

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

January 2026

Newsletter

Guild Officers

President: Cathy Carson
Vice President: Phil Kelly
Treasurer: Nate Meeks
Secretary: Nate Meeks acting
Trustees:
- Jairus Taylor
- Issac Bradfield
- John Greener
Newsletter:
- Jerry Robertson
IAW Reps:
- John Greener
- Issac Bradfield
Websites:
- Eric Owens
- Michael Chamberlain



Founded in 1980 as an Idaho nonprofit corporation, the Idaho Woodcarvers Guild, Inc. is dedicated to fostering and advancing the craft of woodcarving, along with complementary artistic techniques such as pyrography and other wood-based art forms.

JANUARY MEETINGS

The next monthly meeting will be Thursday, January 8, at 6:00 pm at Woodcraft in Boise. The meeting for the Meridian group will be the following Tuesday, January 13, at 12:30 pm at the Meridian Senior Center.



Holiday Celebration Brings Festive Cheer

Our Christmas party may have been intimate in size, but it was mighty in spirit! Members enjoyed delicious refreshments and warm conversation throughout the afternoon. The highlight of the event was our gift exchange, which quickly turned competitive with several playful steals that kept everyone laughing and engaged.

Congratulations to our name tag competition winners, who each received a beautiful, handcrafted carving by Eric Owens:

1. Julia Koch
2. John Greener
3. Joyce Swiech
4. Darrell Tolley
5. Amber Hoid

Thank you to everyone who attended. See photos below in the gallery.



December 11, 2025, Club Meeting Minutes

1. Treasurer's Report: Nate provided a Treasure's Report to the attending members. The report was accepted. If any members have a question about the report, please contact Nate Meeks.
2. Reminder of Christmas Party: Cathy reminded members the date and time for the Christmas Party is December 20, 2025, 3:00-5:00 at Hillview United Methodist Church, Boise. Details of the party will be emailed to members the week of December 15th. Please bring your name badge to share. Eric Owens will award 3 carvings, one each for the best badges.
3. IAW Report:
 - a. John provided a detailed description of the latest IAW committee meeting. A copy of the report will be provided for inclusion in the January newsletter.
 - b. We need to start asking for commitments for volunteers. A volunteer signup sheet will be available at the January club meetings. We need people for security during the show, set up Friday afternoon and tear down Sunday evening. We will also need registration runners, and judge clerks Friday evening.
 - c. Judges -
 - i. Susan Hendrix and Mary Dame are delighted to serve as judges for IWG. They are prepared to judge any category requested by IWG.
 - ii. Larry Crist and Cathy also discussed judges for the caricature category. Larry is going to try to reach Ryan Olsen or Dale Green, who also both currently live in Utah. If they are unable to help us, we may try to reach Chris Hammock. If anyone has names of others we should reach out to, please contact Cathy.
 - d. We need donations of carvings from all skill levels. We need items for the hourly raffle buckets, the silent action, and the live auction.

Larry is going to ask if Ted Smith has an item he would be willing to donate. Cathy will ask Doug Rose if he has any items he would be willing to donate. Other ideas are to contact Tony Sciascia, Vic Haight, Larry Crist, Eric Owens, and Michael Chamberlain if any of them items they would be willing to donate.
4. Show & Tell – Various members shared recently completed carvings. Others shared projects in progress.
5. Project – There was no project provided for the December meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nate Meeks, Secretary/Treasurer.

2026 Idaho Artistry in Wood Show

Show Representatives - January Report

by John Greener

Registration Details.

- 11 Weeks (77 Days) Until Show Time!
- This year's show
 - Saturday March 21, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
 - Sunday March 22, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
 - Entry registration/drop-off, Friday March 20, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 - Pickup, Sunday March 22, at 4:00 pm
 - Admission: \$5 *12 and under free
 - Located on the 5th floor of the JUMP building in downtown Boise
- Website has been updated and accessible now for registration.
 - Website address is: <https://www.idahoartistryinwood.org/>
 - Registration for the competition will be done through the website.



How you can help with the show.

- Carvers are in charge to oversee security at the show; we will be looking for volunteers to man stations at the doors.
- The carving guild booth needs volunteers during the show.
- Volunteers to help Friday with check-in and judging.
- Volunteers to help Sunday after the show.

People choice award voting is going back to the colored tickets as opposed to the “all-in-one” form used last year.

Club signage:

- Discussion of options for People's Choice Signs. Determined that each club's color should be clearly delineated on the signs.
- Each club will be responsible for coming up with a way to display the club signs.
 - 24x18 for the club signs
 - 3 for Turners
 - 3 for Carvers
 - 2 for Woodworkers
 - 2 for Scrollers
 - 2 for CNC

Judging criteria is now on the website and can be uploaded as a .pdf file format.

