



**American Guild of Organists
Sarasota-Manatee Chapter
Executive Committee Meeting
February 9, 2026 11 a.m.
St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, Sarasota**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Michael Bodnyk
Dean

Jason Branham
Sub-Dean

Bryan Cordell
Secretary

Glen Olsen
Treasurer

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

2026

James Guyer
Jim Johnston

2027

Brandon Kouri
Glenn Priest

2028

Sam Nelson
Vacant

Membership –

Historian –

Newsletter – Sam Nelson

Publicity –

Advertising –

Webmaster – Bryan Cordell

Chaplain –

Education –

Placement – John Ferreira

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** – Dean Michael Bodnyk called the Executive Committee (EC) meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.
2. **Roll Call/Quorum** – 6 Members Present
 - a. Michael Bodnyk, Dean
 - b. Jason Branham, Sub-Dean (ZOOM)
 - c. Bryan Cordell, Secretary (ZOOM)
 - d. Jim Johnston, At-Large Member
 - e. Sam Nelson, At-Large Member (ZOOM)
 - f. Glenn Priest, At-Large Member (ZOOM)
 - 3 Members Absent: Glen Olson (Treasurer); James Guyer, Brandon Kouri (At-Large Members)
 - Meeting quorum established (minimum of 25%)
 - 1 guest attending this session:
 - Jeff Urbaniak, Secretary, Arrowhead AGO Chapter
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Dean Michael Bodnyk noted the minutes to the January 5, 2026 EC session had been distributed for review. Hearing no discussion, a call was made to approve. Sam Nelson moved to approve the minutes as presented, Jim Johnston seconded, motion carried
4. **Dean's Report** – Michael Bodnyk
 - a. Thanked Nancy Siebecker, Jeremy Filsell, Jason Branham and members of the Program Committee for the Jan 11 event at Nancy's residence
 - b. Acknowledged James Guyer's concert @ Lakeside Lutheran on Jan 16 as another highlight of the January calendar
5. **Sub-Dean's Report** – Jason Branham
As the lead for the Program Committee, presented a working budget to consider for the remaining chapter year (*Attachment 1*):
 - a. **Feb 21 –Organ Crawl**
 - The scope of the organ crawl has changed since discussions at the last EC meeting on Jan 5 and will include north and mid chapter venues only. Members would meet at First United Methodist and Christ Episcopal in Bradenton to survey the organs there. Then participants would travel to Sarasota and meet at Church of the Redeemer, Episcopal to survey the midi organ console running the GrandOrgue virtual organ software



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- A not-to-exceed (NTE) of \$250 to cover the cost of refreshments was approved by the EC at the Jan 5 meeting. Jim Johnston requested an additional eBlast be sent out to confirm the number of attendees as very few members had responded to the first e-mail. Dean Bodnyk questioned if a minimum # of attendees is required to make this a viable event. Discussion followed. Secretary Cordell noted that the last 2 organ crawls saw an average attendance between 7-10 individuals
- **ACTION:** Jason Branham to coordinate with Sam Nelson in sending out a reminder eBlast to chapter members so as to confirm # of attendees for this event

b. Apr 18 - Choral Techniques Workshop with Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell

- This event is still being defined and shaped. Several items of discussion concerning scope, focus, target audience, relevance to chapter members, etc. Perhaps consider advertising to a larger audience outside of our chapter membership (non-member churches, secular choirs, etc.)
- **ACTION:** Jason Branham to contact Rebecca and confirm her continued interest in leading this event; also, provide a description of the content, target audience, relevance, benefits, etc. to help inform who should attend. Determine a minimum # of attendees required to make this a worthwhile event to sponsor

c. Annual Banquet (May-June)

- Secretary Cordell provided an update on The Classical Academy (TCA), Sarasota per action taken at the last EC session. Summary of costs for the facility, supporting personnel, and the host organist would include:

