

Message to Chapter Presidents

April 12, 2019

Greetings!

September 5-7, 2019, will be the second annual Women in Turning (WIT) EXCHANGE at Arrowmont. This is an event that promotes the involvement of women in turning by providing opportunities for collaboration among turners of different skill levels. Women currently make up less than 10% of the AAW membership. The WIT Committee is sponsoring the WIT EXCHANGE as part of our commitment to encourage and assist women in their pursuit of turning, sharing of ideas and processes to further their skills and creativity, and to increase participation of women in the craft.

I'm contacting you, specifically, to request that your chapter participate in our support of the WIT EXCHANGE by sponsoring a scholarship to assist one or more women from your chapter to attend the 2019 event. Registration for the EXCHANGE is \$300 for AAW members, which includes all meals from Wednesday (9/4) dinner to Sunday (9/8) breakfast. Room accommodations are a separate cost and reservations can be made through Arrowmont, or at one of the many local hotels.

A scholarship to help defray the cost of the event may be the needed nudge to help a woman in your chapter take advantage of this unique program. Information about the WIT EXCHANGE can be found at <https://www.woodturner.org/page/WITEvents>. An article with about 100 photos from last year's event can be found at <https://www.andiwolfe.com/notes-and-thoughts/2019/4/1/women-in-turning-exchange>. Spaces are limited to 45 participants, so I encourage you to act quickly to enable one of your women chapter members to attend.

Although the WIT committee has only been active for a few years, their impact has been significant. The EXCHANGE event and the collaborative pieces auctioned at the symposiums focus on team involvement bringing together the beginning turners with skilled artists. When I view the successes of the WIT activities, I see inclusiveness, sharing of knowledge, and communications as some of the essential tools they use so well. Your support for this event will have long term benefit to all your membership as the attendees will return to your chapter and apply these skills to your membership no matter their gender, skill level, or other issues not relevant to wood turning. All chapters need leaders and involved members. Events like the EXCHANGE provide that knowledge and enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Greg Schramek
President, AAW