

AWA CHAIRMAN's ANNUAL REPORT
April 2013 – March 2014

The AWA Board of Directors met once in November to deal with the business of the Association. Activities of the Board and members through the year are reported below.

1. Following the Annual General meeting in March 2013, the membership with the Board of Directors remained unchanged, with the exception of Nick Poole who moved to Toronto to pursue his woodworking career.
2. **Meetings** – The Association carried out most of its monthly meetings at the Salvation Army on Pleasant Street in Dartmouth. The December meeting was hosted by Lee Valley Tools. The relationship between the Salvation Army and the Association has proven to be very successful. The location allows for ample parking and accessibility for all. It also provides us with a venue for unscheduled meetings to host projects or to facilitate workshops. The addition of our own sound system will prove to be a major asset to our meetings.
3. **Membership**- Debra Hickey assumed duties of Registrar. Registration activity peaks in the Fall as current members renew by paying annual fees in the period from October until March. New members join at any time in the year normally while in attendance at a monthly meeting as a guest. Membership or renewal by end March is required to retain access to the members' section of the website and to be on the newsletter mailing list. Membership in the Association remained relatively steady with 40+ members with 4 new recent members joining the Association.
4. **Library** – The library is supported by funding authorized by the Executive, and generous donations by Graham McCulloch. Our librarian, Dave Schlosberg, who became the librarian in March 2012, actively keeps the materials, including subscriptions, current.
5. **Finances** – Our Treasurer, Ken Miller, continued this year to administer our finances and accounts which included accepting dues payments and depositing funds collected from auctions and raffles. He prepares an annual financial report for the year ending 31 December for presentation at the AGM. Appointed auditors, Phil Carter and Doug Macintosh, complete a review of the accounts for the year and indicate that accounts and records of the Association are in good order.
6. **Presentations and Tours** – Sheila Eddy organized and arranged presentations for our monthly meetings this past year. These presentations were key events at our meetings intended to increase our knowledge and understanding of our craft. Presenters included:
 - Shirely Fader ; Antique Reproductions in miniature
 - Peter Loucks – Stick Dressing – Walk Softly
 - Gary Dumas – Maximizing function and space in our workshops
 - Barry Colpitts – Overview of his work as a folk artist with carving demonstrations
 - Jenna Bookholt – Cutting Boards
 - Don Shubaly – Kitchen redesign

It was passed by the Executive that a stipend of \$25 be paid to any non-member presenter along with a 1-year membership to the Association for their time and effort.

7. **Mini-Challenge** – Through most of the year from meeting-to-meeting, our Events Coordinator, Sheila Eddy, challenged the membership with individual projects to make such as a tea light candle holder, stool/footstool/bench or table, birdhouse/feeder or bat house, shelf or shelves, wooden toys for the salvation Army and jewelry. The mini challenge encourages woodworking activity and provides a great opportunity for members to express their talents and skills.
8. **Wood Challenge** – The wood challenge, a third annual event, culminated in the presentation of completed woodworking pieces at the May meeting. The challenge was to think outside the box and began with a random piece of wood or molding. Each member was instructed to make item(s) that would be presented in a show-and-tell at the June meeting. A draw for three prizes took place for those who participated in the challenge. Pieces varied from a box to a woolly sheep to a belt holder. Great for fun and a few laughs.
9. **Projects** – This year’s major project was the building of a picnic table for the NS Museum of Natural History. This turned out to be a rewarding, collective effort that complemented our Association move to the Salvation Army Church where we were able to work on weekends and unscheduled days.
10. **Christmas Toy Drive** – Once again, this past year, members produced a variety of wooden toys intended for distribution to children by the Salvation Army. The toys were presented in a show-and-tell at the December meeting. The event, held annually and hosted by Lee Valley Tools. Also, a cash donation was collected for the Salvation Army from members who were unable to make a toy. Additionally, Graham McCulloch provided a power tool for raffle at the meeting to raise funds for the Salvation Army Church. This year/s meeting raised \$150 in addition to the toys that were presented to Lieutenant Vance Gillard of the Salvation Army Church (our AWA location on Pleasant St.) who joined us at the event.

Report read by Gary Sumas, Chair

Submitted March 11, 2014