

# **New England Woodcarvers Executive Board Meeting**

May 15, 2010

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Roger Melanson, M. Paul Ward, Floyd Truitt, Mary Chouinard, Leo Lambert, Maria LaGoy, Robert Landry, Jerry Grimes, Karen Seo

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Yvette Holladay

**GUESTS:** Lorne LaGoy

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Roger Melanson called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

\* **BOARD DECISION** -- The Board voted to approve the minutes for 1/23/2010 (unanimously).

\* **BOARD DECISION** -- The Board voted to approve the minutes for 3/20/2010 subject to the amendments provided at the meeting (unanimously).

## **REPORTS:**

### **Vice President (Paul Word)**

Guest speakers:

- June meeting – Helli Mayr will teach a workshop June 3-5, 2010 and be the guest speaker on June 6, 2010.
- NG Schofield will do a mini-workshop in the morning on June 6, 2010.

Mail pick-up from box in Lexington:

- Invoice from Fox Chapel Publishing for Ad in Wood Carving, gave to President Melanson.
- Newsletters for Yvette (This refers to the exchange of newsletters with other woodcarving groups).

Storage area;

- Enough wood has been donated for two meetings.
- Books set-up on shelves -- would like to have a library
  - Many books are out of print
  - All books are catalogued

Spirit of Wood 2010

- Phil Lowe is checking the dates for his participation as a woodworker.
- Topsfield Fair is having a woodworking booth. NEWC was invited to send members to be at the booth.

\* **ACTION ITEM:** Paul to put notice in newsletter asking people interested in participating in the Topsfield Fair woodworking booth to contact Phil Lowe for more information.

- Tom McLaughlin, North Bennett Street School, and Bob Anthony will have table displays.

**Treasurer (Leo Lambert)**

Leo reported as follows:

- A balance sheet as of 5/14/10. Total equity is \$32,906.00.
- A profit and loss statement for 7/1/09 though 5/15/10. P&L is \$971.96 in the black.
- A balance for the Veterans charity (Tree of Hope) of \$1509.87
- The following results to date for workshops

Workshop	# Signed up	# Openings left	Income	Instructor fee	Other expense	Profit	Date
Pete LeClair	14	0	\$1465	\$1000	\$50 (rent)	\$415	May 8, 9
Helli Mayr	11	1	\$2080		\$130 (refund)	\$1950	June 3, 4, 5
Cheryl Dow	3	7	\$385				Oct. 18, 19, 20
Bob Guge	5	10	\$905				Oct 11-15
Frank Russell	2	12	\$485				Sept 13-17

**\* BOARD DECISION:** The Board voted to accept the treasurer’s report (unanimously).

Jerry Grimes will be taking over as Treasurer effective July 1. Leo will change signatory powers to add Jerry. The club’s banking is currently done at Citizen’s. Jerry said he may wish to change this to a bank which he has found provides excellent remote banking services. This is important for the months during which he is out of town. Leo will continue to receive checks for events/etc. for which he has already been listed as the contact, e.g., workshops. He will forward these checks to Jerry.

Mary Chouinard proposed that she directly deposit membership checks in the club’s bank account instead of sending them to the Treasurer for him to deposit. To do this, she would need to know the club’s bank account number. The only issue raised was the need to inform the Treasurer about the checks deposited.

**\* BOARD DECISION:** The Board voted to have the Membership Secretary directly deposit membership checks into the club’s bank account provided that he/she notifies the Treasurer of the checks/amounts/dates of the deposits (unanimously).

**\* ACTION ITEM:** Leo or Jerry to let Mary know the club’s bank account number.

**Newsletter**

Yvette was unable to attend so there was no report on the newsletter. There was a brief discussion of whether it would be possible to move up the newsletter publication dates to ensure that it arrives in people’s hands before the membership meetings and to avoid a last minute crunch of folding and stuffing envelopes. Mary reported that the last 2 issues she received had a terrible odor. She has reported this to Yvette and Yvette apparently was aware of this. No one else on the Board had noticed the problem so there was some question as to whether this was just a normal fresh ink smell or some other problem.

