

January 16, 2024
Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association
Board Meeting

Attendees

Barry Tonkin
Earl Kessler
Al Ashley
Christi Brua Weaver
George Knutson
Andrew Pellar
John Braun
Nick Pedersen
Don Mason

Call to order: 7:03 pm

Treasurer's Report - Al Ashley

- See Al's report for details
- About \$500 less in the bank than at this time last year
- Expenses were slightly less than revenues for 2024; biggest annual expenses include speaker honorariums and room rentals
- 276 members - most ever (246 last year); 56 new members in 2024; 6 new members so far this year; 3 honorary members are shop teachers
- 74% of members have renewed so far versus 79% last year
- Al will reach out to members who haven't renewed yet; cutoff is Feb. 4 meeting so may reduce roster
- Board members authorized to sign checks will remain the same
- Al will step down as Treasurer after 2025, so club will begin recruiting new Treasurer

Education - Andrew Pellar

- Has an admin assistant, possible committee members, club members who have expressed interest in being teacher's assistants
- Looking into a new class format to discuss specific projects, such as projects brought to Bring & Brag or shared on email chat; will be organized via email chat, interested members will respond directly to host
 - Andrew will talk to Tony to ensure it won't add more work for him
- More classes in the works, including project-based classes

Toys for Tots - John Braun

- Still looking for new Toys for Tots chair
- Snohomish-based group has been working with food bank in Stanwood
- Skagit-based group is still meeting at Val Matthew's shop; donates to Skagit Valley Herald Christmas Fund
- Is anyone interested in organizing a Whatcom County group? Survey results indicated several people are interested in helping Toys for Tots, but survey results are anonymous.

Programs - Earl Kessler

- February: Jerry Couchman, inlays; Jim Bucknell, woven cutting boards
- March: Kitchen gadgets - hosted by David Shull - signup will be in newsletter and announcement by Barry at February meeting
- Tentatively have much of the rest of the year filled:

- April: Build a wood trailer
- May: Toys for geeks
- June: Field trip to Grizzly, date TBD but will be Monday-Friday, 9-5pm
- July: Build a cane fishing rod
- August: picnic
- Later in the year: Workbench forum featuring different members who built their own workbenches
- New audio/video equipment could be used for virtual shop tours, could be posted on YouTube, canned material for last-minute cancellations
 - A few members have expressed interest in showing their shops but they're too small for a large number of people and/or have limited parking
 - George and Greg will be reaching out to members, but open to suggestions
- Nearly 100 in attendance for January meeting

Shows

- Still working with Wood Expo organizers for details
 - Will set up on Friday April 4, Expo is April 5&6
- Earl will check in with King and Jerry to see how he can support them

New Idea

- Putting unfinished projects up for "adoption"
 - Members could bring in unfinished projects that they have lying around that they'll never finish, offer it up for adoption to another member to finish/turn into their own project
 - Barry will bring it up at next meeting to gauge interest

Survey - George, Nick, Earl

- 2025 focus area ideas:
 - Picnic/social events
 - Tool sharing/tool library
 - Class/education ideas
 - But need new teachers!
 - Interest in being a teacher or hosting a Shop Tour/VST?
 - Meeting format - interest in occasional virtual meetings
 - Program concepts
- Nick will reach out to Mike
- Committee heads will review questions, keeping some the same to compare to 2024 results, revise as needed to get information we're looking for
- Hoping to open survey in the spring

Library

- Book sale generated \$60 at January meeting; another sale next meeting

Members at Large

- Two-year terms
 - Second year: George, Don
 - First year: Barry will appoint two new members at large
- As immediate past president, Nick is automatically a board member so will not be member at large

Adjourn: 8:26 pm

Next Board Meeting: February 20, 2025