

GOOD Vibrations

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE PIANO TECHNICIAN'S GUILD, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patricia Selemon, RPT

MAY 2006

This upcoming May meeting is our last until September.

Thruout the summer festivals and celebrations abound. Town and homes will be decorated with banners and lights. Three patriotic holidays, weddings, reunions and vacations will give businesses a reason to produce product.

Create a festival in your business. Dress up your logo, buy higher quality stationery. Spruce up your ads, car and shop. How is the audible quality of your answering machine message? These are your banners!

Celebrate your business this summer!

Pat

MAY MEETING AGENDA

Instead of having a formal guest speaker we thought we would continue to expand upon our interactive approach.

Please come and share stories, experiences, philosophies, business or technical techniques, or ideas for next years lineup.

We'll be feeling our way through this meeting so it should be relaxed and fun!

P.S. This means start making a list of things to say. As you're working items will float into your mind. Write them down or you may forget them and think you have nothing to offer. Of course you do! Being a piano tech is a fabulous experience!

Pat

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Business Mtg

&

Technical

May 18, 2006

7:00 pm

Meeting at
Avery Piano Co.
256 Weybosset St.
Providence, RI

Remember to join us for dinner 5:15 Trinity Brew House before the meeting. Trinity Brew House is at 186 Fountain Street on the corner of Empire Street.

Tid Bits.....

“The only thing to do with good advice is pass it on. It is never any use to oneself.”

— Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

REVIEW OF THE APRIL TECHNICAL

By David Flanders, RPT

The Chapter was honored to have Doshie Powers, RPT, drive down from Boston to present her technical on Bedding the Keyframe, the first step to a stable regulation. Doshie also gave us a hand-out which outlined the basic notes of her procedure.

She began by removing the stack and keys. She then placed the keyframe back into the piano; and first test-bedded the front rail by tapping it with her personally designed tool. On the particular piano she was using, there was quite a bit of irregularity in the front of the keybed, presenting irremedial problems.

Abandoning any resolution of this problem, and after great effort, she then jumped to the newspaper strip-under-the-glidebolt technique, which became rather lengthy. Ultimately, her final test for that procedure was the familiar tapping of the balance rail itself.

It was so good of Doshie to drive down to Our Little Chapter to present her technical for us. We had a fine dinner beforehand, at the Trinity Brewhouse, which I urge all members to attend in the future, as that is where the a lot of information gets exchanged. See you in May.

Newsletter

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ANTI-TRUST CONCERNS OVERSHADOW COUNCIL, AGENDA FOR PTG CONVENTION NEXT MONTH

By Wade Johnson, RPT – Delegate

The Agenda Book for the Council meeting June 19-20, which begins the PTG Annual Convention in Rochester, NY, has arrived and will be available at our May Chapter meeting. As in the Reagan era when the current unfortunate membership categories were adopted, the present Board seems very concerned about protecting the organization from possible crackdowns for anti-trust violations.

Most significant among the Bylaws proposals on the agenda is #6, proposed by the Board, which will revise the **membership application procedure** and centralize it in the Home Office – the purpose being to ensure even-handed treatment of applications nationwide (and world-wide) and thus avoid anti-trust problems. Included, for reasons not self-evident to me, is a five-fold increase in the membership application fee, from \$30 to \$150. While the \$30 fee has perhaps prevailed too long, I think it likely the Council will reduce the amount of increase.

Anti-trust concerns also caused the Board to return to the Pittsburgh Chapter, as “illegal,” a proposal that would have separated the Associates into tuning and non-tuning categories and imposed reasonable time limits on tuning Associates to take RPT exams. The Examining & Test Standards Committee felt that our volunteer examining structure clearly would be unable to handle the demands for testing that these new requirements would cause; therefore, the Board saw a danger of restraint of trade if they were enforced. So, this proposal does not appear in the Agenda Book.

