

**From the Dean – Carl Parks**  
August, 2015

How things have changed! It has been 15 years since I last served as the Sarasota-Manatee Chapter's Dean. For many of us, our hair has turned a bit more gray, our chapter has fewer members, there are fewer venues where we can practice our art, and we face some difficult challenges.

Fortunately, our chapter has a team of very dedicated professionals, and we are on our way to building a better chapter than ever. Especially deserving of our thanks is **Nancy Siebecker**, whose hard work, determination, and drive have been helping to revitalize our chapter. Our webmaster, **Dan Crumpler**, also deserves our thanks. Through his efforts our chapter is gaining greater worldwide recognition. And we have gone almost completely paperless. Much appreciation also goes to our treasurer Susan Crumpler for her efforts to see that members renew their memberships. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do.



We have an excellent slate of events for nearly every month of the 2015-2016 season.

Please be sure to mark your calendar for these chapter programs:

- Oct. 11 -- **Chase Loomer**, Recitalist and Competition Winner, at Christ Church Episcopal in Bradenton.
- Nov. 14 -- **Dr. Joseph Holt**, Choral Workshop, 9:30 a.m. to noon, at First Congregational UCC Church in Sarasota.
- Jan. 29 -- **David Cherwien**, Hymn Festival, at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. (Rehearsal details TBA).
- Feb. 23 -- "**Dutch Lunch**" at a room reserved for general discussions, casual get-together for members, spouses, friends and colleagues. (Time and location TBA).
- March 19 -- **Lunch with Professor Thomas Murray**. (Time and location TBA).

- March 20 -- **Professor Thomas Murray**, concert organist in recital, 3 p.m., at Christ Church Episcopal in Bradenton.
- April 11 -- **James Johnston** presenting "A Musical Visit to Boston 1870 to 1910," a members recital at First Congregational UCC Church in Sarasota. (BYO teatime nibble).
- May 23 -- **Annual Chapter Banquet** at The Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota. Father Fred Robinson will speak on "It's All in the Details."

Many thanks to our Program and Events Committee: **Greg Chestnut, Jim Hawkinson, Jim Johnston, Nancy Siebecker, Steven Strite**, and **Michael Trezise**. Thanks also to Sub-Dean **Dwane Grace** for his help coordinating these events as program chairman.

In addition to these recitals, workshops, and other programs, our board will be discussing the possibility of more than one general membership meetings to conduct our chapter's business. For example, last year I worked with our past-dean **Neil Page** and national to develop Chapter Operating Procedures. National has by-laws, but each individual chapter is encouraged to have its own set of operating procedures. Previously, our chapter had a "constitution" dating back to 1953. These new Chapter Operating Procedures required a vote of the full membership at last year's annual banquet. They are also a living document. How they working? What changes may be needed? Only our full membership can approve.

With the board's guidance, I would propose a "Visioning Process" open to all interested members. Where do we see our chapter in a year? -- in three years? -- in five years? National has a mission statement, but our chapter could also have its own mission statement. What makes our Sarasota-Manatee Chapter unique among other chapters? How can we capitalize on this?

I truly appreciate the confidence that you, my fellow colleagues, have placed in me by making me once again your dean. As we begin a new chapter year, I look forward to working with you in ways that will strengthen the Sarasota-Manatee Chapter.

Soli Deo gloria,

Carl Parks, Dean