

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild
Volume 36 Issue 5 October 2011



Scenes From A Picnic Saturday September 10, 2011



The weather was great and so was the company!



Black Snout, Doug. Doug, Black Snout.



Nice digs!



The Well-Tempered Brazier?

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PTG Delegate's report

July 11 & 12, 2011 Annual Council Meeting

Kansas City, MO

by

Chris Purdy, RPT

Council was well attended this year with 67 chapters represented. With 63% representation there was a voting strength of 1,351. (40% chapter representation is required for a quorum)

Board Elections:

President: Jim Coleman Jr.

Vice President: Chris Solliday

Treasurer: Norman Cantrell

Voting for the offices of President and Treasurer were unopposed and both were voted in by acclamation. The office of Vice President was contested by Chris Solliday and Laura Olsen. Voting was very close and a motion was passed to call for a vote to be counted by chapter strength. (The Columbus Chapter has a voting strength of 17) After a hand count of ballots, Chris Solliday was declared the winner with a vote of 734 to 634.

Regional Caucuses:

We re-elected Richard Bittner as our Regional Vice President. Laura Olsen also expressed an interest in this position. After discussion, Richard agreed to serve for one more term and then Laura would run for the office.

Dues Raise:

There was much discussion about the proposed dues raise and the debate was fairly evenly divided. Arguments for the raise mentioned that expenses rise for the Guild every year, dues allow for continued growth, and insure the future of the organization. Debate against spoke to the economic downturn and it's effect on so many of us. I spoke to council to express my fear that another dues raise in such an economy would not help us to grow but would in fact lead to resignation of members.

There was an amendment to cut the dues raise by half but this was defeated. As instructed by the chapter, I voted against the raise but the motion passed.

Bylaws Proposals:

Proposal 1. Chapter Dissolution/Asset Conveyance:
Motion Passed

Proposal 2. LaRoy Edwards Dedicated Instructor Award:
Motion was referred to the awards and bylaws committees.

The proposed dedicated instructor award was generally supported however a motion was passed to rename the award the "Premier Instructor Award". Discussion also proposed that the award be open to both members and non-members. This proposal was then referred back to committee for further work.

Afterwards, a proposal was made to recognize Mr. Edwards separately from an award in his name. This was referred to committee as well.

Late Submissions:

A motion was passed for an award to Larry Messerly, RPT for his "promotion of the piano, piano playing, instruction, and education about the piano". A plaque will be presented to him at next year's convention.

Notes about the convention:

Once again I can report that the convention was very well planned and also well attended. I admit that I was anticipating a lot of discussion about the new PTG web page and "My PTG" format for lists. A lot of people had been expressing their dislike for the cumbersome format and many seemed angry that the changes were not discussed with the membership beforehand. All discussion was constructive, however. It was generally accepted that adapting to new technology is inevitable and there is always a learning curve to be expected. It was mentioned that "Fire Fox" is the best platform to access my.ptg.org.

Otherwise, the week went by fast. I attended a lot of great classes and have a stack of notes and hand-outs. Not to mention a bag full of new tools! It was an eerie coincidence that this year's convention took place on the 30th anniversary of the walkway collapse tragedy. Sunday morning's paper had pictures on the front page and it was humbling to consider that such a tragedy took place in our very lobby.

And finally, I regret that I am not able to submit this report in person but I want to thank you for the opportunity to represent the Columbus chapter as a delegate once again. I will be formally transferring my membership to the Nashville chapter next month but it was an honor to fulfill this final duty to all of you in Columbus. I hope to see each of you again in the future, perhaps at a convention. Until then, good luck to you all!

Respectfully,

Christopher D. Purdy, RPT

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Sales Tax

by
Kim Hoessly, RPT

Every few years, we, as a chapter, seem to have a reminder conversation about sales tax. Since we've had so many new members recently, I thought it a good idea to bring it up again. For those of you who are either new to the business or new to Ohio, you should be aware that piano technicians are required to collect sales tax as part of their business. This means you need to go to the Taxation Division/Enforcement office and get a Vendor's License. This office is off Morse Road at:

4485 Northland Ridge Boulevard
Columbus, OH 43224

Depending on how much business you are doing, you can file monthly or twice a year. It doesn't matter if this is your full time work or part time work, you are required, by state law, to charge customers sales tax and file reports and send that money on to the state. This applies to any work you do that is repair or tuning related and any parts you sell separate from tuning or repair (a bottle of Damp-Chaser humidifier treatment for example). You do not have to charge tax on appraisals or evaluations. You do not have to charge tax to organizations that are tax exempt, although you might want to have on file an exemption form that they have filled out (you can get those forms from the State). This would be schools, churches, some non-profits, etc. as well as Piano Retail stores (warranty work for example), because they are charging the tax to the customer and you are sort of a middle man (or woman). The financial penalties for operating without a license and not paying the taxes are substantial. They consider you responsible for the tax even if the customer does not pay it, it's your responsibility to collect it.

You are also required to charge the sales tax rate that applies to the address of the customer, not your home address. In other words, in Franklin county, you charge 6.75%, in Delaware 6.75%, in Delaware COTA (those parts of Delaware county served by COTA buses), 7.25%, in Fairfield, 6.50%, etc.

Note that in addition to Delaware County, Fairfield, Licking and Union Counties all have COTA tax areas which are .5% more than the rest of the county. You get the hang of it after a while, you just need to keep your accounts separate so when you do your Sales Tax payments, you know what you owe. This is a little different from when I got my first Vendor's License which allowed me to charge one sales tax based on my home address. That changed a few years ago when they cre-

ated more than one type of Vendor's License. They have separate licenses now based on whether you operate out of a building or whether you are on the road. We obviously need the latter.

Oh, yeah, they don't send you the forms anymore, you are required to file on line (<http://business.ohio.gov/>). You don't have to pay on line, but you have to file on line. I still write a paper check because they charge, what I consider, an outrageous fee to pay on line. You do not want to be late with that payment, by the way, because the penalty is not fun. You can save a stamp by dropping the check off at the offices, they have a mail box out front just for tax payments (I believe all tax payments, not just Sales Tax). The woman there told me they check it every day and twice a day on due days (for Sales Tax, that's the 23rd of the month).

So, be sure you are compliant with the Ohio Sales Tax Code. I don't like taxes any more than the next person, but I do like well paved roads, safe bridges, schools, fire departments, police, state parks, etc etc etc.

I use a worksheet based on the ones they used to send me (shown on next page).



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Sales Tax Worksheet

Gross Sales

Exempt Sales

Net Taxable Sales

Motor Vehicle Sales

Reportable Taxable Sales

Tax Liability on Reportable Taxable Sales

Discount, if applicable

Additional Charge

Total Amount Due

County	Gross Sales	Exempt Sales	Net Taxable Sales	Tax Liability
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Franklin

6.75%

Delaware

6.75%

Del Cota

7.25%

Fairfield

6.50%

Fairfield Cota

7.00%

Licking

7.00%

Licking Cota

7.5%

Madison

6.75%

Union

6.75%

Union Cota

7.25%

Total Liability



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www.ptgcolumbus.org

Woolly Bully!



www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oq1pa3oBOIM

www.mammothpiano.com/VCG.html

Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

President

Vice-President Mark Ritchie, RPT

Treasurer Ron Kenreich

Secretary Christopher Burget

Imm. Past Pres. Chris Purdy, RPT

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

- Chris Burget

Upcoming Events

Tuesday October 18, 2011, 7:00pm
Chapter Meeting

Mark Ritchie's Shop
6262 State Route 605
Westerville, OH 43082

Topic: String Splicing &
Replacement

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

Disclaimer:

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