



October 19, 2019

Dear NSAGO Chapter member,

Andrea Handley
Convention Coordinator

Phillip Kloeckner
Convention Secretary

Laurie Stivers
Convention Treasurer

James Brown
Steven Betancourt
Logistics co-chairs

Richard Clemmitt
Transportation chair

Jill Hunt
Hotel/housing chair

Judy Kohl
Volunteers chair

Elizabeth Naegele
Competition chair

Derek Nickels
Exhibits chair

Sharon Peterson
Hospitality chair

Brian Schoettler
Website/program book chair

Charles Sundquist
Registration chair

Robert Woodworth
Program chair

Our North Shore AGO chapter is honored to host the Great Lakes Regional Convention in June of 2021, and the Steering Committee is filled with excitement as they plan an outstanding array of programs featuring the fine instruments and talents within the North Shore, as well as nationally and internationally acclaimed artists.

Evanston's Hilton Orrington Hotel is headquarters for the convention, offering close proximity to host churches as well as the luxury of being in walking distance of Lake Michigan and delightful restaurants and shops. Venues for concerts and workshops will include Wilmette, Winnetka, Glenview, Northbrook and beyond. As an added bonus, "A Taste of Chicago" will be held after the official close of the convention for those who wish to spend the day visiting churches and organs in Chicago. We are confident that this wealth of opportunities will attract a large number of organists throughout our region and beyond.

It will come as no surprise that this endeavor comes with a big price tag. In consultation with the Grand Rapids Steering Committee for the 2019 Regional, we learned that they raised approximately \$85,000 in donations to support their offerings.

Recognizing that Chicago is a more expensive venue than Grand Rapids, we are asking you, as Chapter members, to step up to the plate to assure adequate funds to underwrite the costs that will be incurred. Three generous members have already done that and are offering to match any individual gifts and pledges from you up to a total of **\$25,000** by December 31, 2019. That means that your gift will be **doubled!**

That big figure represents approximately \$250 per member, and while we recognize that some of you may not be able to give that much, we are confident that many of you will be able to give much more. Bear in mind that if you are 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free gift from your IRA. Whatever your category, we are a 501(c)(3) organization, which means likely a tax deduction for most. You can make a one-time gift or a 2-year pledge, realizing that your support will make it possible to showcase our chapter, our fine instruments and churches, offer educational workshops and sponsor at least 20 scholarship students.

We thank you in advance for filling out the enclosed pledge card and for helping us meet this \$25,000 challenge!

Andrea Handley
Convention Coordinator, 2021 Great Lakes Regional AGO Convention

