

## **SFAGO Special Projects Fund Dollars at Work**

By Douglas Franks

Chair, SFAGO Special Projects Committee

One of the most recent grants SFAGO's Special Projects Committee awarded went to the San Diego AGO Chapter Pipe Organ Encounter, held this past July. 28 student organists ranging in age from thirteen to 18 took part. The grand finale of the week-long POE was a recital on July 28 at La Jolla Presbyterian Church in which all 28 students performed pieces they had worked on during their POE lessons.

Materials our Committee received giving us an overview of the POE show that it was a tremendously successful event, made possible by our substantial grant and the generous participation of many AGO artists, faculty, workshop presenters, POE Committee members, and a host of other volunteers. Dozens of San Diego churches opened their doors for lesson and practice time, open-console sessions, and concerts. Individual and in-kind donations were also a key source of support.

To quote a letter we received from the San Diego POE Committee:

*"The San Diego Chapter AGO wishes to again thank the SFAGO Special Projects Committee for their support of our 2012 POE. We appreciate your interest and financial support for our young organists making it possible to provide the grand week of organ playing, organ listening, and learning that was just held in San Diego.*

*"[Students] came from Hawaii, Connecticut, Washington state, Oregon, Nevada, all over California, and San Diego County. The settings at the University of San Diego, San Diego churches, the Spreckels Organ, and the Balboa Theater Organ provided great places for building friendships, learning and enjoying organ music, plus an afternoon with two great organs in Los Angeles. Look for reviews of the event in future TAOs. It was an exciting week for all of us."*

Our chapter should be justly proud of its important role in making San Diego's project come to fruition. There could hardly be a better way to exemplify fulfillment of the Special Projects Committee primary mission: To advance the cause of organ by helping fund relevant educational programs. All AGO members can feel encouraged, inspired, and energized by San Diego AGO's superlative work, as well as motivated to support other such programs as the opportunity arises.

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