



# The Turning Point

The newsletter of the Siouxland Woodturners  
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

January 2020

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## February Meeting...

The February meeting will be held at the Harrisburg High School Ag Shop Saturday February 1, starting at 10:00 a.m. with a business meeting at about 1:00. Bring a lunch. The program will be our usual February project of Pens for the Military. We hope to build a stock of pens for future use. There is access to the usual parking area by going through the construction fenced area. The construction gate will be open.

## President’s Message...

Welcome Siouxland Woodturners,

Special thanks to Bill McGinnis for taking the initiative to include our pens in the Christmas baskets for those having to spend the holidays in the VA Hospital in Sioux Falls.

It was good to see some new members, also some members we haven’t seen for a while at the January meeting.

Monthly meetings are a wonderful place to share information, tools, and techniques. There is a tremendous amount of talent in this group so if there is something you want to learn there is always someone within the group that is willing to help. Please draw it to the attention of the group and we will make it happen. One of the greatest assets of this group is their willingness to share.

We need to continue the discussion started at the January meeting of holding a symposium. I have total confidence that we have enough talent within the group for this to be successful.

It is planned for turning more pens for the military returning from active duty at the February 1 meeting starting at 10:00 a.m.

Until then, keep turning.

Jeff Albrecht, President

## **January Meeting Minutes...**

### **At the January Meeting...**

#### **Siouxland Woodturners** January 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The January meeting was called to order at 1:05 by President Jeff Albrecht. Introductions were made by the 36 turners in attendance.

**Minutes of last meeting:** No business meeting held in December.

**Treasurer's report:** Jack reported a balance of \$1182.

**Education Committee report:** Jack reported on behalf of John W (get well, John!!) Community Education classes scheduled for the Spring term are shown below (these begin the week following Easter). Instructors for each of the eight classes are in place. Mentors for the classes are still needed. We would like to have enough mentors for one-to-one assistance (therefore, eight mentors per class). Contact Jack or John to volunteer as a mentor. Classes run from 6:00-8:30 pm. All classes are at the Career and Technical Education Academy (CTE), 4700 W Career Circle, room D106.

Apr 14 (Tue) ... Woodturning 101

Apr 16 (Thu) ... Woodturning 101

Apr 21 (Tue) ... Woodturning 101

Apr 23 (Thu) ... Woodturning 101

Apr 28 (Tue) ... Writing Pen

Apr 30 (Thu) ... Wood Platter

May 5 (Tue) ... Salad/Popcorn Bowl

May 7 (Thu) ... Basic Skills for Making Vases

**Membership Committee report:** 2020 dues are being collected by Corky (\$25 for the year). There are currently 38 paid members. Royce passed a sign-up sheet around for anyone who has paid their dues and is in need of a name badge.

**Equipment/Purchasing Committee report:** Doug reported that two new chucks were purchased (we now have eight). The chucks have expandable jaws and exceeded the cost allowance approved for them at the November meeting (cost = \$314 vs approved = \$250). Motion made, seconded and passed to fund the excess amount.

**Technology Committee report:** Gene is still researching upgrades to the video displaying/taping of demos, etc. for the club. Any suggestions will be appreciated.

#### **Old Business:**

1. Jeff asked for suggestions from members for demonstrations they would like to see at the monthly meetings. A sheet was passed around.
2. Jeff continues to work on plans to arrange a turning demonstration at the penitentiary. Those wishing to participate will need to provide date of birth, social security number, etc. for security check to be done prior to that happening. Contact Jeff for further info.
3. Jack reported that an article about Siouxland Woodturners' "Military Pens Project" will be appearing in the AAW's magazine "American Woodturner" in the near future. Photos have been submitted to accompany the story that was previously sent to them.

4. Royce and Gene explained about their meeting with the Sioux Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) concerning their offer of assistance for organizations wishing to host a national or regional meeting. It is felt that Sioux Falls is too small to host a National AAW Symposium. A regional event might be a possibility. The CVB would help in coordinating meeting rooms/space, hotel rooms, contracts, publicity/press releases, registration (name badges, etc), and other aspects of planning. The SF CVB researched woodturning clubs in North Dakota (1), Minnesota (6), Iowa (3), Nebraska (2), and South Dakota (1). The total is 13 clubs; membership numbers are unknown at this time other than two of the Minnesota clubs accounted for 125 members between them. Our club would have to decide on many issues to do a regional event: time of year, event length (# of days), would it be a one-time/annual/biennial event, how many people might attend, number of demonstrators or professionals and their costs, number of classes offered during same timeslot, rotation schedule (same class in multiple timeslots), vendor recruitment. More information will be forthcoming. It was mentioned that Utah has discontinued their annual symposiums (as well as Arizona).

