

NORTHERN LIGHTS CHAPTER

Northern Lights is a "Middle-of-the-US" chapter covering Minnesota, North & South Dakota, Manitoba & Northern Ontario.

PRESIDENT: Paul R Watkins, Champlin, MN
VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Kraabel, Minneapolis, MN
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TREASURER: Barbara Watkins, Champlin, MN
REPORTER: Jerrilynn Boehland, Blaine, MN
BOARD REP: Paul Watkins or Mark Kraabel

To kick off the new year and to end 2009 we had our Christmas party and meeting at Bill Nunn's Skyrock Farms in Hamel, MN. Bill had just completed the new "European Beer Garden" addition to his large indoor facility which houses band and fair ground organs and a small rideable carousel. The added area and his European theme unify the surroundings and instruments nicely.

In March, 2010, we again started out our event year with dinner and a meeting in downtown Hudson, WI. This was followed by an evening pipe organ concert by Martin Ellis at the Phipps Center for the Arts also located in the downtown area.

Also, in March Don Barton of the Barton Player Piano Company sponsored his TENTH ANNUAL Piano Roll Flea Market and Silent Movie Event. He holds the flea market at his shop and the movie portion at the Historic Heights Theatre in suburban Columbia Heights, MN, with accompaniment by Ed Copeland. You 2005 AMICA conventioners were here and enjoyed this theatre and its specially installed theatre organ, courtesy of the MN Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS).

This year for the first time in many, plans have been made to hold an August weekend get together and chapter meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This will be on home ground for our local chapter members Terry Smythe, Alan Turner, national member Milton Schenk and enthusiasts Morley Golden and Paul Horsch. Terry, Alan and Milt have planned an action filled weekend so we have high hopes that the turnout is good for this "North-of-the-Border" event.

We'll close out 2010 with a Christmas party and meeting at Randy Hammond's house provided he is still a member of the teaching profession (jobs are uncertain these days and for some of our members it has been a bad year financially and job wise).

Our treasurer reports the chapter has \$4000 in a short term CD and \$1000 in checking. We currently have a membership of 38 representing 24 households.

Our meetings and events fall mostly on Sunday afternoons with an attendance of 12 to 20 members. Our biggest attendance occurs for our Christmas party. Yearly we schedule four to five get togethers that range from member hosting to outside concert events. Secretary Michael LuBrant constructed an Email Notification System that enables us to stay in contact with 98% of our members.

In concluding our chapter report we want everyone to know that we have two members who are distinguishing our chapter through their participation in AMICA national events. First, TERRY SMYTHE accepted the position of editor of our national/international Bulletin and this has been followed by ALAN TURNER being nominated for the national VP position. As a chapter we're very proud of these two and their commitment to our national organization.

Submitted by

Paul Watkins, Chapter President