

# Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

May 2023

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ACCEPTANCE OF THESE BY-LAWS: (First reading)

These by-laws have been agreed upon and adopted by:

Local Chapter: ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOODTURNERS

In: Fort Collins, Colorado

On: May XX, 2023

Signed: President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BY-LAWS FOR  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOODTURNERS  
A LOCAL CHAPTER  
OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS, INC  
(A NONPROFIT CORPORATION)**

**Above officers certify that an election on changes was properly held and that criteria for changes have been met.**

**ARTICLE I – ORGANIZERS AND LOCATION**

A. The Chapter organizer was: Dr. Lee Carter and David Nittmann in January 1994  
His address is: 4625 Kiva Drive, LaPorte, Colorado 80535  
Day Time Home Phone: 970-221-4382

B. Cities and locations from which you expect to draw members: Northeast Colorado, Southeast Wyoming, the western border areas of Northwest Kansas and Southwest Nebraska.

## **ARTICLE II – OFFICES**

The principal office of this chapter will be located at the residence of the current President, as stated in the Rocky Mountain Woodturners Standing Rules.

## **ARTICLE III – RELATION OF CHAPTER TO THE CORPORATE ORGANIZATION**

- A. All officers of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOODTURNERS Chapter agree to be members in good standing of the American Association of Woodturners, Inc.
- B. While it is understood that the parent organization will provide advice and counsel, as requested, Local Chapters are advised that the nature and extent of their activities are left to their discretion. Demonstrations, while part of the normal activities of Local Chapters, are to be conducted solely at the discretion of Local Officers, and all safety and instruction is to be under their explicit direction and control.
- C. The national office strongly recommends placing some sort of sign or notice on or around any lathe used for demonstrations. Operators should wear safety eye protection and a full-face shield when needed. The use of dust masks and hearing protection is recommended. The Lathe is a potentially dangerous instrument only to be used with Chapter-approved supervision.

## **ARTICLE IV – PURPOSES**

- A. The Chapter's purposes, in addition to supporting the general purposes of the parent organization are:
  - 1. To provide a meeting place for local wood turners;
  - 2. To share ideas and techniques regarding this craft;
  - 3. To share resources or trade for wood, tools and other materials;
  - 4. To exchange ideas about tools and techniques;
  - 5. To arrange for demonstrations of woodturning techniques and related skills;
  - 6. To educate the public about the craft and art of woodturning;
  - 7. To introduce and educate new devotees to the craft of woodturning with a focus on the youth of the region.
- B. More specifically, we propose principally to offer such services as newsletters, technical bulletins, conferences, audio/video programs, seminars, shows, hands-on opportunities and exhibits, but may also provide social venues, conduct studies, undertake research, and carry out education and disseminate programs on woodturning or offer scholarships or stipends toward that end. Appendix A lists actual and typical sponsored activities of the club.
- C. Further, the Association is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, Directors, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and its Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section

170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and its Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

#### **ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP FEES**

- A. Annual membership fees for this Chapter are required and determined by the Board of Directors. Membership fees are outlined in the Rocky Mountain Woodturners Standing Rules.

#### **ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS**

- A. This chapter will meet monthly on the first Thursday after the first Tuesday of each month or on alternative dates that the Officers deem appropriate.
- B. The meeting location is outlined in Rocky Mountain Woodturners Standing Rules. A quorum for conducting the business of a regular or special meeting of the membership shall be no less than 25% of the active membership, including lifetime members. Any item voted on at a regular or special meeting must be approved by 51% of the quorum present.
- C. An Officer's business meeting will be held prior to the regular meeting at a location selected by agreement of the Officers. A quorum for conducting business must be 75% of the Board.
- D. Notice of up-coming meetings and other activities will be published in the monthly newsletter and posted on the club's website.

