

THE SOONER TUNER

Official newsletter of the [Oklahoma Chapter 731](#)

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

February 2013



Oklahoma Chapter Vice President
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting
Thursday
February 21st
8:30am

Location

[Bruce Piano Services](#)

9713 Hillcrest Drive

[Edmond, OK 73025](#)

405-285-8324

Hosted by Gary and Jordan Bruce



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary
Bob Scheer, RPT

The January 17, Oklahoma PTG Chapter meeting was held at Edmond Music.

The meeting began with a prayer by Eric Williams at 8:50 AM. Present: Gary Bruce, David Bonham, Eric Williams, Keith McGavern, Terry Gilliam, Bob Scheer, and John Edwards. Terry Gilliam, cousin of Mike Gilliam, gave us a warm welcome, and shared some common interests and interaction between technicians and dealers.

Treasurers report: \$3142.61 Balance.

A unanimous yes vote was given for the nominations of Norman Cantrell for National President and Phil Bondi for National Vice President.

After a short break, an excellent technical was given by Eric Williams concerning installing new leathers and felts in a Steinway & Sons lyre.



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

[Cheetahs On The Edge](#)

[Turntable Workbench](#)

[Keith Jarrett](#)

(American Pianist and Composer)

[Understand Music](#)

[Tsunani](#)

(parts 1-7)

[Tsung Tsung](#)

(piano prodigy, age 5)

[Square Grand Sound Clips & Pics](#)

by Terry Farrell

Oklahoma Chapter Officers

June 2012 – May 2013

President – [David Bonham](#), RPT

Vice President – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT

Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), RPT

Treasurer – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT

Newsletter Editor – [Keith McGavern](#), RPT

[ptg.org](#) ~ [my.ptg.org](#) ~ [okptg.org](#)

DISCLAIMER

“All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the editor as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild.”

Piano Pics



posted by [Debbie Legg](#) on [Pianotech Listserv](#)
(January 3, 2013)



posted by [David Boyce](#) on [Pianotech Listserv](#)
(January 5, 2013)

February 2013
Executive Outlook
Steve Walthall, RPT
South Central Regional Vice President



Inspiration

As you may know, your Piano Technicians Guild mid-year executive board meeting is being held this month, February 4th, 5th, and 6th, at our Home Office in Kansas City, Kansas. The agenda is long. It covers officers' reports, committee reports, operations/administration, convention and institute, committee recommendations and requests, certification of tuning and technical examiners, membership, strategic planning, budget and finance, and more. Many of you have worked hard to submit committee reports, recommendations, and requests. Thanks to all of you. Thanks to our Home Office staff for hosting us, and for organizing all this information so that we can work with it.

In a few weeks you will receive the Mid-Year Report from your RVP. As you read it, you may feel inspired to volunteer to serve on some of the committees. We hope you do.

Inspiration can come and go. Sometimes I'm more inspired than others.

I enjoyed looking up some definitions of inspiration; I found two. The first was "the process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative." I liked the second definition too: "the drawing in of breath; inhalation." Of course, I'm always inspired by our annual convention. I hope you're planning now to join us in Chicago this July. Hope to see you there. Don't forget to breathe!

VP's Tease

A couple weeks ago Jan and I went to Conroe, Texas to visit her sister. While in the area we drove out to Montgomery to visit some antique shops. While walking down one street a car pulled up along side me, rolled down the window and asked if I knew where a certain street was. I shrugged and said, "Sorry, I'm just visiting. I don't know." They thanked me and slowly drove away.

A few minutes later, as we got in our car to drive around some more, I saw a street sign with the name of the street that were looking for and realized that it was barely 75 feet from where we were when they asked. Of course I didn't know it and they didn't know it.

That insignificant event made me think about a few things:

- 1) Sometimes we may be very close to where we want to be but we don't even know it.
- 2) It doesn't matter how much one knows, if one doesn't know what is needed at the moment.
- 3) We can waste valuable time if we don't prepare ahead of time and map out our strategies for arriving at our desired location.

