

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



DECEMBER 2019

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facebook

Please like the Omaha Chapter Facebook page. Information is posted regularly! Our page name is: Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

FROM THE DEAN

First, may each of you, members and friends of the Omaha Chapter AGO, experience blessed and prosperous Advent and Christmas season. May your musically developed skills as organists and choral directors contribute to understanding the true meaning of Christmas for many, many people who attend worship services and seasonal music programs for which you play and/or direct.

Omaha AGO continues to develop and prosper. Membership has continued to grow, noting, for example, our chapter's membership list on the website was recently updated, listing new members who have joined since September. New members have eagerly offered to become active as teachers, programming and visionary leadership.

Chapter members work together exceedingly well. Simply stated, Omaha AGO members sincerely care for the well-being of fellow members. Members offer to share responsibilities regarding the chapter, and respond with offers that are thoughtful, kind, professional and personal. Members support and encourage others by offering to serve as substitute organists/musicians. Omaha AGO members offer rides to fellow members and friends for evening events or appointments to which a fellow member may need transportation.

AGO members heartily and eagerly support fellow members attending concerts, recitals, workshops and similar events facilitated by fellow members. There are members who send regrets if they are unable to attend any event sponsored or hosted by a fellow member. This thoughtfulness is always deeply appreciated.

The national office of the American Guild of Organists continues to encourage programming for the number of "Young Organists," those members who are 30 years of age and under because of the large percentage of "Young Organist" members listed in our membership. Moreover, several of our "Young Members" are working on AGO certification. We also have a member who is working on AAGO

OPERA OMAHA ONE FESTIVAL PREVIEW/ CONCERT

Thursday,
December 5 at
7:00 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal
Cathedral
113 North 18th
Street, Omaha,
NE 68102
Free admission

A musical
preview of the
ONE Festival
operas *St. John
the
Baptist* and *The
Capulets* and
The Montagues.
The Opera
Omaha Holland
Community
Opera Fellows
and members of
the Trinity
Cathedral
Schola
Cantorum will
perform
Baroque works
of Stradella, as
well as various
musical
interpretations
of the Romeo &
Juliet fable.

certification. A national AGO survey has indicated the North Central Region is one of the most positive and productive regions in the American Guild of Organists in the United States, reflecting creative, relevant programming for growing membership.

National has suggested Omaha AGO consider hosting a Regional Convention or other regional/national events. Yes, Omaha AGO is visionary: the chapter has applied to host an upcoming POE (Pipe Organ Encounter). The application has been submitted to National headquarters, expected to respond to our application early next year. As with other chapters with increasing "Young Member" membership our chapter is encouraged to develop programming that appeals to "Young Member" needs and interests. Again, Omaha is visionary as forward planning into the next three years develops.

A Merry, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you, filled with joy and beautiful music!

Peace and good will. Psalm 96:1,2. Sincerely yours,

Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, AGO

Dean

MICHAEL MCCABE COMPOSITION PREMIERE

Michael McCabe's "Flourish and Choral" was performed in Westminster Cathedral in September and appeared in the October 14th edition of Pipedreams. His new publication, "Fanfare and Cortège" will receive its premiere performance by Wilma Jensen in March at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.



HARPSICHORD AVAILABLE

Any harpsichord aficionados? Countryside would love to find a new home for its harpsichord! John Miller built it from a kit bought by the Women's Fellowship about 45 years ago. It needs some tender loving care, but all in all is in pretty good condition. If you are interested, please contact Diane Hill dihill@outlook.com or 402-330-1899.

OMAHA CHAPTER JANUARY MEETING

2019 - 2020
JANUARY

OMAHA CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Sunday, January 5, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.
Twelfth Night Lessons and Carols
Hosted by Jeff Hoffman
at St. Barnabas Catholic Church
129 North 40th Street, Omaha, Ne



The service will feature compositions by Omaha AGO Chapter members
and is open to the public

The Omaha AGO chapter event on January 5th will feature chapter members' compositions in a Christmas service of nine Lessons and Carols in the Anglican King' College tradition. Several composers have submitted works for inclusion. Please contact Jeff Hoffman at 402-317-8887 or omahaago@gmail.com to submit a work or inquire about the musical needs for the service.

