

GOOD Vibrations

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

MAY 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patricia Selemon, RPT

OH JOY! OH BLISS!

What a delightful time I have had as "EL PRESIDENTE".

Thanks to the chapter for their support as I felt fortunate to have such a mature and fun loving group to work with.

I wish to remember those members who rarely or never attend meetings. You are important to our chapter because your dues replenish our money supply so we can attract speakers from elsewhere and we know where to reach you if we need your opinion.

So, as Bob Hopes says,

"Thanks for the memories."

Pat

MAY MEETING - Yamaha's 37 Steps of Grand Regulation

New in our Lending Library: Grand Regulation the Yamaha way. This two video package includes an instructive book and is a precise, clear view of grand regulation. We can fast forward to any section we like. So, Associates & RPT's, come and gather up some very important and timely information.

A picture is worth a thousand words and some lucky person can take it home at the end of the night to enjoy again in the privacy of their own home.

INSIDE

Ron's Ramble.....	2
Highlights Re The PTG Council's Agenda.....	2& 3
Minutes for April '07Mtg.....	4
Chapter Ltr to RVP.....	4
Treasurer's Report.....	5

Business Mtg

&

Technical

May 17, 2007

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.

Good Vibrations - RI PTG Chapter Newsletter

RON'S RAMBLINGS

by Ron Koval (The Whippenpost Newsletter May 2007)

Good or bad, scary or fun, surprises can liven up our work. I have to admit that I really smiled when I saw this piano! I came into the room and noticed that it was shorter—only 82 keys from C1 through A7. The keys went almost all the way to the edges of the case. The big surprise came when I lifted the lid and saw that the tuning pins were pointing up! Hmm...this would be interesting. That was my introduction to the Louis Zwicky upright piano. This company, now out of business, was founded in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1899. *Pierce's Piano Atlas* lists piano serial numbers beginning in 1933 and ending in 1960. This particular instrument, Serial #7759, appears to be from 1958. The plate is the usual cast iron, but painted grey instead of gold. The action is a standard drop action expected in a spinet.

As you can see from the pictures, the strings take a 90 degree turn over a waterfall edge to the speaking length. It was unusual for me to have to tune an upright with an unsupported arm in the same position as a grand piano. Friction was an issue during tuning, but with some wiggling and setting, the tuning seemed solid when I was done. Amazingly, this little piano played really well—a nice solid feel to the action combined with the lowest string only needing to sound a C made for a nice tonal blend from bottom to top.



HIGHLIGHTS RE THE PTG COUNCIL'S AGENDA IN KANSAS CITY, by Wade Johnson, RPT

Our Chapter has received from the Home Office a copy of the Council Agenda Book containing proposals and reports to be considered at the June 18-19 Council meeting in Kansas City, opening PTG's 50th annual meeting and convention. Although our Chapter has not named (and presumably won't have) a voting Delegate at this year's Council, we think it important that our members be aware of what items are on their agenda. As usual, most of them are proposed changes in the PTG Bylaws, Rules or Codes. We offer the following highlights:

Continued next page

Newsletter

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Free to R.I. Chapter members, certain National PTG officers, and reciprocally to other newsletter editors. Non-members may subscribe for \$8.00 per year.

“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.”

CHAPTER OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Pat Selemon, RPT
Vice President.....Wade Johnson, RPT
Immediate Past President.....Phinehas Valenti, RPT
Treasurer.....Arthur Sacco
Secretary.....David Flanders, RPT
Corresponding Secretary.....Ruth Van Dine

Examining Committee: David Flanders, RPT (chair), Tom Roy, RPT, Wade Johnson, RPT

Interview Committee: Pat Selemon, RPT (chair) and Wade Johnson, RPT

Librarian: Joyce Gindra

Newsletter: Mike DiDonato and Ruth Van Dine

Nominating Committee: Wade Johnson, RPT and Ruth Van Dine

Publicity and Public Relations: Executive Board

Refreshment Designator: Joyce Gindra

Bylaws Proposal 5 - Membership: This proposal, from the Philadelphia Chapter, would make the Guild an organization whose only members would be RPTs, with Associates (if they stayed in) being redesignated as non-member “Friends of the Guild.” Such “Friends” would be attached to a local chapter, could attend local chapter meetings, purchase educational materials, receive the *PTJournal*, and not be restricted from taking the RPT exams and becoming a member. But as “Friends” they would not be able to vote, hold office, use logos or advertise as a PTG member. They would pay dues (the proposal doesn’t recommend how much).

