

Best Practices #020, Growing a Chapter  
Heading: Membership  
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A local AAW chapter can be started with as few as six persons interested in sharing their interest in woodturning. This group should have a mission statement of providing educating for those interested in woodturning and provide a meeting site. The following list of ideas are provided to help new chapters expand by enticing local area personnel interested in woodturning to join.

- Have a meeting agenda or plan (see Best Practice #004, Meeting Agendas)
- Place notices in local wood craft journals, news papers, and hardware stores.
- Search the current AAW Directory for members living in the area and send them a letter or email (if listed) of the pending meeting and ask them to bring fellow turners.
- Give demonstrations and pass out literature at local hardware stores, malls, career centers, state fair(s) and craft shows encouraging those interested to join.
- Motivate the novice woodturner by offering free basic turning classes consisting of basic spindle and green bowl turning and indicate that additional classes are available.
- Set up and advertise an annual woodturning symposium with a professional turner.
- Print a monthly newsletter listing meeting times, location and demonstration(s). Place copies of the newsletter in hardware stores, grocery stores, career centers, libraries and community centers.
- Pick demos that can also be done on a mini lathe. Many new members can not afford the outlay for a large lathe so we encouraged them to buy mini lathes.
- Establish a mentor program and provide a listing of members willing to provide help to novice member.
- Establish an annual club meeting plan for the entire year with dates and times of future meetings and demos.
- Establish a charity woodturning event and ask members to share in the event as demonstrators and/or help run the booth.
- Have an exhibit/sale at a local art center or city park.

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