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER

The Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has submitted an application to host a Pipe Organ Encounter – Advanced in July of 2021. We will be notified in May of 2020 in regard to the approval of our application. Until that time, we may not actively engage in planning activities. Should our application be accepted a committee will be appointed immediately and work will begin in earnest!

OMAHA CHAMBER SINGERS

GAUDETE: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Omaha Chamber Singers, conducted by David Batter, continue celebrating their 20th year with "Gaudete: The Third Sunday of Advent." This musical Christmas meditation includes readings, organ music, hand bells and a chance to sing with carols. Also performing will be The Omaha Academy Choir, conducted by Kat Doebel, the Alonza W. Davis Middle School Select Choir, conducted by Phillip Schorg and Organist Jeff Hoffman. Deacon Jay Reilly will be the lector. No admission fee, but free-will offerings will be accepted. The concert will be held at Dowd Chapel on the Boys Town campus at 3:00 p.m.

ST. CECILIA CATHEDRAL CHOIR CD

The St. Cecilia Cathedral Choir has released a new CD *Hark! Advent and Christmas with the Cathedral Choir*. Available in the Cathedral Gift Shop (noon-4 - Tuesday through Sunday). \$15 apiece or 10 for \$100. Email Marie Rubis Bauer for more info at MRBOMaha@aol.com.

ADVENT VESPERS ON GAUDETE SUNDAY

Sunday, December 15, 2019 + 3:00 p.m.

Saint Cecilia Cathedral, 701 North 40th Street, Omaha, NE 68131

Celebrate a special VESPERS including singing the premiere of a new setting of Magnificat by Kevin Vogt for Choir, Assembly and Organ. The Vespers Liturgy is the Church's daily expression of evening prayer, including the singing together of hymns, chanting psalms, sharing the word of God, praying on behalf of the world, and culminating in the Magnificat. On Gaudete Sunday we will celebrate Vespers in a festive and ecumenical way. Join your voice to the choir, which will include members of the Saint Cecilia Cathedral Choir, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral choir, St. Paul's Methodist Church, Holy Cross Parish and others. YOU are invited to join your voice personally or come with your choir.

+ONE REQUIRED REHEARSAL Saturday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m.

+WARM-UP AND REHEARSAL IN THE CHURCH Sunday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m.

+RSVP your presence to merubisbauer@archomaha.org by December 1

+Music will be shared via PDF

+Bring your own vestment or provide your height and request a vestment in your RSVP.

+Spread the word to your community, inviting them to come and pray in Advent in this special way.

+If you are bringing a full choir, indicate that on RSVP to receive special instructions.

+If you are a director and cannot attend, please share this opportunity with your singers.

\$300.00 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR BEGINNING ORGAN STUDENTS

Organ lessons make a great Christmas gift! Visit

www.omahaago.org/scholarship for details and an application!

Brief criteria:

- Students should have intermediate level piano skills.
- Students must study the organ with a current member of the Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.
- Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the instructor.
- Applications may be submitted at any time and will be considered at the next Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Executive Board meeting.

MISSION

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
- Nurture future generations of organists;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

THE ORGAN HEALS

Courtesy of Brent Shaw



The Bedient Organ in the Chapel at the Madonna Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln is lovingly played by volunteers for chapel services each and every week. If you might be interested in volunteering, they always have need of people to transport guests to and from their rooms to the worship

service which starts Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Volunteers do have to go through a screening process. Speak to Brent Shaw, one of the volunteers, to get involved and he can connect you with Chaplain Jeff Gerdes. One of the amazing blessings at Madonna are the residents who have overcome great difficulty and relearn how to play a beloved musical instrument. Here is one of the stories that was shared on local KETV and several other places back in 2018.

