

# IT'S ABOUT TIME!

A bi-monthly newsletter

Vol. 19, Issue 3

## September/October 2023 HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER 36

The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.

<https://new.nawcc.org/index.php/chapter-36-heart-of-america>

Chartered 1960

### NOTICE OF MEETING

Sunday, October 8, 2023, 2 PM  
(Doors open 1:30 PM)

**St. Peter & All Saints Church  
Undercroft (enter from rear)  
100 E. Red Bridge Rd., Kansas City, MO**

**Murphy-Davis Signal Company**  
("MURDA" Program Clock)  
Topeka, KS  
by  
**Chris Malik**

It's a "murda"r mystery! Why is this clock so obscure?

The Murphy-Davis ("Murda") Signal Company was organized in 1929 in Topeka, KS in order to manufacture the Murda Program clock as well as its supplies and accessories. These clocks were sold throughout the Midwest and were used by schools to ring classroom bells. The clock is unique in that the movement is a mechanical wind up but drives a spindle carrying a punched tape. Brass "fingers" follow the tape and upon encountering a hole, a circuit is completed thereby causing a bell to ring or a slave to advance.

**Learn more at our meeting!**



For the period September through October 2023, the following have maintained continuous membership in the NAWCC:

**35 Years**

Dennis Cooper

**15 Years**

Linda Andrews

**Congratulations!**

### Robb Report

#### *Jaeger-LeCoultre Atmos Transparente*

By VICTORIA GOMELSKY

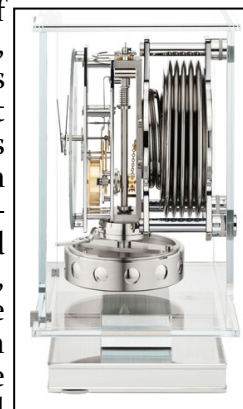
December 21, 2019



In Switzerland, Jaeger-LeCoultre is among a handful of watchmakers actively pursuing the clock business. But it's hardly a stretch for the brand, whose Atmos pendulum clock, based on a mechanism invented by the Swiss engineer Jean-Léon Reutter in 1928, has been in production since the 1930s.

On the contrary, the timepiece is a mainstay of Jaeger-LeCoultre's production; the brand steadily turns out new versions at least once every few years.

The pared-down design of the clock features 12 black, Art Deco-style hour markers around a dial made of next generation glass that lends the piece a see-through quality, set atop a satin-brushed and rhodium-plated base. The mechanical, virtually perpetual in-house movement, visible from every angle, is the Calibre 563. Manufactured and assembled by hand, it is comprised of 217 parts. The clock retails for \$9,450.



## CHAPTER 36 OFFICERS

### **President**

Mark Parkins

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### **First Vice President**

### **Second Vice President**

Chris Malik

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### **Secretary**

Thaine Damman

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### **Treasurer**

Nancy Spieker

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## NAWCC NATIONAL

### LEADERS

### **NAWCC Committee**

Tim Orr, Nominating

Tim Orr, Membership

### **Star Fellow**

Tim Orr

### **Fellow**

Don Allen

Mike Bailey

Larry Boucher

Harry Firth

Greg Gould

Ruth Herrmann

Wayne Herrmann

John Martin

### **Old-Timer**

Florent Wagner

## HEART OF AMERICA

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH & CLOCK COLLECTORS

### CHAPTER 36

### Member Meeting

### Minutes

Sunday, August 13, 2023

St Peter & All Saints Church, 100 E Red Bridge Rd, KCMO

### Opening

The Heart of America Chapter #36 of the NAWCC met Sunday August 13 at the usual location. Lively conversation and a bit of selling activity delayed opening a few minutes past 2:00 p.m. President Mark Parkins noted a quorum with twenty-four members in attendance and opened the meeting by introducing Florent Wagner and his program on music boxes.

### Program

Florent Wagner brought six working music boxes to the August meeting and shared his extensive knowledge about their technological and commercial development. Florent's presentation suggested that the innovations and marketing of the first mechanically reproduced music were similar to recent hi-tech developments. Music boxes were the disruptive technology of their day.

The earliest music playing mechanisms were incorporated into watches and later were put in small boxes that were paint decorated much like the snuff boxes of the day. Some were made of precious metals and were finely enameled. Florent brought two such small boxes from his collection. Switzerland, with its advanced horological skills, was the largest producer of cylinder music boxes at this period; as the nineteenth century progressed, larger boxes were made. Elaborate music boxes were produced in beautiful wooden boxes with multiple tunes and changeable cylinders. Music boxes became expensive status symbols.

One variety of music boxes was the singing birdcage that accurately imitated the chirping of a bird with bellows powered whistles like a cuckoo clock. These were shaped like an actual cage containing a mechanical bird with real feathers and with moving beak and tail. Florent demonstrated the sound and movements of a life-sized bird in a cage about 12 inches tall, and showed another bird that pops up from within a small elegantly enameled box.

