



Watchmakers' Association of New Jersey, Inc.

OUR 73RD YEAR

AN ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING AND FURTHERING THE ART AND SCIENCE OF WATCHMAKING

Meeting Date: April 10th 2012
Place: VFW Hall
South and Centennial Avenue
Cranford, New Jersey
www.WANJ.US

Last Month Program: Our first meeting of 2012 had good attendance. Our guest speaker Dan Nied, documented the recovery of a pocket watch found on a crew member of the "C.S. Hunley". The only confederate submersible, that was sunk in Charleston Harbor. The pictures showed the discovery, identification and conservation of the 19th century watch. It may be possible to pin point when the watch actually stopped. Thank you Dan for your excellent presentation!

This Month Program: We will show and AWCI tape by Robert Bishop about servicing and setting a Multi-Function Seiko Watch. The free mart tables last month attracted lots of selling and buying of equipment, as well as tools and watches. There will be free tables for members at the April meeting. I again appeal to the members, who have not paid their dues for 2012. Your statements are enclosed. The generous support of our older members is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support! See you April 10th.

****Please reserve the date of May 8th for our social meeting. As we agreed, members will contribute food and drink, or make a donation to the event. Please contact:**
Mike Osnato (973)- 827- 8570 or
Dr. Henry Shotwell (908)-310-8481 (Cell)

Hans J. Weber
President

*The following is an email from NAWCC for your information:

Membership Announcement Concerning the NAWCC School of Horology

This letter provides an update for the membership on the current status of the NAWCC School of Horology. The NAWCC Board and staff have worked diligently to improve the School's staff, equipment, and facilities. A first-rate curriculum for the training of professional watchmakers and clockmakers in both modern and vintage repair was implemented. Unfortunately, the number of students enrolled in the School of Horology diploma programs continues to decline. A number of factors have influenced this: the economic downturn, high cost of tuition to maintain a low student-to-instructor ratio, lack of industry or government subsidies, low amount of financial aid available to technical school students, and the general lack of awareness that watchmaking and clockmaking are viable careers. We have seen several other horological schools, which were subsidized, close in the past three years. The School operating budget, which has averaged deficits of \$75,000 a year, and has been subsidized by approximately \$3 to \$5 a year per member, does not have a reasonable outlook of improving over the next several years.

The School budget was trimmed to a barebones annual operating budget of about \$300,000, which is viable with 12 full enrollments. The next term would begin in less than three months, and only six students have completed the application process. Several others applied and have since withdrawn for lack of finances. Although others would likely apply between now and July, undoubtedly a number of these will have insufficient resources to cover costs without more financial aid than is currently available. Because of these continuing uncertainties and the corresponding strain on our finances, the Board will introduce and vote on a motion in April to close the school as a full-time diploma-granting vocational school. We will continue with the assistance of our committees, volunteers and staff to expand short-term courses related to watchmaking, clockmaking and other horology related subjects.

We and many others feel great sadness that this endeavor, started in 1995, will not continue. As was outlined in a *Watch and Clock Bulletin* article in the August 2010 issue, horological schools in the United States have declined from over 80 in the early 1950s to fewer than 10 today.

Questions related to the school can be directed to Ruth Overton, Board Chair (rwoverton@att.net) or Steve Humphrey, Executive Director (shumphrey@nawcc.org).