

THE SOONER TUNER

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

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

November 2013



Oklahoma Chapter President
David Bonham, RPT

President's Message

Do you like taking on jobs that you have never done before? Or do you prefer to stay with the familiar ones and refer the unfamiliar tasks to someone else? I have to admit that there are quite a few requests that I pass along, sometimes to one of you in our chapter. Examples include refinishing, pin block fitting, and a recent inquiry about restoring a square grand that I need to call Norman about.

I received a call about a month ago to move a very large organ console. I had not moved one anywhere near the size and weight of this one, and I was tempted to just turn it down. However, the client was a person I have worked for over a period of several years and I was touched and challenged when he said I was the only person he trusted to move it. So...I agreed to do the job and set out to learn how. I also started to experience some anxiety and lose some sleep!

The organ is a four manual Rodgers, weighing (we were told) between 1300 and 1500 pounds. It is 55" tall, 76" wide and 48" deep. It was custom built for a Lutheran church in Burnsville, Minnesota in 2001. I decided to design and build a custom dolly for the job, based on my understanding of the organ's construction. The biggest single challenge was supporting a 48" front-heavy instrument and bringing it up a 26" wide ramp. I built it with twelve wheels, six to roll it on the floor and six others to roll it when on the ramp. I put six straps on it to allow it to be guided and lifted by men in a standing position since there are no handles on the organ. We got to try it out on a smaller organ that went from our client's home in OKC to Burnsville, and it worked fine. For the 800 mile drive to Minnesota, I continued to wonder if it would work on the big organ.

The time arrived and we were greeted at the church with extra manpower. The dolly met the need! The organ filled that dolly and passed through the trailer door with just several inches to spare. It took quite a while to strap it in with bench, pedal board and other related parts, but eventually we were on the road again. Two days later the organ was successfully delivered to a satisfied client and I was again sleeping through the night!

I won't generalize about taking on every job we are asked to do. Sometimes the smartest answer is "No, I don't do that" or "I am not equipped for that task." I will say, however, that venturing out in new territory does help us stretch and grow and this gives us good stories to tell.



Oklahoma Chapter
Vice President & Treasurer
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting
Thursday
November 21st
8:30am

Larsen Music
4001 NW Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
405-843-1573

Walt Myrick and Nathan Sobel will be introducing the redesigned Yamaha CX Conservatory Grand piano. There will be refreshments.

December Christmas Banquet at David & Barbara Bonham's home
Friday, December 6 at 6:30pm
405-721-0566
~ Please make reservations early ~



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary
Bob Scheer, RPT

The October 19, 2013, Oklahoma Chapter meeting was held in Wichita Falls, Texas at Dale Probst and Elizabeth Ward's home and shop.

Present were: Dale Probst, Elizabeth Ward, Norman and Vicki Cantrell, Jon Edwards, Gary and Jordan Bruce, Keith McGavern and Bob Scheer. The balance in our account is \$ 2,957.78 as of 9/30/13.

Norman Cantrell reported on his trip to China representing the PTG at the IAPBT meeting, where he taught a class on "[In Home Vertical Piano Servicing](#)".

A motion was made by Gary Bruce to hire the services of an accountant for tax purposes. It was seconded by David Bonham. It was discussed and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Keith McGavern to change the current name of "Oklahoma Chapter" to "Central Oklahoma Chapter". This motion was seconded by Bob Scheer. It was discussed and passed unanimously.

Congratulations to Jonathan Edwards, who has applied for membership.

The next Chapter meeting will be held at Larsen Music in OKC. on November 21st.

The Business Meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 11:28 AM. Lunch and fellowship took place at Mia's Italian Bistro.

Dale gave a wonderful presentation of his shop including multiple storage tips, jigs and tools. The trip to Wichita Falls was well worth it. Thanks, again, to Dale and Elizabeth for their hospitality, and to David Bonham for an unforgettable, traveling experience in the Mercedes-Benz RV.

Piano Links

Upcoming Piano Technicians Guild Events

(Regional and National events, 2014-15)

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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“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.”



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

(May 2014 is scheduled to be my last month as newsletter editor.)

[Swan Lake](#)

(Great Chinese State Circus, a display of strength and trust beyond belief)

[Historia de un Amor](#)
(French Latino)

[Kate Lee](#)
(Chinese Pianist)

[Carson Huey](#)
(Boy, 11, admitted to college to study quantum physics)

[Lea Salonga](#)
(Filipino Singer)

[Astrith Baltsan](#)
(Israeli Concert Pianist and Scholar)

[Attraction](#)
(Shadow Theatre Group)

[Girls Don't Poop](#)
(PooPouri Advertisement)

[Freddy Amigo](#)
(Sweden Got Talent)

[Aliko Chroysochou](#)
(Britain's Got Talent)

[Creating a Touch to Die For](#)
(my.ptg.org Pianotech discussion thread)

Executive Outlook

October 2013

How's Your R & R?

*Norman Cantrell, RPT
PTG President*



When you hear the term *R & R* most of us think of *Rest and Recuperation* or *Rest and Relaxation*, depending on our backgrounds. I would like to focus on *Relationships and Reconciliation*.

PTG is about relationships. Each member has a different relationship with both the organization as a whole and the members of the organization. Admittedly there are some technicians in rural areas that have an existence somewhat like Jeremiah Johnson, the fictitious mountain man in the movie, who lived a solitary existence in the early pioneer days. He did occasionally have contact with another mountain man, but for the most part his life was spent alone. If you are reading this, you at least have a lifeline of piano communication in the form of the Journal.

