October 2026 Newsletter

By: Ron O'Kray Secretary / Treasurer

President Diane Swiggum called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on October 14, 2026.

INCOME & EXPENSES SINCE SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

Income	Description		Expenses	Description
$16.00	Over Payment		$12.70	Mailing 2027 Show flyers
$51.00	Donation to 2026 Show		$26.00	Overpayment
$19.00	Reimburse for shipping raffle Items		$300.00	Photographer @ 2026 Show
$120.00	Sale of 2026 Commemorative Knives		$9,645.11	Holiday Inn
$160.00	Extra Competition Carvings @ 2026 Show		$1,295.92	Soundworks
$41.00	WRW / CCA Shirts		$115.00	Redeem Gift Certificates
$160.00	Floyd Rhadigan 2027 Seminar		$101.30	Shipping Raffle Prizes
$2,305.00	Tables @ 2027 Show		$44.84	2027 Show Printing
$195.00	Tables @ 2026 Show		$2,000.00	Radio Advertising
$630.00	Banquet Meals		$85.98	Cake for Banquet
$100.00	Jan Jenson 2027 Seminar		$32.16	Show Hardware / Signs
$280.00	John Engler 2026 Seminar		$130.60	Stamps
$2,800.00	John Engler 2027 Seminar		$90.00	Rent of Lincoln Center
$532.00	Dues		$3,790.00	John Engler 2026 Seminar
$900.00	Start Up Cash		$306.86	Show, Office supplies
$5,695.00	2026 Show Raffle		$900.00	Cash for 2026 Show
$6,067.30	2026 Show Admission		$25.26	Broom & Wall Clock
			$495.36	WRW / CCA Shirts
			$40.00	Refund 2026 Show
			$270.00	Security @ 2026 Show
			$19.02	August Newsletter
$20,071.30			$19,726.11	

A motion was made by Clarence Thurber and seconded by Chet James to approve the Treasurer's Report. All in attendance agreed

Minutes from September 2026 Meeting: Motion made by Tom Kissner and seconded by Clarence Thurber to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

Membership: We have (**111**) memberships paid for in **2026.** Jeremy Brown of Madison, WI and Cheri Ruenger of St. Germain, WI joined the club. Cheri is the winner of the "People's Choice" at our 2025 & 2026 shows. Ed Bartnicki of Zion, IL joined the club. Ed is retired, winters in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, met a few woodcarvers from McAllen, Texas, and won a raffle prize at our 2026 show. Josh & Marci Lehman of Almond, WI joined the club. They are the owners of "Last Breath Woodworks" and have been exhibitors at our 2025 & 2026 Show. Bill & Jordis Jacobs of Wisconsin Rapids, WI re-joined the club. John Madsen of Milladore, WI joined the club. John says his uncle Al Jones got him into carving. Rick Klein of Stevens Point, WI joined the club. Rick was the owner of Frank's Hardware in Stevens Point. Mike & Carol Reich of Rhinelander, WI joined the club. Mike & Carol were in the 2026 John Engler Seminar and have signed up for the 2027 John Engler Seminar. Welcome to all new and returning members. We have **(21)** paid for in **2027**. 2027 dues ae due January 1, 2027.

Sunshine Report Our Sunshine person Sophie Kubisiak was in the hospital. Welcome back.

Old Business:

- **30th ANNIVERSARY COMMERATIVE KNIVES:** We have a few knives available. Cost is $60.00. Contact Ron if you are interested.

The 2026 Show was a success.

- Saturday Admission – 836 Paid
- Sunday Admission – 377 Paid
- (128) Items on the Raffle
- Saturday raffle - $3,727.00
- Sunday raffle - $1968.00
- Total Profit - $4,231.57
- Number of Exhibitor Tables – 150
- Overall Best of Show & Best of Advanced Winner – Julio Martinez – Cedar Rapids, IA
- Best of Intermediate – Cherie Ruenger of St. Germain, WI
- Best of Novice – Jay Farina of New London, WI
- People's Choice – Cherie Ruenger of St. Germain, WI
- 103 Carvers entered into Competition. 30 in Novice, 20 in Intermediate, 46 in Advanced, & (5) in Youth
- Advanced had (168) pieces in Competition
- Intermediate had (71) pieces in Competition
- Novice had (71) pieces in Competition
- Youth had (5) pieces in competition.

- The business cards that we discussed with the club meeting information are available. Contact Ron O'Kray for yours.

Any Other Old Business?

Upcoming Seminars in 2027

1. **Jan Jenson** will conduct a (3) day "Old World Chip Carving" Seminar in Stevens Point, WI on April 12, 13, & 14, **2027.** Registration forms are available from Ron O'Kray or on the website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org. We have **(3)** carvers signed up the class at this time.

