

THE SOONER TUNER

Central Oklahoma Chapter 731 Newsletter

Piano Technicians Guild

October 2014



Co-Presidents
David Bonham, RPT Gary Bruce, RPT



President's Message

I have some sad news to report. Two nights ago, September 30th, Barbara and I made the decision to put down our treasured pet, Goliath. Many of you had the chance to come to know him and appreciate his playful and affectionate nature. He was the most outgoing and lovable four pounds of our family. He was having strokes and he showed clear signs of readiness to leave this world. We will sorely miss him.

Some of you already know where Barbara and I are scheduled to be on the October 6 publishing date of this newsletter. That is the date of the trial set for the man accused of killing my son, Wes. After over six and a half years of malingering, he will finally face a judge and a jury in Tampa, where the crime took place. We plan to drive there over this weekend and stay through the process. Although I don't have high expectations for feeling any satisfaction or pleasure from this event, I am looking forward to having it behind us. We anticipate it being emotionally grueling and very difficult to follow the instructions of remaining non-reactive to all testimony. We would certainly appreciate the thoughts and prayers of each of you so inclined.

Our trip and our preparations precluded my participation in the South Central Regional Seminar going on currently. I am sorry to be missing that experience and I hope to hear good things about it from those of you who are there.

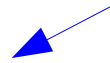
On a brighter note...I am looking forward to being with all of you at our next chapter meeting on October 16. We have serviced pianos at the Granville Community Music School twice before, and I feel good about our working together on such a good cause. It can really help the less experienced technicians to be paired up with those who have been doing this for many years. We will evaluate and work on several uprights and one grand, and then walk over to have lunch at the famous Cattlemen's Restaurant. We normally do our work to earn a living, but doing the same tasks as a gift to people in need plays a different and important role in our lives. Doing it together as a chapter service project makes sense to me, and it makes a statement to others that we as a group care about others as well as ourselves. I hope you agree and choose to be present at this meeting, even if you haven't been attending any recent events. Being in service to others has the added benefit of getting our minds off our own worries and troubles. We are blessed as we allow ourselves to be a blessing to others.

David Bonham, RPT

Next Meeting
Thursday, October 16th
8:30am

Granville School of Music

2304 Exchange Ave
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
(use the google map locator for)
[EXCHANGE PHARMACY](#)



2300 Exchange Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
(SW corner of Agnew & Exchange)

The Granville School of Music is located between
the Exchange Pharmacy and the Beef Council offices
Contact 405-605-6133

We will have our October meeting on the 16th at 8:30 a.m. at Granville School, 2304 Exchange Ave. OKC 73108 and work on the remaining pianos as a chapter project.



here are two ways to live your life.
One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a miracle.

Albert Einstein (1879–1955)

Central Oklahoma Chapter 731 PTG Minutes
September 18, 2014
Bruce Music Store, Edmond

- * Breakfast gathering.
- * Meeting called to order by President, David Bonham at 8:59. David opened with prayer.
- * Those in attendance were RPTs David Bonham, Keith McGavern & Gary Bruce, Associates Jordan Bruce, Brad Broomfield & Jonathan Edwards.
- * The minutes from the August meeting were received as written.
- * Gary gave the Treasurers Report. The checking account balance is \$2,257.83 as of the August 31, 2014 statement. Income and expenses were given.
- * The IRS Form 990-N for 2013 is required to be filed annually for all non-profits. It was filed and accepted by the IRS on 9/2/2014. Our fiscal year is July 1-June 30 and the form cannot be filed until after June 30.
- *Keith requested suggestions for the newsletter and welcomed all input.
- *The Executive Board plans on meeting on the Tuesday morning following each monthly meeting in order to review, process and plan in order to be more intentional and organized. Suggestions for technical and agenda items are always welcome. They will meet on Tuesday, September 23 at a location TBD.
- *SCRC (Oct. 2-4) will happen before our next chapter meeting. Jordan, Gary and Jonathan plan to attend. The "Early Bird" registration has been extended. David will not be able to attend since he and Barbara will be traveling to Florida on that weekend to attend the trial of the man who is accused of killing his son, Wesley, over 6 years ago.
- *The Granville School of Music has inquired whether our chapter would be willing to do some gratis piano work on their pianos. Jordan will tune the two primary pianos. We will have our October meeting on the 16th at 8:30 a.m. at Granville School, 2304 Exchange Ave. OKC 73108 and work on the remaining pianos as a chapter project.
- *Gary will check with Nathan about hosting the November meeting at Larsen's.
- *The annual Christmas get-together that we try to have each year will either be on Saturday evening, Dec. 6 or Sunday evening Dec. 7. No location has been decided upon. Members who will attend are invited to state their preference of dates to any of the officers.
- * Meeting adjourned at 9:56.
- * Jordan presented a slide show of the information for the class he will be giving at SCRC in two weeks: "Web & Social Media Marketing for the Budget Minded Technician." We then took a tour of the storage and 2nd floor shop facility that Gary built, and then enjoyed lunch together at Alfredo's Mexican Restaurant, Edmond.

