

New England Woodcarvers Executive Board Meeting

November 15, 2008

Middlesex Community College – Building 5 (Trustees House), Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Melanson, M. Paul Ward, Leo Lambert, Maria LaGoy, Robert Landry, Mary Chouinard, Yvette Holladay, Karen Seo

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe Olsen,

OTHERS PRESENT: Floyd Truitt, Louis Dennis, Lorne LaGoy

CALL TO ORDER: President Roger Melanson called the meeting to order at 9:46am. He welcomed Louis Dennis who was attending to provide a report on the Bob Guge workshop.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for 1/26/08, 3/22/08, 8/2/08 and 9/20/08 were distributed.

REPORTS:

Vice President (Paul Ward)

Lorne Lagoy gave Paul a number of pattern books from 30-40 years ago to give to Yvette for use in the newsletter.

ACTION ITEM: Yvette will credit “author unknown” for the patterns Lorne has provided for use in the newsletter.

December speaker will be Jeffrey Cooper. He’s a furniture maker whose work features carvings.

LCD projector – Jeffrey Cooper has asked if the club can supply an LCD projector for his talk. It costs \$100/day to rent one. Middlesex Community College hasn’t replied to a query as to whether they have one the club can borrow. It was noted that we need to ensure that whatever media player is used with the LCD projector is able to handle both CDs and DVDs. Bob will bring his laptop to the meeting – it can be used with the LCD projector. It was agreed to table the issue of what to do about procuring a media player for the club.

**** Board approved a motion authorizing Paul to spend up to \$600 to purchase an LCD projector for NEWC.**

Books, magazines – The club is awash in books donated by various people. What should we do with them? If we bring them to the meetings to sell, we might be in competition with Warren Blessing. If we had a library, we could keep them there.

- MacKinnon left boxes of books that are in excellent shape.
- Alekshun left boxes of things, mostly magazines.
- Dexter Shaffner's daughters have given the club 5-6 boxes of mostly books that must be 30 years old. They are dusty and need to be cleaned.
- Tony Erickson gave us 30 brand new books that are new, current.

ACTION ITEM: Paul to keep Dexter's books for now and clean them.

ACTION ITEM: Paul to bring Alekshun's magazines and patterns to the next meeting.

Treasurer (Leo Lambert)

Balance Sheet as of 11/15/08 showed \$31,130.07 in equity. The net Profit and Loss for 7/1/08 to 11/15/08 was \$4,205.03. This included \$1875 in membership dues, \$1311.76 in profit from the Bob Guge workshop, \$1631.76 income from the Spirit of Wood (SoW) show, \$3189.17 in profit from the Special Drawing, and a \$65.05 loss from food sales at the SoW show.

Leo recommended dropping the Special Drawing and increasing dues by \$5.

ACTION ITEM: Board to discuss dropping Special Drawing and increasing dues at the next Board meeting

Newsletter Editor (Yvette Holladay)

The next newsletter will be a very full issue

- Spirit of Wood show (lots of pictures, lists of awards, raffle winners). There were 133 awards – 6 youth, 79 expert, 71 intermediate, 22 novice.
- Bob Guge workshop
- Eagle Cane project
- Guest speaker for next meeting.
- Tree of Hope
- Business contribution
- New Members
- Obituaries (none at present)
- Balance Sheet
- Gift Membership certificate – suggests that the reader give someone a membership in the club
- Gift swap
- Availability of tools/machines at Dexter's home on December 6th.

ACTION ITEM: Roger to provide Yvette with list of SoW award winners and raffle winners

ACTION ITEM: Louis Dennis to provide Yvette with write up on the Bob Guge workshop

ACTION ITEM: Robert Schmeichel and Paul Ward to provide Yvette with pictures from the SoW show.

ACTION ITEM: Floyd to provide Yvette with calendars that have patterns that can be used in the newsletter

ACTION ITEM: Karen to send Yvette an abstract of the Board minutes from the September meeting.

**** The Board approved a motion to make Phyllis Miele the NEWC Club Historian.**

Membership Secretary (Mary Chouinard, Yvette Holladay)

This month's membership mail included:

- \$20 for the special raffle
- donation to cane project
- extra money to cover postage
- (Mary, I've a note about a "hat" – could you remind me what that was about?)

