**The 2021 Lois Conboy Memorial Discovery Award**

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (RIAGO) is pleased to announce its **2021 Lois Conboy** **Discovery Award**. The Reverend Thomas Conboy, Jr. wanted to memorialize his wife, Lois, by having RIAGO grant awards in her name. Read Lois’ biography in the succeeding pages. It is the Chapter’s desire to further interest in the study and appreciation of the pipe organ.

***Eligibility***

The Discovery Award is a unique award and is open to anyone in Rhode Island who wants to learn more about the organ, regardless of age. You need not have any experience at playing the organ in order to apply for this award. You must only have the desire and a plan to seek further knowledge and study. The Award money may be used to pay for organ lessons, Pipe Organ Encounters (POE) workshops or any other programs involving organ discovery and learning.

**How to Apply**

Anyone of any age may apply between now until November 2021. Send us a letter at [RIAGO.Awards@gmail.com](mailto:RIAGO.Awards@gmail.com), with “2021 Lois Conboy Discovery Award” in the Subject line, and tell us about yourself, your plans and your desire to learn more about the organ. Please include a recommendation from a music teacher or professional that knows you well and can attest to your interest. A more detailed plan of what you would like to do with the funds will give you a better chance for a larger award. You may apply only once every calendar year.

**Judging:**

Letters will be reviewed by the Lois Conboy MemorialAwards Committee and a decision will be made within a month after a letter is received. If, in the opinion of the Committee, no applicant meets the criteria and standards for this award, no award will be given. All applicants will be notified by mail/telephone/email of the results of this award. The judgment of the Committee is final.

**Award:**

This award can be given by the Awards Committee in one lump sum of up to $300.00 or may be given in smaller increments depending on the need. This is a rolling application and may be applied for at any time. You may apply only once every calendar year.

**Questions?**

Write to [RIAGO.Awards@gmail.com](mailto:RIAGO.Awards@gmail.com), with “2021 Lois Conboy Discovery Award” in the Subject line, and address your questions to the Awards Coordinator regarding requirements of the Awards or any other questions.

**Lois Conboy** started taking organ lessons in Junior High School. She attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, focusing on Organ and Choral Conducting. Her education was interrupted upon marrying The Reverend Thomas Conboy, Jr., and was completed by her graduation with a degree in Education from California State University (PA) and a later Master of Education. Moving to Rhode Island in 1972 when Rev. Conboy became Pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Cumberland, Lois oversaw the selection and installation of the new organ in their newly constructed church. She served as volunteer Organist/Choir Director at Calvin for over 15 years, and during those years spent every “vacation Sunday” playing at other churches. After retiring from Calvin, Lois served as interim, and in her last years in RI served as Organist/Choir Director at the Community Church of Providence. Lois loved RIAGO and was active in workshops and conventions, but most of all, she enjoyed and cherished the friendship and fellowship of the Guild.