

SFAGO Special Projects Committee: A New Season of Helping Others

By Douglas Franks

Chair, SFAGO Special Projects Committee

As SFAGO begins a new program season, the Special Projects Committee begins a new season of grant-giving to organizations and individuals who come to us seeking financial assistance for organ-related projects. Our committee is pleased to welcome two new elected members, Lenore Alford and Donald Mulliken. They will share their time and unique perceptions and insights with us for the next three years and help keep our committee functioning in top form and fulfilling its mission. We also look forward to working with the new chapter treasurer, William Visscher. Our committee depends a great deal on information that only the treasurer can supply.

I would like to thank SFAGO chapter members who donated to the Special Projects Fund when they renewed their membership dues last spring and throughout the summer via the new national ONCARD dues-renewal system. We invite members who have yet to renew their dues to do likewise. All donations go directly towards funding organ-related projects approved by our committee and are not added to the principal of the Special Projects Fund.

SFAGO member Steve Wallace, as he has done in the past, gave a particularly sizable donation to our committee when he renewed his chapter dues. We thank him very much for his extraordinary generosity.

Our committee would also like to express its gratitude to Oscar Burdick who again generously donated to the Special Projects Fund on behalf of his wife Dora's estate. His gift substantially boosts our committee's ability to offer support in the form of grant awards to worthy projects.

At our committee's meeting back in June, we approved the following grant applications:

- \$2000 to Bynum Petty (Archivist for the American Organ Archives of the Organ Historical Society, Talbott Library, Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey) to help him write and publish a history of Henry Pilcher's Sons Organ Company. The grant will cover research and associated travel expenses.
- \$2200 to Dr. Christopher Marks to help fund the recording of lesser-known and previously unrecorded works of Seth Bingham at First-Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. His will become the third CD of Bingham's organ music in a set of three.
- \$1500 to the First Presbyterian Church, Oakland to help pay for an organ and organ-plus recital series at First Presbyterian, Oakland as part of a 100th-year anniversary celebration of their neo-Gothic church building. The concert series will feature their mammoth Rosales organ and aims to reintroduce this instrument to a wider public audience.

The Special Projects Committee met again in September to consider a new round of grant applications. More about those in a future article. It is a delight to be firsthand witnesses to the creative powers of our colleagues all across the country. Our committee and our chapter are truly privileged to be able to partner with them and offer them our valuable support. The next grant application deadline is December 15, 2014.

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