

# *THE SOONER TUNER*

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

*[Piano Technicians Guild](#)*

*September 2013*



Oklahoma Chapter President  
David Bonham, RPT

## President's Message

I've been getting around on crutches for over four weeks now. On the ninth of August I had a bad fall slalom skiing at Broken Bow Lake. My right foot came out of the rear boot while I was cutting across the wake at about 60 mph, causing me to fall. The ski twisted my left foot before coming off, breaking three bones. If I can keep from bearing weight on this foot through about eight total weeks, I stand to regain full use of it. The doctor referred to me as "young and extremely active" and he seems determined to help me get back to normal strength and ability, so I am trying my best to do what he says.

I have had a lot of time to think about my decreased mobility and means of dealing with it. I have to look at where I want to go through new eyes of wondering how to get there. Barbara and I flew to Seattle, Washington August 20<sup>th</sup> to visit my sisters and brother-in-law for a week. I spent over eight hours designing and modifying a knee walker which we rented from a pharmacy so that I could use it on sidewalks, hiking trails, gravel, and grassy yards. It ended up with the front of a hand truck and the rear of a fertilizer spreader. It was my play, my work, and my creative outlet for several days. To my family it appeared more like my obsession. I have an increased appreciation for people with handicaps of various kinds.

What is your "handicap"? I'm not asking about your golf game. What holds you back from rising to the next level in your work or your personal or spiritual life? Is it some habit you have acquired or a lazy pattern you developed to cope with some aspect of your life? Are you perpetually sleep-deprived or fearful or over-scheduled? Are you coffee- or alcohol-dependent? Most of us have at least one area where we are our own worst enemy. We shoot ourselves in the foot or otherwise undermine our potential in some strategic way. Maybe it shows up in how we schedule our day or how we fail to build in personal time for reflection or meditation. Maybe we have gotten overweight and are wasting energy just moving ourselves around. Or maybe it is about attitude or compulsiveness or addictions that have crept into our lives.

Do you know where you want to go, and are you strategically making your way there? I encourage each of you to ponder this. It is wise to dream, to wish, and to hope in positive and creative ways. In the words of the song from the musical, *South Pacific*: "If you don't have a dream, how will you know when your dream comes true?"

So I hobble around on these crutches, hopefully a little more conscious of ways I was already handicapped, and increasingly determined to move forward with passion and abandon on my path through Life's obstacles and opportunities.



Oklahoma Chapter  
Vice President & Treasurer  
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting  
Thursday  
September 19th  
8:30am

### Location

Our September meeting will be at the Bonham's home. David will present "A Fresh Look at Regulation, De-mystified". David's previous technicals were well planned and beneficial (video presentation of hammer/flange return spring repair and the separated soundboard from frame). [Here](#) is a link to the latter if you missed it or want to review.

*~ Mark your calendars for these future meetings ~*

Saturday, October 19 – Dale Probst/Elizabeth Ward in Wichita Falls, TX (leaving from Bonhams at 7:30am in their RV for all who want to ride together)

Thursday, November 21 8:30am - Larsen's Music in OKC

December banquet TBA - No regular meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2014 8:30am - Bruce Piano Showroom  
Special guest - former RPT Tim Hast, presenting technical on customer relations

OK Chapter 731 business checking balance as of August 31, 2013 - \$3,047.40.



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary  
Bob Scheer, RPT

The August 15, 2013 Oklahoma Chapter PTG meeting was held at Oklahoma Christian University campus.

The meeting began with a a prayer at 9:03 AM.

Members present were David and Barbara Bonham, Gary and Jordan Bruce, Keith McGavern, Norman Cantrell and Bob Scheer.

Our Chapter was proud to announce our new President, Norman Cantrell. Norman gave a concise and informative Convention report. It was decided that the Home office would continue to collect our Chapter dues. The dues would stay unchanged at \$40.00 per member.

Gary Bruce gave an interesting and informative hands on technical about tuning Marimba bars by sanding the bars to acquire the proper pitch. It was amazing to see how little sanding affected the higher pitched shorter bars.

We felt that Gary raised the bar in many ways with his tuning approach.



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor  
Keith McGavern, RPT

### ~ High Lights ~

[Piano Solutions XXI](#)  
(Gene Korolev, RPT)

[3-D Sketches Leap Off the Page](#)  
[Dancers from another World](#)

[Umi Garrett](#)  
(American Pianist)

[Memory](#)  
(Elaine Page, Royal Albert Hall)  
(4:15)

[Farmer](#)  
(Super Bowl Commercial)

[Almost Is Never Enough](#)  
(Ariana Grande & Nathan Sykes )  
(3:44)

### Oklahoma Chapter Officers June 2013 – May 2014

President – [David Bonham](#), RPT  
Vice President – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT  
Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), RPT  
Treasurer – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT  
Newsletter Editor – [Keith McGavern](#), RPT

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### 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.”

