



WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

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PEOPLE'S CHOICE



A Mouse's Life by Paul Marini

Photo by José Cuervo



Paul Marini has done it again. The ultimate judge, the public, has awarded the **People's Choice Award** to his diorama, "A Mouse's Life," which highlights the kill or be killed condition that all creatures face in the wild. That a mouse can be successful in such a world is a tribute to the tenacity of life.

2019 Artistry in Wood Wrap-Up

by Joe Scannell



Photos by José Cuervo



Show Chair Don Jereb has declared this year's *Artistry in Wood* to have been another successful Show, with exquisite pieces. Attendance was good and in line with last year's Show, with 400+ people attending on opening night and 2000+ people attending in total. Don Jereb, Mark Tindley and Larry Stroud each gave guided tours, and Hugh Buttrum gave a turning demo. All were well-attended and enjoyed with enthusiasm. The Museum expressed their satisfaction with the Show, whose duration was extended one week to overlap with the Museum's 35th Anniversary Open House event. They are already discussing next year's Show, with the good possibility of extending it even further into January.



Serving Tray by Joe Amaral

Photo by Debbie Wilson

Meeting Minutes

SCWA Officers' Meeting of January 12, 2020

Officers attending: Mark Tindley, Rod Fraser, Don Jereb, Judi Garland, Joe Scannell, Lars Andersen.

Other members attending: Michael Finizio, Ralph Benton.

Vice-Chairperson Don called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.

1. Financial update.

a. Membership update.

Judi gave an update about our membership count. Judi explained that we have several different categories for membership status, and Judi emphasized that it is important to understand which status(es) we refer to when we talk about our "how many members we have."

- There are people who have signed up on our website, but who have not yet paid.
- There are people who are fully paid up.
- There are people who are past due, who will generally receive three notices to renew.
- There are people we consider lapsed, meaning they did not act on their renewal notices.
- Finally, since our Wild Apricot account only allows 250 records unless we want to pay to upgrade to their next tier, we sometimes archive a group of lapsed members, as archived members do not count towards the 250 record limit.

Judi stated that we currently have around 180 members who are fully paid up. Judi also reported that the Wild Apricot system is occasionally difficult to work with, since its automated actions can sometimes conflict with her manual actions. Judi will work with Rod to make sure we have reliable processes in place, so no one is double-counted.

b. Tentative 2019 financials.

Judi presented her initial draft for the 2019 financials. Judi reported that our beginning balance was \$11,707.26 and our ending balance was \$12,067.80. We run SCWA on a cash basis, not an accrual basis, and this can sometime skew our year-to-year comparisons. For example, income from Show entries for the 2018 Show were deposited in December 2018 (and thus were part of our 2018 financials) while income from Show entries for the 2019 Show were deposited in January 2020 (and thus will be part of our 2020 financials). This means that our 2019 financials contain no income from Show entries. This is entirely correct on a cash basis, but skews the comparisons.

With the Show now in November-December-January, we discussed whether it still makes sense for our fiscal year to follow the calendar year or if we should change it. We decided to keep our fiscal year aligned with the calendar year, but we left it undecided whether to possibly start logging all Show transactions in January for better visibility into Show financials.

Judi's goal is to have the 2019 financials finalized by March 1. We hope to have them audited and posted by April 1. The audit will be done by the Chairperson, or his/her designate(s). For reference, the 2018 financials were audited by Rod and Lars.

c. 2020 budget.

Judi presented a proposed budget for 2020, and edits were made. We decided that February 1 is the deadline for Officers to provide 2020 budget input to Judi. Judi will then finalize the 2020 budget by March 1.

d. Financial compliance with the requirements for 501(c)(7) organizations.

Lars reported on his action item from the last Officers' meeting to review whether our finances are in compliance with the requirements for 501(c)(7) organizations. Lars reported that we have a tax ID, that we appear to never have filed taxes with the IRS, that

we are eligible to be a 501(c)(7) organization, and that we are required by the IRS to file a simple e-postcard annually. Lars did not seek CPA input.

Judi reported that we do not know how we ended up with this particular tax ID. We likely needed a tax ID to setup our Exchange Bank account, so it is possible that Exchange Bank has more details.

Now that we know the requirements, we agreed that we should start filing the e-postcard annually. As Treasurer, Judi should file it. Lars will work with Rod and Judi in January to make sure we are all in agreement on the correct values for all fields on the e-postcard. Judi should document the filing. The next time we update the bylaws, we could consider updating the list of Officer duties to reflect this important responsibility.

2. Show summary and report.

Don reported that the Show is coming to an end. It has been another successful Show, with exquisite pieces. Attendance has been good and in line with last year's Show, with 400+ people attending on opening night and 2000+ people attending in total. Don and Larry gave guided tours, and Hugh Buttrum gave a turning demo. The Museum has expressed their satisfaction with the Show, whose duration was extended one week to overlap with the Museum's 35th Anniversary Open House event. It looks like we will have roughly the same dates for the 2020 Show.

Don reported that his processes are maturing, and that everything runs smoother each year. A major improvement this year dealt with the layout of the pieces. Don worked with Carol Salvin, John Cobb and Steve Forrest to determine how to best display the collection of pieces.

