



RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA
THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS WWW.JATOE.ORG
DON WALKER, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: JATOE.BARTON@GMAIL.COM



March/April 2021



HANG IN THERE!

Yes, everything will be ok. We will slowly go back to getting together, hearing great music on the Barton, enjoying the delicious treats everyone brings to share, open console for those who want to play and back to inviting guests to come and experience the sounds and beauty of the theater.

While I know not having any events since March of 2020 has been hard on all of us, your patience over the last year has been extraordinary and appreciated. I want to thank all of you who have renewed their membership for 2021. Your continued support during these times touches my heart. You are the true backbone of JATOE and what we are about. While much needed work has been done to the Barton during the theaters shut down, there is still more to do. JATOE will apply for the ATOS grant again this year to fix some big ticket items, chests that need to be rebuilt, wipers that need repairs and primaries on the upper solo swell motor that David has identified. As of now, everything in the chambers is fully functional. The Barton Grande is 100% complete for the first time most likely since the 1993 rebuild. I can't wait for all of you to hear it in person for the first time again.

Joel Martis, President



Dues are due by March 31, 2021. If you have not done so, please send them in. We count on your support to keep the Barton Grande going and the work that is being done. You are the reason that JATOE has been around for the past 50 years!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

upcoming EVENTS



Click on the icon to go
directly to our sister
chapters web site for
their latest news and
events.



Happy 25th Anniversary to our friends at the
Chicago Theater Organ Society!



Congratulations!



**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

Please Welcome Ryan Hill
To JATOE, Ryan is from
Mattoon, IL



Letter from the editor

By Don Walker

Greetings to our members and friends here and abroad!

As we brace in the Chicago area for the coldest weather week this winter season, I hope all of you are well. It is difficult to believe that it will be nearly a year ago that we had our last social event at the Rialto. Some of you may be thinking, 'when will we ever meet again?' I understand your concerns. You also might be thinking, 'why should I renew my membership when we haven't had any socials in months?'

Keep in mind that we are stewards of the wonderful, original-to-the-theatre Barton theatre pipe organ. The pandemic, though tragic for the arts, and personally to those who have lost loved ones and friends, has provided JATOE the opportunity to make the Barton even better. Your dues provide much needed funds in the JATOE treasury for continued maintenance. The theatre WILL open once again. We simply don't know when at this time. We do know that when it does, we will be ready to celebrate JATOE and the fellowship that we hold so dear.

"Hang in there," and we will see you soon! :)

Please remember the following people in your prayers
Bill Reynolds, Don Young and Stan Zimmerman



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

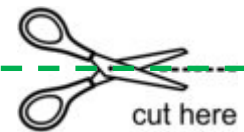
Yes, it's that time of the year again. The dues and donations are how we maintain the Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ and it is also how we are able to have our socials. Some may think, well there were only three socials last year and with this virus, we don't know when we will have another. This is true. It is up to the governor to open up the theaters again. I want to assure you much work has been going on with the Barton. Much needed work. This kind of opportunity; to be able to work every week on the organ is good. You will see a big difference when you hear it again, and you will - after all - this is why JATOE was formed - this is what you, our members invest in. This is what we have done for 50 years. We keep this magnificent instrument playing in the best condition we can in the most beautiful theater around. **Please Fill out the form below with your \$30.00, or \$15.00 if you are a student and send it to:**

Jim Patak

1406 Mandel Av

Westchester, IL 60154

Affix your address sticker if you like and just fill out the rest and mail.



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

(Please print your email address)

REMITTANCE \$ _____

Are you an ATOS Member? Yes _____ No _____

Please fill out the survey on the back. Thank You!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THIS UNIQUE ART FORM.

Membership Meeting and Elections

Because of the Covid-19 virus we were not able to have our annual business meeting for 2021 in the spring. Members of the board have agreed to continue to serve on the board until we can have a safe business meeting for nominations and elections.



Thomas Wisvader

August 24, 1931

December 3, 2020

May he Rest in Peace.

We will miss him.



Click on the picture to read the full Obituary.



Click on the picture to read the full Obituary.

Faye Wheeler

November 2, 1932

January 7, 2021



**May she Rest in Peace.
We will miss her.**

Please take a few moments to fill out the survey. Your opinion matters.

We all know that the theater organ community and the entire entertainment industry has taken a big hit because of the virus. I am curious to know if you would feel safe attending a live JATOE event at the Rialto Theater if:

1. Masks are required for entry
2. You are escorted to seats at the theater that maintain the 6ft social distancing
3. There are no refreshments afterwards
4. There is no open console afterwards

___ YES ___ NO

Any other comments _____

Thank You for filling out the survey!

Stay Safe by wearing masks, washing your hands and practice social distancing.

JATOE WORK CREW AT IT AGAIN!

The work crew is back to work. The chimes made it thru Christmas but needed to be re-leathered. The black rubberized cloth was failing. It lasted 37 years. All 25 pneumatics were re-covered with leather. Also, new power supplies are being considered for the chambers, and some electrical work needs to be done in the lower solo chamber for the lighting so the extension cords will no longer run thru the swell shades. Slowly but surely we are making progress with the help and guidance of David Rhodes. Our goal is to eventually repair all that needs to be repaired and then it will just require some routine yearly maintenance and tunings. The Barton will be a polished jewel in the Rialto's crown and the world class instrument that it was meant to be. The Lobby Organ blower motor is still being repaired by Joliet Electric. It will be like brand new when they finish. Hopefully it will be reinstalled by the end of February or the beginning of March. The Lobby Organ is unique and exclusive to the Rialto Theater alone. No other theater in the greater Chicagoland area has a lobby organ let alone one that is played from the main console. Just another jewel in the Rialto's crown.



DTS MIDI SYSTEMS

Midi Encoder and Decoder Controller Cards for real and Virtual Pipe Organs operating Hauptwerk and other Systems.



A Big Thank You

to Rick Steinke for donating the new power supplies for the organ chambers. We wondered why, now that everything was hooked up and working, that there were intermediate glitches happening in the solo chambers. One clue was the wind chimes. Thank You Rick!

THANK YOU



Dennis, Rick, Don & Judy
releathering the chime
pneumatics.



Hearing about the many good things happening to the Barton, ATOS President Dave Calendine stops by to talk with the work crew and try out the Barton Grande. Dave was in town for his virtual CTOS concert at the Allen Organ Studios in Bolingbrook on Feb. 7th.





Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts Celebrating 50 years 1971-2021



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