

Dear AAW members,

During my time as an AAW member, I have witnessed dramatic growth and the wonderful evolution of our organization. The AAW is the envy of most other craft-related organizations and this has occurred because of the unselfish dedication and untiring contributions of many wonderful people. As a board member, I have been privileged to observe and be a minor part of some of the recent developments. But we should not rest on our laurels. While we can now boast over 13,000 members, we could be so much stronger. A few individual chapters maintain a 100% AAW membership within their own clubs; but, unfortunately that is far from the situation in most chapters. If all non-AAW club members were to join the AAW, we would double our membership overnight. Can you imagine all the positive benefits of an AAW with 26,000 members? It boggles the mind. With the resulting financial resources, I can easily see an expanded "Journal" that is published at least six times a year (maybe more). I can see multiple symposiums each year in different locations around the country and our presence as a "force" in the art world would be increased exponentially. One of the most exciting things about all this – it could all happen while possibly lowering the costs to our individual members. We would all benefit from the economies of size.

So, I challenge every AAW member... take a few minutes at your next chapter meeting and seek out a non-member. Gently do a little arm-twisting - it's not a tough "sell." I also challenge club presidents to improve their percentage of AAW membership. In addition to the world's number one publication on woodturning, the benefits are many. For less than the cost of a good bowl gouge, members enjoy symposium discounts, merchandise discounts, eligibility to enter exhibitions, eligibility to receive Educational Opportunity and Emergency Relief Grants, and access to future "members only" website resources. In many ways, the woodturning world is a big family and there exists a feeling of pride and camaraderie within that family. AAW membership certainly strengthens that bond. So, for yourself and for your AAW, convince a non-member to sign-up. You know they will thank you.

A few weeks ago, at my request, Phil Pratt did a great job editing a short promotional video, which I posted onto the YouTube website. Here is the link:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpqEHUbg\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpqEHUbg_E) (It will appear near the top of the list if you just do a "woodturning" search.)

The purpose of the video was to encourage the public to visit the AAW website (<http://www.woodturner.org>). Do you realize that there are over 250,000 lathe owners in the USA that occasionally turn? Those folks don't even realize that we exist; if they did, many would join. Please check out the video, send a link to your friends, and help get the word out.

Before signing off, a couple of reminders: If you are thinking about applying to be a demonstrator at next year's symposium in Richmond, you only have a few days left to get your application submitted (August 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline). Also, as chair of the EOG Committee, I would like to encourage members and chapters that have a special need, to start working on an EOG application. EOG information and application forms are available on the AAW website at:

<http://www.woodturner.org/resources/eog/>

I hope "turning" always puts a smile on your face,  
Malcolm

Malcolm Tibbetts  
AAW Vice President