



Fellow Chicago Woodturners,

Tuesday morning I received a phone call from Ron Hoogenakker, owner of four Woodcraft stores located in Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. He informed me that he has made a business decision to close the Palatine store and move it to a smaller venue in Libertyville, Illinois. His lease will expire on March 15th, but he will be moving the first weekend in March. Ron made this decision to downsize, based on the current economic situation and the excessive costs in doing business in Cook County.

Since Woodcraft has been letting the Chicago Woodturners meet in the basement of this facility for the last 12 years, we will have to start looking for another place to meet. Our relationship with Woodcraft has been a mutually successful effort and we sincerely appreciate the support that Ron and his team has given us. We wish them the best and will be visiting them soon in Libertyville.

Members who attended Tuesday night's monthly club meeting were notified that the Palatine store was closing and that the Chicago Woodturners' Board of Directors would be meeting the following night to lay out a plan to locate a venue for our new location. As a result of that meeting we have formed a Search Committee to coordinate and implement this search. Sanford White was appointed Search Committee Chairperson, so if you have any suggestions please contact him. His e-mail address is [sandfordd6@comcast.net](mailto:sanfordd6@comcast.net). The other members on the committee are Andy Kuby, Don McCloskey and Paul Shotola. As you can see, I didn't ask for volunteers, I picked the very best people for the job at hand and they gracefully accepted.

Although the closing of the store has created a short term crisis, if we handle it properly it could be a blessing in disguise. It can result in a stronger, more united club and perhaps a better location. Only time will tell.

Since we have only one more meeting at Woodcraft, it is imperative that we get all of the media that has been checked out, back into the library by the next meeting. With that in mind, I had created and attached an excel listing of all outstanding media, sorted name. After doing an inventory of the library on Saturday, I adjusted this list to make sure only those items that are not in the library are on the list. Please review this list to see if you have items that have not been returned, locate them and bring them back at our next meeting on February 9th.

At the February meeting we will be discussing the status of our venue search and providing information on where we will be holding our March meeting, so plan on being there.

Thanks for your continued support of the club and I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Phil Brooks

President, Chicago Woodturners