Piano Links

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

(Regional and National events, 2014-15)

[*Piano Technicians Journal Media*](#)

(These videos are referenced by the Piano Technician Journal)

[*YouTube Channel*](#)

[*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)

Central Oklahoma Chapter Officers

June 2014 – May 2015

Co-Presidents

[David Bonham](#), RPT

[Gary Bruce](#), RPT

Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), RPT

Treasurer – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT

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

[ptg.org](#) ~ [my.ptg.org](#) ~ [cokptg.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.”



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

[Barbara Streisand](#)

(Send in the Clowns)

+ plus +

([1955 Nola Recording Studio 12 29 55](#))

[Hang Son Doong Cave](#)

(Vietnam's Infinite Cave)

[Bumble Boogie](#)

(Liberace)

[Jimmy Fallon](#)

(Great Impersonations on America's Got Talent)

[Garland Jack's BBQ Sauce](#)

[Paco de Lucia](#)

(Flamenco Guitarist)

[World's Largest Urban Zipline](#)

(GEARchallenge)

[Early Days](#)

(Paul McCartney - Vimeo)

[Beatbox Brilliance](#)

(Tom Thum at TEDxSydney 2013)

[Yundi Li](#)

(Chopin's Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise)

[Carrot Clarinet](#)

(Linsey Pollak at TEDxSydney 2014)

[Angelina Jordan](#)

(What A Difference A Day Makes)

[Ingrid Fliter](#)

(Chopin Piano Concerto No 2)

[Linda Eriksson](#)

(Keep Going – Idol 2010 Sweden)

[Jeff Beck & Tal Wilkenfeld](#)

(Crossroads Festival 2007)

Executive Outlook

October 2014

In The Moment

*Norman Cantrell, RPT
PTG President*



Usually I try to address issues that face PTG at large in this column, but this month I would like to focus on one of the unique aspects of our business: our overall job satisfaction. From PTG member surveys and the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics we find that piano technicians have an unusually high level of job satisfaction. There are many reasons for this, but I would like to focus on one aspect in particular.

I had a unique summer, with two harpsichords in my shop at the same time. One came in for fairly substantial soundboard repair plus a thorough refurbishing of the action, including replacing missing plectra and adjusting the voicing and touch of the instrument. This particular instrument was owned by a local retired physician and was due to be used for the opening concert for the Philharmonic Orchestra this season. It had been decided that once the repairs were complete it would live in my shop until just before the concert, saving the cost of one move in the process. It was to be played in Vivaldi's Four Seasons by the conductor of the orchestra with a guest solo violinist. The conductor had visited the instrument at its home last February. It was in need of extensive repair, and he expressed his concern to me in correspondence that it could even be made useable for the concert. I was familiar enough with the instrument to promise him that it had ample potential to meet the needs he described.

On Wednesday before the Saturday concert he came by the shop to see and play the instrument. Each harpsichord is different from the next, so there was a desire on his part to familiarize himself with the layout of the instrument and how to engage the different stops and couplers. When he arrived, we talked briefly about the age of the harpsichord and how to operate the lute stops in particular. Then he sat down to play.

