

	<p style="text-align: center;">American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute Board of Directors</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">MEETING MINUTES</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">September 5th, 2017 8 p.m. ET, 7 p.m. CT, 6 p.m. MT, 5 p.m. PT</p>		

Call to order - 8:00 p.m. ET

AWCI President Fred White presiding.

Location: GotoWebinar

Roll call of board members and other invitees.

Fred White - President, Joe Cerullo - Vice-President, Henry Kessler - Treasurer, Aaron Recksiek - Secretary, Sergio Berrios, Josh Kroman, Craig Stone, Peter Pronko, Peter Whittle. Justin Harrell - Board member elect, Jordan Ficklin - Executive Director, Paul Wadsworth - Parliamentarian, Manuel Yazijian - Past President.

Directors Present: Fred White, Joe Cerullo, Henry Kessler, Aaron Recksiek, Josh Kroman, Peter Pronko, Peter Whittle, Sergio Berrios.

Directors Absent: Craig Stone, Justin Harrell.

AWCI staff present: Jordan Ficklin.

Also present: Paul Wadsworth, Manuel Yazijian, Gay Gordon-Byrne - Executive Director of Right to Repair.

Secretary's note:

The Board of Directors passed a motion through email on September 1st. This method of making and approving motions is rare as it takes 100% voter return from the Board of Directors in order for an email motion to be valid.

Motion 8.31.2017.1

“I would like to make a simple motion that AWCI endeavor to establish a systematic method of helping watch and clockmakers affected by Hurricane Harvey. Food, money, tools, supplies, and equipment.”

Made by: Henry Kessler, Seconded by: Aaron Recksiek.

Henry Kessler - Yes, Aaron Recksiek - Yes, Sergio Berrios - Yes, Josh Kroman - Yes, Peter Whittle - Yes, Fred White - Yes, Joe Cerullo - Yes, Peter Pronko - Yes, Craig Stone - Yes.

Motion passes unanimously by email vote.

Gay Gordon-Byrne, Executive Director of The Digital Right to Repair Coalition (repair.org) was present to explain her organization’s goals and mission.

Started in 2013 to get various laws passed in State legislatures and at the Federal level that would be friendly to independent repairers. Was inspired by right to repair legislation that was introduced by the automotive industry in 2012.

The basic legislation that is pursued is in order for companies to do business within a particular state, the company must also make technical information, diagnostic software, and various spare parts available to independent repairers.

The organization was mainly founded to support the repair of digital products. They have now branched out to include other products that are not necessarily digital in nature.

There are approximately 3 million people in the United States doing repair, this makes up roughly 6% of the national GDP according to their statistics.

Their organization is considered a trade association made up most of other trade associations as their membership base. They have hired lobbyists in some states to help their legislative efforts.

Membership varies by individual, business, or organizations. Most organizations dues run between \$1,000 and \$10,000 per year. They have about 250 members, from individuals to companies.

According to Gay, AWCI as a member, can benefit by utilizing their large lobbying network and expertise among their membership base. The goal is that this can be applied to our specific industry.

There was some confusion about the relationship between repair.org and ifixit.com. Ifixit.com is a member of the organization and Kyle Wiens, the founder of ifixit.com is president of their Board of Directors. They are completely separate companies, although multiple people have been involved with both.

Their total budget is around \$100,000 per year, and 60% of that goes to pay two full time lobbyists. Most of the work done by the organization is done by members donating their time.

Keeping in mind the small budget of their organization, they think that the laws being created could be drafted to include our industry for very little additional cost. Currently their legislation spells out providing support for anything with an integrated circuit.

There was question of the current tax status of repair.org, according to guidestar.org their 501c6 tax status was revoked due to a failure to file returns. She explained that they just got notice a couple of weeks ago about that notice. She said they would be correcting that soon.

Normally the process for introducing legislation starts when state lawmakers contact the repair.org organization with a desire to introduce a bill within their state. The organization then steps in and helps the lawmakers with drafting and introducing the bills. The members of repair.org are encouraged to contact their legislators and try to make them aware of the problem.

It still remains unclear whether joining their organization would affect the 501c6 tax status of AWCI.

