

GOOD Vibrations

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wade Johnson, RPT

At our Chapter annual meeting on May 15, the President, Secretary, and Treasurer were all re-elected, but Ruth Van Dine was moved up from Corresponding Secretary to Vice President. Ruth will continue to edit the Newsletter, but will be hoping to find a member who would enjoy helping with that. For now the office of Corresponding Secretary is being left vacant with the idea of offering it to such a person in future.

Thanks to Ruth and Gary, our gracious hosts for the meeting, and to Gary for sharing a preview of his Anaheim presentation of Websites, well received. It was good to see Phinehas Valenti, who has missed several meetings this year due to Rebecca's uncertain health. This will be the first year in quite a few that Phinehas is not on our Executive Board...We shall miss him, and we owe him heartfelt thanks for his ever-willing and thoughtful leadership of our Chapter.

The program for our early June meeting looks promising, and I hope you'll give me the pleasure of greeting you once again at my digs! We'll be giving final consideration to a Bylaws proposal to Council...Draft copy enclosed.

Wade

JUNE MEETING

Grand Action Preparation and Installation

- Chris Brown, RPT

You don't need to wear all the hats to provide best quality service.

This will be a shorter version of the class I gave at the NEECSO seminar, with an emphasis on how Mike and I can help you guys look good, reduce the headache/time-stress factors, and generally provide better grand action services by having us be the hands that do a calculated portion of the work. There will be plenty of tips and techniques, of course, for those that do it themselves.

JUNE 2008

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Business Mtg

&

Technical

June 12, 2008

7:00 pm

Meeting at

Wade Johnson's Home

269 Snake Hill Road

Glocester, RI

Phone: 401-934-3049

PARK IN DRIVEWAY!!!!

Remember to join us for
dinner 5:00

Gentleman Farmer Rest.

50 Danielson Pike (Rte 6)

No. Scituate, RI 401-647-7774

**Directions for June 12th meeting
(NOTE 2ND WEEK OF MONTH!):**

Tid Bits.....

“Deeds, not stones, are the true monuments of the great.”

- John L. Motley (1814 - 1877)

Meeting 7pm: Directions to Wade Johnson’s, 269 Snake Hill Road, Glocester, RI phone 401-934-3049

Your first step is to get to Interstate 295. From east or south of Providence, take I-95 north to the exit for “Routes 6 and 10 West – Hartford.” Follow signs for Route 6 and Hartford...Route 10 splits off to the left about a mile down the road...Stay in the right lane. Once you’re securely on Route 6, the next thing to look for (almost 4 miles up the road) is the exit for “I-295 North - Woonsocket,” a right-lane exit. Once you’re on that exit ramp, keep to the left, and **don’t** take the exit for “Route 6 - Hartford.” Just get onto I-295 North and take it to the exit for “Route 44 West - Greenville” (about 2 miles). When you get onto 44 West, proceed past Apple Valley Mall, past the traffic light at Route 5, and to the third 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 5pm: Directions to the Gentleman Farmer Restaurant, 50 Danielson Pike (Rte. 6), North Scituate phone 401-647-7774

Follow the directions to Wade’s as far as the stop sign on Rte. 116. There, instead of going straight on Snake Hill Road, **turn left** onto 116 and take it to the **second traffic light** (2.4 miles) where you should **turn left** onto Rte. 6. The restaurant and its parking lot are 4/10 mile up on the right.

Newsletter:

Ruth Van Dine, RPT
62 Stokes St., Warwick, RI 02889
Email – ruth@vandinedesign.com

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.

CHAPTER OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Examining & Testing Committee: David Flanders, RPT (chair), Tom Roy, RPT & Kirk Russell, RPT

Librarian: Joel Levine

Newsletter: Ruth Van Dine, RPT

Nominating Committee, Patricia Selemon, RPT (Chair) & David Flanders, RPT

Publicity and Public Relations: Executive Board

“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.”

The Great Piano Bonfire

By Charles Huether - September 1974 NJM&A

Atlantic City is famous for many things in its long history as a resort and convention center, but did you ever hear of the "Great Piano Bonfire"?

In 1904 the Convention of the National Association of Piano Dealers was held at the great resort city. The turn of the century was also a crisis time for the piano industry. The modern grand and upright had reached their peak in development. Scale and action design were as such a stage of refinement that all instruments of earlier design were obsolete. And that meant principally the old "square grand."

Piano manufacturers were abundant in this country during the 19th century. Every city of any importance had at least one piano builder and large cities such as New York, Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia each had many factories. The total output accumulated through the years as most people seemed to feel, then as now, that pianos never wear out.

But in 1904 the manufacturers were building the modern upright and grand and they had to get rid of the old squares and the problems of taking them in trade. The piano owners were anxious to buy the new instruments but resisted the notion that the old squares were worth very little as practical musical instruments and even less as trade-ins.