Mission Hill Indian Church  
Shawnee, OK



## Executive Outlook

August 2013

You Do WHAT?

*Barbara Cassaday*  
*PTG Executive Director*



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The most common response when I tell people where I work is a blank stare and something to the effect of, “You do WHAT?”

I have come to expect that from people outside of PTG, but it always surprises me when our members respond in the same fashion. So, for this reason, I decided to fill you in on what is happening at the Home Office and just who is responsible for the things with which you may already be familiar.

Kathy Maxwell – As a former teacher, Kathy is an integral part of the group investigating the IACET certification and is involved in all areas of education for our members. She is responsible for the RPT Prep Classes and works very closely with the Grand Action Regulation (GAR37) instructors by providing the materials used in this and all classes held at the Home Office. She regularly updates PTG merchandise and Web sites, does the layout and design for many of our in house publications, provides support for most of the non-elected committees, and has facilitated long-range planning for the PTG Foundation.

Sandy Roady – The person most members come to know first, Sandy is the main contact at the Home Office for all membership and exam issues. She creates the information folders that you receive as a member prospect, the new member packets and the ones that are sent to you when you pass your exams and become an RPT. Sandy (Sam) handles most mass mailing projects, from dues invoices to convention information, which brings me to the next big part of her job — the annual PTG convention. Sandy is the liaison between PTG and the host facility. It is her job to make sure every detail of the convention is covered and that things run smoothly. Ever wonder who makes sure the flowers arrive in time, or who creates the scripts used during Opening Session, or who makes the signs used outside each classroom?

Sara Stephens – The most visible member of the Home Office staff, Sara is usually the person who will answer the phones when you call the office. She is also at the head table during Council and board meetings taking minutes. She is responsible for maintaining governance documents, keeping historical files, preparing agendas and supporting materials for all official meetings, and publishes minutes for both PTG and PTG Foundation. Sara also lays out the RVP newsletters, keeps the official PTG calendar of deadlines, fills store orders, prepares donation letters for the PTG Foundation, and of course there’s always the phone if she gets bored.

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Shawn Bruce – Sales is the biggest part of Shawn’s responsibilities whether it’s selling advertising, booths in the exhibit hall, or sponsorships. Shawn provides a revenue stream for PTG that is separate from dues. He is also responsible for all the advertising that PTG does through Google ads, outside publications, and through press releases to local news distributors. graphics. Jason took most of the photos at convention which he will use to build a photo library.

Jason Hensley – Jason has been described as PTG’s “head bean counter,” but he is so much more than our bookkeeper. Jason takes care of most building and grounds maintenance, vendor contracts, employee benefits, yearly inventory, and all things financial from daily and monthly reports to yearly audits. His responsibilities are broad but center around keeping the day-to-day operations of PTG flowing. Without him, billing for store orders would halt, bank deposits would not get made, advertising would not get billed, and expenses would not get paid.

Jason Wheeler – The newest member of the Home Office staff (a mere 22 months), Jason is the person who does the layout and cover designs for the Journal each month. He is also responsible for the yearly membership directory, all the convention publications, some of the house ads, designing convention logos, and assisting in other projects involving creative graphics. Jason took most of the photos at convention which he will use to build a photo library.

Clint Sears – A one-man IT department. Clint takes care of our computers and network at the Home Office. He is also the main contact for both Web sites and is the liaison between PTG and these outside software companies. Clint created instructional videos on how to use my.ptg and is now working on our first attempt at an online class. He created PTG’s first web-based mobile application for this past convention, and during the PTG Council meeting, he presented the Board’s long-range plan for the creation of “The Piano Council.” The Piano Council is the brain-child of Clint and Jason Wheeler is and one you’ll be hearing much more about in the months to come.



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PTG Executive Director



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As for me, I handle contract negotiations, bylaw and policy enforcement, Home Office operations and staffing, convention site selection, financial oversight, and day-today operations of PTG. My responsibility is to carry out the orders of the PTG Council and the Executive Board.

We've just returned from the PTG convention in Chicago, and among our many boxes (15 pallets full) is a wonderful letter of Resolution from the Southeast Region and Wesley Hardman, their Regional Vice President. The letter expresses gratitude to the Home Office staff for "their outstanding, dedicated service to the Piano Technicians Guild" and for the work that is done at the Home Office. We wish to thank them for this recognition and for the flowers that were presented to us.