#### **ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

- A. **Number and Elections.** The Officers of the chapter shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These Officers will constitute the Board of Directors and are the voting members of that body. These officers shall be elected each January by a majority vote of the Chapter's paid-up members. A Board Member-at-Large, Committee Chairpersons for Programs, Media, Symposium, Library and other positions as needed by the Chapter shall be selected by the Board of Directors. All Board members and Committee Chairpersons must be current on their membership dues.
- B. **Term of office.** Each Officer shall hold office for one year, but not more than three full consecutive terms in one position. Committee chairpersons may serve as long as needed or until terminated by the elected Officers.
- C. **Board Responsibility.** The Board is ultimately responsible for the operation of all committees and determining a yearly budget.
- D. **Removal.** Any Officer elected or appointed may be removed when it is deemed that the best interests of the Chapter would be served by such removal. This would be accomplished by a majority vote of the

Chapter's members who are present at the time of the vote, as long as at least 50% of the paid-up members are present. Any Officer missing three consecutive regular board meetings will be removed, and a new Board member will be voted in by a quorum of members at the next regular meeting.

- E. **Vacancies.** A vacancy in any Office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise will be filled by a majority vote of the paid-up members, or if no quorum exists by the Officers for the un-expired portion of the term.
- F. **President.** The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Chapter. His/Her duties include:
  - 1. Supervise and control all the business and affairs of the chapter;
  - 2. Conduct Chapter meetings;
  - 3. Conduct business meetings with the Chapter Officers and as needed the Committee Chairpersons.
  - 4. Annually, normally in December, appoint a finance committee to review the financial records of the past year.
  - 5. Oversees the Youth Program per requirements of the AAW.
- G. **Vice President.** The Vice President, in the absence of the President or in the event of his/her death, inability, or refusal to act, shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of, and be subject to, all restrictions placed upon the President. The Vice President also shall collect membership fees and maintain membership records containing necessary information and status of each member.
- H. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Chapter's meeting in one or more books provided for that purpose, see that notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws or as required, serve as editor of the Monthly Newsletter and ensure it is distributed in a timely manner to provide notice of meetings and other upcoming events. In general, the Secretary shall perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and other such duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President.
- I. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall collect Demonstration fees and all other monies belonging to the Chapter. She/he will be responsible for keeping current and accurate records of all monies that flow through the Chapter, ensure that all Chapter members are current paid-up members of the organization, provide a monthly financial statement at the monthly officers meeting, also in December, provide a summary of the past year for planning and review. In general the Treasurer shall perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and other such duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President.
- J. **Member-at-Large.** The Board-appointed Member-at-Large represents the general membership on issues of interest or concern. The Member-at-Large will work effectively toward common goals as a team member and help identify potential problems and opportunities. The Member-at-Large will preferably be a member of long standing. The Member-at-Large will only vote at Board meetings in instances of a tie vote of the Officers.
- K. **Programs Chairperson.** The Programs Chairperson will be responsible for arranging a suitable program or demonstration for the monthly meeting. A mix of local talent and professional demonstrators should be used. She/he must provide the details of the up-coming program to the Secretary in a timely manner so they can be included in the Monthly Newsletter and to the Media Chairperson for posting on the Chapter website.
- L. **Web Committee Chairperson.** The Web Committee Chairperson shall develop and maintain the

Chapter website including a calendar of scheduled events and activities.

- M. **Library Chairperson.** The Library Chairperson (Librarian) will be responsible for making the Chapter library available at the monthly meeting, use checkout procedures to maintain control of Chapter books and videos, purchase new books and videos when monies are provided by the Chapter.
- N. **Education Opportunity Grant (EOG) Chairperson.** The EOG Chairperson will organize a committee for receiving and evaluating EOG candidate applications and making recommendations to the Board.
- O. **Symposium Chairperson.** The Symposium Chairperson will be responsible for the planning and operation of the annual symposium.
- P. Other committees as needed.
- Q. Each committee will have its guidelines, approved by the Board, listed in the Standing Rules.
- R. **Compensation.** No compensation shall be paid to Directors, Officers, Chairpersons or Volunteers for their services. Reasonable expenses directly attributable to performing the duties of the Director, Officer, Chairperson or Volunteer will be reimbursable.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – INDEBTEDNESS**

- A. AAW's national office must be notified in writing prior to a Local Chapter incurring any indebtedness for AAW.
- B. Any proposal to assume debt that cannot be paid off with funds already in the treasury must be passed by a vote of the membership of RMWT.

