



Advancing the Art, Science and Business of Horology

**Board of Examiners Mid-Year Report
February 23, 2012**

I would like to start this report with a review of the role of the board of examiners. As stated in the Standards and Practices document "The purpose of the BOE is the oversight of all certification and assessment processes, including construction, administration, and scoring of assessments".

This year has been the most active year to date for the BOE. We have, for the most part, met via conference call on a monthly basis to review examination information as a result of appeals that have been presented. In addition to this, we have adopted new technical documents to be used during the examination process to help remove certain variables that have existed, and to align the content more closely to industry after-sale service procedures. We have also implemented a new scoring sheet which will allow more uniform scoring by the assessors, and make the results easier to evaluate.

Immediate projects that are in process include an oral examination process that will first be available to English second language individuals. This will be piloted prior to adoption, and then a procedure for administering will be implemented. Another project in process is the drafting of a completely new theory portion of the examination. It is the goal to have the draft version of the theory exam ready for piloting by current CW21 watchmakers who will be attending the annual convention in Denver.

Provided with this report will be some current data from the results during the examination process. It is my personal observation that we have a declining success rate, not due to any change in the administering or assessment process, but because of the pool of individuals attempting. Those individuals who were committed to, and saw the importance of certification, have participated early in the development and administration. Individuals who are now participating have seen the industry's acceptance of the process and realize it is essential to their success. Sadly many of these individuals are attempting the exam with little or no preparation. They are participating on the laurels of years of experience at the bench alone. History has shown us that it is essential for craftsman to review certain basic skills as well as learn new practices which have been adopted with newer technological developments. My hope is that we can stress the importance of preparation in our future articles and lectures when delivered in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

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