

West Wisconsin Wood Carvers Guild
L.E. Phillips Senior Center
Minutes
1/14/2026

Board Members Attending: Rich Thelen (President), Virginia Meyer (Vice President), John Allen (Treasurer), absent Carol Figi (Secretary). 12 members attending. Meeting convened at 6:38 p.m.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the December 12 2025 meeting were sent out to members. Taking dues for next year. Motion to accept made by Judy, 2nd by Bruce. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report and Membership

Currently the Guild has \$4,344.79 in the checkbook. 12 members paid for 2026. Motion to accept made by Char, 2nd by Wayne. Motion passed.

Old Business

- Member ordered WWWC Logowear was distributed at tonight's meeting. Some members put it on right away and looked great!
- Social Media campaign report. Rich reported social media numbers, such as followers and hits, to attract people. Goal is to grow awareness of the club, share the joy of carving with us. New on website is a category/page titled *Learn to Carve*, featuring video segments. Everyone starts somewhere! When cruising Facebook and Instagram, be sure to share your specific, focused comments!
- Website Update/Education Committee. Committee has met to address gaps in bringing new and all members to a basic safety, sharpening and technique standard for various cuts in carving. Rich shared outline of opportunity, education tools, and tactics development for educating members. Members agreed these focused areas will be helpful to them as mentors. Carol shared matching focus areas to pages from Everett Ellenson book to the videos now posted in the *Learn to Carve* page on our wwwwcg.org site.

New Business

- Officer Election: Open position remains for 2026-28, the Treasurer. Please step up to fill this position.
- LE Phillips Rental Contract. Rich met with LE Phillips leadership to obtain information to renew our 2026 contract. New price is \$550/year plus requirement of certificate of liability minimum \$300,000. Average cost of a certificate per year is ~\$400 for our club purposes. Rich contacted various potential venues for us in Eau Claire. Included is the current search:
 - Stay at the Eau Claire LE Phillips Senior Center. Need to raise club dues by ~\$10 to cover the addition of liability certificate.
 - LE Phillips Library Eau Claire. Would need to reserve the room every 3 months using 2 different people to make the reservations, no liability certificate required; free, yet difficult access to parking, would need to vacate the building at 7:45pm.
 - Chippewa Falls Senior Center offered their site at Wed PM hours. No liability certificate required, free parking.
 - Collective Arts. An arts and Christian collaborative located on Madison Street between Stella Blues and Wigwam restaurants. No liability certificate required. \$550/year. Free parking across the street. Not wheelchair accessible, 2 small steps to enter building.

- The Paint Shack. Unfortunately, at meeting time, we did not have information. Unknown rent or liability certificate requirement. Elevator to access room, free parking.

Group discussed pros and cons of each option. The members present rejected the Library and Chippewa Falls Senior Center on Wednesday night options for various reasons, including location (want it in EC) and easy access for scheduling and parking.

Motion made; Go to the Collective Arts location at 310 Madison Street Eau Claire for Wednesday January 28th meeting in Eau Claire to check out the venue and decide if it is an option for 2026.

Motion to accept made by Joanne, 2nd by Char. Motion passed.

Parking lot is across Madison Street, so go to crosswalk to cross street for safety.

- Financial support for External Classes. Motion made for WWWCG Treasury funds to be used to pay for venues (Paint Shack-Karen Henderson & Chippewa Falls Senior Center-Stenmann) of classes to encourage affordable attendance to these classes this year. Motion to accept made by Char, 2nd by Bruce. Motion passed.
- Folk Arts Festival WWWCG Demonstration, Saturday February 28, 2026. Club has secured space and we need to do some planning for members to demonstrate carving, get the banner, get some brochures etc. for this event at the Feb 14th meeting. Advanced set up will be available on Friday, February 27, 2026 from 12:00-5:00 pm, or by special arrangement. Set up the day of the event is from 9:30-11:30 am on Saturday, February 28, 2026 with building hours from 10 am - 5 pm and Festival hours running 12:00 Noon - 5:00 pm. Please consider volunteering for a 2 hour block, or the whole 5 hours, to participate in this really fun event!

Classes

- Internal Classes –
 - Wayne Dubberke will offer a Marvin Kaisesatt Caricature techniques book review, January 28 & 29, 2026. This will be a great presentation full of ideas and pearls for carving. Please come Wednesday to the new location in Eau Claire at Collective Arts (310 Madison Street EC) or come on Thursday to the Chippewa Falls Senior Center to hear his presentation!
- External Classes – New this year: External classes will be marketed to the public. If you want to attend, it will be on a first registration form completion/money paid/sent in to be in the class. No more “save me a spot” as we have historically done. Money and registration are the only way to get into a class.
 - Karen Henderson, Treenware (spoons, items carved from green/fresh wood), Saturday May 2, 2026. Class will be one day (Saturday) from 8:30 am to 4:4:30 pm at the Paint Shack. Registration details to come via e-mail soon. There will be a limit of 12 people. Cost will be \$50. Wood/spoon blanks available for purchase ~ \$7-10. Registration to be sent out to members soon.
 - Stenmann relief class, August 20-23 (4-day class only). There will be a limit of 12 people. Wood for project is extra cost. IF you are NOT doing one of their Stenmann patterns, you must submit your idea for your project at least 4 to 8 weeks prior to class. Details to come when registration is sent out to members.

Events

- March 21-22, 2026- Rochester, Minnesota. Rochester Woodcarvers and Zumbro Valley Woodturners 50th Anniversary Carving Show. Aune Hall (the 4-H Building) in Graham Park. The doors will be open from 10 am to 4 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. <https://www.rochesterwoodcarvers.com/annual-show-2/>
- April 11, 2026- Westby, Wisconsin. 10th Annual Karve In. 10am-4pm. Featured carver: Jared Torkelson. Westby High School. 206 West Avenue S., Westby, WI 54667. Free Admission. For more information contact John Sutton at lbarnfarms@gmail.com or Steve Michaels at 608-769-8498.
- April 24-26, 2026- Sartell, Minnesota. Snow Daze Carve In. Hosted by Central Minnesota Woodcarvers. Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell, MN 56377. Registration and class information <https://www.centralmnwoodcarvers.org/product/snow-daze-carve-in-2026/4>
- June 15-20, 2026- Maquoketa Iowa. 58th International Woodcarvers Congress. Sponsored by Affiliated Woodcarvers. Jackson County Fairgrounds, 1212 E. Quarry Street, Maquoketa, Iowa 52060.
- September 19-20, 2026- Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Caricature Carvers of America 2026 Caricature Carving Competition. In conjunction with Wisconsin River Woodcarvers, Inc. Holiday Inn Steven's Point- Convention Center. 1001 Amber Ave, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54482.
- New Location, same events. October 2-4, 2026- Coon Rapids, Minnesota. 23rd Annual MWCA Carving Weekend. Coon Rapids VFW Post #9625, 1919 Coon Rapids Blvd. NW. Sponsored by the Minnesota Wood Carvers Association. Contact Tom Sheldon at 763-213-4178 or tbshel@comcast.net.

Go Around

- Dennis – Rich and 'Willa' are doing a great job! Thank you, Rich!
- Virginia – I can help with Social Media data collection.

Next Member Meeting: Wednesday, February 14, 2025 6:30PM Location to be determined.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:40 pm by 1st by Virginia, 2nd by Wayne.

Submitted to membership by Carol Figi – WWWCG Secretary