



Theatre Organ



* * Next Meeting Saturday Feb 17th * *

Next Get-Together . .

The first general 2018 HTOS membership meeting/ get-together will be on **Saturday, Feb 17 2018**. The nature or agenda of the business meeting is the annual election of HTOS officers . . . and , the playing of the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ . **Carl Swift** and **Dennis Entler** will secure the auditorium facilities that day. **Meeting time will be 10:30 AM**, a new meeting time for us, to accommodate those who have contractual obligations in the afternoon and have not been able to attend our previous Saturday afternoon hours in the past.

Election Day Info

The agenda for the meeting is the Annual Election of Officers, deal with old and new business, then play the Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. The following is the slate submitted to the membership by the Nominating Committee :

- President Jon Steen
- Vice-President . . . Carl Swift
- Secretary Arlyn Visentin
- Treasurer Dennis Entler
- Director-at-Large . Ken Warren
- Director-at-Large . Jim Connors

Any other HTOS member may be nominated and seconded on election day prior to the election for any office.



Dues Reminder . .

If you have forgotten to pay your 2018 annual dues here's a **BIG nudge** to send **\$ 10 check** made out to **HTOS** and **mail it** . . . **today** . . to :

Dennis Entler
5411 Bobolink
Houston, TX 77017

ONLY TEN BUCKS for a household . . Do we have enough color, font change, slap on the side of the head, smile , etc. to remind you to send your **DUES** ? Hope so . . .

Welcome New Members

Elaine & Eric McAnelly and **Walter & Peggy Price** joined the ranks of theatre organ aficionados at our last meeting on Nov 11th. Their contact information is listed in the latest membership list .

HCC Convocation



Carl Swift , HTOS VP. discovered that HCC was having a spring convocation in the HCC auditorium in mid January 2018. A few inquiries and a suggestion to HCC that an opportunity to “show off” the **Wurlitzer** theatre pipe organ to the HCC faculty and other educators in the area took hold. Houston’s very own Treasure, the last surviving theatre pipe organ from a Houston downtown theater, was about to get its largest audience in 70 years ! Preparations were quickly made and **Jim Connors** rehearsed with HCC personnel on the power-point media presentation.



There were two sessions of approximately one-hour duration with over **500** attendees at each session, and what a show **Jim** put on ! There were so many people at each session that their entry into the auditorium was drowning out the **Wurlitzer** at full peak . . . but, the folks loved it. Especially when the power point presentation in the 2nd session had a ‘glitch’ . . . giving **Jim** an opportunity to jump on the bench and divert their attention to a rousing **“Take Me Out To The Ball Game”** for two minutes. Folks, it looked rehearsed (it wasn’t !) . . but it looked and sounded great !

Jefferson Theatre

A rumor was starting to spread on Facebook that the powers-to-be in Beaumont, TX on the City Council would be discussing the *future* of the Robert Morton Theatre Pipe Organ installed in the Jefferson Theatre. The word we have at the moment is that any thinking in the direction of getting rid of the organ is definitely **not there** as of Tuesday, Jan 9th 2018. The organ has not been in a playing condition since Hurricane Rita tore through Beaumont in 2005 shortly after Hurricane Katrina ripped up New Orleans. What we do know is that the preliminary beginnings to take bids to put the organ back into playing shape *has started*. After 12 years things are beginning to overcome inertia in this organ restoration matter.



HTOS hopes that the bid includes a time limit for repairs (no more 12-year kick-the-can-down-the-road) and

severe penalties for an over-run on a deliberate low bid to come back for more money.

A reminder to all that the sphere of influence for HTOS was *revamped* whenever our local organization became the 123rd chapter of ATOS in April 2015, to include Beaumont, TX We indicated to nat’l ATOS that HTOS would do everything possible to assist a dormant SE TX chapter of ATOS (Beaumont) revive itself whenever the Robert Morton is finally repaired. Our man in Beaumont, **Carter Bidwell**, also a member of HTOS, is very aware of this endeavor and approach.



Closing Chord



Former HCC president and HTOS friend, **Dr William Harmon**, passed away suddenly on the day after Christmas, Dec 26 2017. Dr Harmon was a true

friend helping our organization make a return from 4 years of renovating exile (2011 – 2014) in the HCC auditorium.



HTOS member, **Charbel Tahtouh**, stretching his toes to the pedals. **Carl Swift** introduced **Charbal** and his family to the world of Tibias, Kinuras, Post Horns and toys last year.



LAUREL & HARDY meet Thelma and Rubie in the 3rd minute of the 22-minute comedy, **TWO TABS** .



HTOS member, **Tom Visentin (rt)**, *retired* days after the Nov 11 2017 meeting. The world of accordions will never be the same.



See you at the next meeting