



# 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, September 13, 2011 at 7:30pm  
Place: VFW Hall South Ave, & Centennial Ave.  
Website: <http://www.wanj.us>

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everybody -

I would like to welcome back everybody to our Fall season at the WANJ. I hope we all had an enjoyable summer - it has been quite a bit more challenging than most, but like everything else, we will get through this - one day at a time.

I wish I could say the same about our Association. It has been almost a year since I sent a newsletter challenging everybody to come together and try to give our little club a "shot in the arm." Many ideas were suggested, some people stepped forward, and Hans Weber and I thought that maybe there was still life yet in the WANJ.

Unfortunately, in my view, that enthusiasm wore off fairly quickly. We lost more members and are still left with the same problems we faced last September. We still cannot find quality programs for our meetings. Many members have stopped attending the meetings, leaving us with barely enough attendance to even justify the trouble of organizing them. The Spring Social was poorly attended, and we had a lot of food left over. But I should quickly add that those who did attend made it fun and I thank them for coming out.

Bottom line is, we will ask once again, "shall we continue?" I had a long phone call with Hans recently, and the feeling is that we should not "prolong the agony." I personally have a difficult time continuing to support this organization, because it is still (and was organized as) a professional organization dedicated to informing and educating watchmakers of New Jersey. I believe there are only 5-6 active watchmakers left who are still members. Again, we welcome everybody, but the reason everybody else is here is to learn from the watchmakers. IF there aren't any, what's the point?

I gain most of my technical and practical information online, and it turns out (after 16 years at the bench) I know just as much, if not more than most people I share the forums with. I think we all will find the approach better and more efficient than driving to Cranford once a month. Yes, there is a social component to all this, but it is not (and should not be) the main reason for us getting together.

While we are not hurting for money, Hans has advised me that we are dipping into the Club's savings to pay for rent, and other basic items needed to keep it running. We have also used up almost all of the money originally give to us by the late Charlie Havens as an annual prize awarded to the student with the best attendance at the Lititz Technicum, the official Rolex Watchmaking School. We have just enough to give this award one more time, and then we will have to use our savings, if we are to continue doing the honorarium.

Also, at the end of this season, I will have been your President for 8 years - this makes me the 2nd longest serving President in the history of the organization after John Sokol. That is too long, and this group needs fresh leadership. IF we choose to continue, I would like for you all to consider another person for the job of President.

We will continue this discussion when we get together on the 13th, where our program will be given by Dale Sutton, who plans to share with us his experiences at the Annual Convention of the AWCI held last month in Seattle this year. Please come out and join us, and let us enjoy our time together!

Until Then, Neil Wohl