#### **ARTICLE IX – MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Types of membership shall consist of active, student, life and honorary memberships.
  - 1. Active membership requires that the member be in good standing (dues paid to date) and is eligible to vote for Chapter Officers and Committee Chairpersons and other Chapter business.
  - 2. Student membership shall be restricted to high school and pre-high school students. Student members shall have the same requirements and privileges as active members.
  - 3. Honorary membership may be conferred upon an individual who has been chosen by the Board and voted by the membership. Such a member is entitled to the same privileges as an active member. No dues will be required.
  - 4. Lifetime membership is nominated by the Board, and voted by the membership. Lifetime members are those who have gone well above the call of duty in promoting the craft of woodturning. No dues are required.
- B. **Qualifications.** Anyone with an interest in woodturning as a craft or art, collecting woodturnings, general woodworking or tool making, and who pays the annual fees can be a member. A membership information sheet must be completed along with payment of annual dues.

- C. **Fees and Dues.**

1. Annual dues for the next year shall be received by the Vice-President after January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The term of membership is for a given calendar year.
2. Fees for special (paid) demonstrators may be collected at the door if the Board deems it necessary. Fees may be waived by a vote of the Officers if the treasury has adequate funds.
3. Fees for the purchase of special items such as shirts, wood, and other materials shall be paid when placing the order.

**D. Benefits of Membership**

1. A member who resigns in good standing will forfeit the dues paid for that year with no refunds. A member, who resigned, may re-apply for membership in the same year with no additional fee.
2. Guests are welcome to attend the meeting for two meetings, and then are strongly encouraged to join so they may enjoy all the benefits of a paid member.
3. Benefits include access to the Chapter Library, wood bank, discounts at various local vendors, monthly demonstrations, social activities with other woodturners and the ability to apply for or sponsor applications for Educational Opportunity Grants.

**ARTICLE X – DISCIPLINE**

- A. Charges of improper conduct at Chapter meetings or at an AAW/Chapter sponsored event, professional dishonesty, working against the principles, and purposes of the Chapter and the AAW, and/or injuring the professional standing of a member, may be filed in a written statement signed by five members in good standing and sent to one of the Board members.
- B. The accused shall be notified in writing and have the privilege of being present at a special or regular meeting of the Officers when the charges will be considered.
- C. The member may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the membership or a three-fourths vote of all the elected Officers.

**ARTICLE XI – AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS DISCLAIMERS:  
FISCAL AND LEGAL**

- A. The corporation, the American Association of Woodturners, Inc., specifically disassociates itself from any debts, obligations, and encumbrances of the Local Chapter. The Corporate Board of Directors of AAW is not responsible for the debts or shares in the profits of the Local Chapter.
- B. The Corporate Organization does not shoulder any legal liability for accidents that occur during events of any kind sponsored or unsponsored by a Local Chapter.

**ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed by new By-Laws that must be adopted by a vote of 51% of the qualified voting Members of the Chapter. Copies of all modifications to these By-Laws

must be filed with the national office of the AAW. Standing Rules may be attached to these By-Laws to address variables and other local procedures. The Standing Rules may be revised as needed by the Board. Nothing in the Standing Rules may contradict or disallow any section of these Bylaws.

#### **APPENDIX A: SPONSORED ACTIVITIES**

Club sponsored activities include but are not limited to the following:

1. Regular in-person and video conferenced meetings
2. Demonstrations of woodturning and related techniques
3. Pen Turner's group
4. Women's turning group
5. Summer and Winter social meeting
6. Video social and techniques meetings
7. Educational opportunity classes
8. Displaying at artistic shows including product sales
9. Providing a woodturning symposium
10. Offering a wood bank for member usage