

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

December 2010

Message from Malcolm Zander, AAW Board member.

This has been a year of growth and change for the AAW. We have increased the number of issues of American Woodturner to six per year. All past issues (25 years' worth!) are now accessible and searchable online. AAW has gone green with a new online membership. Some changes in our lives are positive; some are not. We can tolerate change, reject change, or embrace change. The one thing we can be sure of is that in the future there will be more change, and the pace of it will accelerate.



A change occurred for me in June when I was asked to join the AAW Board. My six months' interim term is nearly ended, and I will cede my seat to one of the two very well qualified, newly elected members. It has been a stressful six months with some major changes, but I feel very positive about my time with the Board and what we achieved together. Until now I had no idea of the intensive time demands placed on members of the AAW Board. These extremely hard-working and dedicated people serve the organization for three years as unpaid volunteers. I have great, renewed respect for them, and I am honored to have established some good friendships.

In your woodturning shop change can be beneficial. This year I was asked to make a teapot, something I had never made before. It took a month to work out the problems, and another month to make my teapot, but I learned much, and the process was so much fun that I am now going to make more teapots. I am so glad that I was challenged to do this-everyone should try making a teapot!

Many of the larger changes in our world we are powerless to alter; however we can often effect some changes in our immediate life. The way to become a more complete turner is to try something new. Of course this can be risky and we can screw up, but it is ultimately very rewarding. David Ellsworth and Mark Lindquist tried new things, and the woodturning world has never been the same since. Whether we are hobbyist woodturners or professionals, by trying new approaches, attitudes, skills and ideas we can all become more complete woodturners.

So in the spirit of positive change I would like to challenge you to try something new in your woodturning this coming year. Attend a workshop or go to a regional or national symposium and learn a new technique, then go home and try it out. Buy a new book on woodturning or browse American Woodturner and make something you read about but have not yet tried. Discover a new form and take it for a test drive. You will grow as a woodturner and you will have a ton of fun.

With best wishes for a happy and rewarding New Year.

Malcolm Zander
American Association of Woodturners