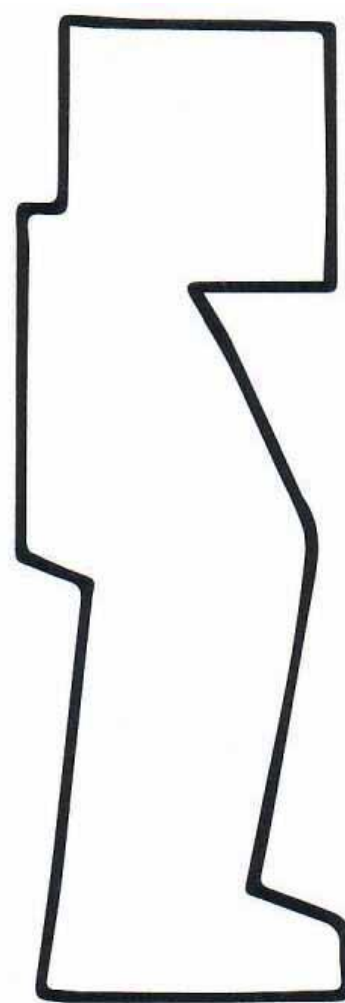
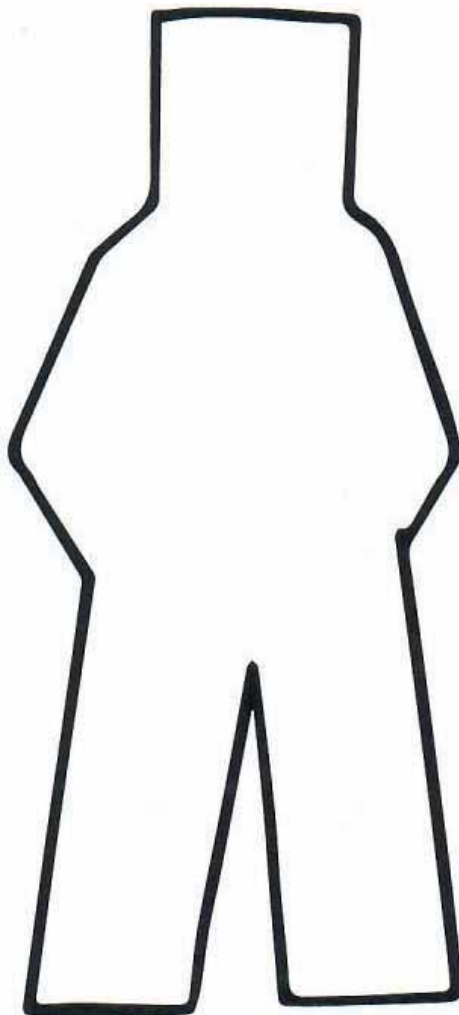
Ticket Sales online will become live in January.

Donation/Marketing/Outreach (Updates from the Donation/Sponsorship Committee)

- The committee relayed some uncertainty about parameters for Outreach and requested further clarification from the group about areas discussed below.
 - What's the money for?

Learn to Whittle

This is a Charles Banks universal pattern from his book, *Learn to Whittle*. The pattern height should be about six inches.





Christmas Party - 2025



Julia



Darrell



Nate



Karen & Linda



Amber, Holly and Jairus



Darrell & wife, Joyce and Janie



Sally and Don



Gerard, John, Holly, Julia, Nate



Cathy and Phil



Beck and Shirley

A horizontal banner with a brown background and a black border. The text "IWG Scholarship Program" is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The banner has a ribbon-like appearance with folded ends on both sides.

IWG Scholarship Program

The Idaho Woodcarvers Guild is pleased to offer educational scholarships to our members, funded by proceeds from our successful shows and exhibitions.

Program Details:

Current members in good standing may apply once per calendar year for reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible educational expenses. This includes classes, seminars, or workshops that enhance your carving, painting, or related artistic skills.

Eligibility and Limits:

- Must be current with club dues
- Reimbursement cannot exceed total dues paid since joining the Guild
- Recipients are encouraged to share what they learned at a future meeting

How to Apply:

Submit your application to the treasurer at any time during the year. The Executive Committee will review and approve requests on a rolling basis, with annual funding limits set to maintain the Guild's financial health.

This scholarship program reflects our commitment as a non-profit educational organization to support the continued growth and development of our members' woodcarving skills.

If you are reading this online you can [click here](#) to view or print the scholarship application.

Open Carving Opportunities

Boise

Open Carving at Woodcraft is held on Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. with Eric Owens in charge. Bring your own project and enjoy the fellowship. We are working on making some carving projects available for those who are new to woodcarving.

Meridian

Open Carving at the Senior Center is held on Tuesday afternoons from 12:30-3:30 p.m. in the center at Kleiner Park, 1920 N Records Way, Meridian. Club leaders provide instruction for new carvers. Experienced carvers can bring their own projects. The Senior Center asks participants to make a donation when they sign in of \$2 for members, \$5 for non-members to help cover their expenses.

Tips from the Experts



- Have fun with it. Don't put pressure on yourself.
- Don't be afraid to try more-challenging carvings. That is what makes you better.
- Always be thinking one step ahead.
- Take your time, don't get in a rush, and always block your carving out first.
- Keep carving. The next one will always be better.

~ P.J. Driscoll



I tried carving a girl, but it came out a little *knotty*.

Media

Website: <http://idahowoodcarversguild.org/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSYHBkob1WFSPgMaydZ7Yfw>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Idaho-Woodcarvers-Guild-254983304512338/>

Newsletter Archive: <https://iwgresources.com/>