

Regina Whittlers and Woodcarvers

Annual Meeting January 15, 2026

Present: Leo Belanger, Sharon Bender, Randi Bodas, Kelly Burrows, Tim Caswell, Keith Cheston, Julia Dima, Sandy Ervin, Mike Florek, Glenda Gropp, Wes Hovind, Kaytlyn Kalenchuk, Herb Klassen, Ryan Kiedrowski, Albert Morgan, Tracey Roemer, Molly Ann Zerr

Agenda:

1. Meeting Minutes: -last years Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held February 20, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Moved: Molly Ann Zerr

Seconded: Glenda Gropp

Carried

2. Business Arising:

None

3. Treasurer's Report: Herb Klassen

Finances:

The bank balance on December 31st was \$4,516.31 plus a term deposit of \$5,405.79 at a 1 Year Term at 2.9%. (Redeemable Term March 17, 2026)

Income for the 2025 year was **\$227.70**.

Motion: That the 2025 Financial Statements are accepted as presented without audit or review.

Moved: Wes Hovind

Seconded: Tim Caswell

Carried

4. Programmer's Report: Tim Caswell

Here we are at the end of another year of carving. I hope everyone agrees that the 2025-year events went well. Once again, there was solid support from the membership for all the events. The Spring Show and Sale, PHD's (Windsor Plywood) and Tuesday morning drop-ins continue to be our main source of new carvers and members. The beginner class once again saw six (6) new carvers start and join the club.

A Gnome class was held on Jan. 18th and was taught by Tim Caswell. There were seven (7) participants. We had a great day of carving these little guys. The event was held at the Heritage United Church.

On Feb. 22nd we had the Colour Class taught by Cam Merkle from Maple and Bass. There were 15 participants and the comments regarding the class were very positive. We invited the Regina Wood Turners to join us and were pleased to have a significant number of them participate. The event was held at the Heritage United Church. We are thinking that this is a workshop that we should run every 2-3 years.

The intermediate carving class held on the third Thursday of the month this year consisted of a carved stylized blue heron. The pattern and completed reference carving was provided by Ken Smith. Thanks Ken. Instructions were provided by Tim Caswell. For those who did not participate in the Heron carving, they worked on their own patterns or carved one of the many blanks provided by Sandy Ervin / Gerry Holland.

This year we had two PHD's (Projects Half Done); these were held on Saturday, Mar. 22nd and Nov. 22nd. Windsor Plywood once again offered space to set up a display table and carving space front and center as you entered their store. Thanks to the staff at Windsor Plywood for their help and support. And as usual Winsor Plywood provided a number of great prices on tools and wood.

After much thought I have decided to step down as the Programs Director. I feel it is time for others to take on this position to provide some new and fresh ideas. I want to thank everyone for their support and encouragement over these past eight years. The Programs position developed into the following duties.

1. Beginner Class Instruction
2. 3rd Thursday Intermediate Class
3. 3rd Thursday \$5 Small Carving Projects
4. PHD Saturdays
5. Major Workshop Coordination

I feel these duties would best be covered by multiple people and the club executive have already started to find people to fill some of these positions.

1. The beginner class instruction is now being looked after by Sharon Bender, Allan Egler and Leo Belanger. Thank you, guys, for stepping into this position, it is much appreciated.
2. The 3rd Thursday Intermediate Class Coordinator position does not have anyone looking after it and this is the reason there is presently no intermediate class.
3. The coordination of the 3rd Thursday \$5 Small Carving Projects has been taken over by Gerry Holland. Sandy Ervin has continued to assist Gerry with cutting out the blanks. Thank you, gentlemen, for looking after this.
4. I will continue to schedule and organize our PHD Saturdays and will continue to be our contact with Windsor Plywood.

5. We do not have anyone to cover the Major Workshop coordination.

If anyone has an interest in any of these open positions, please contact any member of the executive or me.

The tentative Major Workshops in the works are a Stylized Penguin carving and Pyrography (Wood Burning) Workshop. The Penguin Workshop will be instructed by Paul Perron, and the Pyrography workshop will be taught by Julia Dima. Please keep an eye open for further information on dates, workshop venue locations and prices.

Once again thank you for all of your support as I have thoroughly enjoyed being the programs director.

Submitted by Tim Caswell, Programs Director.

5. Website: Julia Dima

Julia Dima was slowly transitioned into overseeing the RWW website, <https://www.reginawoodcarvers.ca/> over the course of 2025. Transition was delayed due to technical issues Carla was having with website administration over the course of March - September, 2025. During this time, technical issues prevented the website from being properly viewed.

In October 2025, Julia connected directly with CrelTech, Chris Larsen, our administrator by phone, and sorted out administration issues - Chris made Julia a website admin, and Julia now has administrative access to the website to make updates since October 14, 2025. Two issues were identified and addressed promptly: The website not loading/viewing properly + SEO issues related to google search results. Both issues were addressed in October 2025, and the website has been functional since then. As well, in late December, Julia updated the website as per request of Herb Klassen, to reflect free drop in carving made possible by NBCAC.

In early 2026, as RWW prepares for the rest of the carving season, and the Spring Show, Julia will update the website to be timely, update the library listing as per Allan's report, and ensure the website consistently meets the needs and goals of the club. Website update requests can be provided to Julia Dima directly at juliedima99@gmail.com. Content from the members is always welcome and appreciated.