The PTG Bylaws Committee is recommending defeat of this proposal, and I venture to predict that it (like previous attempts to rectify the deteriorating situation in PTG) doesn’t stand a chance in Council. While I think it points in a good direction, it fails to address the dilemma of the Guild’s world-class non-tuning experts (such as Shawn Hoar and Mike Morvan) and would only add insult to their injury. Some additional member categories besides the RPT would be necessary to make this proposal feasible. And that’s saying a lot, because it would require criteria and/or test standards and procedures for each new category, and those don’t presently exist in our Guild.

Bylaws Proposal 6 - Disciplinary Code: This one would add the following item to the list of items every member shall refrain from, in the PTG Disciplinary Code:

“Being found guilty by a court or jury of competent jurisdiction of a felony or other crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude”

Proposed by the Connecticut Chapter, this one is recommended for defeat by the PTG Bylaws Committee; but its members were sharply divided, with some strongly in favor. It appears to need further study and discussion prior to any Council action.


Bylaws Proposal 7 - Obligations of Membership: In this proposal, the PTG Members’ Rights Committee is suggesting numerous changes and refinements to sections of the Bylaws, Regulations and Codes, apparently reflecting problems experienced in their process during the past year (to which I’m not privy...See Annual Reports, below). The PTG Bylaws Committee is recommending that these receive further study and not be acted on this year by Council.

Bylaws Proposal 2 - Registered Piano Technician Logo: This one, from the PTG Board, offers an additional logo for use by RPTs, with REGISTERED PIANO TECHNICIAN in large type and Piano Technicians Guild in smaller type underneath, instead of the other way around. PTG Bylaws Committee recommends adoption. The several remaining Bylaws proposals in this year’s collection are of a housekeeping nature.

Annual reports of officers, committees and the Executive Director: Apparently a difficult dispute from a chapter this year, that was handled by the Members’ Rights Committee, the Ethics Committee, and finally the PTG President, caused some anger and grief that has spilled over into some of these reports, such as those by President Swafford, Ethics Committee chair Paul Monroe, and Western RVP Jim Coleman, Jr. In general, though, the reports reflect much hard work and good accomplishment.

The report of Executive Director Barbara Cassaday is very thorough and describes an organization prudently managed and in very good financial health. Her proposed budget makes no mention of another dues increase, but it wouldn’t surprise me if the Council gets asked to approve a modest one to hedge against the never-ending inflation.

The Council Agenda Book will be available at our May meeting, but if any member wants to spend more time with it than that would allow, call Wade Johnson at (401) 934-3049.

Warwick, RI 02889
62 Stokes Street
Ruth Van Dine
www.RI-PTG.org
Rhode Island Chapter


May 17th - Video - Yamaha's 37 steps of Grand Regulation

May 23 @ 9am - *Mason & Hamlin Factory Tour, Haverhill MA*

35 Duncan St, Haverhill, MA 01830 Phone: (978) 374-8888

2nd Thur June 14th - June Meeting

Reviewing Technical Skills - put in your request for demonstrations!

July 17th through the 27th: Kingston Chamber Music Festival. The 19th season of a six-concert series; this year featuring pianists Paavali Jumppanan, Natalie Zhu, and Manabu Takasawa, plus other renown and upcoming chamber musicians. For more information: kingstonchambermusic.org



Rhode Island Chapter
www.RI-PTG.org

Annual PTG Convention & Technical Institute
June 20 - 24, 2007 Kansas City
Come for the Learning! Stay for the fun!
www.ptg.org/conv/2007