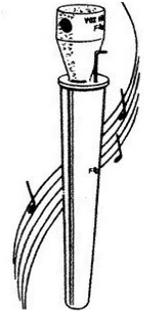
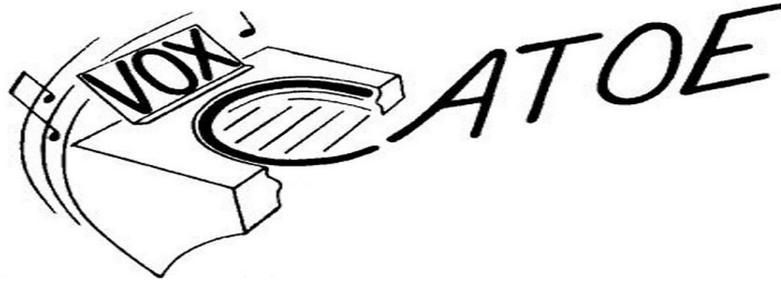


Spring 2021

The Newsletter Voice
of the Chicago Area
Theatre Organ
Enthusiasts



Spring is Here?



Well, lets try this again! It has been over a year since the lockdown occurred and we have had a social. If we can't get together before then, we will try to scheduled a virtual social in April — So watch for more information on that.

GOOD NEWS! — The Tivoli Theatre has announced they will open on April 15th and hopefully our Mighty Wurlitzer will once again be heard on Friday and Saturday evenings!

Also, our friends at JATOE have reported that the Rialto has begun scheduling tours on Tuesdays at 1:30—March 9th through June 29th. Included in the tours will be a mini concert on the Barton Grande! Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the door. Tours will be limited to 25 people and masks are required.

ATOS has announced they will be having a virtual convention this year. Details are forthcoming. They have also published dates for the future conventions—2022 in San Diego (July 3—8), 2023 in **Chicago (July 3—8)** and 2024 in Indianapolis (August 27-September1).



More Updates

****Hopefully**** with the relaxing of the COVID restrictions, CATOE will be able to resume working on our theatre organs. The convention is coming and we have to get the organs in "tip top" shape for the world to hear.

The 2023 Chicago Convention Committee is looking to kick start the planning later this summer and revisiting the venues that we will be using. The committee will also be looking at securing the necessary parts of the convention like banquet, busses and creating "propaganda" for the booklets and articles needed. Once we get a good handle on re-starting the planning, we will be asking for volunteers!

Bob Linn and I were recently at the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles and the transformation is unbelievable. The new theatre is beautiful and the work they are doing is nothing short of amazing. Work continues on the Geneva/Marr Colton and we are looking forward to getting back to the theatre on regular work sessions.

The Rialto Theatre lost a great ambassador in February. Lynne Lichtenauer was the driving force in the success of the theatre in the 80's and 90's. She truly loved the theatre organ and put the Barton Grande in the spotlight using it as walk in music before all the shows and as part of the tours held at the Rialto.

I apologize for the lateness of the newsletter. I have recently moved and my energy has been on getting the old house ready for the market. It is amazing on how much "stuff" you accumulate over the years — and trying to remember just why you actually needed it!

Farewell to a longtime Theatre Organ Enthusiast

Recently, long time theatre organ enthusiasts Faye Wheeler passed away. She was at most of the socials held in the area and until recently attended the ATOS Conventions. Faye gave organ lessons for years and always enjoyed hearing the new and upcoming talent. In her basement was a 3/16 Wicks that the late Kay McAbee recorded his "Fun Sounds" record. Faye always welcomed visitors to her home to hear and play the Wicks. This



picture from around 1972 shows Faye talking to Dennis James while Kay provides music for the group. The picture below shows Faye talking to long time friend Rick Shindell at the



Rialto Theatre back in 2014. Rick was from Toledo and a regular visitor at the Wheelers home during the many shindigs that took place there. She will be missed.

Dues—we will leave it to your discretion to send in your dues for 2021. We like many other chapters have not been active with events this year due to COVID...but unlike other chapters, we are preparing for the ATOS Convention and are and will be purchasing supplies necessary for the restoration of our theatre organs. You can certainly send in a tax deductible donations to our club in lieu of your dues or of course in addition to your dues. Renewal form is attached.

Thank you from the CATOE Board of Directors.



Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

P.O. Box 2631
Joliet, Illinois 60436

Phone: 815.955.0522

WWW.CATOE.ORG

E-mail: Catoe_61@att.net

The Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts are committed through performances and educational efforts to help the public understand and appreciate how remarkable these organs truly are. It is also why we are dedicated to their preservation.

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More News

We are also mourning the loss of CATOE Life-time member William Wrobel. Bill passed away on March 4th in Downers Grove. He was involved in many organizations including CATOE and others that reflected his passion for travel, music and advocacy. Our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