Local chapters are where most relationships are formed. If you are fortunate, your chapter is inviting and collegial. I want to relate a story about a young technician who joined a PTG chapter several years ago. He was just starting out in the piano business and was befriended by local technicians when he needed, say, a few extra feet of a particular wire size on a restringing job, or needed some advice about the business climate in the area. He once was warned about a particular client who was calling area technicians with an impossible set of expectations and was able to wade through that minefield unscathed. He was invited to join the Guild, and did so.

A couple of years later the chapter decided to host a regional conference in order to get everyone involved and to have an opportunity to learn and grow in the business. As assignments were handed out, this particular young Associate was tasked with planning the Auxiliary program. He had never attended any convention and had no real point of reference. In addition to planning a couple of tours and a shopping trip, he enlisted some local professionals to come in and offer classes to the Auxiliary members on things like taxes and stress management. He also took the tuning exam during this convention and did not do as well as he thought he should have. When it was all said and done, he had paid full registration, worked hard, gotten to take only one technical class, and flunked the exam. He got a little discouraged about the situation, and when time for membership renewal came around, he let his membership drop.

He continued to have a good relationship with some of the local technicians and even attended a few chapter meetings. After a year or so, the chapter president called him and asked to meet him for breakfast. The former member agreed, and they met at a restaurant. Another technician joined them for breakfast, and the topic of discussion turned to encouraging this young technician to consider rejoining PTG. Because the conversation was encouraging and not confrontational, he agreed to reapply to the Guild.

That was twenty years ago, and I have always thanked those guys for taking the time to encourage me to rethink why I had chosen to leave PTG and for simply asking me to consider rejoining.

Last month I mentioned that we would like for each chapter to find at least one new member during this year. It is possible that there is someone like me that needs a little R & R. Even if you have to buy the meal, the chance to reconcile a relationship is worth the effort.


Hello all,

Many of you were aware of the death of Leon Watts though some of you probably never knew him. A few of us were at his funeral on Wednesday, but I wanted to share this attachment with you all. Both Bob Scheer and Ken Edmonds spoke at the funeral and did a good job of communicating what a hard worker, good friend and respected piano man he was. He will be missed. Gary Bruce

In Loving Memory of
Leon C. Watts

Sunrise
November 19, 1948

Sunset
October 17, 2013



Services
Wednesday, October 23, 2013
11:00 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
1701 N. Nebraska
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Rev. L. Mike Woodberry, Pastor

Reverend Delbert Love, Officiating

~Obituary~

Leon C. Watts was born on November 19, 1948, in Wetumka, Oklahoma. He was the ninth of thirteen children born to Rev. Willie Ely and Christean Watts. His parents nurtured him in Christian love which assisted him in forming a strong work ethic and a giving and compassionate personality. His parents and one sister, Rose Grant, preceded him in death.

Leon graduated from Wetumka High School in 1967. Shortly after graduating, he was drafted to serve his country in the U. S. Army. After being discharged from the Army, Leon moved to Oklahoma City and began a career in the piano business. He was a well-respected piano tuner, restorer, and mover. After retiring from this industry; he began working for the National Indian Council, Inc.

At an early age, Leon accepted Christ as his Savior and Lord and became a faithful member of New Hope Baptist Church, Wetumka, Oklahoma. After moving to Oklahoma City, he united with the Holy Divine Baptist Church. While at Holy Divine, Leon served as President of the Brotherhood Ministry and was a member of the Usher Ministry.

Leon was an avid outdoorsman. He loved horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and gardening. But more than his work or hobbies, Leon loved his family. He was a devoted and supportive father, brother, uncle, cousin and friend. He cherished the time that he could spend with his family he was loved by all who knew him.

To cherish wonderful memories are his four children, LeNard James, Leon Watts, Jr., Kimberly Myles (Kimanithee) and Kamisha Watts of Oklahoma City; six grandchildren, LeAundré, TrèVone, LaKai, LeNard, Jr., Kamau, and Brooklyn; a Special Friend, Debra Warrior; nine sisters, Maxine Thurman (James), Marie Dawson, Mae Helen Williams (Ray), Zeola Ford, Geraldine Dockins, Aljean Love (Delbert), Brenda Watts all of Oklahoma City; Tycine Marzett of Los Angeles, CA; Trudy Mason (Matthew) of Albuquerque, NM; and two brothers, Willie Watts of Oklahoma City, Jack Watts (Patricia) of Diamond Bar, CA, and host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Here's a little story from Bob Scheer

Just when you think you've seen it all.... When I arrived at a clients home the other day, she asked me to check the pedals on her 1927 Haines Brothers baby grand. She didn't think the movers had the pedals hooked up right. [these were van lines movers, not piano movers]. When I put my foot on the pedals, there was a lot of lost motion, followed by a thump. After closer inspection, I could immediately see the problem. Apparently, the original screw holes had stripped out, so the lyre wouldn't stay in place. So, I guess in someone's mind, the obvious way to fix it would be, to simply move the lyre forward an inch or so, and drill 4 new holes. Of course, then, the lyre support props would also need new holes drilled. Never mind that the pedal rods are now thumping on the bottom of the keyboard. I will say this, though, that lyre was secure! In fact, it took the biggest screw driver I could find to get the screws out, which makes me wonder if the whole repair might have been done by a gorilla, and not a man at all. Hmmm ...

TPR Tools LLC
(Chris Brown, RPT)



Grandwork™ Regulation Station Set-up
(Nine (9) videos)

TPR Tools - Custom Keybed Setup Part 1- Setting Up Rails and Blocks

TPR Tools Custom Keybed Setup #2 Bedding to the Keyframe

TPR Tools - Custom Keybed Setup Part 3- Recreating the Dip

(Tks to Dale Probst, RPT)

