

THE Woodrack

January 2026



Tom Ryan and his elves work with the Girl Scouts

LIW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>President</i> | Mike Daum |
| <i>Vice President</i> | Corey Tighe |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Michael R. Mittleman |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Steve Fulgoni |
| <i>Trustees</i> | Robert DeMarco |
| | Ed Piotrowski |
| <i>Membership</i> | Steve Kelman |
| <i>LICFM SIG President</i> | Ben Nawrath |
| <i>Turner's Guild SIG President</i> | Jim Moloney |
| <i>LISA SIG President</i> | Patti Lerner |
| <i>SSOW SIG President</i> | Frank Napoli |
| <i>Tech SIG President</i> | Brian Monks |
| <i>Newsletter Editor</i> | Daryl Rosenblatt |
| <i>Associate Editor</i> | Michael R. Mittleman |
| <i>Website</i> | Jim Moloney |
| <i>Show Chair</i> | Bob Lerner |
| <i>Raffles</i> | Ed Piotrowski |
| <i>Refreshments</i> | Jean Piotrowski |
| <i>Audio/Video</i> | Charlie Felsen |
| <i>Programs</i> | Jim Moloney |
| <i>Photographer</i> | Corey Tighe |
| | Jim Moloney |

THIS MONTH:**SECRETARY'S NOTES****RENEWAL FORM****LICFM****LISA****TURNERS' GUILD****TRAVELS WITH CHARLIE****LOCK, STOCK & DARYL****PUZZLE****SECRETARY'S
NOTES****MICHAEL
MITTLEMAN**

\The December 3rd General Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM. The session was held in person at the Brush Barn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS LIW President Mike Daum opened the meeting by mentioning that the January General Meeting will be held at the barn on 1/7/2026, starting at 7 PM. He also indicated that the session will be a round-robin and asked the SIGs to participate and have tables. Any member can demonstrate tools, techniques, jigs, or show a project.

The upcoming election process for the Board of Directors was discussed. E-voting will occur between Dec. 4 and Dec. 18, inclusive. Dec. 19 – at the close of the election, voters will get the results electronically. Jim M./Mike D. will send out an email to the club with the results.

January 7, 2026 meeting – officers for 2026 are in place.

A discussion regarding ribbon categories was initiated. Secretary Mike M. pointed out that furniture and turning offered more ribbon opportunities than other woodworking, such as intarsia, marquetry, scroll sawing, and accessories, including toolboxes, picture frames, cutting boards, jigs, musical instruments, and toys. Mike D. asked the SIG presidents to discuss the issue with their members and report back at a general meeting.

There was mention of possibly establishing a grant committee to procure sufficient funds for a LIW workspace open to all members. Some of the attendant intricacies, such as machine management, security, and insurance, were briefly addressed.

Donations were collected to support the Marines' Toys for Tots program.

Mike D. reminded members that 2026 dues are now payable.

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Steve Fulgoni reported the LIW financial position remains favorable. Steve will also be investigating opportunities to invest LIW funds in CDs and other higher-yield products.

The Woodrack

Volume 35 Number 1

Next meeting
Wednesday January 7th

Brush Barn
Round Robin

MEMBERSHIP REPORT Membership Director Steve Kelman said that the LIW now has 170 active members, of whom 75 have paid their 2026 dues.

NEW MEMBER Bill Krumholz from Kings Park visited the meeting. Bill is considering joining the LIW. His son has a small cabinet shop. Bill, your participation will be welcomed.

RAFFLE Rich Reinfrank was the winner. Go, Rich!

OTHER BUSINESS LICFM Meeting, Ben Nawrath, SIG Pres., 12/9/2025. LICFM will have its annual holiday party. The meeting will take place at the Kings Park K of C and begin at 7:00 PM.

LIWG Meeting, Jim Moloney, SIG Pres., 12/11/2025. LIWG will have its annual holiday party. The meeting will be held at the Kings Park K of C and start at 7 PM.

Wood Tech Meeting, Brian Monks, SIG Pres., date TBA. The meeting is at Joe Daley's shop, 35 Doyle Court, Unit 2, East Northport, and will begin at 6:45 PM.

LISA Meeting, Patti Lerner, SIG Pres., 12/18/2025. The meeting is at the Kings Park K of C and starts at 7 PM. The scrollers will have their annual holiday party.

SSOW Meeting, Frank Napoli, SIG Pres. No December meeting.

Toys Meeting, Larry Wagner, Chair, 12/13/2025. The meeting is located at 12 Hamilton Lane, Huntington, NY, and will start at 9 AM. A second session will be held on 12/17/2025 at the same location, beginning at 6:30 PM.