Gay explained that her compensation consists of reimbursement for her travel and some other expenses. She donates much of the time she spends with this organization. She is mostly retired from her career.

Fred reminded the board that the minutes from the previous meetings need to be approved.

Motion 9.5.2017.1

“To approve the minutes from the August 8th Board of Directors meeting.”

Made by: Josh Kroman, Seconded by: Joe Cerullo.

Approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Motion 9.5.2017.2

“To approve the minutes from the August 22nd Board of Directors meeting.”

Made by: Peter Pronko, Seconded by: Peter Whittle.

Approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Motion 9.5.2017.3

“To take Motion 8.8.2017.2 off the table.”

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“I move that AWCI supports repair.org and joins as a non-profit member of that organization and encourages our members to support their organization.”

Made by: Peter Pronko, Seconded by: Josh Kroman.

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Motion as amended: “I move that AWCI supports repair.org and joins as a non-profit member of that organization and encourages our members to support their organization. The board will decide at a later time what dollar amount to join at after the organization has shared their finances with us”

Made by: Joe Cerullo, Seconded by: Peter Whittle.

Main motion approved by a voice vote.

The Board discussed the organization and what membership level it would take to join. It was discussed that it seems like they have a lot of work to do with very little resources. There was discussion about making sure we do more research into their organization before aligning ourselves with them.

The level of membership was discussed and how it would take an active participation from AWCI within their organization to make sure any improvements are made to the legislation to include our industry.

The Board discussed the possibility of whether this would affect the membership of some of the current IAB members and the possibility of losing some of that revenue. There was discussion that progress made in this avenue would be good for Watchmakers, consumers, and ultimately the brands.

Motion 9.5.2017.4

“I move to amend the motion to read: I move that AWCI supports repair.org and joins as a non-profit member of that organization and encourages our members to support their organization. The board will decide at a later time what dollar amount to join at after the organization has shared their finances with us.”

Made by: Peter Pronko, Seconded by: Josh Kroman.

Amendment approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Henry Kessler, Peter Pronko, and Peter Whittle were assigned to a sub-committee to investigate the organization and determine what membership level to join at.

Aaron Recksiek gave a brief report from the Education & Standards Committee and shared a motion passed by the committee at the last committee meeting.

Motion 9.5.2017.5

“I move that a probationary allowance be made to the by-laws of AWCI to allow new watch schools to join the REC for a maximum of a 2 year period and review their status after 18 months to determine how they are progressing. The school applying is responsible for all financial and informational requests applicable to all REC schools made by the organization.”

Made by: The Education & Standards Committee, No second needed for committee motion.

Approved unanimously by a voice vote.

The committee felt like a change to the bylaws was not ideal at this time and a probationary allowance to allow the bylaws to be temporarily circumvented was more appropriate.

Fred White expressed his desire to make a President’s appointment of Peter Pronko to the Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors.

Motion 9.5.2017.6

“I move that Peter Pronko be appointed to the Board of Directors Nominating Committee.”

Made by: Henry Kessler, Seconded by: Joe Cerullo.

Approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Terry Kurdzionak gave a report from the Convention Committee.

As of 9/5/2017 - There are 8 vendors, 12 plus ones, 21 members from Florida, 5 Saturday-only registrations, 111 total people have registered, not counting the AWCI staff.

The committee is encouraged by the number of members coming. They are discouraged by the lack of former Board members that have registered.

Progress has already started on the location of the 2018 convention. There are 3 hotels being looked at in Austin and 3 in San Antonio that fit the financial criteria that has been set by the Board.

The possibility of having a joint convention with the NAWCC was discussed. They will be having their 2018 convention in York, PA and their 2019 convention in Springfield, MA. Their Executive Director was invited to our convention to meet with us and discuss this possibility.

The possibility of Hurricane Irma affecting our convention in Tampa was discussed. The campaign that AWCI ran to receive donations for Watchmakers or Clockmakers affected by Hurricane Harvey was discussed, the fund had already received \$700 in donations.

Motion 9.5.2017.7

“To adjourn, 10:08 p.m. ET” Made by: Henry Kessler, Seconded by: Joe Cerullo.

Approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron H. Recksiek - Secretary, AWCI Board of Directors