

THE SOONER TUNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER
OF THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD, INC.



SEPTEMBER 5,
1989

COMING EVENTS:

September 14 Thursday 7:00 Chapter Meeting at OU Piano Shop in Norman. Technicals will be on Touch and Aftertouch by Jesse Jones, Assoc., and Drop Screw Adjustment by Don Stephens, RTT.

October 13-15 Texas State Association Seminar in Lubbock, Texas. This will be a good opportunity to learn new skills and make valuable contacts. You should have received information in the mail about signing up. If not, call us for details.

October 21 Saturday 2:00 Chapter Meeting at Norman Cantrell's Piano Clinic in OKC. Norman will do a technical presentation on key-weighting. I'm looking forward to this one...in all honesty, I can hardly wait!

November 18 (note change) Saturday Chapter Meeting at Gary Bruce's new shop in Edmond. Technical on damper repairing and regulating.

December 9 Christmas Party

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

It's been a long time since I've talked with someone who is beyond his college years who feels like he has a lot of spare time. I know the sacrifice it takes to schedule in one more activity, meeting, appointment or soccer practice. I also know the temptation to do just that. For although we sometimes complain about all that we have to do, we also sometimes enjoy feeling like the martyr. It somehow raises our feeling of self-importance.

While that may not be all bad, let me encourage each of us to use our time wisely. And remember that while working all day Saturday and Sunday to get a little further on some rebuilding job or project may indeed get the job done sooner, it may also spoil your Monday and Tuesday. It's easy to become a

work-oholic and not really accomplish any more than you would if you took a day a week for the rest, totally abandoning the tools of the trade.

If you have a family it is even more important to rest and enjoy them. If you're single you still need the break. The corporate world around us seems to encourage the employee to give his life to the business. This is one of the reasons why I'm happy to be self-employed. I have not only the freedom but also the responsibility to manage my own time.

Having said all that, I still encourage you to come to our monthly meetings. The fellowship of people with like interest and concerns can help us to learn ways to work better, to accomplish as much in less time with better results. Each of us has something unique to offer the rest, and it is a fact that giving something of yourself will be even more beneficial than what you will receive from others.

Hope to see you at this month's meeting.

President Gary L. Bruce, RTT



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS:

I would like you each to know that your elected leaders have just had their second quarterly meeting, and it went very well. The teamwork concept discussed at the time of the election is very much a reality for this group of five, and although our agenda is full, the thinking and talking we share is really

enjoyable. Just to remind you, our team consists of Gary Bruce, RTT (President), Ross Trawick, RTT (Vice President), Carol Bienemman, Assoc. (Secretary-Treasurer), Keith McGavern, RTT (Immediate Past President), and David Bonham, RTT (Editor).



Many good ideas are being generated -- more than the executive board can fully develop. Opportunities are available for each of you to initiate or assist in fleshing out various programs, activities, projects, etc. that would make our Chapter more valuable to us all. Where are we strong and where do we need to improve? In our spirit of teamwork, no individual needs to take such questioning as personally threatening. The subject of monthly technical programs was discussed, for example, and some felt we might do well to soon expand our content to include the synthesis of regulation steps ("Putting it all together") or move on to completely new subjects. Alternatives to our typical lecture-demonstration format were also suggested, such as videotape or film presentations, guest speakers, tours, and problem-solving group experiences.

Another area we considered is testing and upgrading our memberships. Increasing our overall membership as well as increasing our number of RTT graduates would be worthwhile goals. We learned also of a trend towards recertifying our RTT status by retaking the new and improved qualifying exams developed just recently. Some steps have been taken towards developing an Oklahoma testing site, and this opportunity deserves our attention. This whole subject of testing is an example of what the executive board thinks may warrant standing committee status, i.e. a chairman and one or more members to explore the options and present a strategy to the Chapter. We have members who are preparing to take the technical and tuning exams and we need to facilitate their advancement however we can. We can all benefit by the challenge to test ourselves and grow. How about a pairing up of RTT's with interested Associate members to

help guide their development towards full membership? The National PTG has moved to limit Associate status to four years, which has implications for several of our members. Consider serving on this committee.

One member of the executive board is interested in formulating a statement of purpose for our Chapter to help us stay focused and be intentional about our goal-setting and utilization of resources. We would welcome your input on this subject.

These first two executive board meetings have each lasted over two hours and they included discussion of a number of subjects not mentioned in the newsletter. I hope that this reporting conveys some of the enthusiasm and anticipation I feel about the immediate future of our Chapter!

Editor

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER?

No, not exactly. But the question has already been raised whether we should have our Christmas event this year scheduled in a nice restaurant as we did in '86 and '87, or in a home as we did in '88. Which do you prefer? A third option is being considered which seeks to combine the advantages of both options. We could probably have a caterer serve us an elegant meal in a nice private setting (home or club house) at a lesser cost than most fancy restaurants. Be ready to indicate your preference (if you have one) at the next meeting.



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