

February 2019

Open letter to WIT Chapter liaisons

The WIT committee has received several inquiries looking for ideas to increase local WIT activities. This letter is intended to share some of the ideas that we have received. Some of these are suggestions for activities at WIT meetings at regional symposia. Others can be implemented at your chapter meetings.

- Have a show and tell with critique among the women. Encourage participants to reference the AAW article about critique in tips and techniques (http://www.aawexplo.com/membership3-ss30.a2hosted.com/aaw_cs1_pdf/AW1901p52-55.pdf)
- If a collaborative is desired for the next regional symposium, come up with a theme, display, and coordinator.
- Discuss Beads of Courage and plan for or collect BOC boxes (<http://www.beadsofcourage.org/pages/woodturners.html>).
- Discuss local eXchanges and see if there is a desire and willingness to host one.
- Set up a mentor program for women, discuss what specific issues women are encountering and offer hands on learning opportunities to work on these issues.
- Set up opportunities for women to display their turnings in local venues – talk with local libraries, schools, woodworking stores, senior centers etc.

Remember to keep up to date with the current outreach resources that are available on the WIT webpage (<https://www.woodturner.org/page/WIT>). Currently this includes AAW Chapter Grants specifically for under-represented populations and two different AAW membership offers:

- WIT offers a limited number of one-year AAW memberships to new women turners <https://www.woodturner.org/page/WITMembershipGrants>. The WIT liaison, chapter president, or chapter president may request these grants.
- There is a 60-day AAW guest membership that may be offered to new chapter members. These guest memberships are available to anyone and offer many of the benefits and resources that can be found on the AAW website. <https://www.woodturner.org/page/MembershipLevels>

Please feel free to contact any of the committee members with questions, suggestions or comments about what your chapter has experienced. We are here to assist you with your efforts to expand this community and offer a safe place for women to explore this craft that we all love so much.

Sincerely,

Your 2019 WIT Committee

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