



RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

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March / April 2024



**RENEW
TODAY!**



New Year, New Ideas, Moving Forward



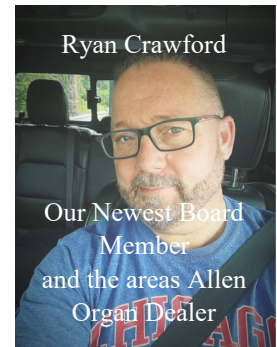
Dennis Nawracaj, President



Rick Steinke, Secretary



2024 is a year of change for JATOE, a new president, a new secretary, two new board members. During our fall board meetings in 2023, the board knew this was coming, that I was stepping down as president. I had "loose ends" to tie up before being able to do this. The board identified the problems of the work load, what was missing and what needed to be done. The first thing was job descriptions. We needed these for each officer, board member and committee. I had no idea what was expected of me when I took over being president six years ago. The board approved the job



descriptions as policies of JATOE. A major item missing is the committees JATOE use to have. The refreshment, membership, entertainment, publicity and newsletter committees were necessary for the success of JATOE. As it is, we do not have all these committees. The work falls on the board. Needless to say, those doing these responsibilities have become burned out. When I look back over the six years, there has been so much that was accomplished, so much and in such a short time! JATOE is not the little tree house club it was when it was formed in 1971. Just reading the old newsletters from the last six years, no wonder the job has become overwhelming. We need our committees back. Job descriptions were written for those too so the person knows what the responsibilities are. I hope you will step up to help Dennis and the board and consider one of the committees to be on. It's not hard. It does become very difficult when all the work lands on two or three people. We do not want to overwhelm Dennis. I will certainly help him. The idea of job descriptions comes from ATOS. When Taylor became Chairman of the Board, he ran into this exact same problem. Our job descriptions are copied and tailored for JATOE from what was written for ATOS. So you see we are not alone, and I'm sure other chapters have the same problem. So I encourage you to consider being on one of the committees, it's not hard, we will help and guide you. If we can't get the help we need, well sadly things are just going to have to go away. You have already seen what the newsletter has been reduced to. This is our cry from your board for help! As I have always said, this is your club and we need you!

Please bear with us during this time of transition.

Joel Martis

RIALTO CLOSES FOR THE SUMMER

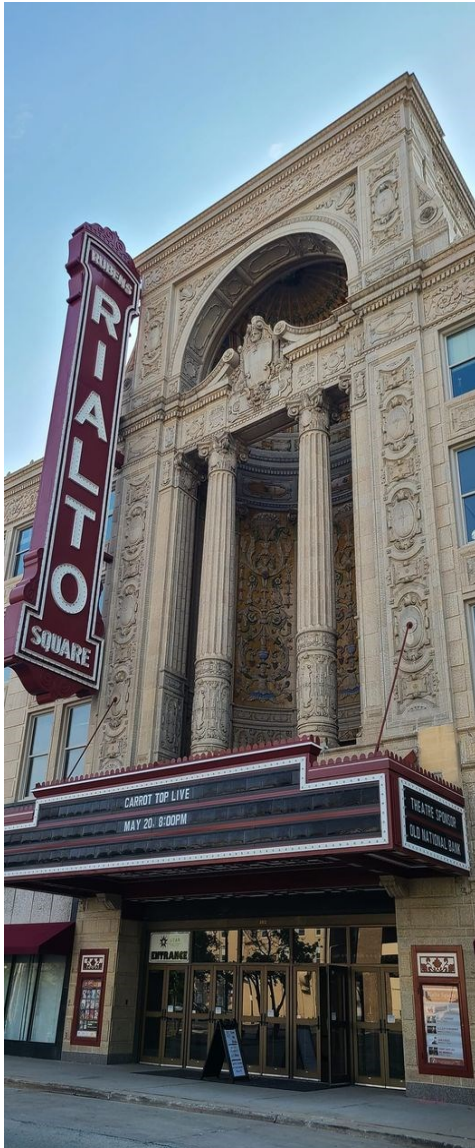
The Rialto will be closing from July 1st to the middle of October this year. The new roof has been put on the building last year. New boilers and air conditioning systems are being put in this year which is why the theater will be closed. Most likely, June 9th may be our last social in the theater for the year since we have never been able to get a Sunday in October, November and December. We are actively seeking alternatives for socials during this time that the theater will be closed.

During this time the theater is closed, the Barton console will get rewired. It was discovered in December when some stops failed to play. We found broken wires and then noticed there were quite a few stops that had jumpers on them. We met with Peterson and came up with a plan to rewire the entire console while the theater is closed this summer.

Another reason the console needs to be rewired is when the Peterson system was put in, the company hired to do the wiring did not leave enough “maintenance wiring” meaning we can’t lift the horse shoe up to do repairs on the keyboards and pistons, plus the keyboards are hard wired to the cards. The plan now is the keyboards will be pluggable meaning we can just unplug them and take them out for repairs.

