



ATTENTION: DUE TO CORONA VIRUS CONCERNS, THE APRIL MEETING IS CANCELLED

President's Comments

Attendance (to hear the fine program on the restoration of the Henry Ford museum tower clock) was smaller than usual but the predicted storm held off until after the meeting.

The April Newsletter is the final notice that Dues are due!

Robert Arnold, Chapter President

Upcoming 2020 Chapter Meetings:

April 19th Royal Oak Seniors Center CANCELLED

June 7th Plymouth Historical Museum

September 12th All Michigan Meeting Howell

December 6th Holiday Party Royal Oak Seniors Center

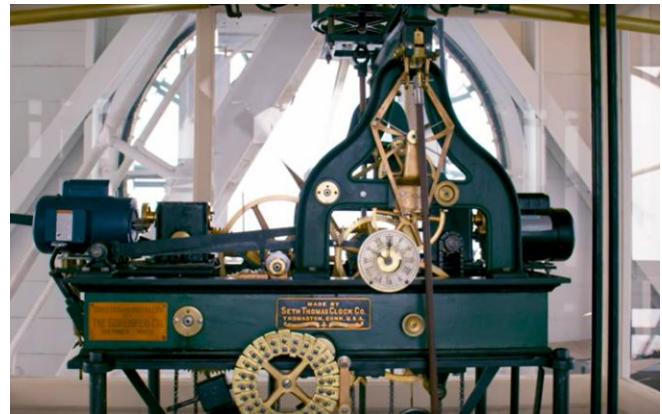
2020 Chapter Officers:

Bob Arnold, President	810-636-7236
Jim Miller, Treasurer	734-718-8563
Tom Morris, Secretary	734-282-1725
Bill Ellison, Paul Mallie, Gordon Webb, Directors	

Chapter Highlights

The first Chapter meeting of the New Year was held on February 9, 2020 at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Approximately 30 members, wives, and guests were treated to an outstanding and very interesting presentation about the servicing of the Seth Thomas No. 16 tower clock that is located in the Independence Hall tower replica at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, MI. The presentation was given by Clara Deck, retired Senior Conservator and Andrew Ganem, Conservator Specialist from the Henry Ford. A slide show and two videos were used along with narrative from the presenters to walk the attendees through the teardown, cleaning, and reassembly of the tower clock that was originally installed for the Museum opening in 1929.

Clara Deck began with some background regarding Henry Ford's love of clocks and the Museum's collection of 615 clocks, some on display in the museum, some in the houses in the Village, and some in storage. She also explained that the job of a conservator is to use material science to stabilize and conserve objects in their original



Seth Thomas No. 16 Tower Clock
(Photo Courtesy of The Henry Ford)

condition as opposed to restoration, where the objective is to make an object look like new again. In the case of the tower clock, the objective was to perform a thorough maintenance on the clock, which hadn't been done since installation in 1929.

Under the direction of Phil Wright, a tower clock expert from Ohio, the movement was completely disassembled, cleaned, and examined. Of the 848 parts, only two bolts, two bushings, and two winding sprockets required replacement due to cracks in the bolts and wear on the other parts. This clock is automatically wound by electric motors driving winding chains that lift the weights. It took about two months to complete the work, and the clock was back in service. The clock drives hands on four 9 foot diameter dials and strikes the hour and half hour on an exact copy of the Liberty Bell (without the crack) that was cast of Michigan bronze by the same company that made the original Liberty Bell.

While researching the notes from Seth Thomas that accompanied the clock, it was noted that the material of the pendulum rod was referred to as “stoic” metal. With further research, and with the help of an electron microscope, it was discovered that the metal was “invar” an alloy from the period that was thought to have “zero” variability to changes in temperature. While not zero by today’s standards, it does have low expansion/contraction with temperature helping the clock to keep accurate time through the seasons.

The presentation wrapped up with some questions from the audience and a time lapse video of the clock being reassembled. Many thanks to Clara and Andrew for a very interesting presentation.

Prior to the presentation, members perused the many clocks, tools, and other items for sale in the Mart. Many items changed hands. Refreshments were provided by Andy and Linda Dervan with help from Sue Ellison, Sara Morris, and Linda Lauhoff.

President Bob Arnold briefly discussed the status of officers for next year. He indicated that some thought was being given to restoring the Vice President position to help spread the workload and possibly allow for more events and activities. He reiterated the need for volunteers for the President and Board Member positions.

The meeting wrapped up at 4:00 PM, and several members enjoyed an early dinner at Bigalora Wood Fired Cucina in Plymouth.



Presenters Clara Deck and Andrew Ganem



Bill Buck with a Seth Thomas Calendar Clock and Other Items for Sale at the Mart

Longtime member and past President, Jim Williams passed away March 4, 2020 after a long illness. Condolences to his daughter, Anne Williams.

Great Lakes Chapter Six Financial Report – 2019

Beginning Balance – January 1, 2019	\$4358.41
Chapter Income (Dues and Meeting Income)	\$1490.00
Chapter Expenses (Mailing, Meeting, & Misc. Expenses)	<u>(\$1920.22)</u>
Ending Balance – December 31, 2019	\$3928.19
Please Contact Charlie Lauhoff or Jim Miller for More Details	

-----X-----

Looking for a horological item or have a horological item for sale that members might be interested in?
Contact Tom Morris by phone (734-282-1725) or email (thomasm326@gmail.com) and I will try to include it
in the next newsletter.

-----X-----

2020 NAWCC National Convention

- Dayton Convention Center, Dayton, Ohio
- June 25th–June 28th (Thursday–Sunday)
- Convention website: **NATCON.NAWCC.ORG/2020**
 - Convention Schedule
 - Registration form
 - Hotels information
 - Dayton attractions
- Make your hotel reservations early – all hotel rooms in Dayton will be full on Friday and Saturday nights due to air show at the Air Force Museum!

Tom Morris
2206 Davis
Wyandotte, MI 48192