



2024 Regular Annual Meeting of the Membership Minutes
As approved at the National Convention in York, PA, June 21, 2025

Saturday, June 15, 2024
Chattanooga Convention Center
One Carter Plaza
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Board Chair Rhett Lucke called the Regular Annual Meeting of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc. (NAWCC) to order at 8:03 a.m. EDT. He welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for their participation.

The General Chairs for the 2024 NAWCC National Convention, Sherry Kitts, Glen Kitts, and Chris Martin, as well as all the event chairs, were recognized by Chair Lucke for their hard work and efforts to make the convention a success. The host of volunteers who contributed to the success were thanked.

Board members present were recognized. Current Board members are:

Chairman Rhett Lucke	Vice-Chairman Renee Coulson
Treasurer Bob Burton	Secretary Sherry Kitts
Director Leroy Baker	Director John Cote
Director El Garcia	Director Cathy Gorton
Director Jarett Harkness	Director Philip Morris
Director Geoff Parker	Director Jeff Zuspan

Also recognized were the Old Timers (200 lowest membership numbers) and Golden Circle (50-year) members present. Past NAWCC Chairmen and Presidents in attendance were also recognized, as well as Fellows and Silver Star Fellows. Jim Coulson qualified for all distinctions.

Chair Lucke made the following Motion: To suspend the reading of the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and approve as published. Motion seconded by Director Parker. Hearing no objections, the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

The following upcoming events were highlighted:

- The 2024 Ward Francillon Time Symposium in Sturbridge, MA, on October 21-24.
- The 2025 National Convention in York, PA, on June 19-22.

There is continued optimism regarding activities of the Board of Directors and the entire organization. We have a strong group of Board Committees, working to align with common goals, all pulling together. The Committees are generally chaired or co-chaired by Board members. The headquarters team is a small, very efficient and effective team.

2024 NAWCC REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Museum updates are exciting. The School of Horology continues to expand. Regional and National participants learn how to get clocks and watches repaired and serviced.

Improvements in communication between headquarters and members are very evident. Much of the credit goes to Executive Director Rory McEvoy, Webmaster Alex Simpkins, and Publishing Editor Laura Taylor. The monthly email with updates on happenings is much appreciated by all members.

Grant activity has been expanded. Alternate avenues of funding have become very important with the lower membership numbers. The NAWCC has received a grant of \$1M for Phase I of the museum HVAC upgrades, and additional grants are being pursued. The staff in Columbia is working on sponsorships and partnerships with organizations having our same interests, such as AWCI (American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute), HSNY (Horological Society of New York), and American Watch and Clock Museum. We are better working together than competing.

Board Treasurer Bob Burton was then invited to give the Treasurer's Report. Important points were:

- The NAWCC's financial health improved in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024, due to the market-driven upturn in its investments, a very successful National Convention in Lancaster, and an excellent job by the team in Columbia.
- The NAWCC is committed to prudent budget management, aggressively looking for new sources of revenue, and exploring collaboration opportunities.
- On March 31, 2024, the NAWCC's net assets totaled \$7.8M, an increase of \$260,000, or 3.5%, during the fiscal year.
- The NAWCC investment portfolio increased by \$604,000 as a result of realized and unrealized gains. The value of the portfolio at the end of the year was \$4 million, up 17%. It should be noted that no draws were made from the investment portfolio during FY 2024. This was due in part to efficiency of operations. Contributions during the year were under budget by \$63,000.
- The NAWCC ended FY 2024 with revenue above budget by approximately \$42,000 and expenses under budget by \$38,000. Operating support and revenue totaled \$1.827 million in fiscal year 2024, increasing \$306,000, or 20%, from fiscal year 2023. Fiscal year 2024 operating expenses totaled \$1.720 million, \$38,000 under budget.
- We have been awarded an LSA (Local Share Account) grant of \$1 million to fund the replacement of our outdated HVAC system, with no matching funds required. The contract has been signed and Phase 1 work will commence by this fall. Headquarters is working on grants for the final Phase 2, a much less expensive activity.
- The audit for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024, has been completed with no problems anticipated. The final report will be posted on the NAWCC website.