**Membership Secretary (Mary Chouinard)**

Over the past couple of months, Mary sent a total of \$435 to Leo -- \$120 (4/18/2010), \$210 (4/24/2010), \$75 (5/10/2010), \$30 (5/14/2010). These checks were for 5 new members, 17 renewals, and 1 re-instated member. She sends out renewal reminders periodically. She will be sending out “friendly” reminders for memberships that expire in July, August, and September. Members whose memberships end in April, May, June will get “final” reminders.

### **Spirit of Wood (SoW) show (Roger Melanson)**

Roger has set up four 1-hour seminars so far:

1. Chet Jablonsky – judging carving , a judge’s point of view
2. Cheryl Dow – pyrographics art or just burning
3. Bob Jones -- power carving slicing method
4. Robert Anthony – basic to intricate scrolling

On Monday, Roger is meeting with George Calef, who coordinated the judging at the 2009 SoW show. Roger invited the other Board members to attend this meeting. Justin was planning to give Rogers more specifics on his recommendations re: competition categories, etc., but is out of town at present. The Board discussed several ideas:

- a category for miniatures
- a single set of categories for all of New England -- This would require coordination with other groups that have shows, e.g., Maine
- an “open” category as opposed to an “expert” category -- What are the criteria for being categorized as “expert?” It was agreed that there is no consensus on the criteria.
- registration forms that have the category circled by registration personnel
- judged forms to be signed by Judges and by Recorder. This is by request of the Data Specialist
- having fewer categories and fewer ribbons so that winning one is more meaningful

### **Tree of Hope (Maria and Lorne LaGoy)**

Maria received a thank you letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bedford. However, it doesn’t mention NEWC. Maria is trying to get the letter revised to reflect NEWC’s participation and the correct date. No one has been hired to replace the coordinator who left.

### **Eagle Cane Project (Floyd Truitt)**

Good news! Ray Johnson (CT) has volunteered to take over. Floyd and several other Board members observed that he’s the perfect candidate. It’s been a smooth transition. Floyd and Ray met and Floyd gave him a stock of cane shafts and blocks for eagle heads. Floyd will put an article in the newsletter notifying people of the change and will work on getting people to direct requests for canes, finished canes, questions, etc. to Ray. Floyd noted that there aren’t any “kits” – he often provided people with blocks for eagle heads, etc. but there is no obligation on the part of the coordinator to do this. Since Ray isn’t as familiar with members who live in MA, VT, and NH, Floyd may help him with those states. Maine has an excellent coordinator, Marcia Berkhall. In Maine, the requests for canes go directly to Marcia. They don’t go through Floyd.

Ray will take over writing periodic articles for the newsletter. There followed a discussion of the problem that NEWC is often seen as primarily covering Massachusetts rather than all of New England. This problem seems to be getting worse. It was observed that either NEWC should become the Massachusetts Wood Carvers or it needs to focus its efforts more on all of New England. One possibility (mentioned in previous meetings) was the idea of becoming a guild. In the meantime, Floyd said he will make sure that Maine’s stats are included in our newsletter.

**\* ACTION ITEM:** Floyd to make sure that Maine’s statistics (for their Eagle Cane Project efforts) are included in the NEWC newsletter.

### **Diorama project (Roger Melanson)**

Rona is still seeking a location for the diorama.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### June Luncheon

Roger provided pricing information for having MCC Catering provide refreshments for 60 people at the June meeting. There were 3 options -- assorted sandwiches (\$707) plus sides, cookies and drinks; chicken parmesan plus sides, cookies, drinks (\$827); and coffee (\$137). The membership has come to expect a free lunch, but the dues don't really cover this. Perhaps in the future, there should be an off-site banquet (as was done in past years) where participants pay to attend. To help defray costs, the Board agreed that in the newsletter, there will be a note re: "Donations" welcomed to help with costs of the luncheon.

