

THE SOONER TUNER

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

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

October 2013



Oklahoma Chapter President
David Bonham, RPT

President's Message

It's Fall and time for a road trip!

I hope we have a good turnout for our next meeting, because I will be driving the group to Wichita Falls, Texas for a special day with Dale Probst and Elizabeth Ward. These two know a great deal about the piano business, from the private enterprise to the national level.

In case any of you don't know, Dale was the national president of the Piano Technicians Guild (PTG) from 2007 to 2009. Elizabeth, a certified tuning examiner herself, is the daughter of Kelly Ward, a PTG president from 1973 to 1975. These people are seriously invested in the piano profession!

I hope you are all planning to spend the day with us; for the learning, the fun, and to show our respect and appreciation to these special people.

I spoke of the motorhome that Barbara and I acquired on our recent travels east delivering pianos from Minnesota to Florida. This is the vehicle we will be taking to Wichita Falls next Saturday.

Visit, network, enjoy the scenery, relax with snacks and drinks...appreciate the fellowship our group offers.

It would be good to hear from you individually to let us know you will be riding with us. We will gather between 7:15 and 7:25 and plan to depart at 7:30. Contact number: 405-721-0566.

Your presence helps make this a worthwhile event for all of us, so please do your best to be part of it!

David



Oklahoma Chapter
Vice President & Treasurer
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting
Saturday
October 19th
10am

Location

This month's chapter meeting will be held on SATURDAY, October 19, at Dale Probst and Elizabeth's Ward's place in Wichita Falls, TX. Those wanting to "carpool" can meet at David Bonham's house at 7:15AM and we'll ride to Wichita Falls together in their RV. We can look forward to a tour of Dale & Elizabeth's shop and I'm sure that whatever projects they are working on will provide great technical information. It's great to have all their experience and expertise as part of our chapter.

~ Mark your calendars for these future meetings ~

Our November meeting will be at Larsen's Music and our December Christmas banquet will be at the Bonham's home on Friday, December 6 at 6:30 pm.



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary
Bob Scheer, RPT

PTG Minutes: The September 19th meeting was held at David and Barbara Bonham's home. The meeting began with a prayer at 8:57am. Present: David Bonham, Barbara Bonham, Keith McGavern, Brad Broomfield, Jonathan Edwards, Keith Morgan, Jordan Bruce, Bob Scheer, Gary Bruce.

Treasurer's balance: \$3,047.03. No old business.

The technical was presented by David Bonham including a Triage Regulating concept covering the high points of grand action regulating with lots of audience participation.

The October meeting will be at Dale Probst and Elizabeth Ward's shop in Wichita Falls, TX. The November meeting will be at Larsen Music.

The December Christmas party will be at the Bonhams' on December 6th. All are asked to RSVP no later than December 1st. You won't want to miss this one. There have been sagas and folk songs written about Barbara's legendary cooking!

Bob

Piano Links

[*Upcoming Piano Technicians Guild Events*](#)

(Regional and National events, 2013-2015)

[*Piano Technicians Guild Channel*](#)

(These videos are referenced by the Piano Technician Journal)
(Thanks to Jordan Bruce for the impetus to post this link)

[*Virtual Piano Appraisal*](#)

(This virtual-piano-appraisal link can save you some time and educate customers
all in a very nice easy going way ... David Estey, RPT)

[*Determine The Condition of Your Piano*](#)

(This .pdf won't make you an expert, nor will it solve your technical problems,
but it will help you spot a nightmare in the making ... David Estey, RPT)

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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Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

I announced my intentions at the September Chapter meeting that May 2014 will be the last newsletter publication for me.

As a result of that decision, I am adding even more links to High Lights that I have accumulated since I first took on this activity of Newsletter Editor.
Sincerest regards to all, Keith

[Lippen Schweigen](#)

(Hanna-Elisabeth Müller & Martin Mitterrutzner)

[The Apental Piano](#)

[If I Were The Devil](#)

(Paul Harvey 1965)

[Aimi Kobayashi](#)

(American Pianist)

[New York Serenade & Coco Chanel Custom Pianos](#)

[Cher Lloyd](#)

(English Singer-Songwriter & Model)

[1874 Steinway Grand](#)

(slideshow submitted by Regi Hedahl on Google +)

[Liszt Consolation no. 3](#)

(performed by Sandro Russo on Liszt's 1862 Bechstein Piano)

[Skidboot](#)

(The Amazing Dog)

[How do you get a grand piano into a barn loft?](#)

[The Vocal Majority Chorus](#)

(performance of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah")

[Stopper OnlyPure Tuning Class](#)

(Piano Technicians Guild Convention 2011)

Executive Outlook
September 2013
Where Do We Go From Here?

Norman Cantrell
PTG President



Where do we go from here? That is a common question that is asked when one has reached a particular destination. That question also applies to us as an organization. Often when there is a change in a political office there is simply a smooth transition with just a slight change in the flavor of personality. Occasionally there is a call for change from the electorate. Hopefully we will experience a smooth transition as we move ahead. I want to thank President Coleman for his leadership over the last couple years. PTG finds itself in a good overall position to continue to move forward as the leading organization for piano technicians desiring to enhance their professional standing.

Last year during the PTG convention we announced the gift from Yamaha Corporation of the 37 Steps grand regulation curriculum, which had been formerly known as the Little Red Schoolhouse. We have been fortunate to host our first two class offerings, and a total of twenty students have attended these classes. It was rewarding to learn that ten of those students were in attendance in Chicago at the PTG convention, and three of those completed their RPT exam process and are now new RPTs. It makes all the investment of planning, time and other resources worthwhile.

While at the convention we reviewed our long-range planning in the Council session. We are committed to strengthening our continuing educational programs. The success of the first two grand action regulation programs is one example. We increased attendance at the convention by about 95 people from last year, and we also held our first Exam Prep on the Road seminar in Birmingham last spring. This shows people are still interested in improving their technical skills on a variety of levels.

We also discussed ways to recruit new members during Council. Each of us knows of a technician in our area who is currently not a member of PTG. Some have never been members and others dropped their membership for one reason or another. Our Home Office staff put together a presentation to remind us that it is incumbent on us to recruit our own new members. While the focus of the presentation was on mentoring new members, I would like to propose an additional challenge. PTG membership has dropped over the last few years. I would like to propose a goal of 100 new members over the next year. How do we do that? We have 155 chapters in PTG. I realize not every chapter is active and the pool of recruits is smaller in some areas than in others. If every chapter would have a goal of enlisting just one new member over the next year, we would have a great chance of a net increase of 100 new members. That is not a huge stretch on the part of any one group or chapter to pull all the weight. At the same time, it gives all of us a goal on which to focus. Often the enthusiasm of a single new member can generate a fresh spark of interest and help get the ball rolling again in a positive direction.

Looking forward to serving you this year,