

GOOD VIBRATIONS

APRIL 2011

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

RUTH VAN DINE, RPT

This month's business meeting we are going to address the question which has been around for a long time..... What does each member of our chapter want from our meetings? What will get us to attend the meetings, hold office and even give a technical?

There have been a few different ideas brought up:

- Fewer meetings per year
- Earlier, longer meetings
- Keep everything as it is now

Please bring your ideas to the April meeting and let's see what we can accomplish in making our chapter a better one for the new slate of officers.

See you-all soon,

Ruth

BUSINESS TG & TEHNICAL:

- April 21, 2011
- 7pm at Wade Johnson's home, 269 Snake Hill Rd Gloucester, RI 401-934-3049
- 5:30pm Dinner at Chelos 495 Putnam Pike Greenville, R I 401-233-2340

APRIL MEETING – 45 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR BUSINESS MORE SUCCESSFUL

— RUTH VAN DINE, RPT ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Discover dozens of tips you can start using right away to get more clients, build your reputation, and boost your income. This class is designed to help you get the most out of your advertising efforts, work more efficiently, and communicate effectively with your clients.

This class will be given by the Economic Affairs Committee at the annual PTG convention in July.

DIRECTIONS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST MEETING:

Meeting 7pm: Directions to Wade Johnson's, 269 Snake Hill Road, Glocester, RI

Phone (401) 934-3049

From Rte 295, take exit for "Route 44 West - Greenville". When you get onto 44 West, proceed past Apple Valley Mall, past the traffic light at Route 5, and to the fourth traffic light after that, where you should be in the **left lane** and turn left onto Route 116 (Smith Ave.). There's an Episcopal Church on the far left corner where you turn. Your total distance on Route 44 will have been about 2 1/4 miles. Proceed 1.3 mile to **stop sign**. At that point, Rte.116 goes to the left but **you continue straight**, past Knight's Apple Farm, on Snake Hill Road, for 1.3 miles, to two light-blue vinyl-sided houses on the right, one behind the other, separated by a circular driveway. Wade's is the rear house. Just before the driveway you will have passed a black mailbox with "269" on it. **Parking:** For safety's sake, do not park on the pavement of Snake Hill Road. There's enough room around the driveways for the cars.

Dinner 5:30pm: Chelos Hometown Bar & Grill

495 Putnam Pike Greenville, RI 02828

Phone: (401) 233-2340

Rte 295 exit 7 for "Greenville -- 44 West," you pass the entrance for the Crossings at Smithfield, followed by a smaller mall and a Dunkin Donuts and a Wendy's, and then there's an entrance into Apple Valley Mall, Chelo's is at the right end of building.

Tid Bit —

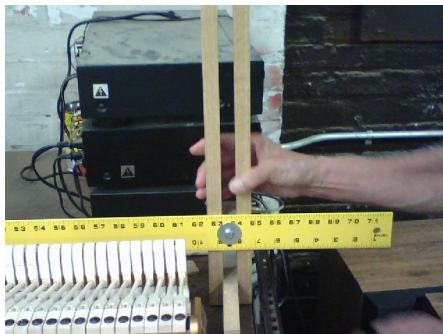
"Without music, life would be a mistake ."

- Friedrich Nietzsche

TECH TIP: LET-OFF RACK

By Joe Pagno & Ruth Van Dine, RPT

The let-off rack is so handy for regulating an action outside of a piano. I found this rack while visiting Joe Pagno in Boston. Joe built this let-off rack from a 6-foot ruler and maple scrap wood.



NEECISO—A BELATED THANK YOU

I realized last night before the CT meeting as the long term CT NEECSO representative and now chairman of the NEECSO organization, that a thank you to all was never uttered. CT's arrangement with Rhode Island hosting the NEECSO Seminar in Rhode Island was a win win all the way around and certainly a big thank you to all is in order for helping to make the seminar a big success.

The planning team with David Flanders, Wade Johnson, Ruth Van Dine, Amy Banovich-Tiernan, Melanie Brooks, and Chris Haberbosch. was cohesive and a joy to watch. Team meetings were efficient and yet creative as the two chapters marched boldly ahead with positive results.

Not to be overlooked was the help from numerous individuals from both chapters who joined the team on that famous weekend to accomplish the many tasks that were mostly behind the scenes but so necessary.

Lastly but most important were those who attended for without bodies in the classes to absorb all that knowledge, any seminar would be a failure.

So to the planners, the helpers, the entertainers, the instructors, the exhibitors, the exam personnel and those who attended my heart felt thanks for a successful job well done.

Jim Birch

NEECISO Chairman

CT NEECSO representative



MARCH'S TECHNICAL—BY DAVID FLANDERS, RPT

Last month, at Larry Brown's Piano Gallery, we were treated to one of this year's best presentations, by David Stanwood. David has won much deserved international acclaim for his groundbreaking work with keyboard touchweight; and has now patented his new system for allowing the pianist to adjust the touchweight of any particular piano, simply by turning a knob behind the keyslip. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The first part of David's technical was showing us how, with a couple of hour's time, we can simply modify the balance rail punch to either lighten the action touchweight or make it heavier. After doing the first half of the job in the afternoon, he had us do the second step after dinner. The results were immediately appreciable. Simple and effective - what could be better?

