

Meeting minutes of the Tucson Chapter, #857

Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.

October 11, 2023

On Wednesday, October 11 a meeting of the Tucson Chapter, 857 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. was held at the Hachenberg Piano store, 3334 Broadway, Tucson AZ. **Members attending:** Bob Anderson, Kirby Tucker, Isaac Wynn, Richard West, and Rick Woodruff. **Guests:** Dee Evans, Jack Phelps. The meeting opened with conversation and snacks at approximately 5:30. President Kirby Tucker called the business meeting to order at approximately 6:15. The technical session began around 7:00.

Old Business: Richard West gave a brief report. He was elected chapter delegate for the 2023 Convention but was not able to take advantage of zoom meetings because of problems with the zoom hook up. He reported on a long-running debate over the past year on PTG-L and in all of the individual PTG regions. The debate centered on uncertainty regarding a decision a few years ago by Council to move from Council governance to Board governance. The primary reason for the change was that delegates were and had always been at some small risk of liability to lawsuits. Based upon the reading of Illinois law (we have our articles of incorporation in Illinois) it was suggested that our 100+ delegates would all need to be covered by insurance. This had to be addressed because PTG couldn't afford to insure all the Council delegates.

The interpretation of Illinois law has since been questioned. There may be reason to believe that insuring all our delegates was never an issue because Illinois laws of incorporation state that volunteer board members are not liable to lawsuits; at least that's a recent interpretation. The early interpretation of Illinois law that was given to the Council delegates totally skewed the debate and resulted in the decision to move to board governance. The result has been that a proper debate on the governance question has never been held, because of the over-riding fears of legal liability and the cost of covering all delegates.

Richard reported that there is still no clear statement of the actual facts regarding Illinois corporate law as it applies to volunteer organizations like PTG. Without clarification the board operates on shaky ground. A proper Council debate with all facts at hand needs to be held. To further complicate matters, there is some reason to believe that, if the initial vote was prejudiced and based on limited or inaccurate knowledge of PTG's liability, then perhaps none of the decisions taken during the years of board governance are valid.

It seems necessary to conduct another governance debate in Council. Illinois law would be presented accurately. Since we have lived with board governance for a few years, we would have that as experience in the debate to finally decide which governance is best for PTG. Finally, we would have the decades of Council governance to bring to the table. Council's final deliberations would have the benefit of a broad range of experience and ideas.

Richard is not aware of what steps are being taken to heal us of our self-inflicted wounds. He believes chapters should be debating this. As of right now, Richard's personal belief is that Council governance is the better choice.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Anderson stated that the current chapter balance in the bank is \$3,838.14. Bob reported that we have no added bank fees on our account. There was some discussion about chapter property and documents. As the tech examiner for the chapter, Bob has all the jigs and other materials related to the RPT technical exam. He suggested we should figure out how to keep track of the various documents and other chapter properties. Rick Woodruff suggested that we should let chapter members know what books and materials that we each have at home in our personal libraries and that we would be willing to share with other chapter members.

New Business: Kirby Tucker suggested some possible instructors for upcoming meetings. He offered to contact Nick Gravagne for a January meeting and Chip Meyer from Renner for an April meeting.

The business meeting adjourned at approximately 7 pm.

Rick Woodruff presented a technical session. He demonstrated a different approach to vertical piano regulation.