THE SOONER TUNER

Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. JULY 2007

COMING EVENTS

<u>JULY</u> – The July meeting will be held at Edmond Music, Thursday, July 19th 9:00am. The technical will be Convention participants, Bob Sheer, Ben Davis and Norman Cantrell. From what I have heard so far it will be well worth attending!

<u>AUGUST</u> – August Picnic and Party ------ Saturday the 18th at 4:30pm at David and Barbara Bonhams at Ski Island. Bring your swimming trunks if you like to ski, swim or be pulled around on the tube (my personal favorite). Those hydro-bikes are fun too, and I hear there's fish in there. Bob Sheer is providing the meat from his smoker, you can't miss that. The Bonham's would like for you to bring a salad, dessert or side dish of your choice. There is always lots to eat and lots of great conversation to go around.

Directions:

Just south of Hefner Rd on MacArthur, turn right (west) at the first street you come to and then an immediate right again on Eastlake Circle to the end. 10717 Eastlake Circle, piece o' cake.

Yeh Baby!.... BAM!!!

Message from the President

Greetings fellow PTG Members, I bear glad tidings for the Oklahoma Chapter. First of all, Norman Cantrell has been elected SCRVP, which by itself is a feather in our cap, as well as Norman's, and we congratulate him for his tireless efforts. But also Dale Probst, our newly elected National President, and his lovely wife Elizabeth (also an RPT) have transferred their memberships to our chapter. But wait! That's not all! Jaime Marks, the Plant Manager for Mason and Hamlin Co., has moved back to Oklahoma where he will continue managing the plant via computer. He also is transferring his membership to the Oklahoma Chapter. We welcome them with open arms. Is this a GREAT CHAPTER or WHAT?!!!

Our chapter had a good showing at the Kansas City Convention. Our two charter members, Albert Evans and Robert Qualls, were present as was Ben Davis, Norman Cantrell and myself. It was a fine celebration of 50 years of the Guild's existence, and as usual a great learning experience.

We plan to share some of the knowledge we gained at the next meeting. Since so many come from out of town I feel it appropriate to schedule the meeting 30 minutes later to make it somewhat easier for all to attend. Norman, Ben and I will share the technical and discuss the Kansas City Convention.

See you	there.	Bo	b
---------	--------	----	---

TSA in October:

It'll be here sooner than you think. October 11th through the 14th. Gary Bruce will be discussing some

details at the next meeting. The collective IQ of the chapter has taken a dramatic upward slope (sorta like Al Gores hockey stick theory, lol) just in time for it! It's getting interesting around here. See the <u>TSA website</u> for details.

Convention Thoughts from Ben Davis RPT:

The conventions held by the PTG, including the latest one, provide an opportunity to witness the vast possibilities that are afforded its members and associates. In our little ponds, each individual comes under the influence of what I believe is a limited vision of what our opportunities are, and unfortunately, many times people we work with help to enforce a limited vision.

The PTG is dedicated to breaking through these boundaries and this is what these conventions aim to accomplish. I encourage any tuner/tech to take advantage of this valuable resource taking you to the next level of your abilities. Thanks! BD

To improve is to change. To be perfect is to change often. Winston Churchill

Future RPT's?:

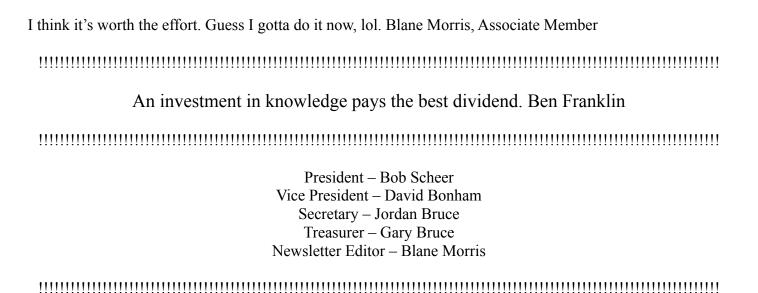
I have often wondered how we see ourselves as associates. I have heard that the associates far outnumber the RPT's and that the Guild itself is committed to see that change. I myself did not think seriously of becoming an RPT in the first years of my relatively short career. I thought, "Why should I go through all that pain and expense if I can make a living doing this without it?"

At that time my first mentor, Dr. Gene Vollen, Pittsburg Kansas RPT, kept hounding me to get involved in the guild and that it would help me as a technician and as a person. Well....to be honest I have always been very independent and self motivated and was not confident opening myself up to others, especially in a group. RPT seemed like such a lofty goal. Lee Jackson, RPT, Grove, OK, told me, "You had better get your ducks in a row before you take that test, they have upped the bar substantially since I took it". If you study the history of the test, the theory was to make a standardized exam like the bar exam for Lawyers! Sheesh. That will kinda scare ya. Most of my customers don't know RPT from IRS, or they think it's something they can't afford.

I have begun to realize it's not about marketing or promoting yourself, but becoming a part of something bigger than yourself and being challenged often to be as good as you can be. I began to realize after being in OKC for awhile that I needed to begin to see myself as one day becoming an RPT. I think about the scripture in Proverbs, "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he". In other words, getting a vision of becoming this and doing what is necessary to "git 'r done".

A very wise pastor friend from Grove OK, Bill Lay once told me, "If you want real change in your life you must first change the way you think". Really sunk in. Goes along with what Ben Davis said earlier. Anyway I ordered the Exam Preparation manuals from headquarters and am in the midst of study now. The tech exam section is by Bill Spurlock and absolutely the most thorough step by step thing there is out there. There is no doubt if you study this and prepare, practice this and have a little intelligence you should pass. You get more than one chance.

If and when I pass the test I will loan, (I said LOAN) these manuals to anyone wanting to prepare for this. I am using these words to encourage any associate to begin to see yourself as a future RPT. Oh what a feeling!



"All expression of opinion and all statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the view of this chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc."