

# The Buckeye Backcheck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

**Volume 33 Issue 7 August 2008**

## FROM KIM HOESSLY

It's August already, I can hardly believe it! When we left on vacation in early July, it seemed like the whole summer was ahead of us and when we got back, the perspective was the exact opposite. Only a couple more weeks and we'll be doing school tunings if that hasn't started already for some of you. Cram in as much summer fun as you can before the fall busy-ness ties you down. Remember, we usually only live to regret the things we didn't do.

On a more somber note, this spring and summer has been a season of loss for many of our colleagues and friends. Condolences go out to the families of Sandy West, Al Ensminger, Norma Launer and Ben Bechtel. They will be missed by us all. I only recently heard about Al and will try to get some details so the chapter can send a donation in his memory to something he would have appreciated. Aug. 14-15 is the Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival, an event I'm sure Al never missed. Bud and I are tentatively planning to go up on Friday the 15th and hoist a few in memory of Big Al and also for Sandy, Norma and Ben. Just ring me up on my cell phone if you come up and we'll contact at the festival if you decide to join us. I have no details on Ben's memorial service yet except that it will be mid August at First Congregational Church where he was a member.

Guild business coming up this fall: First meeting in September on the 16 at Graves with the rep from Petrof. There will be a brief business meeting. The Chicago Chapter is hosting the Central East Regional Seminar Oct 10 & 11. Sounds like a great line-up of classes and registration is limited to 150, so register early! For more details go to [www.wholepiano.com](http://www.wholepiano.com). I hope to have the Oct. and Nov. meetings set up soon, so keep Oct. 21 & Nov. 18 open on your calendars.

And, of course, don't forget the **Chapter Picnic** at Bryan Hartzler's house on **August 19**. If you haven't RSVP'd, do so today!!

## FROM THE PTG CHICAGO CHAPTER

We humbly offer a unique opportunity for continued learning under terrific instructors and in convivial surroundings, conveniently located close to O'Hare International Airport and major expressways.

Please see [www.wholepiano.com](http://www.wholepiano.com) for further information. Be sure to peruse the list of Exhibitors provided. Please note: the hotel website (a link is provided on the Regional website) has driving directions and a map of the hotel location.

Act now...we are able to accommodate only 150 registrants! The Early Registration deadline is August 31, 2008. And YES, testing will be available, all three forms of the RPT Exams...check the website for an application form and instructions. Hurry--these slots will fill up quickly!

We hope to see you there!

## FROM WARD GUTHRIE, CONVENTION INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

Believe it or not, planning is already well underway for the next PTG convention and we want to involve you in the development of a first-rate Institute for 2009. We need your input to make sure your needs are part of the program. If you have ideas, suggestions, or wish to volunteer a class for consideration, now is the time for action.

Here's a few of the things we'd like to know: What can we offer to help raise your level of excellence? ... Who is the best instructor you have ever seen teach? ... What skills should you learn to increase your income? ... What can we offer to help you achieve RPT? ... Is there a class not normally offered that we should provide?

We want to hear from you no later than August 20, so please contact us soon at [institute@ptg.org](mailto:institute@ptg.org).

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## **A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE CONVENTION COUNCIL MEETING**

*from the Utah Chapter*

PTG Council meeting held the first two days of the annual convention was concluded early on the second day. While the debate was lively at times I don't think it could be called contentious. As usual most of the time was devoted to the proposed bylaw changes.

### **Proposal 1: Referencing Offices and Credentials in Advertising**

This passed with no discussion and will allow PTG officers to identify themselves as such when performing the official duties.

### **Proposal 2: Spousal Dues Reduction**

This was defeated when it became apparent that if this were passed allowing members to "option out" that PTG "benefits" would then become "products" in the eyes of the IRS and the organization would then possibly lose its "not for profit" status.

### **Proposal 3: Revision of PTG Exam Bylaw and Regulations**

This passed after much discussion. The primary reason for these changes moved many items out of the bylaws and into the regulation codes of PTG making the exams more manageable. The price increase was the topic of most debate. After several attempts to change the amount it finally passed as proposed. This was after the council was informed that the increase of income would be used for three main purposes:

1. Reimbursements for exam centers that run short of money needed to give exams.
  2. Provide materials and resources for additional exam centers making exams more assessable.
  3. Training examiners in areas where requests for exams have been requested and could not be met in the past.
- It was reported that in many chapters associate members strongly support the exam increase as they see it as a necessary move to make the exam process more accessible. The new exam fees will not go into effect until home office and the exam committee can put all the provisions in place. This is estimated as January 1st, 2009 at the earliest.