Bylaws Proposal #8, also from the Board, would delete from the PTG Graphic Standards Manual the sections allowing Associates to use the **Guild logo** (Sometimes colloquially referred to as the “Jurassic Forks”). They feel that by restricting the use of the logo to RPT’s, our efforts to market the RPT credential to the piano-owning public will be strengthened. This proposal does not restrict Associates from advertising their membership; just from using the logo.

Bylaws Proposal #1, from the South Central PA Chapter, would delete the words “or avocational” from the following **membership definition**: “Membership in the Piano Technicians Guild is open to all individual with a professional or avocation interest in piano technology.” I predict this one will get some debate in Council. The Bylaws Committee recommended adoption; the Board recommends defeat.

Other reports in the Agenda Book that I found especially interesting, and would commend to your attention, are Ron Berry’s **Webmaster Report** (for the sheer scope of online activities being covered), and the “**Piano Learning Center**” **Project** created by Bob Russell, a “Web-based external initiative designed to promote PTG’s goal of encouraging people to play the piano” which sounds exciting. Initiatives that would have been financially way beyond our means a few years ago are now being made possible by the Web!

On the **financial front**, Executive Director Barbara Cassaday’s report is informative. A few years of declining convention revenues and advertising receipts are forcing the upping of some PTG fees. A \$10 increase in membership dues is proposed for 2007.

I’m asking President Pat to put this report on the May agenda, in case there are questions or comments.

Tech Tip: Guild Rail Bushings

By Cate Gallivan, RPT (April 2004 issue of News & Notes, the newsletter of the Boston Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild)

I carry an upright damper wire (without the damper head in it) and heat it up whenever I need to take care of a tight guide rail bushing in a grand. The upright damper wire is bigger than a grand damper wire, and it does a nice job. Plus, it’s smaller than an umbrella!

National PTG

Mailing Lists and Newsgroups hosted by PTG. Go to www.ptg.org to sign up.

PTG Mailing lists Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to your questions about operating the mailing lists run by PTG

CAUT

College and University Technicians List - for piano technicians working in a university setting

Chapter News Wire

Are you a PTG chapter newsletter editor? Then subscribe to the ChapterNewsWire, a forum and content source for PTG Chapter Newsletter Editors.

Exam Prep

This list is for Associate members to discuss with RPTs on how to best prepare to take the RPT exams.

Pianotech Mailing List

The pianotech list is intended for technical discussions among piano technicians. Other topics of general interest to piano technicians do come up, but the main focus is on sharing technical information. It is an open list, allowing anyone to subscribe and submit posts.

Pianotech IRC channel Information

A live chat channel for piano technicians.

PTG Ask an Expert

A team of experts are poised to answer your piano questions. Please read our FAQ first. This list is intended for piano players.

My Weekly Piano Coach

Do you have problems staying motivated at the piano? If so, you may be interested in joining our free group "My Weekly Piano Coach."

The Piano Players Mailing List

Links you to musicians around the world. Any topic goes.

rec.music.makers. piano

A newsgroup for pianists and musicians. You must have newsgroup access set up with your internet provider to access this through the web.

Piano World

A great place to get answers to your piano questions or just to meet and chat with other people who are interested in the piano.

UK Piano Page Forums

Forums on Pianos: FAQ, History, General, Wanted, Teaching, Concerts & Musical Events

PianoForum.net

Forums on: Performance, Repertoire, Teaching, Student's Corner, Instruments, Miscellaneous, Audition Room

Pianos.co.uk

General Piano Discussions

Harpsichord Mailing list

Hammond Organ Mailing List

Hamtech is a group of people who are interested in the more technical aspects of playing and repairing Hammond organs, Leslie speakers, and their clones. The group communicates via an e-mail Listserv and an IRC channel.

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No RI-Chapter Meeting In June
see you-all in September

June 21- 25, 2006
PTG 49th ANNUAL CONVENTION AND INSTITUTE
Rochester, NY



Rhode Island Chapter
www.RI-PTG.org