To the fore stepped Harry Edward Frenund, Editor of the "Musical Age." With grand rhetoric he presented and pushed for his plan, which was to collect as many square grands as possible and make a bonfire of them. As so, one thousand pianos were collected from all of the country, piled high on the beach at Atlantic City and, as a great climax to the Piano Dealer's Convention, put to the torch.

It was a great sight and the publicity was tremendous. Reports were in papers from coast to coast, not a small achievement in those days before wire services and TV. Harry Edward Frenund, with typical flourishes of the day said, "What has occurred is, I think, typical of the American spirit – to destroy that which has become useless."

It hadn't been easy to get the bonfire organized for even as long ago as 1904 there were people who just couldn't understand the problems of business. When word went out of the planned fire, Mayor Story of Atlantic City was deluged with letters from people protesting and asking for the instruments for themselves or for some charitable institution. Further, the possibility of the fire getting out of hand and spreading to the city was a major concern for there had been an extensive fire just three years earlier. The Mayor said, "No!" Harry Edward Frenund and his supporters protested. They threatened to take their fire to another neighboring community, a number of which were eager to participate for the publicity. And that tipped the scale. The Mayor relented and with the fire department and a squad of police on hand to keep things under control, the fire was set.

At 10:10 p.m. on May 24, 1904, Harry Edward Frenund, put the torch to a pile of one thousand kerosene-soaked square grands and the flames leaped to the sky. Thousands of people came from great distances to witness the conflagration and it was reported to be seen twenty miles out at sea. The Piano Dealers joined hands and danced around the fire and sang songs.

Symbol of the squares to be destroyed was an instrument painted white and exhibited at the Convention as "The Dealers; White Elephant." It was brought to the meeting by Frank P. Anderson of Brooklyn and, in addition to being painted white had "verses" lettered on its case. A few samples: *Of all the words of tongue or pen / The saddes are these, "I am a has been."* Another: *From Brooklyn I came / Anderson is my name / The Boss didn't give a dame / If I do go up in flame.* And yet another: *No longer the dealer will tear his hair / Nor gnash his teeth in wild despair / My days are done poor old square / I'll feed the flames by the salt sea air.*

It is hoped that Mr. Anderson was a better Piano Dealer than a poet.

So add another claim to fame to Atlantic City's long list. And if you ever wonder where all the square grands went, why they went to Atlantic City and went up in smoke.

PTG CODE OF ETHICS

by Keith Kopp, RPT Sound Advice – March 2008 the official newsletter of the Utah Valley Chapter of the PTG

PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD CODE OF ETHICS

- 1. I will act honorably and in a professional manner.*
- 2. I will render the best possible service under the circumstances, always keeping the best interests of my client in mind.*
- 3. I will engage only in fair trade practices in the knowledge that I am reflecting the honesty and integrity for which the Piano Technicians Guild stands.*
- 4. I will use the name and trademarks of the Piano Technicians Guild properly and will encourage others to do the same.*
- 5. I will strive to upgrade my professional skills and I will encourage and help others to do the same.*
- 6. I will promote, in any way that I can, good will toward my profession and toward the music industry.*
- 7. I will engage only in business practices that are in accord with the antitrust guidelines as set forth by the Piano Technicians Guild.*

The PTG Mission Statement and Code of Ethics are printed on the application form for everyone to review as they consider membership. It is good for us to review these commitments that we all made on a regular basis. As we read numbers 1 through 3 in the Code, I would think that most all of us would believe that we are ethical in our dealings with the clients we serve. However, I wonder if we are as diligent in seeing that we use the name and trademarks of PTG correctly. When is the last time we have reviewed the Graphic Manual to see if we are in compliance with our business card and yellow page listing?

Read through number 5. Are we doing all we can do when it comes to upgrading our professional skills? When is the last time we encouraged or helped others to become better technicians? Do we actively promote our profession and do we promote the music industry in general? Now it may seem that number 7 is easy to comply with but do we really understand what the antitrust guidelines are? It might surprise you to know that before every board meeting the guidelines are read to make sure they are followed as The Board conducts PTG business.

Please notice that I have not addressed this message to YOU, but to WE. While some of us might feel we comply with the above printed Ethics when it comes to the “letter of the law” I wonder if all of us are perfect when it comes to the “spirit” of the Code of Ethics.

Let's read the PTG Mission:

PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD MISSION

The mission of the Piano Technicians Guild is to promote the highest possible standards of piano service by providing members with opportunities for professional development, by recognizing technical competence through examinations and by advancing the interests of its members.

While the Code of Ethics have more things that can be considered as “dos and don'ts”, the Mission statement is open to more general activities. As individual members of PTG what can we do and what are we doing to help our organization meet its mission? What can we do as a chapter? Think about it and let us know what you think can be done better.

Wanted: a member to serve on the Newsletter committee.
Contact one of the Board members to volunteer.

SUBSTITUTE PROPOSAL 5: Piano Reconstruction Specialty Member, Franchised

Source: Rhode Island Chapter (draft 5/25/08)

New Membership Category: Piano Reconstruction Specialty Member, Franchised

Definition: A member in good standing who produces a major part of their livelihood in the piano service industry, not by tuning, but by related reconstruction/restoration specialties, including but not limited to action restoration, keyboard restoration, or pinblock and soundboard replacement.