**\* BOARD DECISION:** The Board voted to have MCC Catering provide the assorted sandwiches luncheon for 60 people. (approved unanimously)

**\* ACTION ITEM:** Mary to ask Yvette to put a note in the May/June newsletter saying donations will be welcome to help with the cost of the luncheon (along with the recommended donation amount). Roger to supply official wording regarding the luncheon.

A motion was made to add the MCC option for coffee to the morning session of the June meeting. There were no seconds.

## NEW BUSINESS

### New Award Recipients

Roger presented the following summary of the results for the 2010 NEWC Member of the Year:

Voting results:

Total votes	46
At April meeting	33
By mail	13
% of members (based on 450 members)	10.2%

Total votes by nominee

Louis Dennis	29
Warren Blessing	17

Voter turnout

Low – 1/10<sup>th</sup> of membership voted

Summary of new voting process

Executive Board needs feedback from the membership.

It should be noted that Louis Dennis was the top vote getter.

The Board discussed the low voter turnout and possible causes:

- The difficulty of knowing what to say about someone unless you know them well and know their efforts well. There was a letter from Warren Blessing suggesting that the Board try to get feedback about candidates from people local to the candidate.
- The possibility that people were discouraged by the long list of qualifications listed on the nomination forms.

- That there are many groups that get together and have classes, and some have shows, e.g., Munson, another one in Maine; but there are only a few clubs with bylaws, officers, etc. (Roger was seeking information on grass roots organizations as possible source of nominations for NEWC Member of the Year.)
  - CT -- Mystic Carving club, Connecticut Woodcarving
  - None in RI
  - MA -- NEWC
  - NH -- none
  - Maine -- Maine has chapters – groups that meet. They only have 1 meeting a year for the entire association.
  - VT – none.

Possible next steps that were discussed included the following.

- Revisit the process, re-evaluate the criteria. We could then come up with a single paragraph of what we're seeking and publish that in the newsletter. The Board would need to do this at August meeting.
- Do some kind of survey to get feedback from membership.
- Decide on the schedule for NEWC Member of the Year by the August meeting.

The discussion was tabled to August.

The Board then discussed the other NEWC awards:

- NEWC Member of the Year
- President's Award
- Volunteer Excellence Award
- Leadership Award
- Thank you's

Candidates included:

- George Calef – organizing and supervising the judging at the SoW show
- Bob Anderson – runs the Monson show
- Justin Gordon – contributes to newsletter, show, competition criteria
- Todd Wissell – web site
- Ruth Olsen – helps with meetings and ran the admission for the show in 2009. Handles set up at south shore carving gathering
- Ginny and Kar Chung – have handled the SoW show raffle for many shows, e.g., generated \$1000-1500 at the last show.
- John and Sharon Yurka – help with the SoW show
- Leo Lambert – he declined to be nominated

There were no conclusions and the decisions on the awards were left to the president.

### **Engraved Name Tags**

Robert reported that he'd found someone to make the club's engraved name tags.

### **Abstracts of Board Minutes**

The Board agreed to not include an abstract of the minutes for Board meetings in the club newsletter. Instead, a note will be included in the newsletter saying the minutes for Board meetings are available on the NEWC web site and to contact the club secretary if you want a hardcopy.

**\* ACTION ITEM:** Yvette to put a note in all future newsletters saying that the minutes for Board meetings are available on the NEWC web site and to contact the club secretary if you want a hardcopy.

**Election of Officers – Nominating Committee**

Robert reported that he'd read Robert's Rules of Order for how to properly handle the election of officers. The process involves having the club secretary read the slate, etc. He will send Karen the rules re: handling the nomination so she can do this at the June meeting.

**\* ACTION ITEM:** Robert to send Karen the relevant rules for how to handle the nomination of the club's officers. Karen to follow these rules at the June membership meeting.

**The meeting adjourned at 11:42am.**