Michael Finizio explained that he is a recovering civil engineer and a largely self-taught professional woodworker. Michael said that he was impressed with the Show, and that it is very hard to find a juried Show.

We discussed how often pieces from the Show are sold. Don reported that this happens only occasionally. For 2020, we agreed to attempt to do a better job at building awareness of the fact that pieces are indeed for sale. Mark pointed out that in addition to direct sales, the Show sometimes leads to indirect sales. For example, Mark had a piece in the Show one year, and the Show piece – while not sold – resulted in a commission for a different piece.

3. **Board Vacancies:** Chairperson and Program Chairperson.

Michael Finizio said that he would like to be involved. Michael said that he would be willing to be Chairperson. Michael also said that he is willing to help find speakers.

Given the need to find speakers, there was broad agreement among Officers that Michael can add more value by being Program Chairperson than by being Chairperson. Lars outlined the basic responsibilities for the Program Chairperson role. Michael said that he is willing to take this on, assuming he gets help. At the Annual Meeting, Don Naples had volunteered to help as time allows. All Officers are willing to help with logistics and with finding speakers. Michael said that he has an interest in getting more young people involved in woodworking, and that he could see SCWA possibly having an occasional Monthly Meeting at a local high school. All Officers were supportive of this direction, and it was pointed out by Lars that we had Monthly Meetings at Rancho Cotate High School's woodshop in past years. Both Michael and Mark pointed out the value of including demonstrations in our Monthly Meetings, as opposed to slides only.

Formally, Michael's election as Program Chairperson will happen by calling a Special Meeting to coincide with the next Monthly Meeting. The election should largely be a formality.

Don said that he will get our projector back from Chuck Root.

4. **Signatory and PO Box key redundancy.**

Given the lack of a Chairperson, we discussed the need for a back-up signatory with Exchange Bank and a back-up key holder for our PO Box. The Officers unanimously approved that we will 1) remove Tom Vogel as a signatory for Exchange Bank, 2) add Don Jereb as a signatory for Exchange Bank, and 3) provide Don with a key for our PO Box. Judi and Don will work together to get this set up.

5. **Meeting Schedule for 2020.**

Mark noted that in our last Officers' meeting we had agreed to work together to attempt to fill the 2020 calendar, with Mark collating the various inputs. While we have made some limited progress, we are behind the eight ball for 2020.

Mark reported that the schedule currently looks like this:

- Jan: Cancelled.
- Feb:
- Mar:
- Apr: Tentative: Michael Cooper shop visit.
- May:
- Jun:
- Jul:
- Aug: Summer BBQ at Don Jereb's house.
- Sep:
- Oct:
- Nov: Show #1.
- Dec: Show #2.

Lars said that traditionally one meeting a year would be filled by the Guild. Mark pointed out that Chuck relied heavily on Guild members to fill the calendar the last couple of years, and that Mark would prefer to avoid Guild talks for 2020 if possible.

Michael agreed to be a speaker for 2020.

Mark presented a long list of suggested speakers. In the end, we agreed to focus on Feb-Mar-Apr for now. Don will contact Michael Cooper to lock in the April meeting. Mark will contact Craig Thibodeau, Kala Brand Music Co, Joe Amaral, Ken Horner and Terry Schmitt. If these do not pan out, he will expand his search – no need to check with Officers first.

Mark will call Michael to determine how the two can work together to fill the calendar for 2020.

6. **Miscellaneous.**

We discussed whether to adopt Paypal payment of membership dues, either in addition to payment by check or perhaps even in lieu of payment by check. We also discussed the need for adopting a set of standards for electronic record-keeping. We decided to table these topics until the next Officers' meeting.

The meeting ended at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lars Andersen
SCWA Secretary.



Shop Space Available

I have a shop in the Sebastopol/Cotati area with space for rent. I am a SCWA Guild member and am looking for someone who is already knowledgeable about machine processes to share my shop with. The rent would be \$1000 per month. It is a nice location out in the country. Great for a furniture maker or instrument maker. Any interested person can email me at gfurn@comcast.net.

Thank you,
Greg Hay



Tater Chip by Bob Nelson

Photos by Debbie Wilson



Diamonds for Diamonds by Joe Von Arx

Officers of the Association

<u>Chairman</u>		<u>Secretary</u>	Lars Andersen
<u>Program Chair</u>		<u>Guild Chair</u>	Mark Tindley
<u>Treasurer</u>	Judith Garland	<u>Show Chair</u>	Don Jereb
<u>Editor</u>	Joe Scannell	<u>Web Master</u>	Rod Fraser

Wood Forum is the monthly newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association. Please feel free to submit articles and photographs for inclusion in the publication. You can send your submissions to the Wood Forum Editor at SCWAEditor@gmail.com. Advertisements are also accepted with a nominal cost for paid members.

Membership Application

I would like to join the SCWA to meet other people interested in the craft, the art and the business of fine wood-working. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$35 for the annual dues. I understand that this fee entitles me to attend monthly meetings and to receive the Wood Forum newsletter by email or via the SCWA's website.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

What can you do to help further the organizational goals of our volunteer-run association? Please tell us how you would like to help:

Please send check and completed application to:

Sonoma County Woodworkers Association, PO Box 4176, Santa Rosa, CA 95402