



**National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.  
Board of Directors In-Person Meeting  
Wednesday February 11, 2026 @ 8:00am ET  
Florida Mid-Winter Regional, St Augustine, FL**

**OPEN MEETING –DRAFT MINUTES**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Geoff Parker, Chair	Nicholas Coll, Director	Istvan Varkonyi, Director
Rhett Lucke, Vice Chair	Eliel Garcia, Director (ZOOM)	Paul Young, Director
Bob Burton, Treasurer	Micah Tasker, Director	Jeff Zuspan, Director
Nancy Spieker, Secretary	Michael Taylor, Director	

**DIRECTORS Absent**

Richard Callamaras, Director		
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**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Rory McEvoy, Executive Director
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**ITEM**

**SUBJECT**

- 1 Call to Order at 8:10am ET**
  
- 2 Roll Call:** A Roll Call was taken to establish a quorum. Directors and Ex-Officio Board Members were present as noted in the tables above.
  
- 3 Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Procedures & Announcements**  
 The Board welcomes guests Brianna Ardini, Jay Dutton, Rich Newman, John Paolini, Cathy Gorton (by ZOOM) Eric Tibbets and Ken DeLucca  
  
 Robert’s Rules of Order for Small Boards will be followed.  
  
 Round Table introductions were made for all Board Members, including newly elected Board Member Nic Coll, as well as, presenting guests in attendance.
  
- 4 MOTION by Secretary Spieker:** to approve the January 6, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
**Second By Director Zuspan**  
**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

**ITEM****SUBJECT**

- 5 Recent History:** Past Board Members Rich Newman and Jay Dutton addressed the Board on the recent history of the NAWCC and Board. Both had been longtime active members in the organization but had joined the board to discover that the Association facility was in need of repairs and improvements that were far in excess of financial resources and in fact, the NAWCC was in the midst of a membership crisis and the current operations were unsustainable. With the loss of the executive director, the Board established an Oversight and Advancement Committee to act as the interim Director. The “For All Time” donation effort was mounted, much of which was used for the deferred maintenance necessary with the balance establishing an endowment. The COVID shutdown presented additional challenges, but also provided a chance to thoroughly evaluate the situation and implement some strategic planning, take advantage of federal relief funds, update IT systems to improve headquarters efficiency and reduce staff and expenses, as well as soliciting donations and corporate investors. Discussions with now Director McEvoy had begun before COVID and he was able to come in as Museum Director and Executive Director in 2022. The Board was encouraged and optimistic to be able to fill this position with an educator and horologist; the first horologist to act as Executive Director. Director McEvoy has proven to be an invaluable asset for the organization with a clear vision and goals that meshed with the Board’s objectives. Currently, the NAWCC is financially stable, but Rich and Jay urged the group to stay focused, mind the priorities looking forward and provide support for Rory. Continued financial stability through donations and endowment will be critical, along with continued development of the School of Horology, Library and Museum as sources of revenue and benefits of membership.
- 6 Chair Discussion**
- Chair Parker expressed his appreciation to Jarett Harkness for his contributions during his tenure as the prior Board Chair.
  - There is an established Director Orientation Outline that will be reviewed and formalized as a tool to help new Board Members.
  - As Board Members and Committee Chairs/Members, the group is urged to make sure goals and ideas are becoming prioritized Action Items that can be completed.
  - The top goals of the Board will remain building membership and financial support. Accordingly, Chair Parker’s intent is to have the Membership and Development Committees report at every Board meeting. A formalized rotating schedule of other Committee reports will be made available so that Committee objectives and progress can be shared.
  - Chair Parker urged Board members to attend local chapter events and regionals to stay in touch with membership and to represent the organization in a positive light.
- 7 Treasurer Report**
- Finance Committee Chair Burton reported that the October and November (summary) and December (complete) financial reports had been reviewed and approved at the January 29, 2026 Finance Committee ZOOM meeting.
  - Liquidity is back up above prescribed levels as grant funding has been collected for the completed HVAC project.
  - Membership is increasing for the first time in several years – a hopeful trend for our future.
  - The organization has approximately \$4.8million in investments and for the fourth consecutive year, no draws on the investments have been needed.