Returning to the primary portion of the technical, David gave a PowerPoint presentation of his new adjustable touchweight system - how it functions, how he devised his prototypes, and how each system is custom-fitted to a particular action. The custom-fitting is necessary, as no two actions are identical. He explained how balance-rail holes can drift out of alignment, due to the drill press being affected by the wood grain. The presentation was clear. His invention is exciting. And we were privileged to see this history in the making.

BUILDING THE COURAGE TO MAKE CHANGES

SOURCE: DANITA JOHNSON HUGES, PH.D. IS A HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY EXEC., PUBLIC SPEAKER AND AUTHER OF THE BOOK, POWER FROM WITHIN.

Leadership takes courage. It has been said that the lack of courage, in management and in life, is perhaps the most critical factor in determining whether you will succeed or fail as a leader. Organizations today need leaders who are unencumbered by fear. Leaders who can guide the company through troubled times and help turn it around in spite of the challenges.

Courage isn't something that just happens. Courage is a lot like a muscle. To build courage through your leadership challenges you must develop the attitude, skill and ability to use it.

Following are five attitudes that can help you develop your courage muscle:

Know Yourself. It's difficult to have courage when you're unclear of your guiding values and principles. What do you stand for? Being attuned to who you are is like the foundation of a house. It holds you firm when the demands of leadership challenge you.

Do What's Right, Not What Feels Good. Often, courage means making uncomfortable choices. A difficult decision won't always feel good in the moment, but if you're connected with your principles then you'll know the right course of action. Always remember to maintain an ethical posture in these moments.

Be Flexible And Open To Change. If you find yourself saying, "But, we've always done it this way," then you may really be responding to fear of change. Fear is the opposite of courage. Have the courage to corrupt the norm if it means a better outcome.

Accept Criticism. Naysayers abound, especially when faced with a leadership challenge. Listen to the critics; they may have a valid perspective on the situation. But always return to what's right, both from an ethics and principles standpoint, and then choose.

Be Willing To Admit Mistakes. There may have been times when you courageously made what you thought was the best decision, only to find later that you were dead wrong. You're human. Mistakes are part of the territory. Be willing to admit when you're wrong. Those wrong turns are learning opportunities to be savored! Embrace them and choose to do differently next time.

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER, PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2011

Location: the Piano Gallery of Rhode Island, 238 East Main Rd. Middletown, RI

Present: David Flanders, RPT, Ruth Van Dine, RPT, Barbara Renner, RPT, Pat Selemon, RPT, Larry Brown, Joel Levine. Guest: David Stanwood, RPT

Call to Order: 7:03 PM

Approval of Minutes: So approved

Treasurer's Report: None

Special Reports/Standing Committees: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- All member dues were paid on time, before the deadline – thank you.
- It was voted that Ruth Van Dine will represent our chapter as council delegate this July at the annual PTG convention. Ruth offered to waive the chapter delegate compensation, usually \$250, used for two nights lodging and a meal. The waiving of the compensation was accepted.

Good of the Order: Barbara Renner has a set of Steinway “B” American hammers, drilled, shaped and factory voiced for sale.

Adjournment: 7:13 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Van Dine, RPT

President



GOOD VIBRATIONS

Newsletter Editor:
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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.”

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- **April 21st** — 45 Ways to Make Your Business More Successful — Ruth Van Dine, RPT @ Wade Johnson’s Home, Glocester RI
- **May** — Pinblock, restring, dampers, action fore-fitting — Boaz Kirschenbaum, RPT



- **June** — WNG Action Parts @ Ruth Van Dine’s Home
- **April 28 – May 1** — **MARC**, Hotel Bethlehem, Historic Bethlehem, PA
- **July 13–17** — 54th PTG Convention & Technical Institute, Kansas City, MO
www.convention.ptg.org

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

CHAPTER INFORMATION:

CHAPTER OFFICERS / EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President.....Ruth Van Dine, RPT
Vice President.....David Flanders, RPT
Immediate Past President...Wade Johnson, RPT
Treasurer.....Michael Shaw
Secretary.....David Dragone
By-Laws: Wade Johnson, RPT & David Flanders, RPT
Examining & Testing Committee: David Flanders, RPT (chair), Tom Roy, RPT & Patricia Selemon, RPT
Librarian: Joel Levine
Newsletter: Ruth Van Dine, RPT
Nominating: Barbara Renner, RPT, Joe Loiselle, RPT, & Paul Dumont, RPT
Publicity and Public Relations: Executive Board
Technical: Joel Levine, Boaz Kirschenbaum, RPT, Larry Brown, & John Harris

Newsletter: 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.

Advertising: Free to members, non-members \$20; three months listing in this newsletter and on our website.



Rhode Island Chapter