

GOOD Vibrations

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

MARCH 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patricia Selemon, RPT

Hello Members!

In the newsletter last month David Flanders expressed his concerns about whether or not we can survive as a Chapter.

I plan to bring the subject up for discussion at the meeting this month. So, come if you can!

Should we throw in the towel and dissolve the Rhode Island chapter? Or perhaps use the meetings to focus more on associate and text issues?

All views welcome!

Pat

MARCH MEETING - Joe Lucca

Piano Retailers & Technicians - A Productive Relationship

A retailer's primary objective is that the customer be happy without remorse about their purchase in the short term, and wants to continue to develop their piano playing for many years into the future into the long term. Both of these objectives are also beneficial for the piano technicians who are the main contact and source of information for the customer after the sale. This presentation will illustrate why this is accurate and essential in order for the piano industry to be viable into the 21st century.

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Business Mtg & Technical

March 15, 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.

A SMALL GROUP ARE REWARDED WITH PRICELESS TUNING POINTERS BY BARBARA AT FEBRUARY MEETING

Wade Johnson, RPT

President Pat and Joyce Gindra were sidelined by car trouble plus a traffic jam near the Sagamore Bridge. David Flanders is recovering well from knee surgery but had to stay home. Larry Brown the younger really regretted he had to be out of town. And Phinehas was iced-in in Connecticut. But the half-dozen of us who managed to get to the Chapter meeting on frigid February 15th were greatly rewarded, once again, by a Barbara Renner presentation.

Some of us got to Avery Piano in time to watch and listen as she finished tuning one of their concert grands for our program. Then she began with some insightful highlights about her earliest training at North Bennet Street and her early years with Pro Piano in New York. From there, her observations on tuning ranged widely, from problems caused by poor workmanship on concert grands, to selection of tuning hammers and how they wear, to aural vs. electronic tuning (she's a "hybrid"), to issues of "stretch" and what musicians really like, to tuning techniques and their effects on string breakage. It was wonderful, and we wish more members had been able to benefit.



Tid Bits.....

"Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it."

— Theodore Roosevelt
(1858 - 1919)

Newsletter

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Member of note

One of our former President and Treasurer, *David Sylvester, RPT*, has received his 25 year Guild membership pin. Saying it is a privilege to belong to such a great organization, he is looking forward to receiving his 50 year pin.

Tech Tip

by Patricia Selemon, RPT

Rhoda Wheeler of Wheelbase Communications had some interesting numbers in one of her articles last year.

Two vehicles colliding head-on at 15 mph produces an impact of 30g's. That means the weight of any loose object you have inside your car is now 30 times heavier.

A ten pound tool bag becomes a three hundred pound missile heading for the front seat. Even that innocent looking book or umbrella placed on the rear parcel shelf can rocket forward to shatter the windshield or injure you.

The lower an object is placed in the vehicle, such as on the floor, behind the front seat the less damage it may cause.

She recommends keeping the rear seat belts latched at all times (even with no riders) as these can catch flying debris before it gets to you.

Tech Tip

By Wade Johnson, RPT

This tip, and story, is a sequel to the one by David Flanders, RPT that appeared in our Newsletter last month.

A few years ago, the late Arthur Tortolano, RPT of our Chapter enlisted me to accompany him to the home of a customer where he had been working on a piano. Suddenly the piano, which had been playable, refused to play: When you hit the keys, the hammers stopped short of the strings...and Arthur was at his wits' end.

The piano was part of that abundant population of "Kimball" consoles made by a plywood manufacturer in Jasper, Indiana after they bought out Kimball in 1959. Arthur, whom someone had taught the 45-second routine now practiced by David Flanders, had *very conscientiously* tightened the several little wood screws in the metal brackets that hold the wooden letoff rail in position. What he didn't know was that those metal brackets on that "Kimball" were of soft, bendable metal — and he had inadvertently bent them downward as he tightened. Result: the letoff buttons were so close to the jack tenders that the hammers were letting off much too early and wouldn't play. All I did was to unbend the brackets back to their normal position, and the piano played just fine. So the tech tip is, be gentle when you tighten those screws, especially if it's a "Kimball!"

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March 15th
Joe Luca - Piano Retailers & Technicians
A Productive Relationship

Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference
April 19-22, 2007 King-of-Prussia, PA
www.ptgmarc.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