**ITEM****SUBJECT****7  
(cont)****Treasurer Report (continued)****• April 2026-March 2027 Budget Presentation/Discussion**

- The Budget reflects revenue of \$2.23M (approximately 7% increase) and equivalent expenses to arrive at a balanced budget. The projected decrease in net assets as shown due to planned depreciation (non-cash) and not due to net operating losses.
- Revenue growth is projected from increased workshop revenue and Museum admissions
- The 2026 Ward Francillon Time Symposium is projected to generate a small operating surplus which will be restricted for future Symposiums.
- Continued Membership growth in FY25/26 supports an assumption of stabilized membership levels, rather than decline.
- The budget includes temporary restricted donation releases for Education Space, Museum flooring, Time and Astronomy Gallery and Hamilton Digitization project. These funds are currently held in short term investments and their releases will reduce the impact on the operating fund while honoring the donors' intentions. Board-designated and unrestricted funds remain in long term investment accounts. The budget again includes a 4% draw from unrestricted investments to support operations, although that draw has not been used in the past four years, and it is not anticipated to be necessary for the FY26/27 year.
- 2026 National Convention will share 25% of any surplus with the host chapters. The event is budgeted for a slight revenue decline and increase in expense based on the budget prepared by the Convention Committee.
- The budget includes a 3% salary COLA and a 9% increase in employee Health care costs. The health care increase will be paid 100% by the association. Additionally, headquarters will be hiring a new full-time employee with benefits as an office manager.
- Grant Management Systems will be retained for the fiscal year to assist with grant writing and management for several projects.
- Professional fees have been adjusted to reflect the RKL audit and 990 preparation fees as contracted. Legal fees have been adjusted to provide for the absence of a pro-bono legal counsel member. Payroll processing fees have been increased to reflect the outsourcing HR services.
- Budget includes expenditures for significant projects: Sundial Garden, Education Space, Time and Astronomy as well as, website redevelopment and the Hamilton Digitization project.

**MOTION by Treasurer Burton:** to approve the April 2026-March 2027 Budget

**Second By Director Young**

**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE**

**8 Ward Francillon Time Symposium Update**

Committee Chair, Cathy Gorton gave a committee report via ZOOM. She presented the list of committee members and commented that they are have a considerable amount of experience. She also complemented Headquarters on their substantial support.

**ITEM****SUBJECT****8 Ward Francillon Time Symposium Update (continued)**

**(cont)** Gorton submitted a spreadsheet of Symposium events from 2021 showing break even to net income results for the past five years and projected 2026 Symposium income (dependent on foreign exchange rates). A collage of photos from the 2025 Evanston event reflected a turn toward more tours than lectures. The draft schedule of events for the 2026 Symposium – Horological Treasures of Britain promises a fun and informative trip to see several points of interest in England with outstanding speakers and guides.

Gorton discussed some of the alterations in the 2026 event that were necessary due to foreign travel, the expansion of the number of travelers from 45 to 65 attendees, and the addition of a two-day extension trip to Cumbria.

The Committee is working to coordinate a 2027 event “Watches of the West” in conjunction with “Worn and Wound” and a 2028 event “Military Time Keeping” to be held at the New Orleans WWII Museum. Early planning for 2029 may include an event at the NAWCC Museum in tandem with the MidEastern Regional in October 2029.

