

West Wisconsin Wood Carvers Guild
L.E. Phillips Senior Center
Minutes
5/13/2026

Board Members Attending: Rich Thelen (President), Virginia Meyer (Vice President) absent, John Allen (Treasurer), Carol Figi (Secretary) absent. 11 members attending. Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the April 8, 2026 meeting were read out loud to members. Motion to accept made by JoAnn, 2nd by Bruce. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Currently the Guild has \$4,673.00. 46 members paid for 2026. Motion to accept made by Bruce, 2nd by JoAnn. Motion passed.

Old Business

- Officer Election: Open position remains for 2026-28, the Treasurer. Please step up to fill this position.
- We had a club table at the April 11th Westby Karve-In event. John and Dottie at the table, with others joining in. A great event, enjoyed by those in attendance.
- Social Media update. May blitz "How do I actually learn?" Instagram with 660 followers.
- Karen Henderson, Treenware (spoons, items carved from green/fresh wood), on Saturday May 2, at the Paint Shack was a success. 11 attendees participated. A bonus for the day, Bob Lawrence (teacher/tool vendor from MN) was in attendance and brought tools to purchase and shared expertise. Karen said she would be willing to come back to teach again in the Chippewa Valley.
- From previous minutes, reiterated from previous minutes: Information regarding a brand-new upcoming show, US Open, June 26-28, 2026, in Black River Falls at the Ho Chunk Gaming & Casino parking lot area. Free Admission, free tables to our carving group. Chip Chats has an article.
 - Friday 6/26 9a-5p, auction 5p-7p
 - Saturday 6/27 9a-5p, auction 5p-7p
 - Sunday 6/28 9a-3p, auction 3p-5p

For USSA fundraising, event table sales have a requirement of 70% to seller, 30% to Special Needs Veterans, and auction items sales have a requirement of 50% to seller, 50% to Special Needs Veterans.

If you want a table, contact Ada Klute ASAP at 608-445-5040 to get a table at the event (can display and not sell as well). Ada said this will be like the Chainsaw Carving event historically held at Carson Park. We have access to the Casino bathrooms or if inclement weather, to take cover. She plans to have a live band playing there at some point during the weekend to draw in people as well.

New Business

- WWWCG members should consider hosting a table at the Black River Falls event on June 26-28. Motion to host a table at this event. Motion to accept made by Dennis, 2nd by Jan. Motion passed. Dennis will contact Ada Klute regarding WWWCG table reservation. No further planning was made tonight for this event, yet will need volunteers (2 each day all 3 days).

- Virginia is in the process of planning our WWWCG Show and Sale in September. She asked we vote whether to charge \$10 per table or not at our event. Motion made to charge \$10 per table at our event this year. Motion to accept made by Sarah, 2nd by John. Motion passed. In addition, she asked if we should add hot dogs as a menu item. Motion made not to include hot dogs in our 2026 menu. Motion to accept by Sarah, 2nd by Jan. Motion passed.
- Jan Jensen has a new book for sale! Please reach out to her for a copy if interested. New patterns and more.
- Sarah brought forward an opportunity for the club to participate in the event Geek Con 2026, Saturday December 5th, 12N to 4PM, at UW Eau Claire Davies Center. Sarah is willing to pay the entrance fee. This event is about what people do OUTSIDE of their work...their interests, hobbies, etc... This is an opportunity for us to share our carving interest with around 1,2000 others! Motion made to participate in Geek Con 2026, Motion to accept by Sarah, 2nd by Jan. Motion passed.
- Virginia asked the group to think of/consider suggestions for locations for 2027 meetings. Tonight, members offered Chippewa Valley Museum and the Paint Shack. Bring your suggestions to meetings or Board members!

Classes

- Internal Classes – Volunteers always needed.
 - Dennis willing to offer a spiral ornament class: On Wed June 10 & 11 he will teach how to lay out the ornament, on Wed June 24 & 25 carve the ornament.
 - Dennis stepped up to another project willing to lead – carved evergreen trees. Various sizes for carving and then next class painting. Date in September.
- 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.
 - Stenmann relief class, August 20-23 (4-day class only). There will be a limit of 12 people. 4 openings, 8 people have paid. 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. Registration details on our website.

Events

- June 15-20th, 2026. 58th International Woodcarvers Congress. Sponsored by Affiliated Woodcarvers. Jackson County Fairgrounds, 1212 E. Quarry Street, Maquoketa, Iowa 52060.
- September 12-13, 2026 Minnesota Wood Carvers Association Annual Woodcarving Show. Blaine MN. Northtown Mall, 398 Northtown Drive, Blaine MN.
- 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 – Attended the 25th Ridgeway Pennsylvania Chainsaw Carving event. This is the largest event in the U.S. Over 130 artists at a historic sawmill site for 4 full days of incredible carving. He brought some pictures of the artists and their works to share with the group.
- Sarah – working on a “place” to put club pictures in a digital album
- Jackie – brought her project from Snow Daze, a Viking figure nicely carved and painted!
- John – brought his carved hearts tonight and shared the various ways he used acrylic paint products (pens, paint) to finish these.
- John can make you a nametag for \$2. Let him know if you want one.

Next Member Business Meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 6:30PM Location: Eau Claire LE Phillips Senior Center.

Motion to adjourn at 7:43 pm by 1st by JoAnn, 2nd by Dennis.

Submitted to membership by Carol Figi – WWWCG Secretary