



Chief Examiners Report for 2009 Mid-Year Meeting

Greetings to all AWCI directors, industry members, committee members, colleagues, members, and horologists. I regret not having the opportunity to be present with you this year. I will do my best to present you with information that I believe is very encouraging.

We had a full slate of educational classes, exams, and also added two additional exam administrations to help accommodate the growing demand. From July through November fifty-seven exams have been administered (14 Full, 23 upgrades, 9 re-takes). Seven of the twenty-three upgrades were CMWs, and of the seven, three were awarded CMW21 with two remaining to be assessed. There are currently five CMWs that are registered to upgrade. Of the examinations administered overall, between 50% and 60% met the standards to be awarded certificates. We anticipate this trend will continue into 2009, and a byproduct of this is a growing number of participation in ongoing education courses.

The Board of Examiners has been busy combing through the Standards and Practices document, revising areas that needed updating. We also added a continuing education program which I feel is essential to perpetuating the education programs of The AWCI, as well as encourage and help the 21st Century Horologist stay current with their skills. The CEU specifics need to be further developed, but the basic platform has been initiated. In addition to further development of the CEU program, we will continue to develop the CMW21 program for those CW21 holders who qualify and want to upgrade their credentials.

The WS and WT program has been set aside at the moment for lack of necessary finances need to further develop it. This program has the potential of being the most successful of them all, fulfilling a need for technicians for customer service and retail sales support. The WT, placed in the right atmosphere, can greatly enhance consumer awareness and reduce product damage.

Sadly under the current economic climate we may not be able to make as much forward progress as we would like, but we must indeed continue to move forward. The AWCI is an **Institution** which comes from the Latin word *institutum* meaning *facility* or *habit*; from *instituere* meaning *build, create, raise* or *educate*. We need to *build* programs, which *create* interest, to *raise* the standard, by means of *education*. Since all states no longer have testing requirements I believe it is essential for a method to validate the skills of those who practice this trade. With increased industry support and help from those who have passed the requirements we will have a continuum for education in general. Industry should also be the means of accountability of the standards used in the examination process.

In closing I would like to thank those that have helped make this certification successful, and the vision of those individuals who set the process in motion. I would like to encourage industry members and certified members who have not been actively involved with the program, to seek an area that they can be of assistance.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley Grau", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wesley Grau
CMW21,MBHI
Chief Examiner