Five months after suffering a massive stroke, Ted Gray's fingers move gingerly across the keyboard. He smiles as the notes of a hymn fill the air. "It makes me feel closer to God," Ted, and organist for Manawa Faith Community Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa, said. Last summer, it was doubtful the music lover would ever play again.

On June 2, 2018, Ted fell, severely damaging his spinal cord. To add insult to injury, the trauma tore his carotid artery. A blood clot traveled through Ted's blood stream to his brain, causing a debilitating stroke. Surgeons at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha worked to repair the damage. The outgoing Iowan couldn't walk, eat, or communicate normally. Needing extensive rehabilitation, Ted and his wife, Meredith, selected Madonna's Lincoln Campus as the next step in his recovery.

Ted drew strength from Meredith, and children Scott, 11, and Grace, 8, who stayed in on-site housing. Faith and family support were pivotal to Ted's progress. "It was invaluable that we got to spend the summer here, the kids right by their Daddy," Meredith said. His Specialty hospital team devised goals to return the 57-year old to his life roles while

CHRISTMAS EVE
CONCERT AT ST.
CECILIA
CATHEDRAL

The St. Cecilia
Cathedral Choir
will sing their
annual Christmas
Concert at 11:00
pm on Christmas
Eve preceding
Midnight Mass
with Archbishop
Lucas.

applauding Each small accomplishment, like sitting up or forming a sentence. “There were there when even the simplest things were so hard,” Ted said. Transitioning to the Rehabilitation Hospital, Ted blossomed, bonding with everyone from nursing and therapy staff to the dietary crew, appreciating their expertise and encouragement. Repetitive training in the Lokomat, robotic-assisted gait technology, boosted the muscle memory in Ted’s legs. Reading books out loud revived his voice inflection, affected by the stroke.

Jessica Virgil, OT, recognized Ted’s love of music, suggested he accompany Madonna’s congregation during a chapel worship service. After weeks of practice, Ted, using his dominant hand, played gracefully as his heart soared. “He sounded beautiful and brought tears to my eyes,” Virgil recalled. Within three months post-stroke, Ted transferred to Quality Living, Inc., a post-acute rehabilitation center. “Nebraska Medicine saved my life, Madonna rebuilt my life, and QLI adding the finishing touches,” said Ted. He proudly walks short distances with a cane and is close to graduation from his wheelchair.

Ted is progressing in the Omaha Campus outpatient program, TherapyPlus, with goals of returning to his organist duties and volunteer outreach work. “I’m so glad to be alive!” Ted said. That’s music to our ears.

OMAHA AGO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Omaha AGO Executive Committee did not meet in November. The next meeting is scheduled for December 10 at 9:30 a.m. A summary of the meeting will be included in the January edition of *The Windchest*.

AGO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PILOT PROGRAM

The AGO Achievement Awards are designed to assist and encourage early-level organists as they improve their skills. A mentor from the chapter volunteers his or her time and energy throughout the process – from planning through completion. The candidate, who must be a chapter member, prepares the requirements independently or with the help of the mentor, a teacher, or chapter member, or friend. The candidate then may complete the requirements with the mentor. This process provides a simple way for the chapter to involve new organists in chapter activity, and to encourage them to continue their education through AGO certification.

- The Achievement Award will be encouraging and motivating at every point in the process.
- Mentors are qualified, possessing an AGO certificate or college degree in organ.
- Study and practice will continue until all requirement are met. Candidates never “fail” anything in this process.
- Mentors are provided to teach and encourage throughout the entire process.
- The Achievement Award is a free benefit of AGO membership.
- Basic ORGAN CONSOLE skills covered will include identifying instrument builder and opus number, identifying stops and ranks, describe at least two important mechanisms (key actions), identify the keyboards that correspond to the organ’s divisions, the pedal expression and crescendo devices, how to navigate the memory levels and stop controls, explain how reversibles operate, and the correct way to shut off the instrument.
- Basic HARMONY skills will include harmonizing a simple progression in four-part harmony, identifying scale degrees, explain what tonic, subdominant, dominant and tonic mean, play diatonic triads found on each scale degree, seventh chords, in C Major and A minor.
- Basic REGISTRATION skills will include identifying a principal chorus, a combination suitable for a trio, solo and accompaniment with balanced pedal, what a celeste is and used for, meaning and uses of couples, what 16, 8, 4, mixtures and mutations mean and are used for, and demonstrate an effective registration for a joyful and a contemplative hymn.

