

March 19, 2020 Sarasota-Manatee Chapter Member News

Dear Chapter Members,

We are all witnessing the continuing spread of COVID-19, a new disease with no existing immunity to it. Our US health authorities, having determined that we are approaching an inflection point, have strongly advised all age groups to avoid exposure to the highly contagious virus in order to diminish the spread and “flatten the curve” for health agencies to be able to respond to all those who need intervention while rapidly increasing testing sites. Eighty percent of those so far infected suffer few symptoms, and so it is not uncommon for those infected to not even know they are carrying the virus.



As you have already learned from all the information available on news outlets and from health professionals, we are implored to take personal responsibility and restrict in-person group activities. We have just received an email from National AGO that states, “While the mission of the AGO is to foster a thriving community of musicians, group gatherings are being discouraged or banned across the US in an effort to slow the spread and flatten the curve related to the capacity of our healthcare system to cope with the virus.”

So, sadly, we announce the following cancellations:

March 22 – Marilyn Keiser concert at St. Boniface (to be rescheduled)

March 19, 26 and April 2 noon Lenten concerts at Christ Church, Bradenton

March 29 – Romm Trio at Siesta Key Chapel (postponed until 2020-2021)

To Be Live-Streamed On the Internet

April 1 - Church of the Redeemer will live-stream the noon concert by Sam Nelson

April 8 – Church of the Redeemer will live-stream the noon concert by Ann Stephenson-Moe

IMPORTANT

Before planning to attend any remaining musical events this spring, please visit our website at www.agosm.org and look under the tabs for local events and community brochures to see if the events will occur as planned or if they have been rescheduled. Right now there is red warning message signaling many cancellations.

These two chapter events are still on our calendar, although they both could be postponed, so please stay tuned and check our website often.

April 25 - Hand Bell Workshop at Pine Shores Presbyterian

May 11 – Annual banquet at Church of the Redeemer. Perhaps we can reschedule this on a later Monday in May so that we are finally able to share dinner and fellowship together and install our officers and board members for 2020-2021.

In our February 17 blast and in accordance with our operating procedures, we presented the Nominating committee's slate of officers and executive committee members for 2020-2021. Since no other candidates were submitted by petition during the 30 day waiting period, our officers and members-at-large (board members) are unanimously elected and will be installed whenever we can hold our annual banquet, hopefully sometime in May. The slate is:

Dean – Nancy Siebecker

Sub-Dean – Amy Cerniglia

Secretary – Cynthia Roberts-Greene

Treasurer – Susan Crumpler

Class of 2023 – Dr. Richard Benedum

Sam Nelson

Class of 2022 – Robert Reeves

Steven Phillips

Class of 2021 – Janet Davis

Jim Culver

Remaining chapter events still tentatively planned:

Handbell workshop on Saturday, April 25

for beginning and intermediate ringers to be led by John Behnke.

Handbell Directors – please share this opportunity with your ringers and reserve the date. It will be held at Pine Shores Presbyterian church in Sarasota from 8:30 am set-up, workshop 9 am to noon, and include a review of ringing techniques, how to use bells in worship, score study, how to practice and musicianship. \$15.00 per ringer and this includes a piece of music. **Registration is limited to 33, so register online ASAP because we only have 18 registered as of this date.** You will find the registration form under Events when you scroll down to open the one titled Handbell Workshop.

Our annual spring banquet –

Mark your calendars for Monday, May 11. The banquet will feature German fare with a choice of meat (do you prefer traditional bratwurst or another meat?) or vegetarian, and will be prepared by Geier's and served at Church of the Redeemer, Sarasota. More information will be forthcoming, and you will be able to reserve with our treasurer Susan Crumpler. Exact time and cost to be determined soon.



For many of us, this social distancing period will be a lonely interval. Please feel free to facetime with either Nancy or Amy if you'd like to talk.

Blessings, Nancy Siebecker, Dean and Amy Cerniglia, Sub-Dean