

H O R O L O G I C A L   A S S O C I A T I O N   O F   V I R G I N I A

# LOUPES AND TWEEZERS

## 2026 CONVENTION & ANNUAL MEETING

### SPECIAL EDITION



 **HOTEL MADISON, HARRISONBURG, VA**

 **APRIL 24-26, 2026**

**EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**HOTEL MADISON**  
**710 S, MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA**  
**(540) 564-0200 or via email to**  
**reservations@hotelmadison.com**

**Use Code HAV2026 Rate is \$119/night and**  
**parking is \$5/day (cut off is 5 PM, March 23,**  
**2026)**

**Mail registration form along with check payable**  
**to HAV to:**  
**Stan Palen**  
**8283 Oak Wood Dr**  
**King George, VA 22485**  
**540 538 1200 stanpalen@Breezeline.net**

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

### CONTENT

<b>PRESIDENTS MESSAGE -</b>	<b>PG 2</b>
<b>INSTRUCTOR BIOS-</b>	<b>PG 3</b>
<b>WATCH PROGRAM-</b>	<b>PG 4</b>
<b>CLOCK PROGRAM-</b>	<b>PG 5</b>
<b>SUNDAY FORUM-</b>	<b>PG 6</b>
<b>PLUS ONE PROGRAM-</b>	<b>PG 6</b>
<b>CONVENTION AGENDA-</b>	<b>PG 7</b>
<b>REGISTRATION FORM-</b>	<b>PG 8</b>
<b>KOMPUTER KORNER -</b>	<b>PG 9</b>
<b>GOVERNANCE -</b>	<b>PG 10</b>



## The Horological Association of Virginia

Since 1939 the Horological Association of Virginia (HAV) has been championing the interests of watchmakers, clockmakers, collectors, enthusiasts, and other professionals in the horological community.



## President's Message

• Mark Pellmann, CMC

Dear HAV Members,

Welcome to the HAV Newsletter, Loupes and Tweezers. Editor John Polk has done another fine job putting it all together.

We had a very well attended electronic Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting on January 25. Twelve HAV members and directors (including one spousal member) were in attendance. There was a report on the process of updating the Constitution and By-Laws by Committee Chair Bob Stone. A group of directors and members are talking about meeting at the Madison Hotel Friday April 24 in the early afternoon to discuss changes. If you are interested in attending, please contact Bob Stone ([rhsboomer@gmail.com](mailto:rhsboomer@gmail.com)).

The Convention and Annual Meeting was the main topic of the BOD meeting. Convention Chair Stan Palen offered a positive report as to Convention 2026. Four people have already registered more than three months before the event! Please look at the enclosed information sheet and get your Convention registration and hotel reservation in early. I think you will agree our speakers are top notch, and horological information will be flowing like a well lubricated gear train with the anchor removed. Stan is still looking for some donations of door prizes and advertisers for the Convention and Annual Meeting Booklet. When placing an order with your suppliers consider offering them a spot. Stan has all the information ([stanpalen@breezeline.net](mailto:stanpalen@breezeline.net)).

Gayle Graves has put together a nice spousal program for your better half. My wife Debbie always enjoys getting out with the ladies while we are talking shop.

Don't forget to bring your unneeded Horological items to our annual auction. Tools, parts, books, etc. are all sellable and a very good way to help fellow members who need what you don't and to put a few pennies in your pocket at the same time.

We are still looking for a Presidential Award recipient. Our Past President and Nominations + Awards Committee Chairman Mike Creasey will be pleased to hear from your Guild with the name of a worthy recipient ([mike@time-md.com](mailto:mike@time-md.com)).

Enjoy this issue of Loups and Tweezers. Read all the details about our upcoming Convention and sign up for an educational and fun weekend. I look forward to visiting with you in Harrisonburg at the HAV Convention and Annual Meeting 2026.

Mark R. Pellmann, CMC

## 2026 CONVENTION INSTRUCTORS



**JASON  
ZIEGENBEIN, CW21  
AWCI, Instructor**

Jason Ziegenbein, CW21 is the Watchmaking Instructor for the American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute (AWCI) located in Harrison Ohio. Jason previously served as the Lead Instructor for the School of Watchmaking at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology. He holds an AAS degree from OSUIT in Watchmaking including WOSTEP and CW21 certifications, a BS in Career and Technical Education OSU Stillwater. He is also Rolex Level 50 and OWME 1120 certified. Jason has instructed individuals from all over the world in horological classes working on luxury time pieces. His work experience includes university instruction, instruction with AWCI and on their state-of-the-art Archie Perkins Mobile Horology Classroom. He has worked as a retail watchmaker for several high-end jewelers in Houston, TX and both Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Ok on a variety of luxury brands. Jason also had a private business working on vintage and high-end luxury watches for the wholesale market. These experiences aid in teaching students how to repair watches and develop customer relations skills.



