

Greenville Woodworkers Guild  
Facilities Objective

Within the last three years the Guild has made important changes with respect to the facilities used for its programs. The venue used for membership meetings was changed from a large classroom at the Golden Strip Career Center on Butler Road to the auditorium at the J. Harley Bonds Career Center in Greer. The move was necessitated by the growth in Guild membership and resulting inadequacy of the Golden Strip Career Center facility.

In 2003 the Guild established its Education Center on Poinsett Highway. Since the mid-1990's it had been a desire of the Guild to have its own woodworking shop. While no formal declaration of such an objective was made, it was discussed and refined in Board meetings and planning sessions over the years. Surplus funds were set aside for the purpose even though a detailed plan did not exist. In 2003 with these funds and through the generosity of the building owner, Guild members, community businesses and charitable foundations we were able to make it happen.

In 2004 the Guild undertook a fundraising project known as the Capital Campaign. The purpose of the Campaign was to provide funds for the completion of the Education Center and, if necessary, to fund its operation for four years. The goal of the Campaign was \$50,000. The goal was met in May 2005. From the beginning of 2003 to the present, the membership of the Guild has increased 65%. The increase in membership dues together with remaining Capital Campaign funds result in a current cash balance of \$55,000 which is \$45,000 over that which is necessary to operate the Guild on an ongoing basis.

In May 2005 the Board of Directors adopted a formal Policy covering accounting and financial reporting. The Policy establishes a Reserve Fund. The Reserve Fund is to be used to account for funds not required for ongoing operation of the Guild. Expenditures from the fund are limited to facilities, equipment and charitable projects.

The Guild's current facilities are serving its current needs. There are, however, some problems. At the auditorium, lighting, line-of-sight and audio/visual issues have been addressed but remain sub-optimal. The set-up and take-down for each meeting is a headache. At the Education Center, parking has been a problem from day one. Also, with the increasing membership, space is becoming an issue. Equipment should be more spread out and storage for in-process projects and materials is less than adequate. Problems at both facilities will become more acute as the Guild membership continues to increase. It is also worth noting that the Guild has no guarantees respecting the long-term availability of these facilities.

From time to time suggestions, proposals and opportunities relating to facilities come before the Board of Directors. The Board has always evaluated these possibilities on an ad hoc basis. In May 2005 the Board established a Facilities Committee to perform these

evaluations and also to maintain an awareness of present and projected facilities needs. The Committee is to explore ways to meet facilities needs and to develop proposed courses of action that will insure that Guild facilities are appropriate to its requirements on an ongoing basis.

The Facilities Committee has proposed the following facilities objective for the Guild.

The facilities objective of the Greenville Woodworkers Guild is ownership of an Education Center that provides for the housing and accommodation of all of the Guild's activities.

The design of the Education Center will be such that:

- The Education Center can be placed into use in phases.
- The Education Center will provide near optimum resources for a membership 20% greater than the membership existing at the time of the initial opening of a phase.
- The Education Center can be expanded as necessary to accommodate increases in membership levels.

On-going actions of the Board of Directors will be such that:

- Actions of the Board and activities of the Guild will, to the greatest extent possible, be consistent with achieving the facilities objective.
- Funds received by the Guild that are in excess of the amounts needed for normal on-going activities will be considered Reserve Funds for the purpose of achieving the facilities objective.

Design requirements for the Education Center should include the following:

- Three to five acres of land located in Greenville County with reasonably equal access to all members.
- Located such that passers-by will be drawn into the facility to view work on display and consider joining the Guild
- Parking for 150 to 200 vehicles.
- Membership meeting room with tiered seating to accommodate 200 attendees and with services for presentation and audio video equipment.
- Pre-meeting registration area.
- General meeting area with space adequate for the annual Christmas dinner (300 attendees) and with services required for woodworking equipment used for seminars.
- Woodworking shop including equipment area, bench area, member project/material storage area, spray booth and storage for lumber and material offered for sale.
- Food preparation/lunch room.
- Three training rooms with services required for woodworking equipment.

- Conference room for 20 attendees with provision for use of computerized displays.
- Area for display and sale of members' work products.
- Shipping/receiving dock.
- Single story construction.
- Appropriate rest rooms, storage rooms and utility rooms.
- Ceiling heights to be: Woodworking shop, 14ft.; Membership meeting room, 10ft at the highest seating tier; all other, 10ft.

The preferred approach to achieving the facilities objective is to acquire land and construct the Education Center to the specifications of the Guild. An alternative (but not as desirable) approach is to acquire land and building(s) and modify the building(s) to meet the needs of the Guild.

The facilities objective should be reviewed and updated each year so that it remains current with the evolving needs of the Guild. The updated objective should be re-affirmed by the Board of Directors annually at its August meeting.

August 8, 2005