- TCA Facility Charge: \$500
- Other (facility-security, tech support, etc): \$300
- Venue Insurance: \$200
- Host Organist Fee: \$500

Total: \$1500

Based on an estimated attendance of 50, that would put these charges at: **\$30/ea**

- For the date of the event, TCA is not receptive for any dates in May as that is the conclusion of their Spring term with many activities related to graduation, Spring music concerts/musicals, sports events, etc. They are much more flexible in June. We offered the possible



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dates of June 1 and 8 (both Mondays). They are good with those dates

- Discussion followed on the dates and initial costs. June 1 appears to be more favored than June 8, although some folks may be departing for post-school term family vacations. Venue insurance coverage could possibly be obtained through National AGO at no cost to the local chapter. Perhaps charge a \$20 or \$25 ticket fee for the banquet this year (it was noted that attendance at past banquets not seemingly impacted either way whether it was ticketed or free). Also, perhaps the national American Theater Organ Society (ATOS) leadership would consider contributing to help off-set costs as this would be an event featuring the Wurlitzer organ @ TCA
- **ACTION:** Bryan Cordell and Glen Olsen initiate a TCA facility reservation for June 1
- **ACTION:** Glen Olsen to explore Venue Insurance coverage with National AGO
- **ACTION:** Bryan Cordell to check with ATOS on a possible contribution

6. Secretary/Webmaster's Report – Bryan Cordell

a. Official Secretary Records Released Since Last Meeting:

- Minutes: January 5 (Executive Committee Meeting)

b. Membership Status (Jan 1-31):

- **57 CURRENT Members** (Net +1 for 2026)
- Add: Dennis Crowley
- Membership Directory Updates: March 15 (pending)

c. Website Changes/Updates:

- Update/refresh all parts of the site
- Home Page announcements, event promotions, chapter calendar, newsletters
- Posting chapter governance docs (agendas, minutes, finances, etc.)
- Membership directory updates
- Placement info: Sub list, Position Descriptions for job openings
- Posters/brochures for posting
- Maintaining gallery photos from chapter events
- Providing security for sensitive information



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7. Treasurer's Report – Michael Bodnyk

- a. On behalf of Treasurer Glen Olsen (absent) Dean Bodnyk briefly summarized the most recent Treasurer's report for the 2nd quarter, October 1 - December 31, 2025 (*Attachment 2*)
- b. With no further discussion or questions on the Q2 financial statement, Secretary Cordell moved to accept, Glenn Priest seconded. Motion carried

8. Old Business

a. *Designate Official Chapter Location/Consider Banking Options* - deferred until the March meeting

b. *Youth Scholarships*

- *Jeff Urbaniak, Secretary, Arrowhead AGO Chapter* joined the ZOOM session as a guest speaker to address this topic based on their chapter experience in this subject area
- Presented their chapter's approach on Youth Scholarships to include candidate qualifications, funding, recruitment, music events, and collateral activities (*Attachment 3*)
- The local chapter spends approximately \$9-10k/year on their programs. Emphasized the identification of outside funding sources to include grants for the Arts, fund raisers (i.e. Lenten organ recital series and similar), donations, other music venues, public/private sources
- **ACTION:** Follow-up questions can be directed to Jeff via Jason Branham

c. *Chapter Communication Protocol*

- Discussions noted there has been some confusion on how chapter communications with the monthly newsletter and interim eBlasts occur, especially with deadlines for approaching calendar events that members would like to advertise
- Agreed that a typical monthly deadline would be on the 25th of the month for all individuals to provide Sam Nelson with their inputs (Dean's comments, Sub-Dean's programming emphasis, event brochures, etc.). Sam would then compile for the newsletter and distro by the end of the month. Secretary Cordell will provide regular updates for current members' e-mail addresses to ensure proper distribution
- Also agreed (per discussions at the last EC session) that the Dean and/or Sub-Dean are the primary points of communication with