**STEPHEN FRANKE**

Stephen Franke hails from New London, Wisconsin. In 2013, he founded Test of Time Horology LLC, and specializes in the mechanical repair, restoration and preservation of clocks from the 16th century to modern day. The protege of clockmaker David Lindow, the founder of the Plumier Foundation, Stephen spent the majority of seven years under his tutelage. Stephen is a highly skilled technical horologist offering routine servicing of time pieces to advanced mechanical restoration. Stephen is also a bespoke craftsman and clockmaker who's built several original timekeepers by commission.

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## **WATCH PROGRAM – COURSE OVERVIEW**

### **JASON ZIEGENBEIN, CW21** **Instructor, AWCI**

#### **“Maximizing Amplitude: Follow the Power Flow”**

Ensuring maximum amplitude starts before disassembly and can be hindered or improved at every step of the process. We will take a step-by-step deep dive through service procedures and conditions and what their cumulative effects are including practical discussions on “good enough” and how to make those judgement calls in a sea of diminishing returns. In addition to relevant theory, we will have a practical barrel exercise.

#### **“Precision Timing: Saving Time by Setting Up an Oscillator from A to Z”**

Covering vintage bi-metallic and modern mono-metallic balances. We go over not only the theory that they operate on but the practical nuts and bolts of rebuilding an oscillator and the traps that often go unseen. On-Screen, live demonstrations go hand in hand with discussion.

For these two courses, course materials will be supplied. A loupe and tweezers is recommended

#### **“The Swiss Lever Escapement: Its Effects on the Watch and How to Adjust it”**

Cutting through a lot of misinformation, we look at the Swiss lever escapement from the ground up covering the necessary theory and culminating in practical adjustment exercises. We’ll also look at the application of escapement fundamental principles in other modern escapements.

#### **“Chronographs Made Easy: Ready, Set, Go”**

As a group, we will “design” a chronograph mechanism from the ground up in function block form and apply that to executions both modern and vintage, horizontal and vertical. With this understanding, we will then take a deeper dive into how to set up and adjust various examples, noting the ideal operational outcomes.

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# **CLOCK PROGRAM – COURSE OVERVIEW**

## **STEPHEN FRANKE**

### **“Sympathetic Restoration and the William Grant Striking Banjo Clock”**

A detailed process covering this clock’s transformation will be discussed including a technical analysis of it’s issues, creating the tooling and materials needed to do the job, and a few techniques that were used to make the new parts look like they were always part of the piece. Some examples of the tooling and materials used will be present for viewing and handling.

### **“Lapidary in the Name of Horology: A discussion covering functional stone cutting from the clockmaking perspective”**

This presentation covers in good detail my process and challenge I went through learning how to overcome making these difficult pieces, as well as other projects and advancements made since this job. Interestingly, the most useful advice I received didn’t come from the horological world at all. Some basic tooling and materials will be present for the audience to view as to how the resourceful practitioner can make lapidary setups with tooling they may already have in their shop.

### **“1558: To Bush, or Not To Bush? – The Sympathetic Restoration of a French Renaissance Timepiece dated 1558”**

This presentation focuses on a timekeeper of exceptional rarity and early age, along with all of the difficult technical, philosophical and moral questions it presents to the handler. One strategy I devised to help guide myself through this exceptional project was to ask myself three questions before making every move or potential repair; those will be discussed during the presentation.

### **“Demonstration/Activity: Wheel and pinion engagements and the use of the depthing tool in clock repair”**

A technical discussion will be given, along with a segment of a video. Participants will have the opportunity to handle a depthing tool, feel the three types of engagement anomalies and see how a depthing tool can be used to move a wheel and pinion pair.

## SATURDAY PLUS ONE PROGRAM

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM LUNCH IS INCLUDED

### ROCKTOWN HISTORY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The large gallery spaces invite you to explore Harrisonburg and Rockingham's history. Imagine using a flint to start a fire or a froe to split wood. Enjoy the creativity of early artisans. Discover the hardships and joy that accompanied the growth of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham community.



### VIRGINIA QUILT MUSEUM

Founded in 1995 it is the official quilt museum of Virginia.

The museum has 2 floors of gallery space, historical, modern, and traditional quilts are featured.



## SUNDAY MORNING SPEAKERS FORUM

**"Original "Works"- Four original movements and two Semi-original pieces crafted by Stephen Franke"**

Power Point Presentation highlighting original work by Stephen Franke and his production of four original clocks, including a complicated regulator with the Equation of Time. Two other significant projects were reviving and considerably altering two period "orphan" Vienna regulator movements to new specifications upon request of a client. Slides and a discussion for each piece will be covered, as well as a question and answer period.

