

Dear Principally Pen Chapter member,

By now, I'm sure many of you are aware of the passing of our chapter secretary, Russ Fairfield. If you hadn't heard, Russ passed away on January 4th after complications from surgery. He was 75 years old and passed away peacefully.

In honor of his many years of contributions to the woodturning and particularly the penturning community, the Principally Pens chapter has created an annual Russ Fairfield Memorial Pen Competition. Details on this can be found at www.principallypens.com. We have also implemented an educational fund that will be funded by contributions made in Russ' name at the request of his wife Gerri.

Let me also take a moment to bring you up to date on the PP chapter. With Russ' passing, we had an opening at the secretary position. Per the by-laws, the officers have elected a replacement to serve out the balance of the term. Bill Baumbek was elected by myself, Dick Sing, and Ken Nelsen. Many of you know Bill as the owner of Arizona Silhouettes. Bill is a long time woodturner and early penturner. He will serve the balance of Russ' term.

On the absence of progress with the chapter... Please put the blame on me. It has been an interesting ride from the chapter formation until now. The plans for the site and chapter have taken a back seat to other pressing issues. I apologize for this. The plans for our gallery were implemented and tested and ultimately scrapped as unworkable. We decided early on not to have a forum so that we wouldn't be in competition to the other pen turning forums. What is left? Pretty much a gallery and educational posting system.

If you have articles or pictorials that are informational, please consider having them posted on the site. Contact our webmaster, Ed Davidson at webmaster@principallypens.com with any questions or to submit content.

We'll have our physical meeting in St. Paul at the 25th Annual AAW Symposium. It will be in the penturning Special Interest Night. Plan on attending. We'll have the grand unveiling of the winners of the First Annual Russ Fairfield Memorial Pen Contest. If you've entered, bring your pen along to display.

On the subject of pens, we'll have a special table in the instant gallery for pens. Plan on bringing some of your pen work to display. Don't be afraid to mark your gallery tag with PP in bold letters to let the audience know you are a member of the Principally Pens chapter.

As always, comments and suggestions are welcome.

Best regards,
Kurt Hertzog
President - Principally Pens Chapter