



# Watchmakers' Association of New Jersey, Inc.

## OUR 72<sup>nd</sup> YEAR

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

Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 7:30pm  
Place: VFW Hall South Ave, & Centennial Ave.  
Website: <http://www.wanj.us>

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all and welcome to the last message of the year - October is also our last meeting of 2011, we will not reconvene again until March 2012.

I would like to thank everybody who attended the September Meeting, and thanks to Dale Sutton for giving us an impromptu presentation re the AWCI National Convention in Portland this past August. If you missed it, there were some eye-opening statistics that Dale shared. One, that the membership of AWCI has slid to just over 2,000 - its smallest roster ever. He also shared that most of the existing affiliate chapters through the country are in the same boat as us. They have declining memberships, an aging population, and great difficulty recruiting new programs and members. There were a great variety of solutions offered to try and regenerate the chapters. However, I can say from experience that we have tried many of these ideas, with very little success. The only thing we haven't tried is the Convention Format - where we have an all-day program of activities and marts for all interested parties. That requires a lot of planning and a dedicated group of volunteers.

Speaking of Volunteers - I would like to advise that Rueben Simpson is interested, and will likely be, your newest President of WANJ, starting next year. I have decided to step down after 8 years total as President, and my term will end after the end of the October meeting. I thought it best, as I think the Association needed a change, both in personnel and in direction. The daily pressure of my business also figured heavily in my decision.

I would like to thank all of you for your support and interest in keeping the group going, I do hope that the WANJ is able to evolve and grow as the world of Professional Watchmaking continues to evolve also. I can't say what the future of watchmaking will be like, but I know as long as we have watches, there will be a need for a place to exchange ideas and practice for their repair.

For the October Program, Dale Sutton has generously agreed to give another talk, on the history of E. Howard - Boston and the watches they made. There will be a powerpoint presentation and several actual watches on display. E. Howard was considered by many to be the Rolls-Royce of American Watchmaking, with many innovations that have been integrated into watches still being made today. Please come for a stimulating talk from Dale!!

Once again, thanks for all the years of support, I wish the WANJ and all who support it many more years of Success.

All the Best, Neil Wohl