### **Proposal 4: Regional Vice President Elections Procedures**

This would have allowed an electronic ballot to elect these officers. This was defeated with very little debate as it was felt that in person election should be retained.

### **Proposal 5: Allied Piano Trades Member, Franchised**

This was not passed but sent back to the board as they had concerns with liability issues. They did express a desire to continue to work on this particular issue and hoped to find suitable means of recognizing the valuable contributions and hard-won expertise of these individuals.

### **Proposal 6: Disciplinary Code Changes**

This was defeated as it had too many legal issues

### **Proposal 7: Numbers of members needed for a Quorum to do Council Business.**

This was a late submission presented by the board. Each year the number of delegates attending council have been dimensioning getting close to dropping below 50% not required to do business. The number was changed to 40%.

### **Report of New Client Contacts Requested**

PTG has put into place new electronic links for the general public that are looking for piano service that puts them in contact with PTG listings. The home office would like to hear from members who are contacted by potential customers through these electronic means. Please contact Shawn Bruce at PTG home office.

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## **BEN BECHTEL 1936 - 2008**

Ben Bechtel passed away on July 29 after a lengthy illness.

He had a long career as a performer and instrument builder. He studied piano for a number of years, including studying under Memahem Presssler and Olga Conus. Ben developed an interest in early music, and founded an early music ensemble at Theil College Pennsylvania, which toured all over the state. He later developed an early music program at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and recieved a grant in 1967 to establish an early instrument collection at CCM. His training program grew to include up to 25 different ensembles each term. The students he taught pursued many diverse performance opportunities. The Early Music Consort was founded by Ben, which toured the country from 1972-1981 with many notable performances.

He moved to Columbus in 1985, and performed in the ensemble Early Interval along with his wife Judy. Ben began to build instruments in his shop: harps, viols, gemshorns, and harpsichords.

Professionals all over the world have performed on a wide range of his instruments. Those who knew him and his work know what a fine craftsman he was. He devoted special attention to harpsichords, combining a historical touch and sound with a reliable and robust design.

He built relatively few instruments compared to other professional builders, but each is unique. Each successive harpsichord was an exciting new project for him.

His final harpsichord is a french double (now owned by the First Congregational Church). It follows the design of the instruments made by the finest French craftsmen of the mid-18th-century, though there are departures from the historical design in order to improve maintainability and tonal brilliance.

It was my privilege to know Ben during the past year or so, and to learn about harpsichords from him. He was a generous mentor and I admired and respected his ability to make himself and others happy through music. I will miss him because there was so much more I could have learned from him, and because he was my friend. I believe he lived much longer than his doctors thought he would because of his remarkable optimism and excitement for life. Although I only knew him for a short time, it was clear that the achievements in his life came from a persistant positive outlook, his love of music, and his devotion to sharing music with others. He shared the music he loved beautifully through his performing and through his wonderful instruments.

*- David*





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

## Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

**President** Kim Hoessly, RPT  
**Vice-President** Chris Altenburg, RPT  
**Treasurer** Ron Kenreich  
**Secretary** David Stang

*Contributions and pictures for  
the Buckeye Backcheck and the  
web page are always welcome,  
(even if they are only periph-  
erally related to pianos)!*

*- David*

## Upcoming Events

### Chapter Picnic and Meeting

Tuesday August 19, 6:30pm  
The Hartzler's  
1179 S. Galena Rd, Galena  
(check [ptgcolumbus.org](http://ptgcolumbus.org) for a map)  
Please RSVP to Bryan at 740/972-9466  
or [bryanhartzler @ yahoo . com](mailto:bryanhartzler@yahoo.com)  
before 8/15.  
Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

### Voicing Master Class

Sept. 19 - 21, 2008  
PTG Home Office

### Central East Regional Seminar

October 10 - 12, 2008  
Des Plaines, Illinois

### Annual Convention and Institute

July 15 - 19, 2009  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Visit [www.ptg.org/conv/2009](http://www.ptg.org/conv/2009)  
Bookmark it and check often for updates.  
Send suggestions and comments to  
[institute@ptg.org](mailto:institute@ptg.org) by August 20

This newsletter was created using the open-source program *Scribus* running on the Linux/Ubuntu operating system.

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Comments, articles, and advertising requests may be sent to the editor.

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