

November 2015 Artistic Woodturners' Newsletter

Our first meeting in our new location, Ragon Hall, took place without too many frustrations. Among all the items that had been shoved into the new storeroom whence we moved after last meeting, we were able to find all that we needed.

Jeff Olive and Norm Feinberg have added casters to all our lathes. Norm has strengthened the storeroom door and painted it. Al McCoy built a ramp to facilitate getting the equipment into and out of the storeroom.

Election of officers went smoothly. The quorum of members present voted that the slate of officers presented by the steering committee be accepted by acclamation. Our new officers, effective January 1, 2016 will be:

President – Ed Rose

Vice President – Norm Freeman

Secretary – Neil McWilliams

Treasurer – Jim Mallett

I have committed Artistic Woodturners to participate in the national Beads of Courage project, to provide 20 lidded bowls to hold the beads awarded ill children who are undergoing unpleasant or painful procedures or treatments at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. These bowls need to be 5-6" diameter and 4" deep. The finial/handle on the lid needs to be secure and appropriate to a child's grasp. They may be stained. Woodburning permitted. No painting or gilding or carving, please. (Children will further decorate many of these.) I have ordered 20 ceramic medallions inscribed with the words "beads of courage". These each will be inset into the bowl's lid or base or the words may be burned into the base or lid. Each turner should sign and date his bowl. A card will be provided for your signature to accompany each bowl.

Jim Mallett and I represented our club in a recent visit to Saufley Field Federal Prison Camp, where there is an active woodturning group. The recreation specialist had requested that one or more of us visit to provide feedback to the woodturning projects they are creating. They live under peculiar rules, currently limiting them to doing segmented turnings. They

may only procure, with personal monies, dimensioned lumber for their turnings. They have chop saws, a drill press, a bandsaw, two lathes without spiral chucks, and a small belt/disc sander. I did demonstrate the use of a pin chuck, which I think they will be allowed to add to their repertoire of allowed items.

Christmas Party Chairman is Norm Freeman. It is important that you contact him prior to December 12 to make known if you plan to attend the annual Christmas party on the 19th. When you call, we will ask you to offer a side dish to our potluck event. On the 19th we will assemble at Ragon Hall at 10 AM, with the intent to eat at 10:30. Woodturned gifts for exchange should be brought in large, handled, paper bags, stapled shut at the top. When you pick your gift, we ask that you not lift any of the bags for weight; what you first touch is your choice. If you bring a gift, ask for a ticket from one of the officers – this entitles you to participate in the exchange. You are not required to bring a gift if you do not desire to participate in the exchange.

Our membership follows the calendar year. Your membership will expire at the end of December. Dues for 2016 will remain at \$30. Please pay Charlie Toner before December 31, or pay Jim Mallett in January.

Ragon Hall is much larger than the space we used at the WoodmenLife Lodge and not as well illuminated. It is hard to see dirt and chips on the wooden floor that the dancers are so taken with. We will need to develop a system to take out and put away tables and chairs – lots more steps here. Most importantly - there are two large dust mops in the closet beside the back entrance. These are the most effective tools to clean up chips and litter on the floor. If we abase the floor, we may find our continued use of Ragon Hall curtailed.

I wish to thank all the members who have given of their time and talents over the past two years; you guys made my job much easier.

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Earl Rennie explaining use of Cole jaws and Longworth chucks



Ed Rose expounding on use of vacuum chucking



Neil McWilliams explaining fine points of jam chucks

Newsletter submitted by Neil McWilliams, president.