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Mid Atlantic Woodturning Symposium

To AAW affiliated clubs in the Mid Atlantic region

For the last few months, a committee composed of members of Lancaster Area Woodturners has been meeting and gathering information in support of developing a regional woodturning symposium. For those who have or have not been to such an event, there are numerous benefits for attendees, such as:

- **Top notch instruction and demonstrations from world class woodturners;**
- **Enjoying the camaraderie of others involved in the craft;**
- **A fun and positive atmosphere oriented toward the woodturner;**
- **Sharing ideas with other attendees and learning from other turners of various skill levels;**
- **Access to equipment and accessories from a variety of vendors.**

After careful analysis, our committee has concluded that it is possible, practical, and highly beneficial to offer this opportunity in our region! The success of this project would begin with the support and enthusiasm of a consortium of turning clubs within about an hour and a half driving distance of Lancaster. Such support would allow financial flexibility, a potential symposium audience and a pool of potential volunteers interested in assisting in the delivery of the symposium.

Our research has verified a substantial pool of turning enthusiasts within a couple hours drive of Lancaster. Using reasonable cost projections for a 2 day symposium and the potential revenue generated, the program can support itself. The tentative date for the symposium is fall of 2016.

In reviewing this proposal, we suggest that each person consider:

- *The personal benefit and enjoyment of attending a woodturning symposium;*
- *Your potential participation as a volunteer in advance or during the event;*
- *Your interest in having your club as a participating sponsor of the symposium.*

A supporting sponsor club would be able to appoint members to the board or committee that is structured to coordinate the symposium and would have input into the decision-making of issues, such as choosing presenters, designing the format, selecting the venue, and finalizing the pricing. Being a supporting sponsor club may present new opportunities to promote woodturning in each club's respective community, as well as fostering cooperative efforts among the clubs.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working together to accomplish this special event!

Thank you.

Mid Atlantic Woodturning Symposium Exploratory Committee

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Summary of Findings and Proposal

An exploratory committee in Lancaster, PA has been examining the possibility of holding a regional woodturning symposium for the benefit of woodturners in our part of the country. The findings, plans and suggestions of that endeavor are summarized here.

MISSION- to provide a wide range of educational and sharing opportunities for woodturners in the Mid Atlantic region

VISION- Creation of an organization, composed of and supported by existing AAW affiliated woodturning clubs, to organize a symposium of recognized woodturning trainers as well as smaller presentations and other cooperative ventures among regional clubs.

Rationale and Findings

- Within a 2 to 3 hour drive of Lancaster, there are a large number of woodturning enthusiasts. The geographical area considered includes much of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. Participants are likely from as far south as D.C. and as far north as New York.
- There are regional woodturning seminars in other parts of the country, but none within an easy drive of our area.
- There are precedents for successful symposiums in other areas that are repeated annually or bi-annually.
- A 2 day symposium with a collection of well known trainers offers numerous benefits to participants.
- Using reasonable assumptions of cost and revenue, such an event can be expected to cover expenses and possibly create a profit.
- Participation of woodturning clubs as sponsors of the event is essential.

Structure of the Organization and the role of Sponsoring Clubs

It is intended that the symposium organization would be a non profit corporation, possibly with 501-c3 charitable status, separate and distinct from the sponsoring clubs.

Each sponsoring club would appoint 2 board members and the board may appoint one at-large member. The board of the organization will act in line with the charter of the enterprise and will make all decisions related to the symposium. Board members will be appointed by each club's president, in line with each club's process for determining the appointment.

The current budget and planning is for an initial 2 day symposium in Lancaster in the fall of 2016. It is hoped that a successful event will lead to subsequent events, and it is anticipated that such future events may be held in different venues near the various sponsoring clubs, as determined by the board.

Each sponsoring club agrees to contribute \$1,000 (half to be submitted in June, 2014 and the remainder in early 2015) to be used for initial funding and deposits and as a financial buffer for the first event. It is hoped that the event will provide enough profit to allow reimbursement to the clubs, but that cannot be guaranteed.

Additional profits may be allocated to the sponsoring clubs to be used for educational purposes and to some extent, used as seed money to prepare for a future event.

The purpose of this endeavor is to be for the benefit of our club members and woodturning enthusiasts in our region. This can only happen with the support and participation of our clubs and the members!

Anticipated Timeline

March, April, May, 2014- Present and discuss the plans and opportunities to a limited number of AAW affiliated clubs within about a one and a half hour drive of Lancaster, PA. The project will only move forward with a minimum of five clubs participating as sponsors.

June, July, August- Clubs appoint board members and provide initial \$500 contribution. Initial meetings and communications occur to form the corporate structure and appoint committees.

September, October- Finalize plans for a venue, sign a contract and make initial deposit.

Following that, board appointed committees will gather information and begin to solicit demonstrators, vendors and make other arrangements leading up to the event. Committees may include board members as well as non-board members of sponsoring clubs.

The woodturning community in the Mid Atlantic region appreciates your consideration of this project and looks forward to working together toward a great experience!