



American Guild of Organists  
Sarasota-Manatee Chapter  
Minutes of Annual Meeting  
June 4, 2025 6:00 p.m.  
St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, Sarasota

**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**CHAPTER  
OFFICERS**

Sam Nelson  
*Dean*

Vacant  
*Sub-Dean*

Bryan Cordell  
*Secretary/Webmaster*

Glen Olsen  
*Treasurer*

**AT-LARGE  
MEMBERS**

**2025**  
Linda Petersen  
Craig Ramberger

**2026**  
James Guyer  
Jane Hunder

**2027**  
Brandon Kouri  
Glenn Priest

*Chaplain* – Rev.  
Charleston Wilson

*Registrar/ Membership* –  
Michael Bodnyk

*Placement* – John  
Ferreira

*TAO Reporter* – John  
Behnke

Rev. Eric Wogen, Pastor Emeritus of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, welcomed AGO members and guests to the evening's events.

A member's recital on the new Schantz organ and choral concert was held prior to the Annual Meeting. Michael Bodnyk, Minister of Music & Director of Operations for the church, greeted the attendees and provided an introduction to the music program.

Organists John Behnke (organ consultant for the new organ) and Sam Nelson (Dean) performed. Michael Bodnyk led the church choral ensemble in performing musical pieces with organ accompaniment.

**AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order** - Dean Sam Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**II. Roll Call** – 20 members present (35% of membership). A quorum was established (minimum 25% required).

**III. Approval of Minutes** – January 29, 2025, Executive Committee ZOOM meeting.

Dean Sam Nelson noted these minutes had been distributed and reviewed via e-mail by the Executive Committee (EC) and posted to the chapter website. With no questions or further discussion, Bryan Cordell moved to approve the minutes; Bob Woody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**IV. Dean's Report** – Sam Nelson

Dean Nelson thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting; thanked the host church and their leadership for providing the venue and banquet meal; and thanked the current chapter officers and at-large members of the EC for their support this past year.

Summarized challenges of the chapter in the past year, starting with the immediate resignation of the Sub-Dean after the May 2024 Annual Meeting. This caused a sudden transition of responsibilities to other members of the EC to lead the programming effort for the chapter year as that is the primary responsibility of the Sub-Dean. Even though many chapter members were



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asked to backfill this position, all declined. Hence, the Sub-Dean position went unfilled for the remainder of the chapter year.

More recently, many members declined to serve on the Nominating Committee to establish a new slate of chapter officers and at-large EC members. The task has fallen to just one volunteer. Several members were asked to serve as Dean, Sub-Dean, and at-large EC members. There was only one member who agreed to be an at-large candidate. Hence, a complete slate of chapter officers and at-large EC members was not available to vote on prior to the annual meeting this year.

More discussion on how to proceed when discussing future directions later in the agenda.

#### **V. Secretary's Report – Bryan Cordell**

Secretary Cordell covered 3 topics:

- Program Events Summary
- Membership Status/Changes
- Chapter Website

##### **a. Program Events Summary (2024-25)**

- 6 sponsored events (3 Fall, 3 Spring)
- Season open/close events (kickoff, annual meeting/ banquet)
- 2 organ concerts w/world renowned organists
- 2 organ education, awareness events
- Multiple social networking opportunities
- Most events FREE to AGO members (and 1 guest)
- Events spread across the entire geographic chapter
- HOWEVER, we struggled to get members to attend. For any given event maybe 10-15% of the membership attended. Annual meeting is the highest attended event of the calendar year

For the upcoming 2025-26 Program Events planning effort, we will focus much more on partnering with other relevant music venues to share the costs and reduce our chapter members' volunteer time commitment. Hence, there will be fewer AGO-only sponsored events for the 2025-26 season.



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**b. Membership Status/Changes**

- Current Membership: 57
- From Jan 2024 – May 2025:
  - Adds: +4
  - Drops: -10
  - Net Loss of Members: -6 (10%)
- Working on a June update/release of the membership directory
- Our chapter needs to focus on membership recruitment/ retention going forward

**c. Chapter Website**

- Updated/refreshed all parts of the site and kept current
- Maintained chapter operational documents (agendas, minutes, finances, etc.)
- Provided periodic updates for the membership directory, sub list, position description postings
- Encouraged chapter members to submit posters/brochures for posting
- Highlighted enhanced security (password encryption) for sensitive information (membership directory, finances)

With no further discussion or questions regarding the Secretary's report, Dean Nelson requested a motion to accept. Nancy Siebecker moved to accept; Bob Woody seconded. Motion carried.

**VI. Treasurer's Report – Glen Olsen**

Presented Annual Summary/Financial Report for the period May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025 (**Attachment 1**)

- Financially, we're in pretty good shape with an account balance of \$14,906.20 as of April 30, 2025
- Our objective is to keep a balance above \$10,000
- Travel expenses for the James Kennerley concert in February are still in-process (~ \$1,100) and will be posted in the next cycle

With no further discussion or questions regarding the Secretary's report, Dean Nelson requested a motion to accept. Michael Bodnyk moved to accept; Glen Olson seconded. Motion carried.



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## **VII. New Business**

### **a. Discussion on Future Direction of the Chapter**

Dean Sam Nelson provided background and context for our current situation as a chapter and led discussion on this topic.

As stated earlier, the position of Sub-Dean went unfilled for the last chapter year. During the April-May season this year, we were unable to nominate a complete slate of candidates for the next chapter year.

If we are to continue as a viable chapter, we need to fill these positions, otherwise we will have to pursue a merger with other nearby chapter(s) or failing that, consider disbandment. We have already initiated discussions with National AGO representatives on how to proceed with these contingency options.

Discussion on the floor suggested that a survey of the full membership might be worthwhile to determine if others would be interested in serving in these open positions and also what program events would be of interest to the membership. A number of members volunteered to conduct this survey immediately.

The current chapter officers (Dean Nelson, Secretary Cordell and Treasurer Olsen) agreed to serve for an interim 90-day period (June – August) until a resolution can be determined.

More information will be forthcoming to the chapter membership as results of the survey and further efforts of the nominating committee become available.

### **b. Installation of Interim Officers**

Rev. Eric Wogen led the installation for the interim officers:

- Sam Nelson, Dean
- Bryan Cordell, Secretary/Webmaster
- Glen Olsen, Treasurer



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**c. Recognition of Outgoing EC Members**

Dean Nelson expressed thanks and appreciation to Linda Petersen and Craig Ramberger (Members At Large, Class of 2025) for their support and work on the Executive Committee as they rotate off this year. Gifts of appreciation were presented.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Seeing no other agenda items for discussion, Dean Sam Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn. Bryan Cordell made the motion; Bob Woody seconded. Motion carried.

Members and guests adjourned to the church's social hall for a banquet reception.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan Cordell, Secretary



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**Attachment 1**  
Financial Report – Annual  
May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025

Posted separately as a password protected file