

President's Newsletter – June, 2026

Greetings Chapter 124 – Hey we did it! The 2026 Regional is now history, and a roaring success! I hope you were able to attend.

You will find three important subjects covered in this new letter:

- Regional Recap
- Our next One Day Meeting in Grapevine is almost here – June 6th – see new hours
- Class Updates for early Summer

So Read On Please!

REGIONAL RECAP

In spite of several handicaps, this year's Regional turned out a winner! Handicaps included: First, the forced re-scheduling of the Regional to a holiday weekend resulted in a reduction of table rentals and attendance by 20% from last year, which in turn saw half the vendors exit by lunch time on Saturday so they could enjoy a little Memorial Day holiday. This in turn resulted in a significant reduction in Banquet and Auction attendees on Saturday night, and a half-empty mart on Sunday. BUT, in spite of these issues, we had a great Exhibit, Mart and Auction. The Second issue was the very late delivery of our load-in carts and equipment which slowed move-In a tad. But we overcame! A resilient bunch!

And none of this would have happened if the Regional Coordinator, **Tim Brownlee** hadn't hung in there for 8-9 months, putting up with hotel issues, registration issues, transportation problems – just to name a few. Thanks Tim – you made it happen. And thanks very much to **John Acker** who backed up Tim throughout the year, and for arranging the educationals and demonstrations.

The **MILITARY WATCH AND CLOCK EXHIBIT** was the highlight of the show – absolutely wonderful and informative. We had hundreds of folks through there, and we owe **Chuck Edwards** and the exhibitors a sincere thank you for a job well done. We have had some great exhibits over the years but this was one for the books. I have in the Regional Stats section below the numbers and types of items displayed, and the visitor count.

The **TAIL-GATE SWAP MEET** went well – not as many vendors as we had hoped, but plenty of buyers. As the first tail-gate event in Texas, I think we will have a much better turnout next year. Sales were brisk, and one vendor reported over \$8,000.00 in sales.

SILENT AND MAIN AUCTIONS - Fears of a low-turn-out were squashed when we sold over 130 lots of the 150-plus lots offered, bringing in over \$8,500 for consignors and the chapter. Some of Phil Gregory's special clocks brought good prices, and buyers took home some very rare clocks. Great job, Mr. Vice President **Tom Hefner**.

MART HOSPITALITY – MIKE BRAZIL came through and saved our day, bringing snacks and drinks for all the volunteers. Mike was also spotted volunteering for load-in, load-out and many other tasks – thanks Mike!

UNLOADING COMMITTEE – Great job **James Edwards**. Thanks for coordinating this important task, and also for helping with the Mart setup and Tail Gate session.

CHILDREN'S TABLES – And what a difference having a few younger member's families present at Regional made! **Cathy Slough** reported 16 youngsters enjoyed the children's section (and it freed up their folks to shop!)

The half-hourly **SILENT AUCTIONS** saw a constant flow of clocks, watches, parts and tools, and great sales for members. Thanks **William Slough** for coordinating it.

MART ANNOUNCER GERALD GREENER kept us all informed with his clear and concise announcements. Also, thanks for backing up the Silent Auction!

EDUCATIONALS AND DEMONSTRATIONS were special this year – if you attended all of these you are much better equipped with special tips and techniques:

- **Arnold Madnick** instructed on the use of MUGY WELD for statue and metal repairs. Incredible techniques!
- **Richard Cox** gave us a great presentation on re-pivoting clocks – he made it look so easy...
- **Logan McClenny** provided instructions on repair and tuning of clock chime rods – unique!
- **Scott Stauffer** doubled down with two presentations – one on High-end Watch collecting, another on the History of Swiss Watchmaking Industry. Really interesting and informative!

PUBLIC OUT REACH RESULTS – Doyle Welch – publicity director, and **Cory Huddleston** – advertising chair – did a great job of getting the message out about our Regional. Doyle and his volunteers, along with our members, distributed over 1,500 fliers around the metroplex. Cory set up a new and flashy Facebook page for the Chapter, and placed Facebook ads on Facebook and other social media sites. We will present the final results at the

Annual Meeting, but based upon preliminary stats, results were great. The invitations for the free Military Exhibit and Clock Clinic were designed to get the public to come out, and once there, we hoped they would pay to attend the mart. Many did. The clock clinic, unfortunately, didn't see much interest.

Regional Theme Coordinators – In keeping with the Regional theme - '250 YEARS of Military Timekeeping – a big thank you is due to three special folks who really reminded us of our Nations birthday and Memorial Day. If you didn't feel patriotic when you arrived, you would have when you left!

- **Evelyn Slough** and her helpers – they made the table decorations, added the patriotic displays and gave us a Memorial Day feel to the whole event. Not to mention arranging the door prizes she secured for us! Thanks Eve!
- **Doyle Welch**, who arranged the donation of a dozen flags with poles and stands, plus the huge flag that hung as the backdrop at the speakers platform
- **Chuck Edwards**, who also brought many flags and military display items to make the Exhibit really special.

Pre-registration and Registration Chairs

A special thank you to **Pete Cronos** – Pre-Registration Chair, and **Brian Schmidt** – Registration Table Chair. Great job guys!

Regional Volunteers – our Chapter Secretary, **Janet Anaya**, did a super job of calling and coordinating all the volunteers who really made this a special event, and avoided having just a few people do all the work. She set up schedules and volunteers for all these activities:

Educationals – Registration – Banquet – Auction Hauling – Mart Room Setup – Unloading – Greeters – Tailgate Session – Exhibit – Refreshments for volunteers – Silent Auction – Let's Make a Deal tables – Clock Clinic & more.

! A SPECIAL THANKS FOR ALL YOU VOLUNTEERS !

! YOU MADE IT HAPPEN !

**All the Regional results - facts and figures - will be presented at our
June 6th one day / annual business meeting.**

JUNE 6TH ONE DAY & ANNUAL MEETING

NOTE NEW SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & FREE TABLES

Due to our desire to have our ANNUAL MEETING and to continue our successful One Day Meets that are open to the public, the schedule (for this meeting only) is as follows:

8:00am - 8:30AM – Donuts and coffee for members

8:30am – 10:00am – ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

10:00am – 3:00pm – Mart open to the public

At the annual Business Meeting we will share the Regional statistics, review the last year's activities, and have annual reports from our educational and treasurer directors according to our Chapter By-laws. New Officers will be named.

As with the last two one-day sessions, there is no charge for members to attend. Also - very **IMPORTANT!! Due to the short time available, the tables for member vendors are also free!** We do ask that you register by **Calling Tom Hefner to reserve tables - 817-565-8697**. Remaining tables will be available first-come, first served.

Members are on their own for lunch, but we will probably have a volunteer to pick up sandwiches locally. Drinks will be provided.

Again, we have fliers for members to print and distribute, and we will advertise the one-day session via social media outlets. As our first one-day open to the public while it is not freezing or raining, we should have a good public turn-out! Please bring good clocks and watches for the public.

Phil - please add pictures if I can gather them today (sending later) and CLASS SCHEDULES