HOLIDAY PARTY An informal holiday party followed the various SIG reports. Good vibes abounded.

UPCOMING EVENTS The next General Meeting is a round robin and will be held in person at the barn, at 7 PM on January 7, 2026.

An LIW Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on January 19, 2026, at the Hauppauge Palace Diner, 525 Smithtown Bypass, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Breaking News

1. With 102 votes cast out of 170 members, all incumbents have been reelected to the board for 2026.
2. At the January Round Robin, there will also be a table for selling or giving away used tools, put your name and asking price on the tool (no commission to the club).



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Contact Steve Kelman with any questions: skelman@liwoodworkers.org
Complete this application by clearly printing the information requested in the spaces below and
return the form with a **\$75** check (+\$20 family member over 18) payable to:

Long Island Woodworkers.

Mail to:

Steve Kelman
79 Katherine St.
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

Year: _____

Name: _____

Family Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP Code:** _____

Home Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Family Member Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Primary woodworking interest: _____

Other woodworking related interests: _____

How would you rate your skill level: _____

What would you hope to gain from the club: _____

Other comments, suggestions, expectations: _____

**Your membership dues include full access to all official SIGs:
Cabinetmakers, Carvers, Scrollers, Turners, Modern Tech and the Toy Committee
Visit our website for meeting dates, times, locations and topics: liwoodworkers.org**

LICFM

BOB WIESER, JIM TAUBY & PAM URSO

DISCUSSION At the December 9th Cabinet SIG meeting, we discussed creating a SIG team project/Challenge. The idea of the Team Project/Challenge is for each member to develop toolboxes from the same design and wood, and add their own twist.

The steps:

Month 1 Planning

Design a toolbox, choose the type of wood we will purchase as a group, and specify the joinery for each side, bottom, drawer, and handle. This will allow members to learn new skills throughout the year (dovetails, box joints, Bermuda Dovetails, miters, wooden drawer slides, etc.). Last, determine the cost per member for wood. Decide who will pick up wood to give to participants and how it will be delivered.

Month 2 – Month 8

Members will bring in their projects and show their progress on each step. Members will practice the next step at home on lesser stock (pine) before executing on the actual project. At each meeting, we will set aside a few minutes to discuss progress, teach/discuss new skills, address questions, and outline next steps.

Month 9 Finishing

Month 10, 2026 LIW Annual Show - The challenge is for our SIG to complete multiple boxes and then the other SIGS to add their twist, i.e., turners making BBQ handles for BBQ tools, handles for the box, drawer pulls, locks, gardening tools, etc. Carvers to create? Tech SIG? We can use these completed projects and tools as prizes at the show, showing off the SIGs' skill sets and the benefits of joining our organization.

Let the challenge begin!

Editors note: This is the only set of SIG minutes this month; this is either because flat boarders are more diligent (we are!!!), or the rest of the membership are just harder partiers. In any event, Bob Lerner sent photos of the LISA and Turner festivities.

LISA



BOB LERNER



GIRL SCOUTS BIRD HOUSE PROJECT

TOM RYAN

The LIW teamed up with the Girl Scouts for their woodworking badge sessions—an inspiring blend of hands-on learning and meaningful community service. Over two workshops held on November 3rd and November 17th, the girls practiced using essential woodworking tools, including hammers, screwdrivers, levels, and handsaws. For many, it was their first time working with these tools. The sessions also introduced them to sanding and the importance of careful preparation in any woodworking project.

Hosted at Gelinas Middle School in East Setauket, the event brought together sixteen Girl Scouts who built birdhouses for bluebirds on behalf of the Audubon Society. Our group provided the materials for nine birdhouses, and an Audubon Society volunteer contributed additional kits. In total, the girls assembled roughly twenty houses that will be installed along a LIPA right-of-way path in the Stony Brook area—directly supporting local wildlife and enriching our community’s natural spaces.

This project was made possible through the dedication of LIW members Tom Ryan, Pam and Bob Urso, Bill Leonhardt, and Mike Yowhan, who volunteered their time to guide the girls. Their support helped create a rewarding experience that combined skill-building, service, and environmental stewardship. Both the Girl Scouts and their LIW “guides” thoroughly enjoyed contributing to a project that benefits the community.









