

CAPITAL AREA

WATCHMAKER & CLOCKMAKER

GUILD NEWSLETTER

April 2008 cawcg.org

American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute “Chapter of the Year” -- 3 of the last 4 years

Next Meeting is Tuesday, April 22nd – 6 pm – Tien Hong Restaurant (8301 Burnet Road)

President: Don Bugh d-bugh@suddenlink.net hm (979) 690-2736

Vice President: Rob Putney putney@us.ibm.com hm (512) 255-9406

Treasurer: Hugh Lindsay hugh@txcyber.com hm (979) 693-6161

Secretary: Dan Havlik d.havlik@sbcglobal.net hm (512) 251-4939

Webmaster: Mike Williams mike@simplertimeclocks.com hm (512) 733-7375

From the President:

At the last Guild meeting, I had a request to increase the font size of the Guild Newsletter – so with Dan’s help, this newsletter will be bigger and better (OK – at least it will be bigger!) We hope all of you that have been working far too long at the bench will appreciate this change.

I was scanning through the Internet when I found a posting that caught my attention. A gentleman in the northeast posted on his blog that he had finally found the “real deal” – a real watch/clock repairman! (He had been trying to get his wife's watch repaired for some time.) A bit of further research and I found that as of 2004, there was a worldwide shortage of 25,000 to 30,000

watchmakers and clockmakers – with the shortage expected to increase further over coming years due to the ageing workforce of watchmakers and clockmakers. While our Guild may not single-handedly solve the worldwide shortage, I think we do make a difference in this part of Texas. Clearly there are places in the US that have no support whatsoever.

I also got a laugh from a job announcement for a watchmaker. Part of the job requirements were that you had to be clean, tidy, patient, focused and fussy. The successful applicant must be able to sit for long periods of time and be willing to work up to 60 hours per week. Starting salary - \$20,000 per year. Hmmm – I wonder how many applicants they will get?

OK – back to business. We had our first “mini-mart” before the March Guild meeting. Three brave souls brought in items to sell and I think each person made a few sales. Based on the feedback that we’ve received, the rules will be changed a bit for the June “mini-mart”. Sellers may put a price on their items or use a “silent auction” format with a beginning price.

Now is the time to do your spring-cleaning as the Guild auction is just around the corner. The auction will be held at the same location that we used last year – Westover Hills Church of Christ, 8332 Mesa (corner of Steck and Mesa). Unloading/set-up will begin at 8 am and the auction will begin at 10 am. Thanks to all of you that have volunteered to help.

For the April Guild meeting, Michael Webb will be presenting a program on Deepthng Tools – Why and How. Mike always has the best tools around so you’ll want to be here to see what he comes up with! It will be entertaining and educational.

I’ll see you at the April meeting.

Don

CAWCG Auction – April 26th, Saturday:

Don’t forget the annual CAWCG auction to be held Saturday, April 26th. The auction will be held at the Westover Hills Church of Christ, 8332 Mesa (corner of Steck and Mesa), in Austin. Unloading/set-up will begin at 8 am and the auction will begin at 10 am. Terry Palmer will be this year’s auctioneer. Bruce Cox, Dave Howard, Pat Holloway and Dan Havlik have

also volunteered to help. We still need a bit more help to make the auction run smoothly – if you can help, please send me an email or notify us at the April Guild meeting. We would also appreciate a few folks volunteering to bring some “snacks”. Thanks to everyone that has already agreed to help.

If you are bringing items to sell, please try to bring them early so that we will not be rushing at the last minute to get lot numbers on them, etc. And you have to be a member of the Guild in order to buy or sell at the auction. Annual dues are only \$15 and can be paid at the auction or the Guild meeting, which is held earlier in the week.

Note that the Guild voted to increase the seller’s fee to 15% on each item sold. And also, there will be no after-auction sales on the premises.

Last Month:

“Mini-Mart”:

At the next “mini-mart”, which will be in June, we will also be running a silent auction, at the same time. Set up, for the “mini-mart” and the silent auction, will be at 4:45 pm. No sales will be made before 5:15 pm. There will be a \$5 seller's fee for bringing silent auction item(s) and/or items for the “mini-mart”. One will pay \$5 total for all of the silent auction items/“mini-mart” items brought, not \$5 for each silent auction/“mini-mart” item brought. This entry fee will benefit the Guild. Silent auction items will have a beginning price. Also the below rules, from our “mini-mart” last month, will be followed:

1. To buy or sell, you must be a current member.
2. Each member wanting to participate may bring up to ten items to sell. Each item for the “mini-mart” should be priced.
3. Setup should occur in the back area of the meeting room (closest to the dividing curtains).
4. All buying and selling must end promptly at 5:50 pm in order that we may get the meeting underway at 6 pm.

Any other changes needed, will be detailed in a future newsletter.

Education:

David Douglas: A Calendar Automatic Swiss Wristwatch Course will be held in June or July of this summer. The course will be 1 full day. Among items covered will be taking the watch apart, and servicing the barrel of these watches. AWCI standards will be followed.

Mary Ellen Bell: There will possibly be a 1-day troubleshooting clock class held this summer.

The Treasurer's Report:

The operating account currently has \$1,932.54. The education account has \$9,820.84 in it.

Christmas Party:

A decision was made to hold the Christmas party at Cannoli Joe's in South Austin, on Saturday evening, Dec. 6, from 5 - 8 pm. This is an "all-you-can-eat" Italian restaurant. There are 50 items to choose from on the dinner buffet, plus 10 desserts to choose from. The price is \$22 per person (plus, I believe, tax and tip).

Donations:

George Kiser donated a large number of horological magazines to the Guild. The Guild voted that they become part of the library collection of the Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches, in Lockhart, and they were accepted by the Museum.

Rob Rosner donated 2 books to the Guild library. One of them is **American Wristwatches: Five Decades of Style and Design**, by Edward Faber and Stewart Unger. This is one of many books, as well as videotapes, that are available from the Guild library. Contact our librarian, Luther Lucko, at lutherlucko@yahoo.com, in order to check out items from the library.

Miscellaneous:

The Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches presented to the Guild a certificate in recognition of the Guild's recent monetary donation to the Museum. The Guild is a Gold Charter Member of the Museum.

**All Texas Chapters Regional (NAWCC), August 24 - 26, 2007, JW
Marriott, 5150 Westheimer, Houston, Texas**

Reminder:

There is a minimum “gratuity” for all attendees at the Guild meeting. Even if you do not eat or drink you will pay \$3.00, so be prepared. If you have any questions, call your officers.