

through a time of major growth in membership and he will forever be remembered as the most Poplar President in NCWA history. Thanks Nick! You will be a hard act to follow.

I hope to see all of you at Cec Braeden's shop on February 3rd!
Rick

PS: Woodfest in Sedro Woolley is coming up April 3 & 4 in Sedro Woolley. Make plans now to show your projects and/or help with our exhibit and demonstrations. We will have more specific information available in the next Newsletter and at the February meeting.

NCWWA Sets A Full Plate for 2004; Elections, Carving Knives Draw Crowd

Forty-two (count 'em) 42 members and guests literally hanging from the rafters crowded into Rick Anderson's garden arbors shop in Bellingham to elect new officers and hold their first meeting of the new year. Rick was elected the NCWW Association's new President and John Haddock was put into the Vice President's seat. The nominating committee decided to retain Ed Pysher and I for another year in our roles of Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. The ballot was uncontested.

Business Meeting

President Nick Van opened the meeting with congratulatory messages to his fellow officers and the chairmen of the standing committees, whose help through the year he very much appreciated. In return, members gave Nick an ovation for leading them to such a successful and enjoyable year's conclusion. The Club experienced phenomenal growth and activity in 2003, in part because of Nick's organizational ideas, his emphasis on programming, and the consequential streamlining of our business meetings. Educational programs were also at an all-time high.

Ed Pysher reported that we started year 2003 with 45 members and finished with 67. Three of the four guests at the meeting became members to bring our total to an even 70. Our Treasurer reported a year-ending balance of \$1,534.39 and urged members to remit their annual \$30 fees, which are now due and payable.

Committee chairmen reports were given by Program Chairman Bob Doop, Venues Chairman Phil Choquette, Tours Chairman Jay Geisel, Librarian Tom Chartier, Membership Chairman John Haddock, and Education Chairman Ed Pysher. Doop reminded everyone of February's meeting at Cec Braeden's home workshop in Anacortes, with a program by Cec. Choquette again suggested that members prepare projects for selling or display at the forthcoming annual Woodfest celebration at Sedro Woolley High School. Our organization will demonstrate tool sharpening techniques and wood joinery while furnishing tables for individual displays. Haddock reminded those in attendance that one his committee obligations this year would be the re-issuing of the Club brochure and reorganization of its distribution system in retail outlets. I made a final boarding call for the Museum of Flight trip on the 17th and Pysher announced that the volunteers' choices for committee assignments was virtually complete. Librarian Chartier reported his committee had completed the reorganization and cataloging of books and videos and would soon offer listings to members through the Newsletter.

Bring and Brag Rick started this phase of the meeting by showing color pictures of the maple crib project just completed for his young grandson. He made 82 mortise and tenon joints with his new Leigh FMT jig, and since they were all alike the work proceeded quickly. He was particularly happy with his first experience with Tried and True, a finishing material similar to a varnish made with oil and beeswax. The finish is actually offered in three different versions. He heated the material to 140 degrees, applied it and let it set an hour before he wiped it dry. The surface was sanded through 300 grit. He applied three coats and gave the final topcoat a high shine with #0000 steel wool. The material is available through certain catalog woodworking stores.

An interesting dilemma was brought to our attention by Gary Weyers, who displayed his attractive Zebra wood jewelry box. The problem, though, was that his exotic wood lid had developed a noticeable warp across the grain. His question, of course, was how did this happen and what could be done about it. Answers abounded from what he should have done to suggestions of how to fix it. Eventually, most pundits came to the same conclusion. Remove the lid, turn it upside down, and add weight and a little warmth for a couple weeks, and trust the wood would flatten out. If not, remove the lid and rework it. It was suggested to Gary that similar projects should not rely on such a wide board as he used. He was told that the lid would be more likely to retain its flatness if