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chapter members to ensure appropriate messaging for the chapter. Newsletters and Constant Contact e-mails will be distributed by Sam Nelson; website content will be updated and maintained by Bryan Cordell. Every effort will be made by these 4 individuals to ensure cohesive and consistent messaging/content is maintained for the chapter

- **ACTION:** Sam Nelson and Bryan Cordell explore the use of GOOGLE FORMS to facilitate member inputs for the monthly newsletter and website content

d. 2028 At-Large Member Vacancy

- Dean Bodnyk noted that John Behnke had offered to return to the EC and could possibly be a candidate to fill this vacancy. Discussion followed that we should also encourage a female member of the chapter to join the EC for greater perspective and balance. It was noted that Fonda Davies had offered her candidacy last year, however, had to withdraw due to other issues. Perhaps she would reconsider this year?
- **ACTION:** Dean Bodnyk to contact both John Behnke and Fonda Davies to determine a viable candidate to nominate for filling the open 2028 At-Large Member vacancy

e. Nominating Committee for 2026-27 Year – deferred until the March meeting

9. Next Meeting

Date: Monday, March 9, 2026

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, Sarasota + ZOOM

10. Adjournment - Seeing no other agenda items for discussion, Dean Bodnyk called for a motion to adjourn. Secretary Cordell made the motion, Glenn Priest seconded. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Cordell, Secretary



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ATTACHMENT 1

**Sarasota/Manatee AGO Proposed Budget
For
2025-2026 Program Year**

- January 11 – Social with Jeremy Filsell: \$500
- February 21: Progressive Brunch/Organ Crawl : \$250
- April 18: Choral Techniques Workshop with Rebecca Kellerman-Filsell: \$500
- May 18: Spring Banquet with guest Steven Ball. Location, TBD: \$1500

Other requests: POE Scholarship: \$500

Co-sponsor:

- James Guyer Organ Concert on Friday, January 16, 7 pm
- Michael Bodnyk's Vocal Concert on Friday, Feb. 13th at 7 pm.



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ATTACHMENT 2

Financial Report (Q2, 2025-2026)

Posted separately as a password protected file



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ATTACHMENT 3

AGO– Youth Scholarship Fund
Budget for 2024 - 2025 School Year

Description of Expenses	Expenses	Income
Lessons- 1 hr- 18 lessons @ \$50 hr X 8 Students X \$900	\$7,200.00	
Shoes - 4 pair	290.00	
Music - 4 X \$105	420.00	
Seminar for Current Students 6 X \$40 - UWS Sacred Music Symposium	240.00	
Pedals, Pipes and Pizza	250.00	
Reserve Fund	600.00	
Total Expenses	\$9,000.00	
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Description of Income		
Lenten Organ Recital Series		\$2,400.00
Individual Donations- Membership Renewal/Year End Appeal/General		400.00
Used Music Sale- (hold at a Social Event-Invite non members)		0.00
Member Recitals (1 X \$400)		0.0
In Praise of Bach		1,200.00
Organizational Grants		5,000.00
Total		9,000.00



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**AGO– Adult Scholarship Fund
Budget for 2024 - 2025 School Year**

Description of Expenses	Description of Income	Expenses	Income
Lessons- 1 hr- 10 lessons X \$50 hr X 2 Students X \$500		\$1,000.00	
Seminar for Current Students 2 X \$40 - UWS Sacred Music Symposium		80.00	
Music - 2 X \$105 (Music system selected by Scholarship Program)		210.00	
		<hr/>	
Total Expenses		\$1,290.00	
Description of Income			
In Praise of Bach			\$ 400.00
Member Recitals (2 X \$480)			900.00
			<hr/>
Total Income			\$1,300.00

PR Plan promoting Youth Scholarship Program and PPP Day

1. Area schools Digital Newsletters
2. Area piano teachers
3. Area Churches
4. Media outlet community calendars
5. Home School Families
6. Physical Posters
7. AGO membership

Supplemental Material Attached