THE SOONER TUNER Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. FEBRUARY 2005

COMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY - The February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2005 at 8:30 AM at the home of Ken Wilkinson, 10201 Creek Meadow Drive (Oakdale Meadows) in Oklahoma City. Ken is the owner of a Hans Hollein special edition 7'4" Bosendorfer. To get to Ken's house, go east on Hefner, approximately 2.0 miles past I-35. The entrance to Oakdale Meadows is just across from the second entrance to Rivers Oaks. The gates will be open. Once you enter the housing addition, turn left at the first stop sign, then follow the road around (street will curve). Ken's house is on the right. The technical will be presented by David Bonham. I think you will all really enjoy seeing Ken's piano. It is extremely unique. Many of you may remember hearing David and me talk about a piano with brass legs each weighing over 130 pounds that we moved from Houston to OKC. If you wish to see it, this is it! Please plan to attend.

MARCH – The March meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at 8:30 AM at Bob Scheer's shop, located at 4305 Sycamore Lane in Edmond, Oklahoma. Bob will be presenting a technical on "Vertical Hammer Filing and Voicing."

FAILURE IS NOT ABOUT FALLING DOWN ... IT'S ABOUT NOT GETTING UP AGAIN.

PRESIDENT'S PEARLS OF WISDOM:

Why become an RPT? So, you've paid the required fees and have become an Associate Member of PTG. Wonderful, welcome aboard. Now, if you wish, and can afford it, you can take out a full-page ad in the yellow pages and put "Associate Member of the Piano Technicians Guild" in your ad. So, why go through all of the trouble and stress to learn the skills required to become an RPT? After all, John Q. Customer doesn't know the difference between "Associate Member" and "Registered Member" (our fault) anyway. So, why bother? What does the title really mean? Is it worth the trouble? Yes, of course it is! Not only is it worth the effort from the standpoint of personal pride in proving to ourselves and our peers that we know our stuff, and are qualified to service pianos, but more importantly, we owe it to our customers to provide them with competent work. But what if you fail the test? Will your peers think you are incompetent? No, they will admire you for your efforts. We all had to start somewhere and we're all still learning! The only way any of us can open the door to greater knowledge is to first admit that we have a need to learn and improve. The real failure is not to take advantage of the tools available to us. The greatest treasure of our Guild is the knowledge, training and experience available to us through its membership. Our customers pay us their hard earned money to service their pianos, and we owe it to them to be the best technicians we can be. The PTG Convention is in Kansas City this June. Now is the time to start planning for the trip. It will cost you some time and money to go, but what better business investment can you make? I want to challenge the whole chapter to go this year, especially the Associate members. Who knows, you might learn enough to pass the **RPT** test soon!

Bob Scheer, RPT President – Edmond, OK

I've learned... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

JUST WOKE UP...

"...Just woke up from a "dream" where I was moving a brand new upright piano to another location (outdoors of all places), when a little kid started kicking the lower front board with his cowboy boots for fun...scuff after scuff after scuff started showing on that beautiful satin ebony finish...whence I grabbed the kid, lifted him up, and set him aside. While settin' him aside (more forcibly than I should have) his sweater came off...so I started putting his sweater back on when he ever so calmly said, "My big brother is coming over to beat you up." And yep, I look over my shoulder...not only his big brother, but the whole clan starts piling out of this house across the street headed my way...YIKES!!! Did I ever feel like 'caught with my pants down type embarrassment. It was just about then, thank goodness, I woke up before having to face the music...dum-te-dum-dum...What a way to begin Saturday morning!

Keith McGavern, RPT Shawnee, OK

I've learned...

That being kind is more important than being right.

PTG Friends in the OKC Chapter,

I have just returned from our meeting this morning (January 20) and I just want to say a big thanks. From the first time we met you have been most gracious and generous. Gracious with your friendship and generous with your knowledge and I appreciate it very much. I look forward to each meeting because of both the fun and instruction.

I hate to single anyone out because all have been great, but I must give an extra thanks to Norman for being so receptive to having me with him for two days while he was on "special assignment" in Enid a few weeks ago.

May God continue to bless this group.

An improving Associate because of you,

Dave Scroggins, Associate Enid, OK

I've learned...

That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

This month we celebrate Valentine's Day. Since most of you receiving this newsletter are men, you're probably groaning over this fact and thinking "Oh no, not another holiday to buy gifts. What does the little woman expect this time?" Let me help you out with this dilemma. It's not the gift that's important. It's knowing that someone truly cares for you. This Valentine's Day, tell that special someone in your life how much they mean to you, whether it is your spouse, your child, your grandchild, your parents, your friends. Let them know you love them. Everyone needs to feel loved by someone. During my life, I've learned...that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold, a heart to understand, and someone to say, "I love you." Have a great month!

Barbara Bonham, Editor

> President – Bob Scheer Vice President – Ben Davis Secretary – Keith McGavern Treasurer – Gary Bruce Newsletter Editor – Barbara Bonham

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