

**Hunt County Woodturners
Board Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2025**

The meeting was held at Wesley United Methodist Church. A Zoom session was conducted by Howard Wellspring. A Zoom link was provided by Howard to all HCW members in advance.

Club members Attending in Person: Brian Livingston*, Mark Spencer*, Howard Wellspring*, Burt Andrew*, Bill Belitz*, Tom Nehl*.

Club members Attending through Zoom: Brian Schrader*, Ron Williams.

[Voting board members indicated *. A quorum of board members was in attendance.]

The Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by HCW President, Brian Livingston.

Items of Business

- **Board Meeting minutes from December 5, 2024:**

Brian Livingston made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 5, 2024, board meeting with no changes. The motion was seconded by Mark Spencer. Motion passed.

- **Website/Technology (Howard Wellspring)**

- Website traffic (last 30 days):
 - 176 visits, 93 unique. U.S 162, Canada 3, China 2, France 2, Australia 1, Egypt 1, UK 1, India 1, Poland 1, Russia 1, Turkey 1.
- Howard has made several cosmetic changes to the website, and has updated various sections, including the membership form page and renewal information.
- Briefed the board and demonstrated, online, how best to access the Member's Only section of the website. Discussed the location and limits of the Profiles area.
- Informed that power/connectivity problems continue to exist in the Club's tailstock camera.

- **Financial (Mark Spencer) [Mark sent financials to the Board members on the day before the meeting, which included 12 months of detail, through year end.]**

- Mark presented: 1) a Financial Statement for 2024 which included the 2024 budget and actuals for the months of January through December 2024; 2) Check Register entries for all of 2024; and 3) 2024 Paypal transfers/deposits to the checking account, December 17, 2023, through November 21, 2024.
 - Overall club reserves, including deposits and petty cash, come to \$35,539.73.
 - December expenses were greater than income by \$204.93.
 - The only significant income posted in December came from the Christmas party auction. Note: Prepaid dues for 2025 are being accrued to 2025.
 - Significant expenses posted in December consisted of storage building costs, gift cards, and Christmas Party costs. Note: 2024 will be adjusted to include several Christmas Party receipts submitted January 2025.
 - The December 2024 ending check register balance was \$8,137.08.
- Following the Board's consideration of several adjustment items (Christmas expenses, gift card amounts for 2025, allocation of gift card amounts into appropriate budget line items, training, others) Mark will send out adjusted financials within the next few weeks to the Board for on-line review and approval, with formal acceptance planned for the February Board meeting.

- Mark will begin the steps through Alliance Bank to add new VP Bill Belitz to the Club's accounts and will remove 2024 VP Alain Schwarz.
- Mark suggested that to increase revenue we should remind/advertise to members the availability of on-hand logo items (hats, t-shirts, cups).
- **Upcoming Club Demonstrations and Open Shops (*tentative*):**
 - Upcoming planned and proposed club meeting demos:
 - Jan: Tool Sharpening (Tim White and Alain Schwarz)
 - Feb: *Easy Tools Demo (James Carter from Easy Tools)*
 - Open Shop location /class topics (8am – noon, with mini-class at 9)
 - Jan: George Freeman / Tool sharpening, Brian Schrader
 - Feb: Joe Grimes / *Mini-class TBD*
 - Mar: *Tom and Stacy Nehl*
 - Apr: *Howard Wellspring*
 - May: *Brian Livingston*
 - June: *Bill Belitz*
 - July: *Donna Frazier*
 - Aug: *Brian Schrader*
- **Training / Brian Schrader and Bill Belitz**
 - Brian S. and Bill Belitz are continuing to work on arrangements with James Carter (Easy Tools) for the demo in February and possible subsequent training on the Friday/Saturday following the Club meeting.
 - For our first major training event of the year, Brian S. will work with Chris Cohen (representing DAW) on a cooperative program and training plan featuring woodturner Kirk DeHeer. Depending on costs and logistics, Brian S. will make recommendations to the Board. Our second major training may be Beginner Training around April.
 - Bill is planning to hand out survey sheets during the January meeting to determine subjects of most interest to members for demos.
- **Miscellaneous Other Items of Business**
 - Facebook discussion:
 - Brian L. will again ask Alan Fields to delete the old account.
 - Will create an entirely new Club account, possibly with a new name, and may transfer parts of the old site to the new site, if possible.
 - The Christmas Party was discussed; comments were overwhelmingly favorable. A few items for possible improvement next year:
 - Use of (borrowed) chafing dishes to keep the meat warm.
 - Additional runners for the silent auction to speed up progress.
 - Louder and better use of the public address system.
 - Need more items and variety in the silent auction, especially tools, with early requests for quality contributed items.
 - 2024 Internal Financial Audit
 - Work has begun on the Y/E 2024 Audit with target completion by the February Board meeting.
 - Audit members, as selected by the Board in December, will consist of: Burt Andrew, Mark Spencer, and Alain Schwarz.
 - AAW
 - Confirmed that all 2025 HCW Board members are AAW members. The AAW roster has been updated to show officer positions.

- Quarterly Challenge
 - Next quarterly challenge, due March, will be a woodturned Easter item.
 - The following quarterly challenge, still TBD, but may be an item turned from three types of wood.
- Hunt County Fair
 - The Hunt County Fair is scheduled to run from April 18 through April 27. Tom will register our space as soon as the registration site is open.
 - Discussed displaying turned items in the booth. Settled on showing turned items brought in by members, securing at night any items remaining in the booth at the end of each day.
- Ideas and Suggestions to Improve 2025
 - Brian L. encouraged the Board to continue thinking about ways to improve the Club this year.
 - Following last month's Board decision to extend our community focus and outreach through charitable activities, Burt proposed a program to encourage participation. A written plan was sent to the Board one day in advance of the meeting. The Board approved, and Brian L. will announce this new Club initiative at the next meeting. Major program elements:
 - Will provide a way for members to use their turning skills to benefit others.
 - Program activities will be ongoing and routinely communicated, to be briefed and promoted at each club meeting by coordinators and various other members.
 - Will be supported through newsletter and website submissions.
 - Coordinators/members will provide regular status/feedback (items turned, benefits, goals).
 - A variety of turning projects will be available to choose from.
 - We may coordinate/compare our activities with other area clubs to build relationships, and perhaps to share ideas and resources.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.