



National Association of

**WATCH&CLOCK**

Collectors, Inc.

NAWCC Chapter 52 - Los Padres

# Why should I join the NAWCC?

Over the years I have heard many people express the opinion that they don't get their money's worth out of their membership.

The stated purpose for the existence of a non profit society dedicated to the preservation of horological objects and knowledge seems to be insufficient for many.

Thus I wrote this semi tongue in cheek essay!

[NAWCC Discussion Link](#)

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## Why Should I join the NAWCC?

(Or renew my membership?)

Legend has it that someone asked Willie Sutton why he robbed banks. His response was supposed to be, "BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY IS!"

Similarly, the NAWCC is where the knowledge, experience and horological resources are. I don't know our average age, but I am sure there are a lot of seniors amongst us. Thats a lot of experience and knowledge that is going to pass into history in a relatively short period of time. I recall reading in a 40 + year old bulletin where a younger member wrote, perhaps tongue in cheek, that the best way to collect watches and clocks was to make friends with old people. Well, I think that pretty well defines the membership of the NAWCC.

One of the drawbacks of associating with old folks is that a lot of them are in declining health and some times act like they are approaching senility or in their second childhood. A large percentage of them have politics to the right of Attila the Hun or to the left of Karl Marx and think the younger generation is a bunch

of spoiled whippersnappers!

Because a large percentage of them are no longer physically in their prime and suffer from numerous ailments, they can tend to be cranky and bitter. Many are disappointed with how life has worked out for them and are not always pleasant to deal with.

Taking this a bit further, the ten percent or so who actively use the internet and have the time to do so are most likely to be retired with time on their hands and fit into some of the above categories.

We could wish for all of our elders to fit the image of the kindly grandfather or grandmother but it doesn't always work out that way.

So to you younger folks who wonder why you should join or renew, rather than ask you to respect your elders, think of it more like an inheritance! Not many people will tell the rich old geezer to stuff his bucks and shut the @#\$%#.

And if you keep your expectations low, you can never be disappointed! A lot of those old fogies are nice guys! Be sure to attend chapter meetings, the assistance, camaraderie and opportunities that arise there more than compensate for annual dues and petty personality clashes!

In the end, its all about watches and clocks and not the personalities of their present caretakers!!

And yes, I can see more than a hint of a self-portrait in this essay!

On a more serious note, recently the volunteers have made great strides in bringing on line offerings to the membership. The most significant to date is making 50+ years of Bulletins accessible on line. Along with the index, this is a resource worth the dues all in itself. Whatever your interests, there are numerous articles to peruse for your research interests or personal pleasure.

The Hamilton finishing room records have also been made available to members only. This data along with the chapter 149 search data is invaluable in researching your various Hamilton artifacts!

The museum has put its inventory on line and many of the examples have been photographed and are there for the members to enjoy.

Many of the library's video's are now accessible on line also.

This is just the beginning, As more and more data is captured and presented online, No one should ever doubt that they are getting their money's worth.

An online auction service is in the works along with a host of other projects.

Any serious collector can no longer doubt the value, wisdom and purpose of the NAWCC.

And of course as is obvious from the fact that I am typing this, The NAWCC is providing hosting services to any Chapter that wishes to take advantage of the service!!

Happy hunting,

Bill Kapp

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