

THE LOW COUNTRY CHAPTER of the AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
Executive Board Meeting – January 30, 2017

An Executive Board Meeting of the Low Country Chapter of the American Guild of Organists was held at the home of Beth Corry in Bluffton, on Friday, January 30, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

Board Members in Attendance:

John Stender, Dean Chad Martin, Sub-Dean Gary Rakestraw, Treasurer
 Gil Campbell, Secretary and Beth Corry and Art Perry, Members-at-Large
 This constituted a quorum for conducting Chapter business
 Thomas Reed, a new Chapter member, attended as a guest.

Items discussed:

1. Duties of the Dean and preparation of Board Meeting agendas: We discussed and decided that it would be a good idea to seek input and agenda items from all Board members about a week prior to each Executive Board meeting. Dean John Stender will do this with help from Gil Campbell, Secretary. It was decided to plan regular, monthly meetings on a Wednesday, near the end of each month, so that items discussed, voted on and approved can be communicated to Linda Hamilton for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.
2. Gary Rakestraw reported that we currently have 35 full members, 12 friends and 1 student registered in our Chapter. We talked about the seeming lack of interest of members in our regular programs and recitals. We were encouraged to talk to members to motivate their interest in our activities, and determine why member participation is low. This will allow the Program Committee, under the direction of Chad Martin, to create programs that can excite members, and encourage attendance. Giving people Chapter “jobs” could help (see minutes of August 19, 2016 meeting).
3. Gary Rakestraw reviewed a mail service, “Mailchimp” that he uses to distribute information to Chapter members. He is going to train me, your Secretary, in its use in order to enhance communication with Chapter members.
4. Chad Martin went over details of the Richard Elliott organ recital at First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head, on Friday, February 24, at 7 pm. There will be 12 ushers. Our Chapter will provide six of these. Gil Campbell will sit at the Table with Richard Elliott after the recital. We will staff another table with Chapter materials, including our program “tri-fold” and membership forms. Other items may include organ spec sheets of leading instruments in our area, flyers promoting our upcoming Taize, Handbell and Silent Movie programs.
5. We were reminded that the April 2017 Second Friday recital at St. Luke’s will be moved to April 7 to accommodate Good Friday services and programs.
6. We discussed having a Facebook link for the Chapter to promote what we do. We don’t have a core audience/following. This could be enhanced if we use this service to its potential.
7. We discussed the future BachFest program. Dean John Stender reported that his wife, Sarah, has done some work on developing this program. We will aim for late May, 2018 or 2019. It needs to be planned thoroughly to make it successful and attract a large audience. It is hoped this program can generate funds for our Chapter scholarship fund.
8. Chad Martin was asked to form a Program Committee to develop programs for 2017-2018.

9. We talked about John Marks, a Board Member-at-large. He has had some recent health challenges, and has lost his job at All Saints Episcopal Church. He has not participated in Board responsibilities. The Chapter By-Laws provide for removal of Board members, and appointment of replacements. John Stender will call John to discuss John's interest in continuing as a Board member.
10. We discussed the appointment of a new Chaplain. Richard McDonnell, a retired Episcopal clergyman, and Lisa Schrod of First Presbyterian, Hilton Head, are potential candidates.
11. We were reminded that our Taize service program will be on March 19, 2017 at 5:30 pm at Bluffton United Methodist Church.
12. We talked about selling some additional advertisements and where to place them. We may put some Chapter items in Hilton Head Symphony programs, and similar publications.
13. Our next Board meeting will be at 10 am on February 22 at Beth Corry's home. This will allow us to focus on final details pertaining to the Richard Elliott recital.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert G. Campbell, Secretary