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May/June/July 2024

Newsletter

ANNUAL MEETING EDITION

**The annual meeting will be held June 22, 2024 at
the Senior Center 69 West Main Street in
Westminster, MA 01473**

**The most important business of the day will be the election of officers
who will take the organization from it's post-covid status into the
future of woodcarving in New England. You don't want to miss it!**



Final President's Message!

I have mixed emotions about writing a final message. It's not final for NEWC but final for me as your president. There is so much I would like to have accomplished in these few years. Give you guides for clubs and individuals to establish new clubs, institute classes for young adults in schools, create our own instructional videos to upload to the NEWC website and so much more. That's not so say these things won't happen but new energy on the Board of Directors will move these and other beneficial projects forward but only with your help. Don't hesitate to add you energy to this

organization as a Board member, as an instructor, as an active member in your own area. Let the chips fall where they may! But don't forget to sweep them up before you leave!



MEMBER OF THE YEAR!

It's time to select the NEWC Member of the Year. Whose name will fill in the blank space on this year's plaque?

Below are the nominees for 2024. Please select one and email your choice to Jan@newc.org no later than June 1, 2024. The nominees are listed alphabetically only.

___ **Darren Boehm** Darren has willingly coordinated the Spirit of Wood Show since the day he joined the Board. His thoughtful and calm approach to the multitude of issues involved in planning this enterprise has resulted in bringing the SOW back after Covid. Darren makes a point of traveling around to clubs and shows throughout New England making contact with many carvers and promoting NEWC as well as the art of woodcarving. He has gone where no man or woman vice-president of NEWC has gone before. There are many possible candidates for Member of the Year, but, as Vice President, he has demonstrated his dedication to the art of woodcarving and the organization.

___ **Gerald Kottmann** Gerald, "Big Guy" has been a dedicated member of NEWC for more than ten years, volunteering his time and energy to help out at NEWC events nearly every year. In recent years, he has worked tirelessly to organize a number of seminars in central MA with highly regarded instructors such as Kevin Applegate and Roger Stegall. While these seminars are primarily for local carvers, he does offer space to carvers from all over New England on a space available basis. His enthusiasm for woodcarving, especially caricatures, is demonstrated by his attendance at seminars and retreats in a number of locations across the United States including Tennessee and Colorado as examples.

___ **Robin Patten** Robin Patten has been a long time active member whose contributions to NEWC can not be ignored. He has supported Sail Fest down in Connecticut, he has helped the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers with their show, and finally has helped out with our show, the Spirit of Wood by organizing and coordinating all the judges. Robin, along with Kin, have created and conducted a training session on how to judge.

___ **Lynda Zibbideo** Lynda resumed organizing the woodcarving Retreat in 2023 after the previous crew that ran it for many years stepped down. She located a fantastic facility in Litchfield (CT) and this year's retreat will be there. we hope that word will spread among NEWC members about how well the retreat is conducted thanks to Lynda and attendance this year will be greater than last year.

Make your selection and send your decision along to **Jan@newc.org** by **June 1**. Let's get everyone's participation in this prestigious award decision. The plaque is to be presented at the annual meeting.

CLUB NEWS

If you would like news about your group/club published in the next newsletter, please submit copy/activities not later than July 15! Send good quality jpeg photos along with your information!

Connecticut Wood Carvers Association (CWCA)

The CWCA members had a very successful shore bird carving workshop with Mike McCarthy in April as well as a fun time at the New England Air Museum parked under the wing of a fierce-looking fighter plane called Dog Daize! This club has several members that are willing to anywhere to promote our art as well as their club. More power to you! For a complete list of dates, times and places of upcoming meetings/activities, check out the club's webpage <https://www.ctwoodcarvers.org/>

Central Mass Caricature Carvers (CMCC)

CMCC still insists on meeting at least three times a week and even when the Senior Center is closed for town elections! Club member Gerald Kottmann offers his carving room to anyone who wants to join him on that Tuesday evening. They can't resist. Coming up in mid June is a seminar with Roger Stegall. Chances are the seats are already filled for this one but you can check with Gerald by emailing him at gkottmann@charter.net. At the same time you might want to inquire about the one coming up in August (possibly) with Bob Thurston. You can also find information about these seminars on the NEWC website under events. The members of the club spent Earth day a bit wet at a local Earth Day Fair. They love to carve! It's summer and a good time to do some carvings for the Tree of Hope which helps veteran's organizations. They don't have to for Christmas just good for hanging on a tree or anywhere someone wants to put them. Rick will be hitting the craft fair circuit again in the fall and he needs new stock. Help him out and help out our veterans. Check out club activities on Facebook!

SPIRIT OF WOOD SHOW 2024

New location; new day! Mark your calendars now. We will be providing more information as it becomes available on the NEWC website under the Events page.

- The 2024 competition will be held at The Carousel Museum 95 Riverside Ave. Bristol, Connecticut 06010 on Sunday, October 13th.
- Registration is TBD.
- Judging will start at 9:30 sharp. Late entries will not be eligible for judging or prizes.

- Open to the public Sunday, October 13th hours TBD.
- A bucket contest featuring items donated from vendors as well as member carvings takes place throughout the day on Sunday.
- Seminars on Sunday are TBD, but will cover interesting topic related to our woodcraft.
- Vendors usually include MDI Woodcarvers Supply and others selling quality tools, materials, woodcarvings and wood such as basswood, tupelo, and butternut.
- Carving Clubs from all around New England will be available. Meet the members and watch live demonstrations throughout the day.
- If you would like to teach a class/do a demonstration at the SOW, contact Darren at Darren@newc.org.
- Volunteers are needed in all aspects of the SOW. Some of the jobs include set up on Saturday before (especially younger folks who are able to move tables around); Judges and judging assistants; runners; security; bucket contest coordinator; helpers at the bucket contest during the day; registration/membership; competitor check-in table and more!

\$\$\$ Reminder! \$\$\$

All membership renewals now will begin as of July 1, 2024. If you renewed through October 2024 already, you will receive a discount on 2024-2025 dues by renewing again in June for the start of the new member year for everyone, July 1, 2024. You can renew at the Annual Meeting June 22.

Going forward, the Board has decided sending a bill out to all members will remind all of us to renew our memberships on time! An email will be sent prior to the official billing. The Board has some great ideas that will be of interest to members, new and old (and I don't mean your

age!). Plan to renew to be part of the new NEWC. Any questions about renewals, contact Steve Berard, NEWC treasurer, at Steve@newc.org.