2. **Floyd Rhadigan** will conduct a (3) day "Caricature Carving" Seminar in Stevens Point, WI on April 28, 29, & 30, **2027.** Registration forms are available from Ron O'Kray or on the website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org. We have **(3)** carvers signed up the class at this time.

3. **John Engler** will conduct a (3) day carving and (1) day Painting Seminar in Stevens Point, WI on September 13, 14, 15, & 16, **2027.** Registration forms are available from Ron O'Kray or on the website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org. We have **(12)** carvers signed up the class at this time.

2027 Show

- **Show Committee** consists of Jerry Trzebiatowski, Ron O'Kray, Mahala Earnhart, Tom Kissner, Chet James, Phillip Chatman, and Diane Swiggum. Jerry Uher, Lynne Kissner and Hope Bemowski are advisors to the show committee.

- Jerry Trzebiatowski said that he will have to step-down as Show Chairman and Facebook Administrator because of health. Issues. After discussion, President Diane Swiggum appointed Ron O'Kray as Show Chairman, created a new position as Assistant Show Chairman and appointed Phillip Chatman to that position. Phillip Chatman was also appointed to be Facebook Administer.

- Dave Stetson will be the **Featured Carver** in 2027. Dave is one of the founders of Caricature Carvers of America.

- Competition Categories have been increased from (**41**) in 2026 to (**42**) in 2027. We have added "**Whimsical Whittling"** for 2027. Found out we had no place for Ball in a Cage, Chains, Spirals, etc. In 2026 there were no pieces entered into Jewelry or Gourds in either Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced. etc. Information can be found on website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org.

- Because of the popularity of the Christmas Tree with ornaments and the Lamps in 2026, we will be doing both of those in 2027. Block segments for the lamps can be obtained from Ron O'Kray. If you have Christmas ornaments that you would like to donate, contact Ron O'Kray.

- In 2026, we had **(150)** Exhibitor tables at the show. In 2027, we have **(46)** Tables paid for with Reservations from Stadtlander Woodcarving for **(12)** tables, Moore Carving Wood Supply for **(10)** Tables, and West Wisconsin Wood Carvers Guild for **(2)** Tables. We only **(80)** Tables left.

- We have 2027 Show flyers available as Business cards, ¼ sheet, or 8 ½ x 11 sizes. See Ron.

New Business

- Election of Officers will be at the November meeting.

- **Christmas Party:** Becky Engstrand & Bobbi O'Shasky have again volunteered to be in charge of the Christmas party. Thanks Becky and Bobbi. If the Christmas Party is held on Wednesday business Meeting night, the date would be January 13, 2027. Becky has been in contact with Legacy Restaurant in Stevens Point and Sky Club in Plover. More information at the November meeting.

- **Cogelow Carving:** Fred Cogelow of Wilmar, MN gave Ron O'Kray a carving of his at our show in September. He said to use it as a fund raiser for the club. He also said that the minimum bid if we auctioned it off would be $174.16 with $100.00 going to the Art Center in Wilmar, MN which would house a collection of his carving. To quote Fred "Audacity begins at home, and a goodly number of my fellow citizens are pushing to create an Art Center in Willmar, MN with a museum of my works at its core., believing that the unique nature and quality of my lignocellulosic creations will suffice to make a tourist draw". After discussion, Diane Swiggum made a motion that we have a Special raffle at our 2017 show for only the Cogelow carving. (Different colored tickets and price of ticket to be determined at a later date). This would give more carvers opportunity to participate. Also in her motion was that the Wisconsin River Woodcarvers send a $100.00 check to the Wilmar Art Center. Clarence Thurber seconded the motion. All in attendance agreed.

- **Scam –** If you get an e-mail from either Stan Carlson or Diane Swiggum asking you to purchase Gift Cards for club members, **IGNORE – IT IS SCAM.**

No Other New Business

Show & Tell Tom Kissner showed (2) bowls he had carved out of butternut.





- There being no other business President Diane Swiggum asked for a motion to adjourn. Echo Keller made the motion and seconded by Tom Kissner. All in attendance approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

CLUB OFFICIERS:

• President	Diane Swiggum	715-459-3221	mrschips48@gmail.com
• Immediate Past President	Greg Wirtz	715-424-0471	gswirtz@outlook.com
• Vice President			
• Secretary	Ron O'Kray	715-341-2214	ron.marion@charter.net
• Treasurer	Ron O'Kray	715-341-2214	ron.marion@charter.net
• Webmaster	Kyle Mallek	715-323-6390	kyle.mallek@gmail.com
• Seminar Chairman	Chet James	715-347-0234	chtbon@solarus.net
• Historian	Stan Carlson	715-341-3695	scarlson@uwsp.edu
• Sunshine Person	Sophie Kubisiak	715-340-4045	ckuby@charter.net
• Librarian	Sarajane Snyder	715-325-3489	ironcreekschool@yahoo.com
• Hostess	Echo Keller	715-421-5597	erkeller@wctc.net
• Hostess	Becky Engstrand	715-435-3766	engst@wctc.net
• Hostess	Bobbi O'Shasky	715-457-5887	bobbioshasky@gmail.com
• Facebook Administrator	Phillip Chatman	715-252-1203	philchat61@gmail.com
• Show Chairman	Ron O'Kray	715-341-2214	ron.marion@charter.net
• Asst. Show Chairman	Phillip Chatman	715-252-1203	philchat61@gmail.com