Submitted by Julia Dima

6. Library: Allan Egler

As in the past, the library has benefited from material donated by members and past members. The subscriptions to "Woodcarving Illustrated", "Chipchats" and "Woodcarving" have been renewed. Executive members (Herb Tim and Sharon) also assisted in cleaning up the library area to keep it more functional.

The following information about the library has been made available to our new members and serves as a refresher to our current membership.

The Regina Whittlers and Woodcarvers Club maintains a library that is located in the two melamine book shelves on the west wall of the storage room in the Art Room at the Neil Balkwill Center.

The library is available to all club members and contains a large number of reference books as well as many other magazines like Chip Chat, Woodcarving Illustrated, Carving, etc.

If you wish to borrow any library material, please fill out the sign out sheet in the white three ring binder. Each borrowed item should be entered on separate line. This makes it easier to track the items that are signed out.

The white three ring binder also contains a list of all the magazines and books we have in the library as well as a cross reference of articles in Woodcarving Illustrated, Chip Chats and Carving magazines for a specific subject.

There is no time limit as to how long you may have an item from the library but bear in mind that if you have an item, it is no longer available to other members. One month is the suggested loan duration.

When you return an item, update the sign out sheet and place it in the box marked for returns. The magazines are kept in a specific order by issue number and the reference books are filed alphabetically by the name of the author. This makes it easier for members to find what they are looking for.

Your cooperation in keeping the library organized is appreciated.

Submitted by Allan Egler

7. Presidents Report: Sharon Bender

The Regina Whittlers and Woodcarvers club had another good year in 2025. We have provided great projects for our experienced carvers while introducing our beginners to the joys of wood carving.

Our annual Artistry in Wood show was held in April 2025 which we share with the South Saskatchewan Woodturners Guild. We had a good turnout of people who experienced the artistic talents of our carvers and turners. Not only do people get to enjoy the products of our labours, but they also have an opportunity to see demonstrations and learn from our members.

I would like to thank the executive. As Secretary Treasurer, Herb Klassen, helps our club run very smoothly not only by keeping our finances in good order but also by keeping us all informed. Until the end of May, Tim Caswell ran the program for the club.

He provided classes for beginners and for the more experienced carvers. He organized special projects and PHD's for all of us. In the fall, a team of people took over the beginner classes. Thank you to Tim Caswell, Leo Belanger, and Allan Egler for taking a turn with the beginners. Gerry Holland (MAL) took over the programming for the third Thursday nights creating projects for us to work on and Sandy Ervin cut out the blanks. Allen Egler has our library in great shape so that members can borrow magazines or books that meet their carving needs. Please, remember to sign out what you borrow. After some major issues with our web page, Julia Dima has been able to get it up and running again. Please share club stories with her. Thank you to Carla Spriggs for the work she did on our web page over the last several years. I would also like to thank the other members of the executive who share their suggestions and support what we do as a club, Wes Hovind (MAL), Tracy Roemer (MAL), who keeps track of our comfort bird numbers and delivers them, and Molly Ann Zerr (MAL), who assists with the comfort birds. Our Members at Large provide a lot of the behind-the-scenes support and provide great ideas.

We have an exceptional team on the executive. Many hands make for a well-oiled machine or should I say a smoothly sanded carving.

A special thank you to Allan and Terry Egler for organizing our Christmas party. It was our first one since Covid. Thank you to everyone who assisted them. A special thanks to Julia Dima for inviting Roberta Wallace to play such wonderful fiddle music for us. It took me back to my trip to Ireland many years ago. There were approximately 40 people who attended the gathering, and everyone had a great time. It was a great ending to 2025.

I look forward to another good year of carving in 2026.

8. Nominations:

The following people are offering their leadership to the Club for 2026.

President:	Sharon Bender
Vice President:	Vacant
Secretary-Treasurer:	Herb Klassen
Website:	Julia Dima
Library:	Allan Egler
Programs:	Vacant
Monthly projects:	Sandy Ervin / Gerry Holland
Member at Large:	Gerry Holland
	Wes Hovind
	Tim Caswell
	Tracey Roemer
	Molly Ann Zerr

Motion: That the 2026 Executive be approved as shown.

Moved: Julia Dima

Seconded: Leo Belanger

Carried

9. The signing officers of the Regina Whittlers and Woodcarvers are: Sharon Bender, Herb Klassen, Allan Egler, Tim Caswell, Carla Spriggs.

Two signatures are required one of which must be the Secretary/Treasurer.

Motion: The signing officers will be updated to: Sharon Bender, Herb Klassen, Allan Egler, Tim Caswell, Leo Belanger, Molly Ann Zerr

Moved: Tracey Roemer

Seconded: Julia Dima

Carried

10. The current directors of the club are:

Bob Dawson

Tory Neald

John Robertson

Herb Klassen

11. Artistry in Wood Show

The 2026 Show will be held at the Callie Curling Club on April 10 & 11.

Registration forms will be available soon.

12. Comfort Birds

To date the club has donated 3,786 comfort birds to the Cancer Clinic.

Sharon Bender, President

Herb Klassen, Secretary