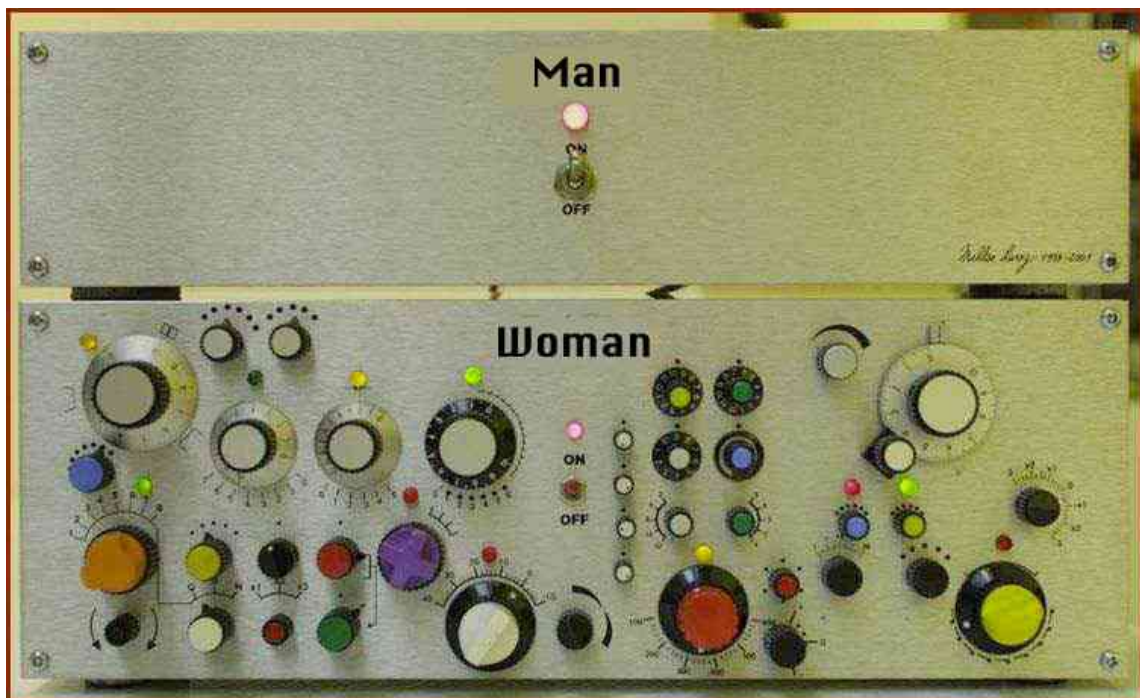
I wanted to give him as much space as possible and just observe his reaction. He is a fine player of keyboard instruments and has conducted orchestras in a variety of venues across the country. As he began to play the harpsichord, a smile of exuberance spread across his face. A glow of sheer pleasure replaced the skepticism he had tried to conceal during our earlier conversation. His previous encounter with this harpsichord was awkward, as a patron was graciously offering the use of an instrument that was in quite bad shape. Now he just said he could tell I had put a lot of work into the harpsichord, and he was pleased with the results.

Those moments, the moments of delight and pleasure that we receive from our customers, outlive the deposits in the bank for the work we have performed. Those moments keep us coming back day after day to help our customers make music. This can happen with an old upright that stirs the memories of family gatherings and a precious relative playing the piano. It can happen with an inexpensive spinet that is the first piano for a child starting out. You can never get a bank loan for that expression of delight, but it will stay with you for the rest of your career. Each of us has a similar story to tell if we have been in business for very long. We are all out there to help our customers rediscover the joy of their music.



Frateli's Extra Large Supreme Pizza
Shawnee, OK

~ ~ ~



Instructions not included



May

Steinway Calendar pictures

June



Some breaking late news from Gary Bruce

Our November meeting on Thursday, the 20th, at 8:30am
will be at Larsen Music on NW 63rd in OKC.

South Central Regional Conference Update

Another South Central Regional Conference has come and gone. I believe it was, by most measures, a success. The weather and setting was nice. Good information was exchanged not only in the classrooms, but in the Exhibit Hall, on the paths between buildings, at the dining table and many other places I'm sure. I was able to visit with some folks I hadn't seen in years and make some new acquaintances.

Our chapter was well represented. Of course Dale served as SCRC President this last year and he and Liz taught a class together. Norman was there with Vickie and I'm sure he would have been there even if he wasn't the current President of the PTG, because he also taught a class. Norman, Dale and Liz are veteran PTG members and instructors well known in our organization locally, across the country and internationally.

Jordan served as Secretary/Treasurer for SCRC for the last two years and he taught his first class, but I'm pretty confident it won't be his last. The presentation he gave on business marketing techniques was very well received and those in a position to make such decisions have him in their sights for future regional and national involvement. Our chapter should be so proud of and thankful for the service these members have given. Having served as Conference Director before, I know how much work it takes to pull off such an event.

I was satisfied this year being a sponge in several classes and a participant in a couple enjoyable late-night music venues. But when the dust settled on

the annual SCRC business meeting on Friday afternoon I had been elected Treasurer for the upcoming two years, since SCRC only convenes every two years. If you've not been to a regional or national conference I encourage you to make plans to attend. They are scheduled well in advance and the increase in knowledge, hands on experience and networking expansion is almost always worth at least as much as the cost of registration and travel.



Jordan taking notes and Dale presiding over the SCRC business meeting.



Standing ovation for Dale's service
which, considering his ongoing health challenges,
was remarkable.