

## Vice Presidents Message -- Arizona Woodturners Association -- June 2015

Last month I wrote about life being a series of firsts and lasts. In that spirit I believe that this will be my last message as Vice President of the Arizona Woodturners Association. I think that it's only appropriate that I'm writing it on what could end up being my final flight back to my home in Arizona.

I joined the Arizona Woodturners Association in the fall of 2006. I became aware of the club's existence in late 2005 but neglected to join until about 9 months later. This also means that I missed out on the very first Desert Woodturning Roundup. I try not to have too many regrets in life but those are definitely 2 of the things that I regret. I should have joined the club earlier than I did and I should have attended that first DWR back in 2006.

Joining the club was one of the best things I've ever done in my life. Not just because it made me a better turner but because it made me a better person. Prior to joining the club I was extremely shy and very timid. I was more than content to sit in the back of the room and be completely invisible. It's still a bit of a struggle at times to ignore the voice in my head that wants me to sit down and be quiet and let someone else take the lead. That voice was once nearly deafening but now it's barely more than a whisper. For the longest time I had issues looking someone in the eye during a conversation, forcing myself to do so only during extremely important conversations such as a job interview.

Deciding that I wanted to share my love of woodturning by demonstrating and then later taking over leadership of the club was the catalyst to my coming out of my shell and forcing myself to become a more public person and someone capable of controlling a full room of people. That new found confidence has allowed me to receive several promotions at work and to become the go-to trainer for the software we use as well as lead my own team of software engineers. It's also instilled in me the confidence to interrupt our Executive Director (my boss's boss's boss) during a meeting of 300 people while I was dressed in a full Thor costume (including the large hammer and blonde wig). You can believe me when I say that I never would have done that without my recently acquired confidence.

It hasn't all been fun and games. Learning of the club's financial issues as well as the issues related to our 501(c)3 shortly after taking over the club caused a dark cloud to hang over my head for a long time. I was immensely proud when Ana was able to announce that our 501(c)3 status was finally restored after a 3 year struggle. I want to say that Ana should receive the lion's share of the credit but that's not true. She deserves nearly all of the credit. Fellow club members including Mike Lucckino and David Walser deserve what credit doesn't go to Ana. I deserve exactly none.

Ana also deserves a ton of credit for the past 4 years. I can't emphasize enough the amount of work she puts in on a monthly basis and how critical she's been during my tenure. Ana had to step away from the club back around 2010 and 2011 and her absence had a noticeable impact. She's the glue that held everything together over the past 4 years and is the engine that kept us going. I'm going to miss a ton of things about Arizona and our club. Ana is very, very near the top of both lists.

I want to thank all of our members but I don't have the space or the time to do so. Instead I

## **Vice Presidents Message -- Arizona Woodturners Association -- June 2015**

want to call out also and thank just a few of the many members that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. To Mike Lucckino and Michael Holland, for their advice to me as former club Presidents. Ana-Marie Lappegard, Dale Gillaspay, Chip Hiding, Ed Pabst, Pete Beschenbossel, Rich Boehlke, Rob Carleton, Dean Humphreys, and Michael Costa for their time as officers, board members, librarians, photographers, videographers, etc during my tenure. Norris and Leslie Ready, for always being there to assist at all-day demonstrations, selling raffle tickets, and helping out with the madness that comes with collecting annual dues at our January meetings. Greg Campbell, for scheduling our meetings at the Pyle Center every year and Bill Kram, for scheduling our meetings at Sun City. Vince Sichmeller, Cal Vander Kooi, and others for consistently helping out at club events and demonstrations. If you don't see your name please don't feel like your contributions were not noticed or were not appreciated.

Lastly I want to thank my wife (and to a lesser extent my kids) for putting up with me, my incessant talk about woodturning, and the time she allowed me to dedicate to the club. I'm not sure what I did to deserve her and her seemingly infinite patience but I hope to repay her somehow, someday.

Jason  
Vice President, Arizona Woodturners Association