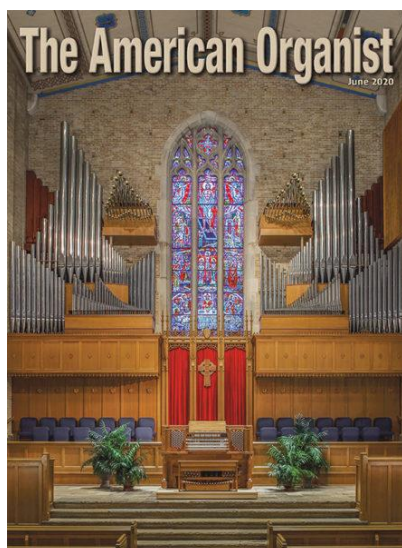
There are a few events and Church services that are being distributed to the public and church members using Zoom, and other media sharing technologies. Two notable ones, lately, are some concerts from the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, and some events from Sound Waves sponsored by the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra.



## News from National Headquarters:

### TAO Magazine

The June issue of [The American Organist](#) is now available. The current issue features the Allen/Ruffatti Organ at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, Tenn. In this issue you will also find Rollin Smith's article, "Elgar's Organs" as well as "Edward Elgar: Sonata in G Major" by Charles Heinroth. "Rachel Laurin: 2020 AGO Distinguished Composer" and information on the AGO's composition competitions are also included.



We have received reports from various parts of the country regarding magazine delivery delays. This is an ongoing issue with the USPS and the coronavirus pandemic. The production and mailing of TAO magazine remain on schedule.

[Read More](#)

#### Breaking News

Michael Bedford has been reelected President of the AGO for 2020-2022. For a summary of all results of the 2020 National Election, [click here](#).

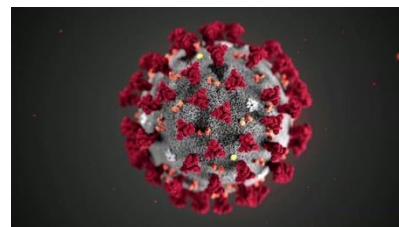


## Membership News and Opportunities

**AGO Staff Are On the Job**

[Click here](#) for a list of resources to assist organists during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AGO National Headquarters staff members continue to work remotely to comply with New York Covid19 laws



## Postponements and Cancellations Due to COVID-19

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the following AGO national programs are being postponed or canceled in order to ensure the health and safety of all participants. Please check with your local chapter regarding local events.

- The 2020 **FAGO**, **AAGO**, and **ChM** exams have been canceled. Candidates registered for the exams will receive a full refund of any fees paid. [Click here](#) to read a letter from the National Committee on Professional Certification or [E-mail](#) for more information.
- The **AGO National Convention** in Atlanta has been canceled. If you have questions please call 404-981-7210. The AGO National Council and a newly formed steering committee are considering alternatives including a virtual organ festival. Save the dates: July 20-24. Plans are also being developed for a virtual Annual Business Meeting.
- All 2020 **Pipe Organ Encounters** have been canceled. Many will be rescheduled in 2021. Updates will be posted [online](#). [E-mail](#) for more information.

## Membership Renewal

Please renew your membership [online](#) or give us a call at 212-870-2310 to renew by phone. During this difficult time the AGO has extended a three-month grace period beyond your membership expiration to assist those whose livelihood has been impacted by COVID-19.

## Hands Across the Pond

The American Guild of Organists and the Royal College of Organists have entered into a new reciprocal agreement that will benefit organists on both sides of the Atlantic. This expands membership benefits for both organizations by providing additional online resources during the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders.

[Read More](#)

## Calling All Composers

The 2022 [AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition](#) seeks a new choral work utilizing the text of “Christmas Eve” by Christina Rossetti. The [2022 AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition](#) seeks a new solo organ work between five and eight minutes in length. The deadline for submitting an entry to either competition is July 1, 2020.

## AGO Annual Fund

During this unprecedented time of sheltering in place to combat the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, AGO National Headquarters staff and volunteer leaders at every level of our organization are reaching out by phone to check in on our members. We care about you.

Although in-person programming is temporarily suspended, the work of the American Guild of Organists continues through Zoom meetings, social media connections, online educational videos, and uninterrupted delivery of [The American Organist](#) magazine both in print and online.

Please help keep the AGO strong by making a tax-deductible contribution to the AGO Annual Fund. No gift is too small to make a difference. [Click here](#) to give now or return your contribution using the envelope bound into the June issue of TAO Magazine.



Get social with us!



## June 2020 Job Placement

(Local Jobs/ Substitute Organist and Directors)

Currently, the national AGO website is posting 2 jobs in Georgia and there is no job posted in South Carolina. Please check the national website for more information.

Our Chaplain, Richard McDonnell, has told us there is a church in our area looking for someone to play the piano for worship services, one service a week. Pay is negotiable. Contact Editor Gil Campbell for further information.