

THE BRIDGE



Main Article

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The most important component for a successful Chapter is its willingness to work together for a common cause. I refer to members who make sacrifices for the good of PTG. These people are the true leaders and should be recognized as such.

In the Detroit-Windsor Chapter we are lucky to have our share of members who are willing to step up and help out. Because of their dedication, they have shown how valuable they are to PTG.

Without these individuals we would not have an organization such as PTG. When you offer your assistance it raises standards and builds a better Guild. It does not matter in what capacity you serve, you could serve on a committee or present an Applied Skills program, we need to hear from you. Let's make this a better Chapter by stepping up and volunteering your time for the cause.

Your President,
Richard Bittner, RPT

MEETING NOTICE

Monday September 8, 2003

- 6:30 - 7:15 Applied Skills
- 6:30 - 7:30 Board Meeting
- 7:15 - 7:45 Food Served
- 7:45 - 8:00 Business Mtg.
- 8:00 - 9:30 Main Technical

Speaker: Mike Kurta, RPT

will be hosted at PianoNation, Our host is owner Todd Brown.

27784 Novi Road, in Novi.

Located in the Twelve Oaks Mall between 12 Mile Rd. and I-96. (The entrance closest to 12 mile.)

Phone: (248) 596-1000

CHAPTER PROJECT

STARTS ON SEPTEMBER 20, 10:00 AM. IT WILL BE HELD AT the Piano Place, 444 W. MAPLE, SUITE E NORTH ON MAPLE BETWEEN LIVERNOIS AND CROOKS; NEXT TO THUNDERBOLT LANES. PHONE: (248) 269-6155 A BALDWIN HAMILTON STUDIO WILL BE THE FOCUS OF OUR CHAPTER PROJECT. FIRST MEETING WILL BE ON THE EVALUATION OF REPAIRS AND COST. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

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Piano Technician's Guild, Detroit/Windsor Chapter 481

THE JUNE MEETING OF THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD DETROIT WINDSOR CHAPTER 481 WAS HELD ON SATURDAY JUNE 7 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

THERE WERE 10 RPTS, 4 ASSOCIATES, 2 GUESTS (1 OF THE GUESTS WITH ASPIRATIONS OF JOINING THE PTG AT A LATER DATE) AND THE FEATURED SPEAKER FROM THE MODESTO CA CHAPTER. NO QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED. GUESTS WERE JEFF MOSSINGTON, CHIP LAKE (LANSING CHAPTER), AND BOB DAVIS RPT (MODESTO CA CHAPTER).

MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY CONSENT.

NO T REASURER'S REPORT WAS AVAILABLE.

SOCIAL CHAIR ROBERTA BROWN HAD ASKED CHAPTER PRESIDENT RICHARD BITTNER TO DISTRIBUTE A QUESTIONNAIRE TO MEMBERS TO SEEK IDEAS FOR A SUMMER GATHERING. MANY MEMBERS HAD RETURNED THE COMPLETED FORMS TO RICHARD BITTNER BY THE END OF THE MEETING.

THE DELEGATES INSTRUCTIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY JUNE 23, 7:30PM AT THE PIANO PLACE, 444 W MAPLE SUITE E, TROY. PHONE NUMBER IS 248 269 6155. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ARE PRINTED IN THE MAY 2003 PTJ UPDATE SUPPLEMENT.

A CHAPTER BYLAWS COMMITTEE WILL BE APPOINTED BY RICHARD BITTNER AT THE DELEGATES INSTRUCTIONAL MEETING TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE CHAPTER BYLAWS.

AN UPCOMING CHAPTER PROJECT WILL GET UNDERWAY IN SEPTEMBER, HEADED BY RICHARD BITTNER IN HIS SHOP. THE PLAN IS TO REBUILD A BALDWIN HAMILTON UPRIGHT TO BE DONATED TO A CHARITY WHEN COMPLETED. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO TAKE PART IN THIS PROJECT ON THE 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.

BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNED.

