

February 20, 2024  
Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association  
Board Meeting

**Attendees**

Barry Tonkin  
Mark Kraus  
Earl Kessler  
Al Ashley

George Knutson  
Andrew Pellar  
John Braun  
Don Mason

Mike Titus  
Bob Laufenberg  
George Lamphear  
Todd Wyder

Call to order: 7:04pm

### **Guild Facility Discussion - Mark Kraus**

- Mark proposed a shared guild facility to meet the needs of the membership with space for all club needs like meeting room and space for library; possibly classroom space and shared tools and benches
- Possible arrangements: lease/rent, own, shared with another entity (school, maker space, senior center, other guilds, theater)
- Clubs with dedicated spaces have seen increased membership and other benefits
- Board discussed interest, location concerns, facility use and management of space, the wants/needs of the membership - possible questions for the 2025 membership survey
- Would need volunteers to help operate, teach, etc., funding to pay for this space
- NCWA is an unincorporated association, not registered with WA Secretary of State as a non-profit; could apply to be a 501(c)3, would allow for the establishment of a foundation to raise money
- Board approved Mark to start an exploratory committee to do more research, including cost, wants/needs of membership, location, etc.

### **Toys Making vs Building Cars at Shows**

- Committee members like to make toys but not man the build-a-car booth at shows
- Would like to separate the event activities
- Coordinator can inventory, purchase standardized wheels, collect car bodies from toy-making groups and ensure there are enough cars and parts for each show
  - Coordinator would also organize volunteers for booth
- Club will provide reimbursement for Toys program, but requires toy makers to submit reimbursement requests and receipts
- Survey question: Who would like to be a toy maker? Bob will send other questions for surveys to Earl.

### **New Website Options**

- Looking at outside website host to manage membership services
- Todd has experience with Wild Apricot (\$147/month) - about \$6/member
- Website would handle event management (volunteers can sign up online), paying dues online and tracking membership, email management/grouping (generation but not sending)
  - Would reduce the burden on the volunteers that make up the board and committees
- Benefits to membership: everything in one place, easier to market to the committee, members could communicate with targeted interest groups
- Would require a small tech club to spend a few hours a month
- Would likely require an increase in dues (haven't increased in years)
- Board members will research Wild Apricot and possibly see demo; will discuss again in March

### **Treasurer's Report - Al Ashley**

- See Al's report for details
- About \$800 less in the bank than at this time last year; Toys program has fund balance of nearly \$1,200
- Expenses were slightly less than revenues for 2024; biggest annual expenses include speaker honorariums and room rentals

- 238 members - (233 last year); 43 did not renew; 11 new members this year (4 last year)
- Expenses: insurance coverage, February presenters fees, reimbursements to club members for toys, membership, and shows supplies

### **Membership - Jerry Couchman**

- More than 50 new members in 2024 but not all renewed; those who responded to emails indicated that they were not able to continue membership due to personal reasons or moving

### **Education - Andrew Pellar**

- Limited success with apprenticeship but will keep trying; trying to recruit new teachers
- Looking into social classes, like discussing a particular project
- Has had trouble with emails going out/filtered into spam folder

### **Programs - Earl Kessler**

- March: Kitchen gadgets - hosted by David Shull - several members have already signed up
- Need more for May presentation - 75 minutes instead of normal 60 minutes, so will minimize business side of meeting
- Shop Tours - committee thinks that video shop tours will not be a suitable substitute for in-person shop tours, proposes smaller groups for in-person tours
  - Having both may be a good compromise, allow for more participation
- Grizzly tour: June 3 - can accommodate 60 people at time; if there are more than 60 club members who want to attend, they can do a morning and afternoon session.
  - Will require members sign up so we know how many people will attend the tour
- Tentatively have much of the rest of the year filled:
  - April: Build a wood trailer
  - May: Toys for geeks
  - June: Field trip to Grizzly, June 3, time TBD depending on number of respondents
  - July: Build a cane fishing rod
  - August: picnic
  - Looking for ideas for September and October

### **Shows - Jerry Couchman**

- April 5 & 6, set up on April 4
- Still need more demonstrators - we get a break on the cost because we do demonstrations
- Needs help with greeters, set up and tear down

### **Members at Large**

- Mark Kraus has accepted position

Adjourn: 9:04 pm

Next Board Meeting: February 20, 2025