Requirements to become a Piano Reconstruction Specialty Member, Franchised:

- An Associate member of PTG for two or more years.
- Produces a major part of their livelihood by providing piano services other than tuning, in the field of Reconstruction/restoration.

Procedure to be become Piano Reconstruction Specialty Member, Franchised:

- Local Chapter would propose the Associate member by 2/3 vote of membership to become Piano Reconstruction Specialty Member, Franchised.
- Local chapter would submit written resume of proposed member's qualifications and summary of why they should be elevated to this membership status.
- Application would continue on to the PTG Board for review. The Board would vote to recommend the member to Council or not.
- Application would be submitted by the PTG Board with their recommendation in Council Agenda Book.
- Council would review and debate the merits of the application and approval would be granted by a 2/3 vote.

Prohibition against advertising this membership status:

The awarding of franchised status to certain Piano Reconstruction Specialty members is done for the benefit of the Guild, not the member. Therefore, such members can state that they are "a member of PTG", but are prohibited from mentioning their franchised membership status in any advertising or printed material, under penalty of losing said status if found to be in violation of this provision.

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Comment: By prohibiting these members from advertising their franchised status, this substitute proposal eliminates the anti-trust concerns expressed about the original proposal: If they can't advertise it, what trade could be restrained by denying them the status? Also, we would not see large numbers of members as a result of this substitute proposal with its narrower definition of the new category. What it would do is add to our deliberations and leadership the wisdom of a small number of respected specialists.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2008 MEETING, R.I.P.T.G

Location: Ruth and Gary Van Dine's home, 62 Stokes St., Warwick

Present: Wade Johnson, RPT; Ruth Van Dine, RPT; Phinehas Valenti, RPT; Tom Roy, RPT; David Flanders, RPT; Barbara Renner, RPT; Patricia Selemon, RPT; Arthur Sacco; Joel Levine; Guests: Gary Van Dine, Jack Renner

Call to Order: 7:04 P.M.

Quorum: Established

Opening Remarks: Wade thanked the Van Dines for hosting the evening's program

Minutes of the March Meeting approved with the correction of the spelling of "John Madancy", the piano shop swindler. It was mentioned that he is continuing his swindling on Craig's List, and that he should be reported to the Attorney General's office.

Nominating Committee Report: Phinehas reported for the Committee, presenting the following slate of officers for the upcoming term: President, Wade Johnson; Vice President, Ruth Van Dine; Secretary, David Flanders; Treasurer, Arthur Sacco. The position of Corresponding Secretary will be vacant for the present.

Communications and Announcements: Wade announced that he has brought the Council Book for the members' perusal. David Flanders announced that he will not be returning to U.R.I. in the fall, and that the job can be bid upon on-line.

Wade announced that the Executive Board will be meeting on the 22nd; and that on the agenda will be discussion of the Chapter's possibly hosting the 2010 NEECSO Seminar.

New Business: Wade has prepared a new draft (distributed to members present) of Bylaws Proposal #5. Arthur will be meeting soon with representatives of The Music School, regarding our meeting in their new facility.

Respectfully submitted,
David Flanders, RPT
Chapter Secretary

THE RHODE ISLAND PTG LIBRARY - Joel Levine, Librarian

RULES

1. Contact the librarian to borrow any materials.
2. Materials will be loaned for a three-month period, to chapter members only.
3. Loans can be extended for an additional three months, for a total of six months at a time, as long as no one else is waiting for the materials.
4. A "waiting list" will be kept by the librarian for materials already on loan.
5. The PTG member that wishes to check out any materials bears the cost of shipment.
6. The PTG member also bears the cost of any damaged or destroyed materials.
7. Materials can be checked out at any PTG meeting; otherwise the items will be mailed, unless other arrangements are made.

BOOKS

A guide to Restringing by John Travis
But you can feel it by Emil Fries
Country Piano Tuner by Howard Chase
Educated Piano by Edward McMorrow
Exam Source Book - Technical
Exam Source Book - Tuning
My life with the Great Pianists by Franz Mohr
Piano on the Left Bank by Thad Carhart

Pianos and their Makers by Alfred Dolge
So you want a piano? By Paul Lynn, RPT
Steinway Regulation by F.R. Dietz
Temperament by Stuart Isacoff
The Equal-Beating Temperaments by Owen Jorgensen

VIDEO / DVD

37 Steps - Yamaha grand regulation (2 videos & book)
The making of a Kawai grand piano (video)

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



Upcoming Meeting Dates:

**June 12 (2nd Thursday) – Grand Action Preparation
and Installation -Chris Brown, RPT @ Wade
Johnson's Home, Glocester, RI**

No Meetings or Newsletters: July or August



Rhode Island Chapter
www.RI-PTG.org

51st Annual PTG Convention & Technical Institute

June 18-22, 2008 in Anaheim, California
www.ptg.org/conv/2008