

The Sooner Tuner  
Official Newsletter of the Oklahoma Chapter  
of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.  
July 2006 Edition

President's Message

"Summertime, and the living is easy. Fish are jumpin, and the cotton is high". Unfortunately, so is gasoline, lacquer thinner, and everything else made from petroleum products.

Yes, folks, the cost of doing business is going up! If you haven't ordered any piano parts and supplies lately, you might be in for sticker shock. Not only that, since there are so few piano manufacturers, future availability of parts, regardless of price, is also a real concern.

Although there is little we can do about price increases, it is imperative that we educate ourselves with the current prices and availability from our suppliers. For those of us who only occasionally replace parts, it is easy to think in the past, and bid a job too low. We need to, not only be fair to our customers, but we need to be fair to ourselves as well

I suppose though, in reality, we are fortunate to be able to have parts for vintage pianos available at all. The fact that we can still get parts for many pianos over a century old is amazing. I can't think of any other item that can make that claim. In fact, in today's world, very few items ever get serviced at all. Televisions, VCR's, microwave ovens, computers, and yes, even electronic keyboards are "throw away" items. Aren't we proud to be a part of an industry that still builds a product to last a lifetime? Let's hear it for the ACOUSTIC PIANO!!

Bob Scheer, RPT  
Oklahoma Chapter President

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President - Bob Scheer  
Vice President - David Bonham  
Secretary - Nathan Sobel  
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Norm's Noncents

It is good to be back in the editor's chair for the Sooner Tuner. I would like to take this first month to make a report from the PTG Annual Institute (Convention) in Rochester, N.Y. As the delegate to Council and the Chair of the Bylaws Committee, I am glad to report that everyone behaved very well and the time spent debating bylaws issues was very civil and the issues were dealt with in a very professional manner. I will list the proposals, their titles and the outcome of the vote taken for each.

Proposal 1: Membership definition seeking to remove the word "avocational" from the member definition—  
Failed

Proposal 2: Franchised Member Designation: Replace all use of Registered Piano Technician with Certified

Piano Technician–Failed

Proposal 3: Standing Committees: Make the Chapter Resources Committee a Standing Committee–Failed

Proposal 4: Currency References: Make all currency U.S. currency–Passed

Proposal 5: Bylaws Submission Deadline: Change the deadline from December 31 to November 30–Passed

Proposal 6: Membership Application Procedure: Provide for a uniform membership application procedure–Passed as amended.

Proposal 7: Exam Retake Deadline Extension: Extend deadline for partial retakes of exams to include the next year's convention even if that convention falls more than one year from previous–Passed.

Proposal 8: Logo Use by Associates: Limit the use of the PTG Logo to RPT's only–Passed with proviso that all current advertising be grandfathered to run its course and printing runs used up.

The entire Board of Directors was re-elected to serve another year. We will continue under the leadership of Kent Swafford, President; Dale Probst, Vice President; and Alan Gilreath, Secretary/Treasurer. Claude Harding graciously agreed to be railroaded into a second term of office as Regional Vice President. I don't think Claude knew how fast he was re-elected until the dust settled a bit. Our region is a lot of fun. I will give a more detailed report at the next meeting for those who live for all the juicy details of exactly how the politics played out. (Given our chapter's current mindset the report should be very brief)

I spent a couple of days attending a class by Chris Soliday and Bob Marinelli on selecting the right action parts during the rebuilding process to address the proper weight and how to correct for design problems. I still have a headache from trying to comprehend all the Stanwood aspects of the class but it was a good experience. The Institute also featured a Rebuilder's Showcase again. It is always impressive to see the quality of rebuilding that is in the marketplace today.

Jamie Marks was once again there as one of the representatives of Mason & Hamlin. I endured playing on the 9' 6" concert grand. I guess it will do for a starter piano. It is actually quite an amazing instrument. More piano than I will ever be able to approach as a player. I spent one class period in the exhibit hall playing as many of the pianos as I could from the various manufacturers. During the break times the Exhibit Hall is simply too crowded to be able to hear anything but noise and it is hard to make any judgements at all other than feel during those noisy times. I did encounter an upright action by Steingraeber & Sohne that was unlike any other I had seen. It had no jack spring or hammer return spring. Come to the next meeting and I will tell you how they accomplished it. It played very fast and was very responsive in every way. Thanks for allowing me to be the delegate this year. I hope I have represented you well.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

### Upcoming Events

Next Chapter Meeting: Thursday, July 20 at 8:30 a.m. at Oklahoma City University at the Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Auditorium. (Just South of NW 30th and Blackwelder south to 27th, then West to Florida then South into the parking lot)

The topic will be Tone Building and the Piano Dolly by Norman Cantrell, RPT

Norman will also give a report from the recent convention and institute in Rochester, NY. There will also be some giveaways from the convention for those attending the chapter meeting.

August Meeting will be Thursday August 17th at 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the home of David and Barbara Bonham. This will be our summer picnic. Barbeque Bob will once again bring the main course prepared to a delectable T. Others are asked to bring a dish to share with the group.

September Meeting will be held at the shop of Ben Davis on September 21 at 8:30 a.m. Details to follow

## Oakie Doakie Piano Supply

Last month while performing some routine maintenance on a customer's piano bench followed immediately by some routine maintenance replacing the ballcock assembly in the men's room at the plant we discovered an amazing parallel and are proud to offer a solution to a vexing problem that has faced piano technicians for several years.

How often have you been called to tune a piano at a customer's home only to discover that the bottom of the bench was bulging to the point of breakage from overfilling of music and various papers, etc. in the music compartment. You may have arrived past the breaking point and found all the music lying on the floor beneath the bench in disarray. We at Oakie Doakie have come up with the perfect solution to this problem. We noticed while repairing the toilet that there was this little sign in the water tank that had the following message: DO NOT FILL ABOVE THIS LINE!

With that bit of information in hand we have come up with labels that can be installed in your customer's bench to warn them in a polite way of the dangers of overfilling the music compartment. The labels look like this:

Warning!

Do not fill this compartment above this line.

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These labels come in packages of 200 for an amazing low cost of just \$7.95. Imagine the repair bills your customers can avoid by you simply installing these labels in their benches while servicing their pianos. They will appreciate it and you will have to carry a few less things in your repair kit as you will have fewer benches to repair.

Oakie Doakie Supply: We care about technicians and the pianos they service!