

Meet Your Member

How does one become the Executive Director of a mechanical music museum? "Quite by chance" says Lynn Zillmer, Director of DeBence Antique Music World Museum in Franklin, PA.

After moving to Pennsylvania in 1997 I was looking for employment in a tourism related position as that's where I recently spent several years in South Carolina. The local Chamber of Commerce director shared my resume with the Board of DeBence and I was called for an interview. I knew nothing about the museum at that time but thought well...

Upon entering the museum for the first time I immediately fell in love and realized what a national and international treasure Franklin had. My only other experience with mechanical music had been a visit to a museum in the Black Forest area of Germany where my husband and I spent several hours feeding our "deutschmarks" into the machines.

I've been at DeBence Antique Music World for five years now and am thrilled to report we're growing by leaps and bounds. Our reputation for excellence is spreading throughout the world—visitors come from all corners of the globe to visit. Many instrument donations are being made which are greatly enhancing the collection Jake & Elizabeth DeBence started many years ago. With over 200 instruments we are no longer just "Jake's music machines."



Lynn Zillmer and friend at a recent organ rally.

We've been blessed to find several wonderful volunteers who help to keep our instruments in fine condition and have begun taking in outside restoration work. This past year we were asked to recondition Six Flags World of Adventure's Stinson Band Organ. The public is thrilled to have "live" music on the carousel once again. We also take care of the Artizan Band Organ at Conneaut Lake Park just up the road from Franklin. A major restoration project is now underway for Albion Borough to bring their wonderful Frati barrel organ back to life. What a challenge that is—but headway is being made and we'll all be very proud when it plays again for the first time on their community carousel. Martin, Scotty, Ed, Frank, Paul & Ed all enjoy the challenges of mechanical music instrument work and all have the patience of saints.

2002 saw DeBence host its first COAA rally and we hope to do it every year. What a fantastic experience for those mechanical music "nuts" and the public who know little to nothing about mechanical music. We're already getting calls from the public asking for the dates (September 12-13-14) so please pack that instrument(s) up and come to Franklin for a great time and guaranteed good old-fashioned hospitality.

If you can't tell from reading the above—I'm here to tell you I LOVE MY JOB and am honored to be involved in such a fine organization as COAA.

COAA Web Site

Check out www.carouselorganassociation.org for the latest information about rallies, membership and COAA items for sale. Vice-president Larry Kern has taken over responsibility for the page and has done an outstanding job. This is a good site to refer your friends who are considering membership in the COAA.

2003 Organ Rally Dates			
Event	Location	Contact Person	Date
Ohio Bicentennial Mid-Am (MBSI) Rally	Marietta, Ohio	Sylvi Caporale 740-373-4262	July 11-12, 2003
COAA Rally #2	Jamestown, New York	Dan Wilke 716-825-7266	July 18-20, 2003
COAA Rally #3	North Tonawanda, New York	Elizabeth Brick-Schutt 716-693-1885	July 25-27, 2003
COAA Rally #4	DeBence Antique Music World Franklin, Pennsylvania	Lynn Zillmer 814-432-8350	Sept. 12-14, 2003
COAA Rally #5	Findlay, Ohio	Terry Haughawout 419-454-3671	Sept. 19-23, 2003
Texas State Fair Sunbelt (MBSI) Rally	Dallas, Texas	Walter Moore 214-348-1749	Sept. 26-28, 2003