

Member Spotlight: Rick Coleman

Where did my interest in clocks start? That's hard to say. No one in my family was really a collector, even though everyone had a few. For whatever reason, I just liked them from an early age. I always wanted my grandmother's Golden Hour clock, but after the fourth time it stopped working, my uncle just tossed it (grandmother had passed on before the clock died). All the relatives are in Memphis and Uncle Sam's big gray canoe club brought me out to California.

When I was in Toastmasters, I titled my Ice Breaker speech, "Ten Plus Hobbies, a Blessing or a Curse." One of those hobbies was wood-working. Professionally, I had worked in industrial electronics from a technician to a design/project engineer and then moved into product management, with a BS in Computer Science and an MBA. Upon completion of the MBA I wanted to build a grandfather clock, but figured I should learn how they work before building a case. I took a course in clock repair that took about 9 months to complete. Never got around to building the tall clock, but started fixing clocks for family, friends and co-workers to try and re-coup some of the money I spent on the course and the special tools I'd purchased.

After the last corporate restructuring/layoff, there didn't seem to be many positions available for someone in my field over 50 years of age. I heard the words "you're over qualified" a lot. After about nine months to a year of no luck, I decided to get a business license and work out of my home legally as an inde-



pendent repair center. I got listed by Howard Miller and Sligh on their websites as an authorized service center. It became very obvious that for the business to grow at a faster rate, I needed a store front. I didn't know that Neil and Sheri were selling the Tic Toc Shoppe, until Verlyn told me at one of the meetings. My wife said "you want to do what!!!" But, we decided to go ahead and take the

plunge and go for it. I sure can't complain about the boss anymore. It's sort of difficult to talk behind my own back.

We've now had the store for three years. I sure have seen a lot of interesting clocks and watches come through the door. Even some that did not come through the door, rather grand tall clocks in client's homes. Because we live in Bonita, I service clients in the south bay area in the evening after the store closes. That gives me a customer base from Imperial Beach to Oceanside, out east to Alpine and up to Julian and Borrego. I cover just about the whole county. It also looks like this will be a business I do into retirement, if that day ever gets here.

In the Chapter, my main job is to handle the finances for the regional each year. I deposit the money we take in at the show, pay all the bills and create a report at the end to account for all the funds taken in and spent. I also take care of the drawings for the door prize and the Show & Tell participants. Volunteering for the chapter doesn't take a great deal of time, so jump in and help out when a position becomes open.