5. Bill M. reported that pens were given to 92 veterans at the VA Hospital on Christmas. Three organizations (the Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart) made up Christmas packages for each of the hospitalized veterans and spent time with them on the holiday. Our pens were one of the presents in their Christmas package and were very special to each of the vets. They were named "the M16 pens". It's so wonderful to know that our efforts made them smile! Thanks to Bill for being our envoy.

#### **New Business:**

1. Jeff was in Pierre over the holidays and saw the "Christmas at the Capitol" display of trees. (FYI: This tradition began in 1981 with 12 decorated trees and has grown to about 100 trees now filling the rotunda plus three floors of the capitol; on display from the Tuesday before Thanksgiving through the day after Christmas. Cities, businesses, non-profits and other civic organizations may apply for a tree.) The State provides the tree and can arrange to decorate the tree if organizations contribute ornaments. Jeff has applied for a tree on behalf of Siouxland Woodturners. Tree ornaments, pens, etc. could adorn the tree if our application is accepted. More information will follow when we are notified.

2. The Big Bowl has been displayed on our Siouxland Woodturners homepage for quite some time. Jeff suggested that we might feature our Military Pens Project to add something new on that site.

3. Military Pens Project: We will have another work day before the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, hoping to make up to 200 pens. Jack has purchased 200 pen kits. If you plan to turn some pen blanks at home, you can take some tubes today (or you can repay yourself from our stock at the February meeting). Penmaking will begin at 10:00 AM (meeting at 1:00 PM) and continue after the meeting, if necessary. Members are asked to bring pen presses, small lathes and anything to help in the penmaking process. Rex currently has 200 shell casings that are drilled and polished. Woody mentioned that he has a connection at Black Hills Ammo that can provide shell casings for the military pen project. Rex has been getting needed casings from Fargo and can continue to do so.

4. Stan Houston "Demo Days" is Feb 28-29. Vendor Night is on Thursday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and our club is invited to attend (beverages and food begin about 5:30 according to Steve S.). A sign-up sheet was passed around for those who would be willing to turn during the event. There will probably be two lathes for members to work on. It is not known if a professional turner will be demonstrating this year.

#### **Announcements/Events/Info:**

1. There was a question about who does sharpening of sawblades, etc. Dakota Tool (address listed as 300 E 58<sup>th</sup> St on their website) was suggested.

2. Southwest Association of Woodturners (SWAT) Symposium is scheduled for Waco TX in August. Ron thought date might be Aug 21-23 (info not on their website as yet). Cost may be about \$145. It has been a very good event and is put on by 27 clubs from Texas and Oklahoma. If you are considering going, let Doug know. If there is sufficient interest, club members could rent a twelve-passenger van and share travel costs.

3. Lost & Found: A light brown leather jacket (size 2XL) was left at the HS after the December meeting.

**Raffle:** Jeff W. held drawings for six items. Winners were: Jeff W – wine, Doug – wine, Jeff A – center finder, Jim H – digital protractor, Woody – bowls, Jeff A – curved tool rest.

**Show and Tell:** Several members shared their work: Gene, Dennis, George, Paul, Chris, Darrell and Jeff A displayed bowls, vases and platters made of cottonwood, locust, ash, spruce, cherry, maple, walnut and hackberry. Doug showed off an apple made of apple, and Royce contributed duck calls made of African blackwood.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:27. Next meeting: Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Penmaking at 10:00, meeting at 1:00.

**Demonstrations:** Doug conducted a demo on tool sharpening. Jack discussed the making and use of diatomaceous earth finish. To make the finish: melt 8 oz of beeswax in a crockpot, add eight oz of diatomaceous earth (powder) and 38 oz of mineral oil. Handouts were available for both demos.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bonnie Lynch, Secretary

### **Adult Ed Classes...**

The spring Adult Ed Class dates are noted in the above minutes. The first class is April 14. Instructors are set but please consider being a mentor at any or all of the classes. Things go better with a mentor for each student, and the top comment from students is how great it is to have someone for one-on-one help. Please see John Weaver at one of the meetings to sign up or contact him by email [j2weaver@live.com](mailto:j2weaver@live.com)

### **Stan Houston Woodworking Show...**

The annual Stan Houston Woodworking Show will be February 28 and 29. This will be the first show held at their new location on West 12<sup>th</sup> Street in the old Kmart building between Kiwanis Avenue and I-29. We are again invited to turn at the show. Please consider signing up for a time to be in the booth at our February meeting. More information then.

### **December Pen Project...**



Pens for the Military turned at the December meeting



January Finishing Paste Demo...



Jack Zimmel demonstrated his finishing paste concoction. Using beeswax, mineral oil, and, as the abrasive, diatomaceous earth. Can be used as a final extremely fine sanding finish and then left as-is or apply another oil finish over it. Jack has the paste for sale in small containers.