The work crews entire focus is not just repairing, but also on the future maintenance of the instrument. Whatever is not maintenance friendly, we make it maintenance friendly for whoever will do this after us in the future.

As of this newsletter, all the solo side tremulants, except the vox have been cleaned, releathered, repaired and rebuilt. Wind lines are cut and rubber couplings have been put in, a small junction connection for the wiring has been put on each one. Now you just have to undo the rubber coupling, disconnect the wires, take the screws out that are on the legs and out it comes.





Steven Eaklor is one of the most versatile and accomplished Concert and Recording organists in the world. Equally at home in the classical organ repertoire, Theater Organ, Jazz, Hammond Pop and Gospel styles, his arrangements and orchestrations are renowned for their innovation, excitement and pure musicality. Steven's musical training began at the age of 6, on

the Hammond Chord Organ. Soon advancing to Pipe Organ and Trumpet, He pursued and completed formal study at Adams State College in Colorado, earning a B.A. in Music Performance. Steven's passion and utter mastery of the Hammond Organ brought him to a career with the Hammond company, and for 15 years he served as Director of Product Planning and Development. His ideas and innovations continue to be found throughout the Hammond/Leslie product line. Steven's devotion to Sacred Music performance and his vast knowledge of Gospel Music has led to positions as Organist and Choirmaster at Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia, and Minister of Music at St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chicago, as well as numerous National Gospel Music Seminars and Clinics for the Hammond Organ Company.

Steven also tours with the R&B group "August", and performs to popular and critical acclaim worldwide as a solo Hammond, Theatre Organ and Classical Artist.



Enter 121 Scott St. Stage Doors open at 1:30 pm Show starts at 2:00 pm. Bring Refreshments!

**TIME TO RENEW
YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

Membership dues are due by March 31st of each year. If you haven't renewed yet, please fill out the form below and mail it to Jim Patak. We also accept dues at all socials. Just fill out this form and bring it with you with your check. *This will be your last issue of the newsletter if you have not renewed.*

Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts Membership Form

Please Print



Please check one: _____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____



E-Mail _____@_____

Check here if you want the newsletter by regular mail. _____

Do you belong to the American Theater Organ Society (ATOS)? Yes ____ No ____

Do you play the organ? Yes ____ No ____

Would you be willing to be on and/or chair committees?
Yes ____ No ____

JATOE Annual Membership Dues \$40.00
(Any Amount over \$40.00 is Tax Deductible)

Make checks payable to: JATOE

Mail this form and remittance to:

**Jim Patak
1406 Mandel Ave
Westchester, Ill 60154**

Annual Dues Amounts

Students	\$15.00
Regular	\$40.00
Supporting	\$50.00
Sponsoring	\$100.00
Sustaining	\$500.00
Presidents Club	\$1000.00

*(Any Amount over \$40.00 is Tax
Deductible)*

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian Signature (if applicant is under 18 years of age)

_____ Date _____



Like many other businesses and organizations, JATOE has it's "Help Wanted" sign out to our membership. Below is a list of the committee chairs that the Board is looking for. Can you help the JATOE Board out with any of these?

Ok, So lets start off with the downside of these committees, the pay sucks, there isn't any. No paid time off. No yearly bonus's, No Healthcare Insurance, No 401k, and no defined pension. The upside, you will be helping a very tired and overwhelmed board. You get to make your own hours, you get to work from home, you get to be creative, you get to be a very intricate part of what makes JATOE, JATOE.

Membership Committee: This person(s) collects the yearly dues, records the information in the membership book that JATOE provides, deposits the money at the BMO bank and informs the treasurer of deposits and the newsletter chair of any changes to address, phone, email, etc. We can provide Microsoft Office if you don't have it already. We use Excel for the membership book.

Newsletter Committee: This person(s) are responsible for the creation and sending out of our newsletter, The Relay Chatter, to both email and regular mail recipients. You are free to design, create whatever you want it to be. We can provide Microsoft Office if you don't have it already. We use Microsoft Office Publisher for the newsletter.

Refreshment Committee: This person(s) is responsible for the social setup and tear down. This has been really easy because of the volunteer students that come to the theater for their community service hours. You are in charge of them and having them do what is needed. The students set up the tables, bring the supplies up from our cabinets, make the coffee, etc. They do the clean up afterwards too and put everything away. You will sign their sheets at the end of the social.



Entertainment Committee: This committee has been filled by Board Member Bob Vorel. We Thank Bob for stepping up. If you would like to help Bob or have any ideas for future artists, please let him know.

So in a nut shell, this is what the JATOE Board needs your help with. If you might be interested in any of these committees, please let myself or any board member know. We would be happy, even thrilled to talk to you about it. We have created a premiere club, in a absolutely beautiful place , to keep that, we need you! Thank You, Joel