Basic MANUAL AND PEDAL TECHNIQUE, including the difference between piano and organ technique, legato and non-legato touch, demonstrate legato fingering techniques, supply legato

THE WINDCHEST

The *Windchest* editor is Jeff Hoffman. Please send content suggestions and information to Jeff at omahaago@gmail.com by the 25th of each month.

The Windchest will be published on or before the first of each month.

- fingerings for a short passage of music, describe the characteristics of good organ shoes, describe several pedal techniques, demonstrate proper body position, play a short, simple passage of music before 1750 with both legato and non-legato technique and a short passage of music using legato touch, play pedal scales, and a piece demonstrating good independence of line.
- Basic TRANSPOSITION, playing a short, prepared, passage of music in three keys, including G major, D Major, A Major, F Major, B-flat major, E-flat major.

CHRISTMAS AT UNION STATION

Saturday, December 7 at Noon

The Cantate, Laudate, and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Choirs perform a concert of Advent and Christmas music at the Durham Museum in front of the magnificent Christmas tree. Regular museum admission fees apply.

Christmas at Trinity Cathedral



Christmas Eve **Tuesday, December 24**

12:00 pm	DEO Christmas Eve dinner, open to all
4:00 pm	Holy Eucharist and Pageant
7:00 pm	Prelude music – Cathedral Choir and harp
7:30 pm	Festival Choral Eucharist
10:00 pm	Prelude music – Cathedral Choir and brass quintet
10:30 pm	Festival Choral Eucharist

Note: Nursery open 3:45–8:45 pm

Christmas Day **Wednesday, December 25**

10:30 am	Holy Eucharist with carols
12:00 pm	DEO Christmas Day dinner, open to all

O come let us adore him

OPEN POSITIONS LISTED ON OMAHA AGO WEBSITE

Please visit the
Omaha AGO
website
www.omahaago.org/open-positions
for details
regarding the
following open
positions:

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Director of
Worship, Music
and Arts
1200 S 40th St,
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 483-4126

Trinity Lutheran Church

Minister of Music
213 North
Pennsylvania,
Mason City, IA
Mason City, Iowa

AREA EVENTS

A special thanks to Brent Shaw for the Lincoln area events as published in the latest edition of *Organ Happenings*.

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

December 14 at 5:00 p.m. 2650 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE

Candlelight Carol Service Saturday, December 14 Please join us as we celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas! The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of Sacred Scripture, Communion, Carols, Choral Anthems, Handbell Music, Brass and String Quartets, Organ, Piano, Flute, and more. The beautiful Christmas tree and candlelight will help illuminate the words of the angels, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." May this be the song in our hearts! A cheese and dessert reception will follow the service. Please join us for this special evening of hope, joy, and fellowship!

