

*THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
REGION I – NEW ENGLAND*

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Hello Region I Deans and Sub Deans,



I am excited and honored to be serving as your new Regional Coordinator for Education. I'm a life-long learner who, in addition to my work as musician at The Church of Our Redeemer in Lexington, MA, runs Life Guides, a consulting practice helping clients develop their human potential and make successful, planned change in their lives. I view this new position as a wonderful opportunity to help musicians on the path to learning, growth and achievement in their lives.

To this end, I would like to offer support to you and your chapter in revitalizing Certification programs and classes. The Certification process offers individuals an avenue for growth and skill certification, but to chapters, it offers a link to building up and maintaining membership, a means of identifying new leaders, a way to draw in students and community musicians and provide opportunities for mentoring – thus contributing to the strength and vitality of the chapter while raising professional standards.

I would love to talk with you and your officers about how to encourage participation in the exams by calls to members, offering classes, workshops, or study groups; or I could give a chapter program, possibly cooperatively with your Chapter Education Coordinator, about the Certification Program and how energizing it can be. Please pass this letter on to your Chapter Education Coordinator and ask him/her to contact me to discuss programming and exams. I can also help chapters to identify persons who can help with certification programs and other areas, as well as help smaller chapters to pool their resources.

Especially critical to the Guild's mission are its programs of outreach to encourage new organists, including *Pipe Organ Encounter*, *PipeWorks*, and *Pedals, Pipes and Pizza*. I urge you and your chapter to make the support of new organists a high priority. We also strive toward national standards for arts education. The national website www.agohq.org has a wealth of information on the many Guild educational offerings and resources.

As organists, we are privileged to do what we love in service to others. Through Guild Educational programs, we can leverage our love and service by teaching, mentoring, and raising up new musicians and leaders. Please contact me if I can help your chapter along this road toward the Guild's mission and legacy of education and growth.

Sincerely,

Cheryl