



Central Oklahoma Chapter

[www.cokptg.org](http://www.cokptg.org)



August 2020

Newsletter

## *THE SOONER TUNER*

### Next Chapter Meeting



When: Thursday, August 20th

Location: Corie Melaugh's Residence

Address: 6608 Edgewater Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73116

(Parking: The driveway is available for all, and street parking should be fine.)

Note from Corie

FYI to all:

The plumbing is odd at the house, so if anyone uses the restroom, they will need to flush twice. It is an oddity to which I'm accustomed but tend to forget to inform guests about.

Time: 8:30 AM

Technical: Evaluate and improve piano touch and tone to individual's playing style

### Our Central Oklahoma PTG Chapter Officers:

Co-Presidents - David Bonham, RPT and Doug Snook, RPT

Treasurer - Gary Bruce, RPT

Secretary - Alyssa Woodward, Member

Newsletter Editor – Joseph Woolston, Member

DISCLAIMER: "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."



Doug Snook, RPT  
COK-PTG Co-President

### President's Message

First of all, I hope this letter finds you healthy and working as much as you would like to (or need to at least, if liking isn't the issue).

Today I was reminded again that our work is not just about making pianos sound and play better or about collecting pay for a job well done. It's also and especially about the owners of the instruments we service.

I tuned an Elburn console piano for a new client who has owned and played it faithfully for the past 50 years. He told me the story of his piano playing from the time he took his first lessons as a kid growing up in Tulsa. Then he told me about his wife, who passed away about a year and a half ago. He described the circumstances of her death, which was not due to her advanced age but rather to an accident - a fall in her own driveway.

This is not the first time I have gone to tune a piano and had the experience of hearing a client whom I had barely met share details of difficult or wonderful experiences in life. I think this is in part due to the fact that we all have stories we want and need to share, and that piano technicians are trained to be listeners. I think it also happens because pianos are personal instruments. We pour out our hearts through our fingers when we sit down to play new or familiar pieces. Not only that, but pianos are often at the center of gatherings for singing, celebrating, and making memories which last a lifetime. The piano becomes a connecting point for sharing much more than just music. It can be a doorway to the soul.

I am thankful to have the privilege to work not only with so many different kinds of pianos, but also to make meaningful connections with their history and their people. And, I'm thankful to be part of an organization that encourages connections within our piano technician community, not only to learn more about our art, but also to hear each other's stories.

So, I'm looking forward to seeing and hearing you this month at Corie's place.

## Chapter Meeting Minutes

7/16/20

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### Call to Order

A meeting of The Central Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild was held at the Wanda L. Bass School of Music on the campus of Oklahoma City University on July 16, 2020. Meeting was called to order at 8:56 a.m. Prayer was offered by Norman Cantrell.

### Attendees

Attendees included Gary Bruce, Alyssa Woodward, David Bonham, Norman Cantrell, Doug Snook, Corie Melaugh, Jordan Bruce, and Joe Woolston.

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting were read by Alyssa Woodward. The group moved to accept the minutes.

### Treasurer Report

Gary Bruce reported that the Chapter balance stands at \$2,649.52 as of June 30th.

### Old Business

None

### Newsletter News

None

### New Business

Norman noted that the PTG Executive Board Meeting will be presented on Zoom and the Board's agenda book is available online for all members to view.

Gary let everyone know that he is halfway through his course to becoming a Certified Appraiser.

Business portion adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by Alyssa Woodward

## August 2020



PAUL ADAMS, RPT  
PTG PRESIDENT

### Did I Mention Retention?

There is only one thing more important than obtaining new PTG members, and that is retaining them. Our Home Office does send out a welcome package of documents to all new members, and this is a good first step. However, it needs to be followed up by the local chapter to which they are assigned. Too often I've heard stories about new members who received minimal or no contact or guidance from their chapter, not even a phone call or an email advising them of where and when the next chapter meeting will be.

Years ago, I read a story entitled "The Member Who Didn't Come Back." It involved a new member of an organization who showed up at a handful of meetings. The regular long-standing members hardly ever interacted with the newbie. They kept to themselves in their own clique. The new member was not invited to participate in any projects and was not asked to join any committees or to make a run for an office. After a short period of time, this member never returned. Several months later, someone remarked at a meeting, "Hey, what ever happened to Joe or Samantha?"

I certainly hope this is not a common illustration of what our new members experience. Even if it only happens once, it's one time too many. It certainly is a good example of what not to do.

In the past, most small towns would engage a small group of individuals to form a "Welcome Wagon." They would go out of their way make a new resident feel extremely welcome in their community. While it may sound quaint and old-fashioned, I would like to propose that all of our chapters go above and beyond to make new members feel valued by their chapters and all of PTG.

Here are a few ideas to consider from one of our chapters:

1. Send all new members a welcome card signed by all chapter members before they show up for their first meeting.
2. Find out what your new members want and do your best to meet their needs.
3. Set aside 30 minutes for non-RPT member training before your chapter meeting on whatever topics are requested by your new members.
4. Accept new members as they are and encourage them to participate from their own positions of strength. For example, if they are technologically savvy, ask them to help with running online training, monitoring Facebook Live broadcasts, videotaping training, etc.
5. Insert your ideas here, and always be encouraging.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [pres@ptg.org](mailto:pres@ptg.org).

## PTG Upcoming Events

### October 2020

Polyester & Lacquer Finish Touch Up Academy

Starts: Oct 23, 2020 8:00 AM (CT)

Ends: Oct 24, 2020 5:00 PM (CT)

Where: Piano Technicians Guild Home Office, 4444 Forest Ave, Kansas City, KS, 66106, US

### April 2021

PTG MARC (Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention)

Starts: Apr 22, 2021 8:00 AM (ET)

Ends: Apr 25, 2021 5:00 PM (ET)

Where: Crowne Plaza Wilmington North, 630 Naamans Rd., Claymont, DE, 19703, US

### August 2021

63RD ANNUAL PTG CONVENTION & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Starts: Aug 4, 2021 8:00 AM (ET)

Ends: Aug 7, 2021 5:00 PM (ET)

### October 2021

Midwest Regional Conference (MRCO)

Starts: Oct 7, 2021 8:00 AM (CT)

Ends: Oct 9, 2021 5:00 PM (CT)

Where: Marriott Kansas City Overland Park, 10800 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS, 66210, US