Lincoln Choral Artists (Community Choir)

Thursday, December 12 at 7:30pm
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Organist: Morgan Cowell

Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 22 at 3pm and 6pm
College View Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Organist: Brent Shaw

Christmas Vespers - Union College Music Division

Friday, December 6 at 7:30pm
College View Seventh Day Adventist Church
Organists: Jovan Cross, Brittany Madden, Brent Shaw

"Tidings of Comfort and Joy" Christmas with Wesleyan University

Guest choirs: Lincoln Boys Choir and Southeast High School Choir
Southwood Lutheran Church
Friday, December 6 at 7:30pm
Organists: Tom Trenney and Ariel Merivil

OPEN
POSITIONS
CONTINUED

**St. Paul Lutheran
Church, ELCA**

Organist
Treyner, Iowa
Pastor Meyer; (402
) 800-7531
or cmeyerspl@gmail.com

**Sacred Heart
Catholic Church**

Director of Music
502 2nd Ave SE
Aberdeen, SD
57401
Fr. Mark Lichter,
Pastor of Sacred
Heart, at
sacredheartaberdeen@gmail.com, or
by mail to 502 2nd
Ave SE Aberdeen,
SD 57401.

**St. Augustine of
Canterbury
Episcopal Church**

Choir Director
285 S 208th Street
Elkhorn, NE 68022
Reverend Benedict
Varnum, at
rector@sainta.net
402-289-4058
Parish Office

Abendmusik Christmas Concert

"Guide Us to Thy Perfect Light"
First-Plymouth Congregational Church
Friday, December 20 at 7pm and Sunday, December 22 at 4pm
Organists: Tom Trenney and Ariel Merivil

"Welcome All Wonders" University of Nebraska-Lincoln Concert

The Newman Center/St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church
Sunday, December 8 at 3pm and 8pm
Organist: Jonathan Ross

Dulce Voces Christmas Concert with the Lincoln Early Music Consort

Friday, December 13 at 7:30pm
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
60th and A Streets
Organist: TBA

"Christmas at Concordia" Concordia University

St. John Lutheran Church in Seward
December 6 at 7pm, December 7 at 3pm, December 8 at 3pm
Seward, Nebraska
Organist: Jeffrey Blersch

"Winter Reflections" Lincoln Boys Choir Concert

St. Paul United Methodist Church Lincoln
Sunday, December 15 at 5pm
Organist: TBA

Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary

Denton, Nebraska
Daily Vespers, sometimes weekends are open to the public
Special liturgical events held on Christmas Day

ST. PAUL'S MUSIC CONSERVATORY



St. Paul's Music Conservatory

Where Music Serves



Teaching:

SPMC has 12 faculty members who teach in professional studios within St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Reaching:

SPMC teaches many students through the church and community that may not otherwise have an opportunity to take music lessons.



Serving:

SPMC deploys students into churches and institutions throughout the community in order to encourage youth toward service and to show mercy and kindness to others.



St. Paul's Music Conservatory is located at 239 Frank Street in Council Bluffs. SPMC serves students in Eastern Nebraska and Southwest Iowa with professional studio lessons in the areas of Voice, Piano, Guitar, Organ, Strings, Winds and Brass. Our faculty is eager to serve the unique needs and interests of their students. For more information call:

712-322-8832 or email pastorfrank239@gmail.com

www.stpaulsmusicconservatory.org

CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT

WINTER

Sunday, December 1, 2019 - 1 PM—3 PM

Annual Cathedral Christmas Market

First Friday Reception: December 6, 2019

Closes: Sunday, January 5, 2020

Friday, December 6, 2019 - 8PM

Sunday, December 8, 2019 - 2 PM

Christmas at the Cathedral

The Omaha Symphonic Chorus,

Greg Zielke, Conductor

Call (531) 600-8889 for ticket sales and information

Sunday, December 15, 2019 - 3PM

MAGNIFICAT: Cathedral Vespers

Choral Festival Event with the Saint Cecilia Cathedral Choir,
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Choir and Guest Choirs

Saturday, Sunday, January 25, 26, 2020

35th Annual Cathedral Flower festival

For Everything a Season

Celebrating all occasions and honoring our florists

Sunday, February 16, 2020 - 3 PM

Sing Omaha Choirs

Master Chorale & Women's Choir

Mathew Hill, Conductor

Thursday, February 20, 2020 - 7 PM

Annual Cathedral Lecture

Cathedral Cultural Center - O'Donnell Lecture Hall

Completion of the Transformation of the Crystal Cathedral

Brother William Woeger, FSC, Liturgical Consultant and Designer

CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT



35 YEARS

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



Compline at Trinity Cathedral

Ancient Worship for the Modern Soul

Compline – night prayer – is a contemplative office focused on spiritual peace. Trinity Cathedral's Schola Cantorum will offer music at this candlelit liturgy of prayer and reflection.