2024 NAWCC REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Executive Director Rory McEvoy then provided an update from his perspective. He first thanked Chair Lucke and Treasurer Burton for their reports.

The HVAC grant is a result of working with local grant writers GMS. Their fees are \$60,000 per year, and it has been well spent. They were the primary interface in securing the LSA Grant. We have contracted with McClure, who is very familiar with our HVAC system, and we will submit charges through the local borough as our agent for reimbursement from the LSA grant account. A bonus of the McClure bid was that spaces will be modified such that the Quincy street clock can be accommodated. (It could not be installed in the atrium due to inadequate floor supports in that area.)

We have a dedicated team at headquarters working harmoniously for low pay. We are proud of the newsletter development and the direct communication with members that it affords. We have gotten some very interesting feedback on the newsletter. The hardcopy Bulletin is appreciated by many of our members, including himself.

We are working to resurrect Field Suitcase Workshops in accordance with popular demand. We do not currently have the resources to do it, and if anyone knows of a willing, knowledgeable person willing to perform as an instructor, please advise.

The School of Horology was rebooted in 2021 and Ken DeLucca is doing a phenomenal job. Many students have come away with a new dedication to help with NAWCC projects. The School is beautiful with two fully developed spaces, and a third area being developed for watchmaker courses. The industry is desperate for watchmakers. Ideally, we need to pull Ken back from administrative duties to focus on course development. A lot of the material we used previously was copyrighted, with the original copyrighter having passed away and some argument over the rights to the material. So, we are approaching writing the material afresh, which is sometimes better anyway. The School of Horology course cost has been set competitively in line with modern standards and is enabling us to invest in school upgrades and curriculum development.

For the museum, the HVAC system has put us in a rough situation due to inadequate climate control. Fortunately, the LSA grant has given us a good head start on correcting this issue. McClure delivered such a good proposal, that much of the original Phase 2 could be incorporated in Phase 1. Phase 2 is much smaller in scope now.

We have a line in the PA budget of \$2.5 million. We just need to apply over the next ten years. This is called the RACP and has much tougher requirements than the LSA grant. We have applied for \$0.5 million of this allowance. There can be a delay of two years in reimbursement.

Last year we unveiled a fresh look to the entrance with upgraded windows. We installed new flooring in some galleries. We are working on Exhibits we hope to be ready for York next year. We received a grant of \$35,700 thanks again to GMS from Explore York for the 2025 National Convention. Exciting speakers are coming to the convention.

ED Rory McEvoy's focus will be reengaging with marketing – we somehow cut that from the budget in the past, but it is one of the most important Development activities.

2024 NAWCC REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Some of the information provided in answers to audience questions were as follows:

1. Increasing Membership: One element to increasing membership is that the newsletter is not limited to members. Anyone who signs up when visiting the website can obtain the monthly newsletter. Currently we are sending the email newsletter to 26,000 to 27,000 people. Also, filling out the application for membership has been made much simpler. We have added an auto-renewal function, with choice to opt out one week before renewal date. Janet Thompson has been uploading attractive information to Facebook, which is our best tool.
2. "What's in it for me?": We are starting to put out a clearer message of the value of belonging to the organization. Rory saw this question in his visit with the Japan Chapter, and the international members are also suffering from the exchange rate.
3. Older people at these functions: It seems that the folks who have time to do this are retired. Ken DeLucca was alarmed that seven out of eight students in a recent class were not NAWCC members. The key may be resurrection of the Field Suitcase Workshops as this may appeal to the younger generation interested in the learning experience. HSNY earns half of their money from their day classes across the country. Dave Coatsworth mentioned that his chapter 190 is teaching one day clock repair classes and would like to get certified. This is how they get new chapter members.
4. Many on the forums are not NAWCC members. It does serve the purpose of giving the message "we are here to help" and not just in it for the money (remark by Tom McIntyre). Rory noted that this gives voice to a thought – to include those on the forums in the newsletter distribution, which might influence some toward membership.

Chair Lucke then thanked the audience for joining us. He gave a shout-out to Dave Coatsworth and the entire forum team for their service as it is a huge outreach benefit. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m. EDT.