



Old Saw *Articles*

The Newsletter of the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers

by Al Saffron

Honorary Membership Policy

'Now, that's a fine howdyadoo' was a line and sentiment popularized by Moe Howard of infamous Three Stooges when greeted with an undeserved lack of appreciation.

In it's twenty five years, there have been a number of people who have given many hours and much of their talent to the Guild. The Steering Committee (SC) has recognized individuals for their generous contributions with Membership Appreciation Awards, named scholarships and grants, and engraved hand tools. The success of the organization is due in part to the dedication of these individuals.

And, then once a year they get an email from the Guild saying 'you owe us forty bucks'.

The SC created a very useful way in which it can express the Guild's appreciation to those whose work contributed so much. A policy was established allowing the SC to grant honorary memberships. This special membership includes all rights and benefits as paid memberships for a term of five years. The policy allows for an open nomination process, and up to three honorary memberships in a calendar year. It maintains transparency, controls costs, and assures the honor and value of the award.

The policy's criteria giving the SC flexibility in who may receive the membership and with what qualifications, was thoroughly discussed and redrafted over several months. It was agreed that this special membership may be awarded to a current member, former member, or a nonmember, as long as they have made significant "contributions to the benefit and betterment of the Guild". It further stipulates "with preference to those who have actively given time and talent to the Guild in recent years." The full policy is on the Guild Documents page on the website at www.gnhw.org/guild-documents.

Honorary memberships allow the Guild to make modest awards, express appreciation, and maintain connections with valuable members of the woodworking community—AS. ●





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