

## AWCI 2014-2015 Convention Committee Report

### Committee members:

Terry Kurdzionak

Paul Wadsworth

Jena Borel

### Staff contacts:

Jordan Ficklin, Cindy Whitehead, Donna Poener-Hardy

Following the BOD decision in February of 2014 to have the 2015 convention in Kansas City, the work began.

The chairman and executive director visited Kansas City for three days including travel time in October 2014 and toured five hotels and various off site venues. We quickly discovered the value this City would bring to our convention. We have had articles in the *Horological Times* each month detailing facts about Kansas City and our convention.

We were able to secure a hotel for our needs with the assistance of Jena and Gary Borel. One more visit by myself and Cindy Whitehead from headquarters helped put everything into place with the hotel. The schedule is intact, rooms for meetings and classes have been assigned, instructors are lined up, vendors are fully booked for the vendor fair, hospitality suite ready, awards banquet set up, off site schedule for the Plus Ones is set, ELM Trust dinner with transportation arranged, and we are "good to go!"

We have received many donations from manufacturers, vendors, and others in the horological community to help support the classes and the twenty watchmaking students coming from the REC schools to the convention. The Jules Borel Company is hosting an evening reception at their facility on our opening night, Wednesday September 30<sup>th</sup>. Our ELM Trust dinner was sold out and the arrangements to accommodate more people was facilitated by the trustees.

It is important to visit the chosen city before the plans are made. The hotel experience is critical in order to better plan for the types of classes and meetings and all things "convention" that our group needs to have. Situations may change, surprises will pop up, but pre-planning, adequate budgeting, and an enthusiastic committee working in harmony with the AWCI staff is necessary for a convention to be successful.

Plans for the 2016 convention, to be held in the Chicago area, are already underway. My thanks to the committee and staff at AWCI, the ELM Trust and Jules Borel Company for assisting with this process.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terry Kurdzionak*, committee chair