A further technological innovation and a disruption to the cylinder music box market was the development of the disk playing music box in Germany. Disks were easier to change than cylinders, and they were cheaper and much easier to manufacture. Disks with the latest popular tunes and works by famous composers could be purchased much like later phonograph records. In the late nineteenth century German manufacturers dominated the disk market in Europe, but in America the Regina company mass produced more affordable disk music boxes that

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

allowed a wider range of consumers access to recorded music. Thomas Edison's invention of the phonograph was the final disruptive technology that replaced the music box, and the era of the cylinder and disk playing music boxes ended by 1920.

### **Show and Tell**

For show and tell Harry Firth brought two World War II military wristwatches, one for enlisted soldiers and one for officers. The enlisted men's watch had a plain fabric band and a simple dial with a seconds bit. The officer's watch had a black dial and a sweep seconds hands with hacking provision for coordinating times. Greg Arey showed a tall blue Delft ceramic columnar clock, also called a tabletop grandfather clock. Greg's clock was 22" tall and had a French S. Marti movement with a 14" pendulum. The clock was in excellent condition, and Greg dated it from 1865 to 1870. Larry Boucher brought half a dozen clocks not only to show but to re-home. Larry offered to sell the clocks in a casual Dutch auction. Larry had brought a homemade open swinger with a Hermle movement, a small reproduction Dutch Zaandam clock, a musical cuckoo clock, and a Deco mantel clock with Westminster chimes.

### **50/50 Drawing**

The 50/50 drawing was won by Chris Hill. Chris received \$18, and \$18 was added to the education fund.

### **Business Meeting**

The business portion of the meeting was quickly conducted. Florent moved to approve the minutes which were printed in the recent newsletter. Ed Reupke seconded the motion which passed. Mark Parkins reported that he has volunteered to serve as chairman for a River Cities Regional next year. He is working on setting a date, and the other members of the Executive Committee are helping with other plans, but a time and location are not set. Vice President Chris Malik mentioned that the chapter needs a new projector for programs and presentations. Several members discussed what capabilities may be needed for that. In a review of the finances, Treasurer Nancy Spieker pointed out that one line of the financial report had been omitted in the newsletter. A payment of \$100 for renting the church basement in June was not included in the expense column.

### **Secretary's Report**

Secretary Thaine Damman spoke a few minutes about the NAWCC National Convention held July 14 -16 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania which he and Florent and Shawn Wagner had attended. The convention was a great success with excellent attendance and a full and active mart. Lectures and workshops filled three days. Thaine mentioned that his two most enjoyable and informative workshops were Lee Davis's demonstration of stenciling an Eli Terry wooden works style clock tablet and a one-hour watch movement workshop presented by the Horological Society of New York. Florent reported his attendance at the Old Timers Luncheon. The open house hosted at the national headquarters and museum on July 13 was also extensively recounted.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Thaine L. Damman  
Secretary, Chapter 36 NAWCC





# AUGUST MEETING

## MUSIC BOXES

AUGUST 13, 2023





# AUGUST MEETING

## MUSIC BOXES / SHOW AND TELL

AUGUST 13, 2023

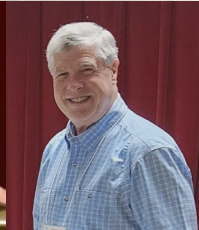




# AUGUST MEETING

## MUSIC BOXES / SHOW AND TELL

AUGUST 13, 2023



**National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors  
Heart of America Chapter 36**

**Balance Sheet**

**31-Aug-2023**

Assets

Unrestricted Chapter Cash	1,484.06
Restricted Education Fund	4,065.05
Total Chapter Funds	<b>5,549.11</b>
Regional Convention Cash	1,828.54
Regional Convention Savings	15,000.00
Regional Convention-9mo CD	7,500.00
Total Regional Funds	<b>24,328.54</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>29,877.65</b>

Liabilities

Dues paid in advance	90.00
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Equity

Equity restricted for Education Fund	4,065.05
Members' Equity	25,722.60
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>29,877.65</b>

**Income Statement**

**Jul-Aug**

**Year to Date**

Revenue

Dues	40.00	1,205.00
50/50 - Restricted for Education Fund	18.00	84.00
Donations	0.00	15.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>58.00</b>	<b>1,304.00</b>

Chapter Expenses

Meeting Facility Rent	100.00	400.00
Newsletter postage	54.12	208.47
Other postage	0.00	25.20
Supplies	0.00	21.77
KS Annual Registration	0.00	40.00
NAWCC donation-National Convention	0.00	100.00

Regional Expenses

MKOA Regional donation	400.00	400.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>554.12</b>	<b>1,195.44</b>

<b>Net Income (Expense)</b>	<b>(496.12)</b>	<b>108.56</b>
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*Nancy Spieker, Treasurer*



# HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER 36

of the

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Gregory D. Gould

1210 West 69th Terrace

Kansas City, MO 64113-2055

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**September/October 2023**



## October Meeting

Please bring a tasty treat if your last name begins with "A" thru "F."



## Upcoming Events

National Convention

Chattanooga, TN

June 13-16, 2024

Kentucky Thoroughbred

Lexington, KY

January 19-20, 2024

Lone Star

Mesquite, TX

February 29-March 2, 2024

Southern Ohio

Wilmington, OH

April 11-13, 2024



Meeting photos in this newsletter were taken by Steve Pierce and Bill Rankin. Thanks!

Please consider taking photos in order to document our history.