



Newsletter

November 2012

The CMWA is a group of men and women from around the St. Cloud, Minnesota area who share a common interest in the art and business of woodworking. We meet monthly and share information, techniques and topics of interest in the area of woodworking.

www.thecmwa.com

Greetings from the CMWA President's Chair. By John Wilson

November is election month. Not just to elect our nations new leaders, but also to establish nearly all of the Central Minnesota Woodworkers Association (CMWA)'s new officers and board members. Denny Myers, our present Vice President will soon be our incoming 2013 president, and I can't emphasize enough that Denny's success depends greatly on the assistance of good enthusiastic members willing to stand up, step forward, and aid him with the month-to-month details which are a key part of running our club. We, the present officers and Board Members, and those who've held these positions before us, want very much to insure this clubs continuing success and growth, and it is because of this that we area more than willing to work with new volunteers in any way we can to ensure them with an easy transition to serve in their new roles.



Our club has just recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. Ten years! Our success can only be attributed to our past volunteers, those who gave a small part of their time, for a short time, that this landmark anniversary was even possible. Our club's ongoing success as well depends solely on volunteers willing to make a small sacrifice for a short period of time, to step forward and volunteer. If you're anything like me, you too want to insure this clubs success and growth. You want it to remain an informative and enjoyable place to learn, laugh and meet new people who enjoy the same passion for woodworking that you do. At our November 21st CMWA meeting please be ready to assist Denny in some capacity with the success and growth of our club throughout 2013.

Novembers CMWA club meeting will consist of a viewing of "Refinishing Furniture Made Simple" by Jeff Jewitt. Jeff is an excellent presenter, and his videos are always fast moving, up to date, and very informative. You won't want to miss this meeting if you've long been considering refinishing that old family heirloom that's been calling your name from the basement or garage for the last several years now.

If time permits, we'll also be offering a hands-on demonstration of the Drill Doctor Sharpening System that was recently donated to our club by Work Sharp. It will become a permanent part of our woodshop when our shop is complete.

Speaking of woodshop, I'd also like to use this opportunity to update everyone with regard to our future CMWA/MMAW Club Woodshop. Over the last several weeks we have been reaping the benefits of our recent pledge drive and I am pleased to announce that our drive, as reported by our two club treasurers, has yielded \$4,676.00 with potentially more coming in yet. This combined with our present treasury holdings should springboard us well beyond the halfway point to a permanent woodshop at the Paramount Theatre and Visual Arts Center. For those of you, who haven't mailed in your pledges, please do so today. We'll report any updates to our tally at Novembers CMWA club meeting.

Now that I've finished my chores I can head out to the garage and see if I can get that old snow blower that's been collecting dust in the corner all year to start. You just never know when you're gonna need it!

Your CMWA President,
John Wilson

November's CMWA Meeting will consist of a viewing of "Refinishing Furniture Made Simple" by Jeff Jewitt. Join us on Wednesday, Nov 21st at 7pm at the Paramount, St. Cloud.

In order to keep everyone up-to-date on the progress of our Paramount Workshop Drive, I have volunteered to write a monthly column for inclusion in club's websites, giving the status of the Pledge Drive and also answering any questions members might have regarding the Pledge Drive. If anyone has unanswered questions or concerns, please get them to me and I will try to get the answers for the next issue.

First, the current status (Oct 22, 2012):

Fund Raising Goal	\$19,000	
Number of pledges sent out:	115	
Number or responses:	26	(23% response)
Total pledged	\$4,676	(25% of goal)

That's a great start! So far the total pledges (25%) have tracked with the pledges received (23%). If we can keep this up we'll reach our goal without additional fund raising projects!

Remember, pledges are going to be made directly to the Paramount, not to either of the clubs. By doing this, the donations are tax deductible, as the Paramount is a qualified 501c3 charitable organization. Also, for those of you that work for larger corporations, you may be able to double your contribution by having a matching donation given by your employer. Contact your company personal department to find out if your company participates in a similar program. Xcel Energy and Creative Memories are two local companies that are known to participate in such a program. Undoubtedly there are many more as it is a popular program.

Some of you have included payment along with your pledge response, and this has caused some problems as we were not prepared for such a response. Please hold future donations until we can work out the details with the Paramount. We are not looking for the monies immediately. The Paramount has had to delay their contribution for approximately 6 months, so we won't be proceeding with the external contractor portion of the project until then (they are still behind the project but have to move the start date out for financial reasons). As stated at the beginning, we are asking for pledges to be filled within 1 year.

We are hoping to be able to do a small amount of volunteer work yet this winter when members have more time to volunteer. If so, we can use the space for storage of workbenches and lathes.

Questions and Answers:

1. What is the size of the proposed shop? 20' 6" X 40" (820 square feet)
2. Will there be space for hands-on use during meetings? Yes, that is one of the big benefits of having our own shop area. It is the intent to hold club meetings in this shop space. However, the Paramount has stated that if we need more space for a meeting, their existing rooms could still be made available. (However, this may limit the amount of hands-on space available.) We would also be limited to the hours of the Paramount staff (e.g. an evening meeting would have to be complete by 9:00)
3. There were several questions regarding the administration of the shop; What machines/hand tools will be included ? Hours of shop useage by members? Restrictions? etc?

Questions of this nature are yet to be determined. The two clubs will have to find a way to address these types of questions. One way would be to refer all such questions to the separate boards to resolve: another way would be to set up a separate administrative board staffed with members of both clubs: still another way would to allocate a fixed space to each club to use as they see fit. Whatever is set up, the important thing is that for the most part, it is under the control of both clubs, not the Paramount. The Paramount would have control over safety issues, hours of availability, insurance, and any facility issues.

4. Will this space be used exclusively by the two clubs? Essentially yes. An HRA maintenance technician will be allocated space for some of his bench work. Whether he will use one of the clubs benches or have a dedicated bench space is yet to be determined. He will have his own hand tools, however.

If anyone has any other questions or comments please get them to me (bnknowles@charter.net or 252-8138) and I'll try to answer them in December's column.

Brad Knowles



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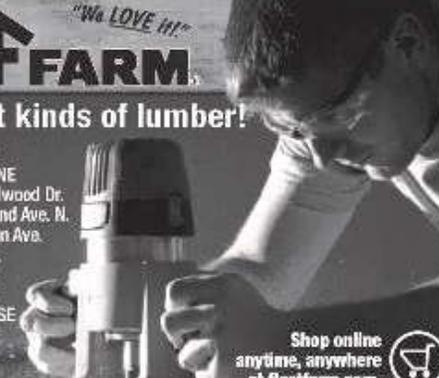
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