ARIZONA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- JANUARY 2017

I want to start off by wishing everyone a happy new year, welcome to 2017, and hope this message finds you all happy, healthy, and well.

The board officers and I had a board meeting on 12/22 /2016. It was very productive. We voted on and passed some new programs that we hope you all will join in and enjoy:

1. We are going to install pictures of the officers and board members on our website. This way, when members go to the website they can put faces to names of who is running the club. We hope this will help people with questions to get in touch with people in charge.

2. When members bring in projects for show and tell, we are going to allot some time for each person to come up and talk briefly about their project. I think this is a great way to get to know each other a little better.

3. We are going to restart the bring-back program. Those who want to participate, will put their names in a box, and we'll draw a name. The club will provide the first piece of wood and the person that is selected will take that piece of wood home, make a project, bring the project back for the next meeting, along with another piece of wood. Another name will be selected, and that person will take that piece of wood home, make a project, bring it back along with another piece of wood. We will have a contest at the December meeting to pick out the best project.

4. Marvin, our webmaster, is sharing web tips with our neighboring clubs in Arizona. We think that this will help relations between our other clubs in the area.

5. We are going to have coffee, donuts, and water at our meeting for members to enjoy. There will be a donation jar to help fund this event.

6. I have appointed Andrew Allen as our new equipment monitor, and he has accepted the position. He is a hard worker and I know he will do a good job.

These are projects in the works:

1. Mentoring program.

2. Purchasing our own place.

3. Update our video equipment.

4. Create manuals for each officer position that has all the pertinent information for that position. These manuals will be handed down to the next person taking that position. This way the new officer will have a good understanding of what their duties and responsibilities are.

5. We are going to produce a monthly newsletter that will have articles from our club members, up-and-coming demonstrations, and possible news from AAW. We are looking for some volunteers to help advance this project.

6. Purchase our own camera equipment to take pictures of the instant gallery.

7. I also put in an application to receive some grant money for Seeds of Autism from the AAW.

As you can see the year has just begun, but our board and officers have been very busy enhancing our club. I would like to take this time to give a special thanks to all of the board members and officers for all their hard work. Great job.

My focus this year is on improving communication, furthering education, and making sure new members get the information that they need to get started as a member of this club. I know we have an awesome club with a great future ahead of us.

Our club will be demonstrating at the Woodcraft Expo on Saturday, January 28 from 7:30 AM to 6 PM. We are looking for demonstrators, and I also encourage members to enter their projects into the contest at woodcraft because they have some very nice prizes for those who win. Hope to see you there.

I want to encourage all members to please pay their annual dues for 2017. The money from these dues is what your Club uses to function for this year. It is very simple to renew online. It goes through PayPal, but you don't have to have a PayPal account to use it.

I am excited to get started as President, and as far as New Year's resolutions, I kept it simple: Make More Chips.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting on the 14th. Thanks and have a great day.

Jim McCleary
President, Arizona Woodturners Association