

Quarterly 2025

The Newsletter Voice
of the **C**hicago **A**rea
Theatre **O**rgan
Enthusiasts



Hello Everyone

It has come to our attention that there are rumors suggesting CATOE is “dead” or “defunct”. These rumors are **not** accurate! More on that below.....

An article published on May 23, 2025, in the Daily Herald by Dave Heun discussed the repairs and upgrades needed for the organ in the Arcada Theatre, titled ***“Historic Arcada Theatre organ getting repairs and upgrades”***. Dave contacted me to discuss the current status and future plans for restoring the organ. The article also included comments from Ron Onesti, the promoter for the theatre, and Curtis Hurst, the owner, about the necessary steps before work on the organ can commence. Specifically, installing the lift and providing power to the blowers. According to Onesti and Hurst, the lift should arrive at the theatre in about a month. The process of installing, wiring, and voicing the organ will take approximately a year, with the goal of having it ready for the 100th Anniversary/Birthday celebration in September 2026.

Assistance by our membership will be needed once we receive approval to proceed.

Back to the “rumors”! While we would like to host social events for our members, financial constraints currently limit us to one or two socials per year. If we hold an event at Downers Grove North HS or Mundelein, we can only afford one social annually due to the fees that they charge us – and no it is not for rental of the auditorium, but costs for people on site and port-a-potties. As



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The Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts are committed through performances and educational efforts to help the public understand and appreciate how remarkable these organs truly are. It is also why we are dedicated to their preservation.

2025 CATOE BOARD

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the American Theatre
Organ Society**



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treasurer, I am mindful of using funds allocated for organ restoration, particularly with the Arcada project progressing for socials.

Requests for assistance with organizing socials, generating ideas, planning, and volunteers for the board have not garnered responses. We need fresh ideas and vitality!

Your feedback is valuable. Please call, email, or send a letter. Contact information is available in the upper left-hand corner of the newsletter.

Thank you, Taylor Trimby