

Suffolk Piano Technicians Guild

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 16th, 8pm at Frank & Camille's in Melville

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last September Paul Kapelian, our Regional Vice President visited our chapter. Before he left I spoke with him about our chapter. He said we have a "sick" chapter, meaning very little enthusiasm and no cooperative spirit. Being an optimist, I thought—maybe I could change this by starting a rebuilding project. I also decided to ask some fine technicians I know to present good technicals. I tried to keep the meetings short since many feel guild business is boring. Matt Wynne and I tried phoning members to come to meetings and Matt sent each member a newsletter and email. Nearly every thing I tried failed except for the rebuilding project. It is putting along and each member is learning --repeat learning something. Ninety percent of what we do may never be done again by the guys who volunteer their time for this project, but the ten percent that they get will add to their knowledge and more importantly to their income.

I spoke to as many members as I could over the last few months to try and build enthusiasm and cooperation. The first one said, "it is too far to go". Another said, "he couldn't commit". A third said, "I'm retired and not interested". The next one gave a flat out "no". The next member said the rebuild was a good idea but never showed up, too busy. Another member told me I would fail and he wouldn't support anything. This next excuse was from a member who said he would support me but hardly ever showed up at meetings. This last member also liked the idea of the rebuilding and didn't show up. Not exactly rousing enthusiasm or interest.

I am fully aware that all of us have time constraints, distance constraints, financial and family constraints. But hey! The guys at the rebuild also have all these constraints and they juggle things to allow for the time needed. This applies to meetings as well. I go to every meeting even if the subject is of no interest to me. I believe we should support any speaker who comes to our chapter no matter what. This next comment is not a knock. When Gerry's friend gave a motivational lecture we had twenty-five members show up. Great! I was not interested because I have a fine business and do not need motivation or help. But I still attended.

At one meeting some time ago, Morrison Slide who was a member and has since quit the chapter, asked "is this all I'm getting for my money?" No one said a word. But the question, regardless of what you think of Morrison, is a valid one. With so many members who do not contribute, the chapter is not giving us our money's worth as Morrison implied.

Recently when I was asked to be President and then a few days later was asked not to be, I was unhappy but I let it go. A year or two later I was asked again to be president and I accepted with reservations. Time has passed and I have decided I will not continue as president for the second year.

I have let my certified tuning examiner's status lapse because of lack of interest by our membership. Some time ago Ed and Jim Dowling were also examiners and they too let their certification lapse because of lack of membership interest. I am also the Certified Technical Examiner (TEC) for bench testing. I will do one more thing before this lapse also, which is to test those associates who wish to take this test. All associates please come to the May meeting and let me know if you wish to be tested. After this meeting I will no longer be available for testing. If there are people who wish to be tested, we need a place. Gerry volunteered his place last time.

Since I am resigning, the May meeting will be my last official act. In June we usually have a party and no technical. We need to discuss this event. We also should form a committee to select a new president. When I became president I told Gerry I would not preside over a faltering chapter. He said nothing to me at the time. Since I made that comment nothing much has changed. Therefore, this is my letter of resignation.

Our next technical should be a high point of the season. Jim Dowling and I have asked Alex Kostakis from A & C Piano Craft to do a technical on hammer hanging. All thanks go to Jim. Alex is a real pro in almost every phase of the piano. His method is geared to anyone who has never hung hammers, or has done few or many of these jobs. He will discuss action preparation and hammer gluing. The beauty of this method is no special jigs are required, just a ruler. He will also field any questions you have on this or other topics.