Compline is offered at 7:00 pm on
September 22
October 13
November 17



Cantata Choral Academy

Choral music education for children and youth in the Anglican tradition.

Fall registration now open

<http://trinityepiscopal.org/cantata>

OPERAOMAHA



Opera Omaha ONE Festival Preview Concert

Thursday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Cathedral

Music of Alessandro Stradella, including motets sung by the Trinity Cathedral Schola Cantorum
Free admission



MAGNIFICAT: Cathedral Vespers

Sunday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.

Saint Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St., Omaha

Choral Festival event with the Saint Cecilia Cathedral Choir, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Choir, and guest choirs



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 N 18th St. (18th & Capitol)

Omaha, NE 68102

(402) 342-7010

trinityepiscopal.org

Darrow Pipe Organ

721 Pearl Street
Onawa, Iowa
Phone: 712-251-4101
712-490-5669
712-252-1804
darrowpipeorgan.com
darrowpipe@aol.com
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Colleague of American
Guild of Organists
Cell: 402-720-5305
claireason@gmail.com
956 Hwy 30
North Bend, Ne. 68649
Answering Machine:
(Home) 402-652-3366

Keyboard Kastle

Gregory A. Johnson,
Manager
Allen Organ
7031 Dodge Street,
Omaha, Ne. 68132
Ofc: 402-593-9400
Cell: 402-7191923
Ofc: 1-800-642-1271
Fax: 402-593-1104
Email:
gj1814@earthlink.com
keyboardkastle.com
www.allenorgan.com

**Church Organs of
Nebraska**

2600 North 48th St.
Lincoln, Ne. 68504
Gerald Oehring
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churchorgansofnebras
ka.com
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Instrument
Corporation

OMAHA CHAPTER OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Dean J. Gordon Christensen, AAGO

drjgordonchristensen@gmail.com + 712-352-0298

Sub-Dean Dirk Lindner

dirk16@cox.net + 402-614-0892

Secretary Gregory Johnson

gj1814@earthlink.net + 402-719-1923

Treasurer Gina Simpson

ginas@chirock.com + 402-312-1157

Immediate Past Dean David Schack

davidschack@cox.net + 402-339-3061

Member-at-Large Sonja Lundgren - 2017/2018 - 2019 - 2020

sonjaldgn@hotmail.com + 402-884-6426

Member-at-Large Jeff Hoffman - 2018/2019 - 2020/2021

omahaago@gmail.com + 402-317-8887

Member-at-Large Laura Rau - 2019/2022 - 2018/2019

laura.m.rau@gmail.com + 620-870-9768

**OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF
ORGANISTS - COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Education (AGO Certification) Julie Sandene

jasandene@gmail.com + 402-551-8479

Chapter Historian Claire Eason

creeason@gmail.com + 402-652-3366

Organ Historian David McCain

davidmccain@iowatelecom.net + 712-343-2328

Membership J. Gordon Christensen

drjgordonchristensen@gmail.com + 712-352-0298

Membership Directory Gina Simpson

ginas@chirock.com + 402-312-1157

Professional Concerns Jerry Brabec

jbrabec@stpaulomaha.org + 402-558-7318

Programming Dirk Lindner

dirk16@cox.net + 402-614-0892

Publicity J. Gordon Christensen

drjgordonchristensen@gmail.com + 712-352-0298

Referrals J. Gordon Christensen

drjgordonchistensen@gmail.com + 712-352-0298

Webmaster, Facebook, *The Windchest* Editor Jeff Hoffman

omahaago@gmail.com - 402-317-8887