THE TECHNICAL PRESENTATION WAS AN ALL-DAY CLASS GIVEN BY BOB DAVIS OF THE MODESTO CALIFORNIA CHAPTER ON TROUBLESHOOTING AND VOICING HAMMERS TO BRING OUT THE BEST TONE A PIANO HAS TO OFFER. SOME OF THE PITFALLS EXPLORED THAT CAN CAUSE VOICING PROBLEMS WERE HAMMERS THAT WERE TOO SOFT, TOO HARD, TOO HEAVY, TOO LIGHT, OR WERE OF THE WRONG SHAPE. EXAMPLES OF EACH PROBLEM WERE INSTALLED IN THE PIANO TO GIVE THE CLASS A LIVE "LISTEN" TO THE EFFECTS THESE PROBLEMS HAVE ON THE TONE OF THE PIANO. THE PIANO AT HAND WAS A STEINWAY B THAT HAD GREAT POTENTIAL TONE IN A CLASSROOM.

LUNCH (AND PLENTY OF IT) WAS PROVIDED BY THE CHAPTER.

SUBMITTED BY

ZEN REINHARDT, RPT
CHAPTER SECRETARY.

MICHAEL KURTA, RPT

Mike is on his second career. His first was as owner-operator of Vinsetta Garage, an auto repair shop in Berkley. He had been a piano player since childhood, and wanted to learn how to tune his own. Brother-in-law Frank McKowen, PTG member and veteran technician from Lansing, showed him the ropes and thus began his new vocation. Moving to their retirement home in Mackinaw City in 1989, Mike and his wife Margaret established his piano tuning and service business serving the northern Michigan, straits area and eastern Upper Penninsula. He moved from tuning engines to tuning pianos, and says its a lot cleaner! During this time, Mike joined PTG, became an RPT and developed several technicals on piano servicing. He has given these in Lansing, Grand Rapids, his home chapter Northern Michigan, in Wisconsin, New York and at national conventions for the last four years. In 2000, missing their children and grandchildren, M & M (as they are known) moved to the Fingerlakes region of New York. He is now active in the Syracuse and Southern Tier chapters and is building a new clientele in those areas, and happy to be closer to family.

"TOOLING AROUND"

Being a former auto mechanic, Mike shares a connection with piano technicians in his love of tools. He has transferred his skills at devising automotive service tools to piano service tools and methods. You will see a large number of innovative ideas including: unique muting tips, a 30-second invisible broken shank repair, formulas for making your own bushing lube and hammer softener, scratch hide using a nut (yes, the food variety) and many, many more. A few of these ideas will be familiar, most will be new, but all are interesting. You will come away with some neat tips to make your piano work easier, more efficient and thus timesaving. And don't forget to pick up one of the goody bags Mike has brought along.

The passing of Henry Patton

Henry Patton was a member of the Detroit-Windsor Chapter since 1989. In the early 1950s Henry held a position at the Baldwin Piano and Organ Company. Henry worked mainly in the organ department where many of his ideas are still used today.

Henry was passionate about his hobbies, photography and music. An avid collector of cameras, Henry was deeply involved with his local photography club. He also collected concert grand pianos and even kept a Steinway D at the Acromag facility where he often hosted meetings for the Detroit Windsor Chapter of PTG.

The Applied Skills - *This month Mark Haas, RPT will demonstrate how to move a piano. Mark has collected some of the best equipment for moving pianos. The tools used have never been seen before at any PTG Convention. Mark will be giving out information on where to get these special tools and how to make piano moving easy and effortless.*

Larry Young, Editor
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September 2003

September meeting will be at PianoNation in Novi, MI !

Disclaimer:

"All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this Chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild."

Delegate Report: Council approved the purchase of a new office building. The Board looked at several buildings before deciding on a 12,000 square foot office structure. The cost is around \$420,000 which includes a seminar room that has risers built in, along with tables, and seats over 75 people. This space will be available to rent for special groups and activities. There will be some remodeling done, but very few repairs are needed. The current building is for sale at \$375,000 and when sold that money will go to help offset the purchase of the new building and its maintenance.

The attendance at the Dallas Convention was 476. In Dearborn in 1996 we had 850 in attendance. The Gold Hammer Award this year went to Sid Stone. If you remember, the Detroit-Windsor Chapter submitted Sid's name for consideration.

Detroit-Windsor Chapter members to be recognized -

25 Year pin was awarded to: Dale Heikkinen, Dan Harteau, Mike McGuire

35 Year pin was awarded to: Calvin Champine

40 Year pin was awarded to: Richard Doerfler