LOCK, STOCK & DARYL

BEN NAWRATH, MICHAEL
MITTLEMAN & DARYL ROSENBLATT**Contributor:** Daryl Rosenblatt**Website:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbG-n—LFgQ>**Presenter/Author:** William Ng**Title:** 5 Cuts to a “Prefect” Cross-Cut SLED

Description: I’ve not only heard of the 5 cut method but actually used it to square up my table saw fence (this was years ago). Only it was trial and error and finally got it right. I wish I knew about this video then; I would have saved a lot of time. Since I no longer have my Felder sliding table saw I needed a table saw sled. I’ve seen them but figured it wouldn’t hurt to do some research into making a sled that made sense, had features I would like, and still, like the Felder, keep my hands away from the blade. I also wanted to make sure I could square up the fence with the blade, which is, after all, the main reason you have a sled. For those who wonder why have a sled if you have a good miter gauge: It’s for larger, longer pieces that you can’t safely or easily keep square to the fence.

This video is great, it’s squaring the blade 101, delivered in concise language, explains the process clearly. As a bonus, he also explains how to make a tablesaw sled. What I like most about this video is that he is both safe and knowledgeable. If you have actually read my reviews (I know the three of you who really did!) I go off every now and then about the lack of precision or safety precautions some of these “influencers” take. Not so with Mr. Ng. Sadly, his last video was 5 years ago, so I don’t know if he’s still active. He does have a website (wnwoodworkingschool.com), so give this video and his channel a chance.

Contributor: Mike Mittleman**Website:** <https://tinyurl.com/5n7sh5uw>**Presenter/Author:** Stinnett Sticks (Mike Stinnett)**Title:** From Sketch to Finish. Carving a Mojave Green Rattlesnake Walking Stick / 20:20

Description: I was minding my own business and scrolling through YouTube videos, when up popped an entire series by Stinnett Sticks, AKA Mike Stinnett, a woodcarver/artist from Oregon. The man is indeed a woodcarver extraordinaire, a gifted artist, and a naturalist. In short, his work is stunning.

As an aside, I have spent decades pursuing an interest in herpetology and, in fact, have photographed and captured several specimens of the type identified in the video as a Mojave Green Rattlesnake, or scientifically, *Crotalus scutulatus*. Mike Stinnett’s carving has exceptional detail, even down to the scalation. The colors also appear to be true. He uses a combination of hand and power tools for carving and hand-paints individual scales (150–200). He gathers his own material for the walking sticks from the wild.

The videos are of excellent quality and contain many close-ups of the steps used to create his artwork. Best yet, he has published a book explaining his processes, *How to Carve a Rattlesnake Walking Stick: Using Mike Stinnett’s Techniques*, available from Amazon: <https://amzn.to/3zAxhHP>. Check him out.

Contributor: Ben Nawrath

Website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLxJUvgEhWg>

Presenter/Author: Jack Mack Woodturning

Title: Woodturning - THE BIGGEST LOG / 14:17

Description: This one had me at engine hoist. I've certainly never needed to use a hoist to get a blank onto my lathe, have you? From there, it's actually a pretty simple turning, just really big. (Spoiler alert) A snowman is relatively simple, but this got me thinking you could scale this down to whatever size you have to work with. You could even batch them out for something... like the gift shop at the annual show!!! All that said, hopefully you can pick up some tips on working with a large turning, or at least enjoy some satisfying ribbons of wood!

TRAVELS WITH CHARLIE

CHARLIE JAMES

I did not know they sold a tool to lift stuck glue bottle tops until I recently saw them for sale online! I have been using a pair of electrician's dykes for as long as I can remember. The dykes hang in a rack directly behind my bench and are easily reached. The dykes have a wedge shape so place the tool under the cap, squeeze lightly on the handle and use the leverage the tool gives you to lift the top and pop the dried glue out. Dykes are ubiquitous and easily found at garage sales for pennies on the dollar. Editor's Note: Michael Mittleman pointed out that wire



PUZZLE

MICHAEL R. MITTLEMAN

Time to Put on Your Thinking Caps – Harder than Usual

How to play: Complete the numerical grid so that every row, column, and 3 x 3 box contains all digits from 1 to 9.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | | 6 | | 3 | | | | |
| 9 | | 1 | | | | | 5 | |
| | 7 | | | | 8 | | | |
| | | | | | 4 | 2 | | 5 |
| | 2 | 9 | 3 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| 5 | | 8 | 7 | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | | | | 4 | |
| | 9 | | | | | 8 | | 1 |
| | | | | 2 | | 5 | | 6 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | R | U | M | B | S |
| R | E | S | O | R | T |
| A | V | E | N | U | E |
| T | I | S | A | N | E |
| E | L | U | D | E | D |
| S | E | P | S | I | S |

Solution to December