

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

2007 Officers:

President: vacant
Vice President: Richard VanMetre
Secretary: Carol Veome
Treasurer: Joe Pekarek
Board Representative: vacant
Reporter: Curt Clifford

Following the July, 2006, national convention hosted by our chapter, we had an October meeting in the home of James Huffer and Michael Hubbard. We enjoyed their Coinola, pumper piano, Baldwin baby grand piano, upright phonograph, and pinball machine. Our hosts had completed a full restoration on their Arts and Crafts style home, formerly a parsonage, which is now filled with antique furniture. Members were able to bask in the glow of our fun and successful summer national convention. The 300 registrant list filled up rapidly and all who were placed on a waiting list were able to attend. We had many first timers. The tours included a successful first time ever tour of the Schaff Piano supply facility. We voted to send a donation in memory of Dave Ramey to a public attraction in Virginia City, Montana, where Art Reblitz is helping to restore a collection of automatic musical instruments now owned by the state of Montana.

Our December holiday meeting was held in the home of Carol Veome. We all enjoyed her Steinway Duo-Art, Seeburg G, many phonographs, musical boxes, and 1950's hi-fi equipment. In response to Carol's request that members bring holiday items for Show and Tell, we heard holiday piano rolls, a Regina disc, and a CD of organ music playing Christmas tunes. Debbie Hollick brought a childhood record of Santa Claus chatting with her and her siblings at Lloyd's Department Store in Evanston.

In May, the group traveled to the home of Doug and Pam McGee in Sturgeon Bay, WI, overlooking Lake Michigan. The hosts have a remarkable 7' Mason and Hamlin Ampico "A" piano, several more pianos, and a memorably neat basement workshop. Guests were treated to a lovely dinner in town at a lakefront restaurant, then homemade desserts were served back at the house. A high point of the gathering was meeting Edith Ornstein, the daughter of Ampico recording artist Leo Ornstein. Several of her father's rolls were played. Because many stayed in Door County overnight, an open house was arranged in the Milwaukee area on Sunday, hosted by Paul Woelbing. In addition to an architecturally interesting home, Paul has several Ampico and Duo-Art

pianos, an amazing roll collection, a Mills Violino Virtuoso, and several antique motorcycles.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Veome
Chapter Secretary