# CONVENTION AGENDA

## FRIDAY – APRIL 24

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM Registration and President’s Reception Cash Bar and Hors d’Oeuvres

## SATURDAY – April 25

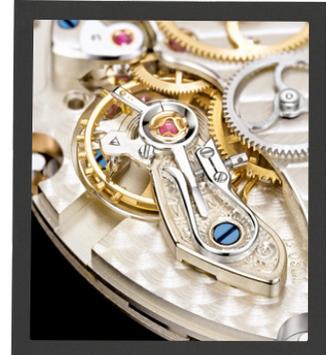
8:30 AM to 9:00 PM Morning Registration

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Jason Ziegenbein, CW21 – Watch Program  
Stephen Franke’s Clock Program

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM Plus One Program

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Lunch Provided

1:00 PM to 4:30 PM Jason Ziegenbein, CW21 – Watch Program  
Stephen Franke’s Clock Program



## SATURDAY EVENING – APRIL 25

4:30 PM to 5:30 PM Auction Set-Up

5:00 PM to 6:00 PM Reception and Social Hour Cash Bar

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony

7:30 PM to 10:30 PM Annual Horological Auction



## SUNDAY – APRIL 26

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM HAV Annual Meeting and BoD Meeting  
Business Meeting \*Open to all

10:00 AM to 10:30 AM Corporate Executive Board Meeting  
\*HAV Officers Only

10:30 AM to 12:00 PM “Original Works” by Stephen Franke

12:00 PM to 1:30 PM Lunch (provided)

1:30 PM Convention Adjourns – See you again next year!



# Horological Association of Virginia

## 2026 Convention Registration Form

### Convention Dates April 24th – April 26th

\*\*\* Register Early for the Best Pricing \*\*\*

Full Registration before April 1st # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$200.00 Enter Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Registration after April 1st # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$225.00 Enter Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Full (Includes Banquet) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$160.00 Enter Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Class Only (No Banquet) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$125.00 Enter Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Spouses program (Includes banquet) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100.00 Enter Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
*\*Includes Saturday tour, Lunch, banquet, and Sunday lunch\**  
Banquet/Auction only # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100.00 Enter Amount \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which program you will be attending Watch \_\_\_\_\_ Clock \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Other/Guest names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU are responsible for making your own room reservations by calling the**

**HOTEL MADISON & SHENANDOAH VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER**

710 S, MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA

540 564-0200 or via email to [reservations@hotelmadison.com](mailto:reservations@hotelmadison.com)

Use Code HAV2026 Rate is \$119/night and parking is \$5/day (cut off is 5 PM, March 23, 2026)

Mail registration form along with **check payable to HAV** to:

Stan Palen  
8283 Oak Wood Dr  
King George, VA 22485

540 538 1200 [stanpalen@breezeline.net](mailto:stanpalen@breezeline.net)

## Komputer Korner

By Stan Palen

stanpalen@breezeline.net

540.538.1200



Hints, Helps, Suggestions and News for IBM  
Compatible Computers

AI is taking over the world. It has gotten so good at some things like creating a web page that looks like a company you normally deal with, but it is fake and wants to gather your information. Things like passwords and account numbers. Even the AI programs that are supposed to detect frauds cannot tell the difference. Be very careful about what you click on. Any thing that wants you to click on should be avoided if you can. One way around it is to go to the website in question by typing in the URL yourself in a new tab on your browser.

Another thing to do especially if you are not at home on your computer is to use a VPN (Virtual Private Network). You need to be careful which VPN you pick. Some free ones actually gather data. Do your homework and read reviews. I use McAfee on my computers and phone. Norton also has a good one.

You should also change all your passwords at least yearly. Next is to get a password program that really helps with this. I use 1Password. I have one password to remember. It helps with password changes. With 1 password active, do a change password via the company or site you are working with. It will suggest a very strong password and insert it into the new password block as well as the block for the repeat password. I have had to look up the new password when I am installing new hardware like a TV that needs access to the Internet by putting the characters in one at a time., but that is rare. You can also install it on your phone. That is really handy for me because I do not like to carry my passwords with me. It is the same vault for all your devices and if you want to separate passwords you can create a second vault.

Do you have a portable battery pack to charge your phone? They come in different sizes. Most will charge your phone several times. Great for power outages and it also means you can charge your phone without plugging into Airport or other public power sources that may collect the data on your phone. Anker is one of the companies that makes these.

How safe is your email address? Is it on the dark web? I use a program called Incognito. It will scrub your emails from the dark web. It has really cut down on spam big time. I get a report about how many occurrences of my emails they have found. They can request that it be removed from the entities that have your email. They have some way of forcing it to happen. I have at least 8 emails. My main one has been out there for over 30 years.

Do you have a smart watch? I have a rather inexpensive one that caught a couple of very high heart rates. It happened for a very short period several days apart. My heart doctor decided to put a heart monitor on me for two weeks. Amazing what these little things can do. I will get the results next week.



## **Executive Committee**

**President - Mark Pellmann, CMC**

**First Vice President - Robert Harris**

**Immediate Past President - Mike Creasey**

**Secretary - Robert Stone**

**Treasurer - Stan Palen**

## **Board of Directors**

**Tri-City Guild**

**George Crozier & Rodney Graves**

**South Side Guild**

**Robert Harris & Wayne Simpson**

**Potomac Guild**

**Ken Caligiuri**

**At-Large Members**

**Richard Finks**

**LOUPES AND TWEEZERS NEWSLETTER**

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