

MEMORANDUM

To: NAWCC Board of Directors

From: Charles Buttz, M & P Committee

Subject: Recall of Charter of Chapter 114, Brooklyn

In December 2000, NAWCC received a letter from Nils Nelson, Treasurer and ex-president of Chapter 114, Brooklyn forwarding a check for \$300 which the chapter indicated should be donated to the Museum. Mr. Nelson's letter also indicated that the chapter had become inactive but wished to retain its charter.

At the request of the M & P Committee, former NAWCC Director Richard Whipple contacted Mr. Nelson to discuss the Chapter 114 situation. He found Mr. Nelson to be in a positive frame of mind about reviving the chapter. And there the matter rested until 2006 when the chapter failed for the 4th consecutive year to submit an Annual Chapter Report.

In the fall of 2006, the M & P Committee asked Steve and Lu Sadowski, officers of New York Chapter 2, to contact Chapter 114 once more. Lu talked with Nils Nelson and with Estelle Glasser, former chapter Secretary. She was unable to reach Bob Smallman, the listed chapter president, since he had moved from his Brooklyn address.

Lu learned that following the death of longtime chapter leader Marty Swetsky, the chapter went into a steady decline. Under President Bob Smallman, the chapter met on Monday evenings at James Madison High School for a brief discussion of horological matters over coffee. There was no educational program, no mart and no recruiting activity. In the opinion of Nils Nelson, a Brooklyn chapter could not survive without a mart. Lu determined that the \$300 check sent to the Museum by the chapter represented the balance of funds in the chapter treasury. She also learned that in spite of their best intentions, the chapter officers had never brought the chapter back to life after sending the check. Estelle Glasser reported that the Chapter 114 membership roster had been given to Chapter 2 some time ago. Lu reports that several former Brooklyn chapter members have since joined Chapter 2.

The demise of Chapter 114 thus followed the classic pattern for chapter failure: a strong leader dies, no backup leadership is available, the meeting program and mart wither and disappear, membership declines, recruiting efforts are minimal and the chapter expires. Nils Nelson, Estelle and the Sadowski's all believe that there is no leadership available to bring the chapter back to life. They also believe Chapter 2 is adequately filling the chapter needs of NAWCC members in Brooklyn.

The M & P Committee thus reluctantly recommends that the Board of Directors recall the charter of Chapter 114, Brooklyn. It further recommends that, in the future, the names of all new NAWCC members from the Brooklyn area be sent to Chapter 2.