



Affiliate Chapters Report 9/1/2015

The Affiliate Chapters has changed a great deal just in the past two years while I have been its chairman. In the past the only time the Affiliate Chapters met was at the annual meeting. Therefore, the annual meeting was essential to the group and all the business and discussion had to be done there and then. When Gene Bertram was the Chairman, he set up a Yahoo group so that the chapter delegates could communicate during the year between conventions. This was a good idea but it was never used by more than two or three of us. Gene was also very good about writing an affiliate chapter column in every issue of the Horological Times as I believe Affiliate Chapter Chairmen had done before him. This was another way to communicate with the other chapters but it was one sided. The annual meeting at the convention remained the only time for discussion, interaction and conducting business.

After the shakeup at AWCI in 2013, when management of AWCI changed, the Affiliate Chapters was also forced to change. We started having teleconferences. This was mainly because there was no convention that year and the Affiliate Chapter Annual meeting, where all the discussion, interaction and conducting of business is done, had nowhere to take place. We overcame this by having a teleconference. This medium, although nowhere close to being a substitute for the face to face meeting, proved to be a very useful device to add to our tool box and we continued to use the teleconference throughout the past two years.

A good example of this use of teleconference over the last year was when the tiered membership motion was presented to the AWCI Board of Directors by the Membership Structure Committee. I was contacted by delegates and members of affiliate chapters with concerns. I set up an Affiliate Chapter teleconference to discuss the matter and with the attendance and input of the AWCI President and the AWCI Executive Director many questions were answered and some fears and rumors were put to rest.

There are, at the time of this report, 17 affiliated chapters in AWCI. Since the 2014 convention we have had several teleconference meetings that were well attended by chapter delegates as well as the AWCI President, Fred White, and the AWCI Executive Director, Jordan Ficklin. We also have had several chapters regularly contribute to the Affiliate Chapter column in the Horological Times. I have not, however, written any message or column for the HT as Affiliate Chapter Directors have done in the past. I would like to see this start again for the future.

Last year a motion from the Horological Association of Virginia, that originated in the Affiliate Chapter annual meeting, was eventually passed by the AWCI Board of Directors to become policy 3.2014.01, The Policy for Speakers and Educational Programs at Affiliate Chapters. This gave chapters a price break to have AWCI come and give educational programs. Several chapters have taken advantage of this and more are planning to do so in the future.

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We have accepted a new Affiliate Chapter, The Lititz Watch Technicum Alumni Association, and have had inquiries from members in California about starting a new affiliate chapter in that state.

We look forward to having our annual meeting at the 2015 convention in Kansas City, MO, on Thursday morning October 1. At this meeting, delegates will give reports on their chapters, there will be an election of officers, and there will be motions made by the delegates which, if passed, will be presented to the AWCI Board of Directors by the new Affiliate Chapter Director. Having served two consecutive terms, I am no longer eligible to be the Affiliate Chapter Chairman but there are at least two delegates who have expressed interest in running for the office.

There is some work that was left undone in 2015. We had hoped to draft mission statement for the Affiliate Chapters. I hope that this will be done in the future to help guide us and unite us in our endeavors as a group.

The Affiliate Chapters is a diverse grass roots group of groups with many dedicated members passionate about what they do. I hope that the Affiliate Chapters can continue to support AWCI as well as garner the support of AWCI even more in the future than it has in the past.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Carey, Affiliate Chapter Chairman