4 members paid their dues with the SoW registration form

24 people paid for membership at the SoW show.

\$ 570.00 (Yvette collected membership dues (31 checks))

\$1304.15 (Mary collected membership dues (\$285 cash; 40 checks for \$1019.15))

\$1874.15 Total membership dues from October 11 to November 15, 2008

Yvette distributed statistics on numbers of new members (total = 56) and lapsed members (total = 120) by month (August 2007 through November 2008). Roger asked Mary if she could graph the statistics (# new members, # lapsed members, etc.)

ACTION ITEM: Mary to look into producing graphs of the membership statistics (# of new members, # of lapsed members) over time.

**** Board approved a motion to add Bob Sisson and Virginia Chung to the list of vendors/etc who receive complementary issues of the newsletter.**

Bob Guge workshop (Louis Dennis)

25 people attended. All received a certificate for the workshop. No one was unhappy with the workshop. All but one person would be interested in coming back for another workshop. The main criticism was that people wanted more time. The class was too crowded – originally limited to 20. Maybe a 5-day workshop would be better. Bob is not available next October 2009 but may be available in Spring 2009.

ACTION ITEM: Louis to follow up on the possibilities of another Guge workshop.

- sound out the people who attended the Oct 2008 Guge workshop about their interest in taking another workshop with Bob Guge.
- talk to the hotel re: prices and review the numbers with Roger before contacting Bob Guge.
- contact Bob Guge to see about his availability, etc.

Suggestion was made to make sure that any future announcements about Guge workshops make it clear that the workshop is predominantly power carving and mention the kinds of woods to be used, etc.

Frank Russell (Louis Dennis)

Frank is interested in teaching a workshop

- \$45/day per student
- up to 16 students
- 2 options – 5 days carve + paint or 3 days just carve
- all power carving
- his 1st preference is a bird, 2nd animal, 3rd human

He is willing to stay around for the SoW show. His travel expenses would be paid for by Fordham. The Board discussed a target of \$350/5-day course. The question was raised as to whether Frank would make a good Featured Carver at the SoW show. The Featured Carver must do something (carve, paint) throughout the show, not just sit there.

Someone suggested adding mini-seminars to the SoW show to provide an incentive to the competitors to stay around for a 2-day show. Roger said that a 2-day show was not possible for 2009.

**** The Board approved a motion for Louis to talk with Frank Russell re: doing a 5-day workshop prior to the SoW 2009 show and to be Featured Carver at the show.**

ACTION ITEM: Louis to talk with Frank Russell re: doing a 5-day workshop prior to the SoW 2009 show and to be the Featured Carver at the show. Louis to make sure that Frank is willing to do something (carve, paint) during the show.

(Louis provided feedback on the SoW show which is recorded below with the SoW report.)

VA Project (Maria and Lorne LaGoy)

This is going pretty well. About \$2300 collected so far. They've gone to the Sentinel and started receiving calls. They've gone to the VA office and city hall to get the word out. They've told the Sportsman Newsletter. They need more ornaments.

Eagle Cane Project (Floyd Truitt)

Floyd brought a write up on the Eagle Cane project to the meeting. A copy will be in the next newsletter.

- There were 2 Eagle Cane items in the Sept-Oct 2008 newsletter. The first (for 2007) was submitted in error. The 2nd (for 2008) was for the correct period.

- Gary Bashian of the Revolutionary Wood Turners has several cane shafts ready to be picked up. Floyd hasn't gotten to Nashua NH yet to pick them up.
- A number of carvers with completed canes apparently got tired of waiting for assignments and gave the canes to veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Since he was not kept in the loop, Floyd does not know how many canes were delivered this way. He estimated that approximately 65-70 canes have been delivered by NEWC members to date.
- Since the last update, 4 more canes have been delivered.