**9 Executive Director’s Report/Updates**

- Executive Director Rory McEvoy opened with high praise for the work and dedication of the headquarters staff.
- The Overton bequeathed estate realized a profit of nearly \$500k from the sale of the home and contents. Clocks from their collection sold at the National Convention netted around \$10K with additional clocks currently distributed for auction. The majority of the funds, after costs, will go to the endowment, as Ruth was instrumental in establishing the “For All Time” campaign.
- Director McEvoy reiterated several positive items upon which to build – membership is growing, the facility is in good shape thanks to GMS grant stewardship, the organization is successfully expanding its core education objective, local goodwill toward the organization seems to be growing and museum visitor numbers are up due to increased visibility from a separate online presence.
- With a clever analogy referencing the recent Quincy street clock project glitch, Director McEvoy related that the NAWCC can now stop digging out of a hole, build on its newly reinforced foundation and focus on providing quality and value.
- In March of 2025, the new “User-Friendly Management and Information System (uMis) replaced the old iMis database system that was expensive and unwieldy to customize. The new system is being developed and we are currently working on a replacement for the Registration Program (RP). The new version will be better interfaced and have offline capability as poor wifi or outages are commonly experienced at convention centers.
- Targeting social media marketing will continue to be an area of concentration as we are seeing positive results from the efforts over the last six months.
- The Hamilton Digitization Projects will be funded with Federal grant funds and a generous matching donation. The possibility of digitizing other resources, like the bulletins would make them more searchable and available to other users.
- The Website rebuild is an ongoing focus in order to simplify and refine the site for our members.
- The Director shared images of the re-branding logo variations that were developed by the Pennsylvania School of Art and Design at a cost of \$5k and a small stipend. The images will be sent out for comments and final approval.
- development of the facility will be a welcome way to pass on skills, give horological newcomers a head start, and foster creativity.

ITEM	SUBJECT
9 (cont)	<p><b>Executive Director’s Report/Updates (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reboot of the School of Horology has become an integral element of the NAWCC operation. Much appreciation to Ken DeLucca and Sam Gradel for their oversight. The continuing</li> <li>• The Director perceives the immediate challenge to be helping the staff which is currently at capacity workload. Additionally advancing the revenue potential of the National Convention. Will be a focus.</li> <li>• Board Members are asked to volunteer, contact lapsed members to entice them to rejoin and discover the progress that has been made, pledge and encourage others to donate, and to share local events on social media</li> </ul>

Director Varkonyi put forward the idea of reinstating an Education Committee or Task Force. He will organize a small group to evaluate the requirements to implement and develop objectives for a group to support the School of Horology. Presentation will be made for further discussion at a future Board meeting.

- 10 Development Committee Leadership:**  
As current Board Chair Parker had been the Chair of the Development Committee, a new committee chair needs to be appointed.  
**MOTION by Director Zuspan:** to appoint John Paolini, Director of Philanthropy, as the new chair of the Development Committee  
**Second By Director Burton**  
**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

**BREAK FOR LUNCH and informal discussion with Florida Mid-Winter Regional Hosts** – Mario Taylor, Eric Tibbetts, Viviane LindeOlsson. Mario complimented the regional team and expressed his gratitude to the Board in deciding to have the in-person meeting in Florida. He announced that the Regional was hosting a 50/50 drawing and that proceeds would be donated to benefit the Quincy Street Clock project.

- 11 Development Committee**
- Director of Philanthropy John Paolini reported that the 2025-2026 Partners in Time Annual Appeal has received contributions of \$124K including \$39K matching gift for the Hamilton Digitization project. An additional \$23K has been contributed for the Quincy Street Clock project.
  - “Quincy” tshirts have been selling briskly through the Museum Store and will generate income to benefit the Ansonia Street Clock Project.
  - The Committee has developed a simple 4 question questionnaire to better understand and gauge the donation preferences of the membership.
  - The Director presented a detailed outline of the NAWCC Capital Campaign – Phase Two of “For All Time”. The Goal of the campaign is to raise \$10M by EOY2032 to provide an endowment ensuring long-term security for the NAWCC. The campaign slogan will be “Sharing the Stories of Time”.

