



# The Free State News



Volume 40, Number 1

January 2021

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY & PRESIDENT

By Bernie Kuder

First of all, I want to express my hope that our members are staying well and staying safe, especially given the restrictions that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on all of us.

Also, as you probably are aware, the Organ Crew has been restricted by the State of Maryland from entering the Spring Grove Hospital Center, not just the Thomas Rice Auditorium, but the entire campus for the duration of this pandemic problem. As a result, the Organ Crew has not even been able to collect transportable portions of the new organ console to our home workshops, so no tangible work has been accomplished during this lengthy hiatus. The only good news is that we are all still reasonably well and sane.

After discussion with the Board of Directors, FSTOS is suspending all Membership Dues for the 2021 Season which begins on April 1st 2021 and runs until March 31st of 2022. Your FSTOS Membership will continue without interruption. Hopefully, FSTOS will be able to resume our concert series in September of this year. If you failed to renew your membership dues for the 2019 to 2020 dues period, we would not be averse to collecting those dues, and, of course we will always accept donations for our soon to be continued restoration of our new instrument.

In order to streamline the process of keeping accurate records, all dues and donations should be mailed **directly** to our Treasurer, Charles Kokoski as:

Free State Theater Organ Society Membership  
4504 Maple Avenue  
Halethorpe, Maryland 21227

If you wish to pay dues for a prior year, please indicate with a note of some sort so that Charles may distinguish between dues and donations. If you are unsure if you paid prior dues, please contact Bernie Kuder at either by calling (410) 592-5785 or by email at BKUDER@COMCAST.NET.

Please continue to stay safe and well and we will look forward to seeing you in the future.

If any of your data (address, telephone, email, etc.) has changed, kindly let us know so that we may update it. Use can use the form on the next page.



Free State Theatre Organ Society, Inc.  
4504 Maple Ave  
Halethorpe, Maryland 21227

January 10, 2021

Dear Fellow FSTOS Member,

Maryland has declared a "State of Emergency," due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all pretty much aware of this. Spring Grove Hospital Center has closed itself to any outside personnel until this is lifted. Our Society has continued to operate over the last year. Members have held weekly phone meetings to continue the operations necessary to keep our Society going at the minimum level.

While we are not asking for dues for the year 2021, we still have certain expenses if we wish to protect our property and meet the State's insurance requirements. I am asking that you consider making a donation equal to what your dues may have been. We need to raise about two thousand dollars.

Please, everyone stay safe and I hope we can all meet up again in the fall of 2021.

Respectfully,

*Buddy Boyd*

Ernest (Buddy) N. Boyd, Jr.  
President, FSTOS

P.S.

The FSTOS is a tax-exempt non-profit corporation of the state of Maryland under Federal section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. Code. This donation is **tax deductible**.



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WWW.THEATREORGANS.COM/FREESTATE

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# BITS AND PIECES

By Mark Hurley

While everyone has been pretty much sequestered at home *ad infinitum*, the theatre organ continues to make news near and far:

♫ The historic Atlanta Fox Theatre's 1929 M.P. Möller (Opus 5566) organ's original console has now returned to the Fabulous Fox. The A.E. Schlueter Organ Company of Lithonia, Georgia, has done a magnificent job of restoring the console to absolutely better than new condition. Want to see and hear it? Simply go to [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM) on the Internet. Type in "A Very Merry Mighty Mo Homecoming" in YouTube's search engine. You should then be taken to the page featuring the inimitable Ken Double at the console of "Mighty Mo" for a special program that celebrates the organ's 91st birthday. There are also several videos featuring Maestro Double and the organ. Enjoy!


♫ Interested in some classical/church pipe organ videos? Go the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists' website at [WWW.NYCAGO.ORG](http://WWW.NYCAGO.ORG) home page to hear see and hear some of New York's City's magnificent church

organs. These include two Cathedrals: the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine (Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company), Saint Patrick's Cathedral (George Kilgen and Son) and Saint Thomas Episcopal Church (Dobson Pipe Organs, Ltd.). The Dobson was completed in late 2018. Whilst you are there, look for the NYC Organ Project links on the left side of the NYC AGO homepage. It's a veritable treasure trove database of many, many organs in New York City's five boroughs. All kinds of pipe organs can be found there, including New York's movie theatres.

♫ Frank Vanaman reports that his "new" Walker Technical Company/Devtronix four-manual organ is playing merrily in his home. Frank had Bob Walker, the company's namesake, visit to do some "tweaking" of the instrument to better suit its new home. Maybe we'll get invited to explore the organ, once we are hopefully past the COVID-19 pandemic.

♫ Organist Mark Herman has been busy posting videos as well of various theatre organs (including Bandrika Studios) on YouTube<sup>SM</sup>. Go to [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM) and type in "Mark Herman Organist." You will be delighted with Mr. Herman's artistry. Bandrika Studios' organ may not be a familiar name but its sound may well be. The organ once belonged to Twentieth Century Fox Studios. If you've seen these movies such as *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth* and most recently, *The House with the Clock in Its Walls*, then you've heard this organ. Wurlitzer built three nearly identical three manual "specials" for these studios: Paramount (Opus 2035), Warner Brothers (Opus 2022) and Fox (Opus 2967). The Warner Brothers organ was once owned by actor Joseph Kearns (Mr. Wilson in the *Dennis the Menace* TV sitcom) and is now in the Renaissance Theatre, Mansfield, Ohio. Paramount's was purchased by organ enthusiast Richard Simonton, most of which is now in the Jack Hardman Wurlitzer.

♫ Interested in an analogue electronic theatre organ for almost no cost and in good condition? Contact your *Free State News* editor for more information.

 Free State Theatre Organ Society, Inc.  
**MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Use this handy-dandy form to update your membership information! Complete it, cut along the dashed lines and send to Bernie Kuder, Membership Secretary, whose address appears on the other page. *Thank you* for your support!