- **Club Meeting Dates:**

- **October 20, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **October 21, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **October 28, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **November 3, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **November 4 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **November 11, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM

UPCOMING CARVING EVENTS:

- **Coming Home** An exhibition of woodcarvings by **Fred Cogelow** with selected works by area artists Jesse Garcia, Mary La Patka, Shalese Sands, & Ana Serrano. September 28 – October 30 at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society, 610 Business Highway 71, Willmar, MN, Monday – Friday 9:00 Am to 4:00 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

- The **Capitol Carvers of Wisconsin & Badger Wood Turners** will be holding their 35th Annual Show & Sale on Sunday October 25, 2026 at the DeForest Area High School, 815 Jefferson Street, DeForest, WI. Show hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Any questions call, April Bird, CACW President, 608-320-9217.

- The **Waupaca Area Woodcarvers Club** will be holding "Artistry in Wood" Show, Sale, & Competition on Sunday November 1, 2026 at the Waupaca Recreation Center, 407 School Street, Waupaca, WI. Show hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission for Adults is $5.00. Children (Age 1 -16) free. For more information contact Harold Mohr 715-281-4923.

- The **Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworker's** Guild will be having their 43rd "Artistry in wood" show at the Denmark High School, 450 Wall Street, Denmark, WI 54208 on November 14 & 15, 2026. Setup Friday November 13th from 5:00 – 9:00 PM & Saturday November 14th from 7:00 to 8:45 AM. Show Saturday November 14th from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM and Sunday November 15th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. **NO EARLY TAKESOWNS.**

- The **5th Annual Nebraska Carving Retreat** will be held at the Peter Kiewit Lodge at Mahoney State Park near Ashland, NE. on January 27 to 30, 2027. Questions Email; wood_chips@yahoo.com., Facebook group; Nebraska carving retreat, or https://www.nebraskacarvingretreat.com/

- **Karve in 11** will be held at the Westby High School, 206 West Ave. South, Westby, WI on Saturday April 10, 2027 from 10;00 AM to 4:00 PM. Multiple drawings for carvers, Free Admission, Donations Accepted. For more information contact: John Sutton at lbarnfarms@gmail.com or Steve Michaels at 608-769-8948 or stevemichaels@westby-norse.org.

- **Ozarks Wood Carving Seminar** – Sunday March 14, 2027 – set-up and banquet. Classes Monday March 15th – Friday March 19th. The seminar will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2340 West Grand, Springfield, MO. For more information contact John Engler

- **Snow Daze Wood Carving Rally** will be held at Sartell Community Center, 850 19th Street South, Sartell, MN on April 16,17, & 18, 2027. Contact Wayne Nicoloff if you need more information at 612-750-8716 or wayne.nicoloff@gmail.com.

- The **Mid-Wisconsin Chippers** will be holding their 51st Annual "Artistry in Wood" on Sunday May 2, 2027 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 North Main Street, Oshkosh, WI. Admission is $5.00, Ages 12 and under are free. For more information checkout their website www.midwisconsinchippers.weebly.com.

- The **AWC Congress** will be held in Maquoketa, IA on June 12 – 19, 2027. Competition, Seminars, & Show. Judging June 14th & 15th, Seminars June 14th to June 19th, and Show June 17th to June 19th. Website – www.woodcrverscaongress.org or Facebook – Affiliated Wood Carvers

- **Rock River Valley Woodcarvers** will hold its 31st Annual Show, Competition. And Sale Saturday, September 11, 2027 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Rock County Fair Grounds – Craig Center, 1301 Craig Ave. Janesville, WI 53545. Free Admission but donations are welcome to help support the club. Ther will be demonstration, food, wood and tool supplier. For more information contact Brad Crandall at 608-931-0188 or bwkicrandall@gmail.com or John Raisbeck at jkraisbeck4@gmail.com.

- The **Wisconsin River Woodcarvers** will be holding their 23rd Annual Woodcarving Show, Competition, & Sale on Saturday & Sunday September 18 & 19, 2027 at the Holiday Inn, 1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point, WI. Saturday Hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday Hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Demonstration throughout both days. Multiple Vendors. Admission is $6.00 (!2 and under Free). Largest Woodcarving Show in the State of Wisconsin. For more information contact www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org or Ron O'Kray @ 715-570-2534 ron.marion@charter.net or Jerry Trzebiatowski 715-310-9900.