**ITEM****SUBJECT****12 School of Horology Update:**

- Ken DeLucca introduced himself as a 26 year member of the association. In 2000 he began volunteering in the library and school and by EOY2021 he was working to reestablish the School of Horology. He is now in his fifth year of evolving and reimagining the School. Sam Gradel has been a key addition to the team as she has freed up Ken's time to expand and develop the School.
- Ken views the School as an important element in attracting new members to the organization and developing new teachers to provide a source of education for members. Additionally, the School has become an important revenue stream for the NAWCC.
- Ken has a Certificate in Museum Studies and a Graduate Degree in Clock Conservation from West Dean College in Sussex, UK. The Conservation of the NAWCC's collection is important and Ken would like to see the creation of a Conservation Center and Conference.

**13 Convention Committee Report/Updates:**

- Plans for the 2026 National Convention in Lexington, KY are well underway.
- Locations for future National Conventions are slated as
  - 2027 – York, PA
  - 2028 – Ft Wayne, IN
  - 2029 – York, PA
  - 2030 – Dayton, OH or Virginia Beach, VA
  - 2031 – York, PA
- Committee Chair Paul Young spoke on the ongoing debate of Member vs Non-member Convention Admission Policies as discussed in detail by the Convention Committee. Issues with the present system of offering a deeply discounted admission to non-members relate to devaluing the NAWCC membership and providing a lesser experience for non-members (potential new members) as presentations have concluded and some mart table holders have already left before the public gains entry. The Committee is considering the following recommendation to address these concerns:
  - Have the entirety of the convention open to members and non-members from beginning to end. Non-members would be charged a higher rate but would be able to have the full convention experience.
  - Early Bird and Banquet access would only be available for members.
  - Have a Saturday only (one-day) discounted price for members and nonmembers, with nonmembers still paying a higher price for this one-day entry.
  - Possibility of still having discounted public hours for Saturday afternoon.
  - Possibility of an option for a non-member or previous members to apply their admission premium to a new or renewal membership.
- The Committee will further discuss the policy and present a formal policy at the June Meeting in Lexington for implementation at the 2027 National Convention. For Local Regional conventions, the policy would serve as a recommendation rather than a mandate.
- Regional Board Representation was discussed and assigned for the following 2026 events:
  - AZ Sunshine 3/13-14 (possibly Director Coll, Parker or Taylor)
  - Pacific Northwest 5/15-17 (possibly Director Parker)
  - Lone Star 5/22-24 (Director Zuspan)
  - All Texas 8/21-23 (Director Zuspan)
  - Mid America 8/28-29 (Director Spieker)
  - Mid-South 9/4-5 (Director Young)
  - Mid-Eastern 10/16-17 (Director Varkonyi)

**ITEM****SUBJECT****14 Membership Committee Report/Updates**

Committee Chair Michael Taylor reiterated that Membership has been increasing. He will be meeting with Executive Director McEvoy to further discuss the makeup and direction of the committee. Of note, the Committee plans to bring the MGI calling process in house to contact members who have let their membership lapse. This would allow a more cost effective and personal outreach.

A more detailed report will be given at the next meeting.

**15 Next Meetings**

Next ZOOM Meeting will be March 24, 2026 at 7:00pm ET. Beginning in April, 2026 video conference meeting will be using Microsoft Teams.

Next in person meeting – Wed June 24 – 2026 NAWCC National Convention, Lexington, KY

**16 Call for any other New Business**

Chapter Relations Chair Zuspan reported that New York Chapter 2 has dissolved along with California Chapter 97 that dissolved last year. Chapter 7 will officially reboot with its inaugural meeting Feb 28, 2026 at the National Watch & Clock Museum in Columbia, PA.

Chair Parker reminded everyone to be particularly diligent and to notify their local chapters to ignore phishing emails, as he has already had several reports of emails posing as him.

**17 Adjournment of the Regular Session at 3:15pm ET****18 Solicit Audience Feedback**

**BREAK (Executive Session to Resume After Break)**