

## **SURVEY RESULTS - COMMENTS**

There were far too many comments to reproduce as a whole. We will try and distill those that offered positive or negative criticism. We will not comment on those that were generally positive or negative but not specific. The vast majority of those praised the job we were doing as a group or individuals in the group. We thank you for them.

Since we have had a steering committee meeting since then and have started to make a few changes as a result of the survey, I will note those where appropriate. These comments will be in italics. Some made suggestions that were already realized but that members were unaware of. We always welcome your comments.

The comments were arbitrarily assigned to several categories including general, meetings, web site and Old Saw.

### **General:**

Find a better way to distribute media. We were unsure what media was being discussed. Currently our distribution of media consists of the distribution of DVD's at meetings, the first class mailing of the Old Saw to those without internet access and the Old Saw on the internet for those who have the internet, the bulk mailing of the Journal (about to start) and the regular internet offering of the web site and Touch-ups. We discussed mailing DVD's and, if there is interest, will do so. We would charge a handling fee of \$3.00 to \$5.00 to cover the expenses. We did find the Old Saw to be too big for those with dial-up to download easily. We are going to try and find out how many of our members are affected by this and are considering a text only option.

There were a number of "fellowship" comments ranging from the desire for a strictly social event (including spouses) to a concern that women might not be welcome to several comments that members did not feel welcome at the meetings and there were cliques in the Guild. We would encourage all members to talk to others, whom you do not know at meetings, especially new members. I have been remiss by not asking new members to stand and introduce themselves at meetings. We also discussed having mentors assigned to new members. We would love to hear the members' thoughts on this and whether or not individuals would be willing to be mentors. We do not see a problem with women members and are unaware that there have ever been any.

### **Web Site:**

There was also a suggestion that member contact information be available to all members. Privacy has always been a concern but any member who chooses to can opt in to have his/her information available to other members. This can be done on the web site. You do have to log on to get this information but it is not hard to get a password.

There were a number of good suggestions for the web site and these have been turned over to DJ Delorie, our web master. One of the most consistent was to have directions to meetings on the web site. We also had requests to make it easier to contact officers, subgroups, etc. This is already there. Just go to the web site and click on the resources and then contacts sections. Then Email to our leadership is a click away.

We also hope to have a bulletin board up soon so that you can find car pooling rides and see other announcements from the general membership.

## **Meetings:**

The majority of the comments dealt with the learning/teaching process of the Guild and this is primarily conducted through the meetings.

The most comments were about meeting locations. The meetings are never close enough to us no matter where we are. For general guild meetings, the policy is to generally have them around the I-93 corridor but also to spread them around the state as much as possible. Recently there has been a focus on the seacoast area but this is random and the meetings will shift back to being more central. We had a meeting in the Keene area a few years ago and attendance was poor. This was discouraging but we will go back again.

There were also requests for more "hands on". This is difficult with a large group so that is why we have small meetings. If there are specific hands on projects you would like, get in touch with Ed Orrechio. We could have more small meetings and fewer large meetings if people wanted. We need to hear from you on this.

We also had comments that the topics were too narrow but the suggestions for topics had all been covered in the last six years. They are certainly worth revisiting but it is difficult to decide how often to repeat a topic.

There was also a comment that too many people talk just to hear themselves speak. We took that to mean that the business meetings are too long and this is something we had been considering among ourselves. We are going to reformat the meetings. The general plan, which may vary on a meeting to meeting basis, is to have a social hour from 9-10, followed by a subgroup meeting from 10-12 giving us all an opportunity to see how the subgroups function. We will then have lunch during which we will have a show and tell, make any announcements and conduct any business that needs to be done. From 1-3 we will have the educational session. This will give a lot more "content" in the day. We hope that you will like this format. We will be tweaking it as we go along.

## **Old Saw:**

We had comments that it was not periodic enough, that too much money was being spent on it, that the issues should not be cut and that there should be more ads for used equipment. As most of you know, we have broken the Old Saw into two components. The Old Saw will continue as a newsletter devoted to Guild announcements, calendar, meeting reports, etc. It will be an internet publication (black and white mailed for those without internet access). It's sister publication will be the Journal of the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers and it will contain all the non-time sensitive materials. This will primarily be our print teaching organ and will come out quarterly and be delivered by bulk mail (saving a lot of money). We feel that the membership will get more content and more timely announcements with this new format. Again we will be tweaking as we go along.

If you are looking for used equipment, check out the web site. Go to the for sale section and see what is available.

**David Frechette for the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers Steering Committee**