

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

PRESIDENT: Jerry Biasella
VICE PRESIDENT: Richard Van Metre
SECRETARY: Carol Veome
TREASURER: Joe Pekarek
REPORTER: Curt Clifford
BOARD REP: TBD

In the Chicago Area Chapter we ended 2009 with 77 memberships (130 members) which reflects a net gain of 1 during the calendar year. Our 3 meetings were each attended by 35 to 45 people. We started the year by giving a \$1000 donation to the AMICA Memorial Fund in memory of Maury Willyard and ended the year with \$7880 in our accounts.

Our first meeting was hosted by George Glastris in his classic 1920s Chicago bungalow, which is decorated in the Arts & Crafts style in the West Ridge neighborhood of the city. He is a phonograph collector extraordinaire whose resume includes prior employment with Christie's Auction House and the Antiques Road Show. Although he does not have a piano, George has a number of additional collections scattered around the house which include Mission Furniture, scientific and technical instruments, and Greek folk art. During the business meeting all agreed that given our concerns about members' privacy, we will no longer post the meeting minutes on the AMICA website. We discussed at length the books and resources now available on line including the 200 plus items of original literature noted on the AMICA web site library which are available to facilitate research by the membership. It was noted that through the efforts of our member Thad Kochanny along with Terry Smythe, the Obenchain Ampico Reproducing Piano Rolls Catalogue has been re-issued and they were working on Harvey Roehl's book - Player Piano Treasury and making efforts regarding Larry Given's book Re-Enacting the Artist. Members were encouraged to share their original materials with the group. It was noted that the AMICA bulletins from 1964 to the present have now been electronically recorded with the exception of the most recent 9 issues. A proposal is before the AMICA Board to make these available on DVD for a fee.

In June, James Hubbard hosted the meeting in his 1918 Prairie style church parsonage in Chicago. Within his totally rehabbed Arts and Crafts style home he has a varied collection which includes a Coinola Midget, several juke boxes, an upright phonograph, an oak Victor V phonograph and a pin ball machine. He also has an American style Photoplayer and a Cremona A Roll Piano Nickelodeon with flutes. James was quite proud of his newest acquisition - a piano with an LX System. Given the lovely weather, there was a mini flea market in the back yard and a great barbeque dinner.

Our final meeting/holiday gathering was held in December at Carol Veome's house, which was owned in the 1930s by baseball great Gabby Hartnett, a Hall of Fame Chicago Cubs catcher 1921-1940. The house is adjacent to the Rockola (Chicago based Jukebox family) mansion. Not much business was conducted, but we all had fun with a "show and

tell” segment for which members brought unusual or historic items to share with the group. In the spirit of the season, holiday tunes were on most of the phonographs, 1950s hi fi, Wurlitzer 1015 juke box, musical boxes, Steinway piano and the Seeburg G.

For 2010 we are in the planning stages for our schedule of home meetings, field trip ideas and musical events.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Veome - Chapter Secretary