

Arizona Woodturners Association -- President's Message -- August, 2016

Hello fellow club members,

I have just met with Ken Northern and Gerard Merchant, our Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. You will be receiving an e-mail within the next few days clarifying the vote for our new board and bylaws that must be put into place to be compliant with Arizona Corporate Law.

I know we have had three resignations recently. Let me first say that I have nothing but the utmost respect for the people that have resigned.

Richard has been our photographer for over 8 years, and has gone largely unappreciated. He works in the back of the room every month and we all enjoy the benefits of his work. His work will be greatly missed.

Marvin has forgotten more about computers than I will ever know, and he has worked miracles with the website. I know I have thanked him personally, but may not have done so in public. He deserves at least that much.

Ana has devoted thousands of hours over years to first straighten out our standing with the corporation commission, and the years of being both treasurer and secretary, and this year's vice president. I as well as countless others have sung her praises and will continue to do so.

While I hesitate to accept their resignations because I value their contributions to the club, I do so with trepidation because as an organization, we must move forward.

Other club business:

The August meeting will be our mini-symposium as in years past. There will be multiple rotations with 20-30 minute demonstrations at each station. Door prizes will be awarded. We had one demonstrator have to cancel due to other commitments, which leaves a station open. If anyone is interested in doing a small demonstration, please contact me for details. It is a great way to get your feet wet for demonstrating. Change this year: There WILL be an instant gallery. We will not do a critique per se, but please bring your work to share. I will be doing a rotation on design and may use a few pieces as examples with the makers' permission.

The Arizona State Fair is October 7-30. We will be occupying a booth similar to years past and will be looking for volunteers to either turn or be "ambassadors" and talk to the public about woodturning and the club. We will be manning the booth on weekends, and sign-up sheets will be available soon.

Desert Woodturning Roundup. It seems like we just finished the last one and it is time to start planning for 2018. A planning committee needs to be formed to first confirm that as a club we want to proceed, and if so, to start planning. Most demonstrators are booked over a year in advance, so it is not too soon to start. As soon as we confirm our new board, we can authorize an expenditure to reserve the space at the Mesa Convention Center. If the board approves moving forward, we will be convening a planning committee to meet prior to the September meeting.

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Mentor Program: There will be a sign up at the August Meeting for those requesting mentoring and those willing to mentor. We will pair people up from there. Larry Judson had a great idea. He would be willing to mentor, but is hesitant because he would like some guidance on exactly how to go about it. I have two suggestions to anyone who is in the same boat. First of all, there are a lot of resources on the American Woodturner's Association website for those who are members. There is a whole section not only for new turners, but how to teach woodturning. Larry also suggested we get together and asked me to do a teaching session on how to mentor and dangerous procedures to avoid. I will be doing just that for anyone interested, at Larry's house. Thanks Larry. Look for details around September, as soon as it cools off a little.

Our November demonstrator will be Jimmy Clewes. The meeting will be all day, (9-4) at the Fairway Recreation Center in Sun City. More details will be forthcoming, but you want to make sure and attend this one. Jimmy is a fantastic demonstrator and very fun to watch. Hands on classes are full at this time.

Finally, please know that you can always call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns. This is your club, not mine, not the officers, not anyone's specifically. It is your club.

Thank you for your time,

Dale Gillaspy
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