Application:

- 1) In our association together as piano technicians it is nice to have friends and colleagues who are not only willing, but qualified to give direction and encouragement when we're on the right track and when we're not.
- 2) It's not a bad thing to acknowledge that you don't know something when you don't know something. It doesn't help to give bad directions.
- 3) It may take a little longer to get started, but planning, preparing and thinking it through can prevent costly mistakes and save time in the long run. Measure twice, cut once.

Respectfully,
Gary Bruce, RPT
Vice President



WESTPAC III

March 7-10, 2013

Hyatt Regency Downtown
Phoenix, AZ

[Home](#) [Schedule](#) [Instructors](#) [Classes](#) [Special Events](#) [Exhibitors](#) [Location/Hotel](#) [Registration](#) [Contact Us](#)

**Winter is a great time
to visit Phoenix!**

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SCRAMBLE

"What Every Technician Should Know"
Mini-Techs will feature eighteen
40-minute bite size classes. Three
periods, with six classes in each
period. Something for everyone.

[Details >>](#)

Grand Regulation Actionpalooza

This all-day class sponsored by Renner
USA, is the popular Are You Still
Regulationally Challenged class on
"steroids." Each student will regulate a
grand action model according to a
step-by-step procedure.

Limit 24 Participants
Pre-registration Required

Plus many **first-time classes**, never
before seen, on hammer selection,
voicing, refinishing, and action
geometry.

[Details on all classes >>](#)

With consistently sunny skies and
temperatures hovering between the high
60s and mid-70s, this desert metropolis
offers a little taste of summer. While the
rest of the country is donning raincoats and
thermal underwear, you can be warming up
in The Valley of the Sun.

[Online registration is now available!](#)

**Start budgeting your education dollars
now for the 2013 conference!**



**Make your hotel reservations today for
the Hyatt Regency Downtown Phoenix.**

Rooms at our group rate
of \$129 are limited.

For details about the hotel,
see our [Location/Hotel](#) page.

- ☒ **Great Classes**
- ☒ **Great Instructors**
- ☒ **Great Exhibitors**
- ☒ **Great Hotel**

**Our Amazing Line Up
of Instructors**

Wally Brooks
Chris Brown
Mark Burgett
Dave Carpenter
Mike Carraher
Bruce Clark
Jim Coleman, Sr.
Jim Coleman, Jr.
Debra Cyr
LaRoy Edwards
Del Fandrich
Rick Florence
Anne Garee
Nick Gravagne

[Click here for instructor bios](#)

ALL YOUR FAVORITE EXHIBITORS

**Including a Renner parts
"Blow Out Sale"**

[Exhibitors page](#)

The following article was extracted from the
February 2013 issue of the Partial Post
Newsletter of the North Shore Chapter
and submitted by Dale Probst, RPT for publication

The Top Ten Reasons for Becoming an RPT

by Carl Radford,
North Shore's Chapter President

10. Make more money. RPTs have more confidence in their skills and according to PTG surveys tend to charge substantially more for their services. But that's not why I became an RPT. That wasn't even a consideration.

9. Raise your prices. Most do after they become an RPT. I did. I felt like I deserved it after all the work I put in, and as my confidence and my skills grew. But that's not why I became an RPT either.

8. Tons of referrals from the PTG.org website. I've never tracked it for myself, but I probably get four or five a month.

7. More referrals from other PTG members. Lots more.

6. Peers may respect you more and regard you from a different perspective. "Hmm, I may have to reconsider my opinion about him, he must be pretty good if he passed the exams..."

5. Feel more confident about your abilities and have more self-esteem. Priceless.

4. Higher quality clients who will expect a higher level of expertise, along with higher quality pianos to work on.

3. Strong feeling of accomplishment.

2. It'll make your day, if not your year, when your mentors congratulate you and give you that look of pride and appreciation that you'll remember one day when you're writing a President's Message.

...And the number one reason for becoming an RPT...

1. Evolution. It's one of the natural steps that we take in our business in order to evolve into a better technician. It's the main reason to become an RPT, or at least it was for me. I always knew when I started learning how to tune that I would try my best, study hard, and learn what I needed to in order to become an RPT. Becoming an RPT was a foregone conclusion. There was not even any question that this was what I had to do if I was serious about this career. First you learn your basic skills, then you practice them until you can do them well, then you study for the exams, then you become an RPT.