

West Wisconsin Wood Carvers Guild
L.E. Phillips Senior Center
Minutes
7/08/2026

Board Members Attending: Rich Thelen (President), Virginia Meyer (Vice President), John Allen (Treasurer), Carol Figi (Secretary) absent. 12 members attending. Meeting convened at 6:28 p.m.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the June 10, 2026 meeting were sent out to members. Motion to accept made by JoAnn, 2nd by Bruce. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The Guild has \$4,892.60. 48 members paid for 2026. Motion to accept made by Bruce, 2nd by JoAnn. Motion passed.

Old Business

- Treasurer position is currently open. Will need candidate for Secretary for 2027/28.
- On 6/26, John, Dottie, and Dennis went to Black River Falls to set up our WWWCG Booth at the US Open Chainsaw Event. They found a nice area in the parking lot to set up, yet were told to set up in an area with impossible logistics to set up, so they did not. Watched the event for a while. No other carving groups were in attendance. Thank you to John, Dottie, and Dennis for their time and effort to promote our club!
- Social Media Update. Rich and Virginia did a social media blitz for our upcoming show. Upcoming Stenman class will be posted to Facebook. More is planned for July.
- Stenman class August 20-23rd (4 day class only) update; 8 paid slots, 4 vacant slots. Cost is \$175 plus your materials as you select. By now, if you have not submitted an idea for a special project to the Stenman's, it is too late. You will need to carve one of their many patterns already available. IF YOU CAN, please consider coming to Chippewa Falls Senior Center to help unload the class materials trailer on the evening of August 19th (Wednesday) around 5 PM. Thank you!
- Fall Show, Saturday October 3rd. Virginia reports she will send out a second request to Vendors and Exhibitors. Discussion around importance of early communication with vendors, as they plan their year for '27 in December. Items for monetary support, such as shop towels, Klingspore certificates, General Finishers, and Carving Illustrated were suggested.
 - Committee assignments discussed:
 - Virginia will check with Dell if there are enough items and interest for a tool table
 - need demonstrations people volunteers
 - food table and registration table volunteers.
 - We will need many volunteers for a successful WWWCG Fall Show and Sale!

New Business

- Consider new meeting location for Eau Claire in 2027. Sarah will be contacting the Paint Shack to discussion options. Rich will contact the YMCA for options. More to come.

- Old Abe's Annual Winter Bash. Del and Rich invite you to come on Thursday, October 15th at 4pm to Old Abes Supper Club. Please RSVP to Rich or Del, plus let them know if you would like Prime Rib by Oct 8th. Contact info: Del 715-723-3956, or Rich 715-456-8253

Classes

- Internal Classes – Volunteers always needed.
 - Dennis stepped up to offer another project he's 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, it's too late to get that done. Registration details on our website.

Events

- 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

- Char – Are we doing ornaments for Veteran's again this year?
 - In future, should we consider a deposit of non-refundable money to get your name on a class list? This would allow for the instructor to get something for coming to teach. Concern about drop out without payment.
 - Finish you can use for hearts is a food grade finish or one from the Howard Company called Wax-It-All Food grade wax.
- Wayne – "Would be carvers would be carvers if these wood carvers would carve wood." Heard that saying and wanted to share!
- Virginia – Need more carving kits made, and would like to get some small/medium size gloves.
- Jan – I would be willing to teach a "Clothespin Crocodile" project for October. Many were interested.

Next Member Business Meeting: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 6:30PM Location: Eau Claire LE Phillips Senior Center.

Motion to adjourn at 7:17 pm by 1st by Sarah, 2nd by Wayne.

Submitted to membership by Carol Figi – WWWCG Secretary