



# Lorain County Chapter American Guild of Organists

[www.lcago.org](http://www.lcago.org)

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## AGO News

### January Jubilee

We are all invited to attend a January Jubilee on Saturday, January 28, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in La Grange, IL. This event, sponsored by the Fox Valley and Southwest Suburban Chapters of the American Guild of Organists, will be a day of inspiration for the part-time church musician, including 10 skill-enhancing workshops, a catered lunch, music displays (with music for sale), music reading sessions, a keynote message, networking, and two short recitals. Sessions will utilize both a Casavant pipe organ and a Rodgers digital organ.

Registration is only \$20 (\$30 after January 10), and non-AGO members are welcome to attend. You can download a registration brochure [here](#).

### FCT Settlement

As you may know, the AGO has been negotiating for many months with the Federal Trade Commission to settle a complaint that the FTC initiated in 2015 alleging that the Guild may be violating Federal antitrust laws. As the result of a Settlement Agreement that the AGO is entering into with the Federal Trade Commission, the AGO is no longer permitted to publish Salary Guidelines, Model Contracts, or Model Contract Provisions. Accordingly, these documents and guidelines have been removed from the AGO's website.

Our chapter is also prohibited from publishing these items, which we did not generally do in any case.



## From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year to you all! I was hoping to get this newsletter out before the end of the year, but you know how busy December can be.

As noted below, we have no events scheduled for this spring yet. But there are still plenty of organ events going on in Lorain County and NE Ohio in general, and I hope to see some of you at these events.

I will be playing a recital on February 19, 3:00 at Peace Church in Oberlin. I think you'll enjoy the music—it's mostly for manuals, very approachable, and mostly new to me. I've felt like the composers of old as I practice in the cold church with my coat, scarf, and hat on. At least I don't have to pay someone to pump the bellows!

Best wishes,  
*Brian*

## Chapter News

### Spring Events

Our spring events are still up in the air. We had hoped to facilitate a program for children with special needs, but that has been pushed back until the fall. Our annual meeting will be in the spring in coordination with an organ recital at Oberlin. But we are still waiting to hear about Oberlin's schedule. Watch our [website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

## Richard Niskala 1939-2016

Former LCAGO member Dick Niskala, age 76, of Brunswick, passed away August 27, 2016. He was born December 3, 1939 in Cleveland, Ohio to the late Arne and Johanna (nee Haili) Niskala. Richard proudly served his country in the United States Navy. He was a retired electronics technician. Richard was a member of the John Marshall High Alumni Club. He was a member of the Western Reserve Theatrical Organ Society. He enjoyed classical and theatric organ recitals and was a substitute organist for churches in the area for more than 10 years. He also liked restoring classic pipe organs. Richard loved sports, classic boat shows, and was a member of the Brunswick Fishing Club. He loved going on family trips and spending time with his family. He will be dearly missed by his beloved wife of 50 years, Marena; children Elizabeth (Joseph) Supina, Stephen (Sharyn) Niskala, Gregory Niskala; his four grandchildren; and brother-in-law, Jack. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Betty.



## Job Openings

### **First Congregational UCC, Wellington—three positions**

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Wellington, Ohio is seeking a person or persons to serve as: Organist, Sanctuary Choir Director, and Bell Choir Director to begin January 1, 2017. This historic Western Reserve church, with an average worship attendance of less than 100, is located just south of the intersections of Routes 18 & 58. A traditional worship service employing a variety of musical styles is held Sundays at 10:00 am. Instruments include: a fully restored 2 manual, 13 rank tracker organ built/installed in 1896 by JW Steere & Sons, a Cable Nelson baby grand piano, a Kurzweil PC99 keyboard, a Yamaha Clavinova, a Yamaha Studio upright piano, a 3 octave set of Whitechapel handbells, and a 3 octave set of Schulmerich handchimes. Anyone interested in applying for a particular position or multiple positions should contact Rev. Becki Verbridge (330-858-1840; [bbverbridge@gmail.com](mailto:bbverbridge@gmail.com)) for more information and/or to make application.

### **St John's UCC, South Amherst**

St. John's is currently in need of an organist to supply service music for a 9:30 service on Sundays. For more information, please contact Rev. Joyce Schroer at 419-271-5511 or Mark Butler at 419-577-1115.

## AGO Mission Statement

**The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.**

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
- Nurture future generations of organists;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

## Substitute Organists

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