Spirit of Wood show(Roger Melanson)

Roger distributed a report. Some of the highlights were:

- The show received many positive comments, especially the new location for the competition
- The special raffle brought in the most money since we introduced it 3 years ago.
- There were 268 paid visitors; an income of \$1072.
- Pete LeClair's presence at the show was a nice surprise.
- The community calendars in the weekly newspapers of surrounding towns did not publish a thumbnail of the show
- There was no local paid advertisement for the show.
- The 2008 show had the largest number of judges (16) and the largest number of recorders (9) of any show to date.
- There were 178 individual items entered into competition. There were 133 awards.
- We were successful in running the food concession and this saved the club at least \$500.
- The Birds of Prey was still an attraction
- Of the 30 vendors who were asked for donations for the regular raffle, 40% gave something.
- Of the 21 NEWC members who were asked for donations for the regular raffle, 43% gave something. 4 additional members also gave something.
- Regular raffle raised \$1042 + \$5 for a jean jacket donated by Ginny Chung who ran the raffle.
- Security for the competition was greatly improved.
- 60 volunteers helped to make the show a success.

On the down side

- Hatem Goma was a no show. He did not communicate a reason
- The Central New England Wood Turners withdrew from the show at the 11th hour. They could not get members to staff the booth. Only the Revolutionary Wood Turners from Woburn participated.
- Participation by scrollers continues to decline. Only two were involved with the show.
- Fewer vendors participated this year.

ACTION ITEM: All to send email to Mary with their cellphone numbers.

See below under “Condition of NEWC” for additional comments re: the SoW show

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Carver of the Year (Roger Melanson)

Roger distributed a sample form for nominating someone. There was much discussion of the criteria that should be used, how to communicate these criteria and their weighting to members when soliciting nominations, the need for transparency in the selection process, the role of the Board in selecting the recipient of the award, and the need to clarify the differences between the different awards.

ACTION ITEM: Mary and Karen to send Roger a list of suggested awards for the club.

NEW BUSINESS

Condition of NEWC (Roger Melanson)

Roger described the overall situation as precarious. We could have used more volunteers for the show. We need a publicity chair. Roger ended up doing 98% of the work for the show. The cost of this is that he has no time for other items that are critical to the club, e.g., updating the bylaws, looking at the big picture of keeping the club healthy and growing. The club is treading water – each Board position has 1 person with no sign of who will take over when the current officer retires. And then there’s the recession. We need more volunteers for the club.

Roger noted that the Maine and Connecticut clubs are getting stronger. He suggested that perhaps we should have a representative from each local club on the NEWC Board.

December Luncheon and Santa Claus (Roger Melanson)

Roger reported that there will be a Santa Claus at the club lunch. The club will supply sandwiches and salad.

ACTION ITEM: Board members to each bring a dessert to the December luncheon.

Workshops

The Board discussed

- Rick Jenson – late August 2009, has 3 seminars – one in Massachusetts, two in Connecticut
- John.Burke – Spring 2009, 1 seminar
- Rick Jenson is interested in giving a workshop. He does western figures – Indians, etc.
- Chris Howard from Tennessee – is a possible guest speaker. He does faces.
- Floyd Schultz – He does birds of prey

ACTION ITEM: Roger to ask Warren Blessing for possible dates for workshop at Paul's house.

ACTION ITEM: Bob to send background information to Roger on Chris Howard

ACTION ITEM: Louis to talk to Floyd Schultz about his doing a workshop for the club.

[See Bob Guge section above for info on another possible workshop]

[See Frank Russell section above for info on another possible workshop]

Notifying Members via Email -- Yvette

Occasionally, it would be useful to be able to use email to notify the members of something that can't wait for the newsletter. While not everyone in the club has supplied NEWC with an email address, many have. (Yvette, roughly how many have done so and out of how many total members). This number is gradually increasing over time. (Yvette, is this correct?) Yvette reported that the club has an email service that can do a mailing to everyone in the club who has provided an email address. Unless updated, the service will use the list of email addresses that was most recently uploaded. So before using the service, Yvette typically uploads all the email addresses in the club member database so as to have the most up-to-date list. The total process takes on the order of 30 minutes. In theory, anyone could use the service to send a message, but only someone with access to the member database could upload the latest set of email addresses.

Miscellaneous – Roger

Roger distributed several DVDs of photos from the SoW show to Board members who were interested – Yvette, Paul, Floyd, and Maria.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 1:23pm.