May 13, 2015 Meeting

The May 13, 2015 Waterloo Technical Society (WTS) meeting was called to order by President Gary Dorhout at 7:30 pm.

A total of 32 were in attendance. Treasurer Ken Friend reported a previous balance of $1,029.08. There were receipts of $0.00 interest and $30 in membership dues. Expenses were $15 for the April guest speaker's meal. The ending balance was $1,044.08. Ken reported 11 honorary and 49 paid members for a total of 60 members.

Old Business. A new public address system is to be purchased by Mr. Tim Schoenfelder and used for the first time at the September meeting. Tim reported that his research showed a lavalier and two hand-held microphones could be purchased for $169. An alternative is two lavalier and two hand-held for $329. Quality and reliability would account for price differences.

President Dorhout moved that Tim and Chuck Angel and others as desired be authorized to spend up to $500 for microphones, amplifier and speaker for back-of-the-room. System to be purchased over the summer months. Discussion centered on the ease of use and simple interface for other members to set up. The motion carried.

President Dorhout asked members to suggest how Todd Whiting's $100 to attract new members to WTS be spent. No suggestions were made.

Election of Officers. The slate for WTS 2015-2016 Officers was presented by President Dorhout.

President:	Gary Dorhout
Co-Vice Presidents:	Jerry Mohling & James Stevenson
Treasurer:	Kenneth Friend & Paul Anderson
Dinner Reservations:	Derek Eagles & Steve Lang
Secretary:	James Stevenson
Publicity/Recognition:	Open
Auditing:	Bill Mitchell & Jim Garrett
Nominating Committee:	Open
Web Site:	Tim Schoenfelder

Bob Dietrich moved that the slate be elected as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business. No new business was presented.

Gary Dorhout introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Glenn Davison. Glenn has been an owner of Wood Components & Technologies since 1991. Previously he was employed by Carnation Company (now Nestle USA), Glendale, CA (1974-1990). He served as Assistant Plant Manager at the Oconomowoc, WI facility (1983-1985), Plant Manager at the Kokomo, IN facility (1985-1987) and Plant Manager at the Waverly, IA facility (1987-1990).

Glenn served as an officer in the U.S. Navy (1970-1974).

Glenn attended and graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago (1966-1970) with a degree in Chemistry.

History. Wood Components history began in 1903 as **Novelty Woodworking Company** in Waterloo, Iowa, producing wooden toys and novelty items. About 20 years later, the name changed to **Wood Products Company** and the focus shifted to a manufacturer of wood OEM parts in a variety of industries. After a significant portion of the business was devoted to producing wood bearings for agriculture equipment and washing machines, the name revised to **Waterloo Wood Bearing Company** .

In 1978, the company relocated to a new 25,000 square foot facility in the Cedar Falls Industrial Park. The name finally changed in 1999 to **Wood Components & Technologies, Inc.**, or simply referred as **Wood Components**, a name that more accurately reflects the nature and diversity of the manufacturing activities.

In 2006, a vacant building across the street was refurbished to become the **Wood Components** main office complete with showrooms. The arch millwork manufacturing center relocated to this building as well.

Today at Wood Components, they produce custom millwork and arched moldings for leading distributors, window and cabinet manufacturers, commercial contractors, building centers, lumber yards and home builders. They continue to provide OEM parts and components in wood and plastic, as well as additional services for a wide variety of customers.

As a leading job shop in a specialized industry, they have established a reputation for quality and service. New investments in tooling, equipment, and layout are enhancing the production capabilities. Today they occupy 32,000 square feet with 25,000 square feet manufacturing space and 7,000 of offices and showrooms.

Product Evolution.



Figure 1. Arched and curved mill work.



Figure 2. Lineal mill work.



Figure 3. CNC mill work.



Figure 4. OEM parts.

Wood Components offers quality curved and arched moldings, lineal trim, and specialty millwork for commercial contractors and home builders, plus wood and plastic OEM parts and components for manufacturers of machinery equipment.

The wood industry was composed of many small companies, usually less than five employees. Metal working technology has gradually entered the wood working industry as well. In the early 1980s changes began. The personal computer enabled computers to be incorporated in wood working machines. This was due primarily to the financial times of the 1970s when housing took off and cabinets were needed and big cabinet companies were started to satisfy the large volumes needed by home construction. By the 1990s there was not enough cabinets for the demand. Large cabinet shops began out-sourcing work to the smaller companies. Starting with this demand and through the 2005s there was a commensurate boom in machines to work wood.

Wood Components began to modernize in 1990. They sought things that could be made with their machines. They were getting 25 to 25,000 piece orders from customers. They were a single shift job shop. With the use of CNC machines and modernization they were able to withstand the housing bubble burst in 2007-2008. They went from 40 to 10 employees. The capacity for 10 employees was more than 4 times what 40 had produced before modernization.

With the burst of the housing bubble wood working companies folded. Used equipment was plentiful. By 2011 one in seven wood working companies had gone out of business. Machinery companies manufacturing for the wood industry also folded. There was a drop of 50-60% in sales for two years. Mill working and custom molding enabled Wood Components to survive. They were careful to adopt technology if it really fit their operations. They had a good balance sheet with cash on hand, but not large asset value. A long term look at technology revised their asset base. They now match the technology costs to the business. This has resulted in partnering with others who have niche technologies in wood working. In one case they acquired a company to get needed technology and expertise. Today they partner with attorneys, accountants, bankers and Iowa Business Development to make best use of their expertise and avoid developing these skills within Wood Components.

Some highlights of Wood Components changes through time:

- Currently a 32,000 sq. ft. in two buildings on Nordic Drive, Cedar Falls
- Rough mill then cut with laser lighted saw cuts
    - Saw can reset blades on the fly
    - Able to run 2-3 jobs on saw at same time
- Six cutting head molders, 9.25"x0.25" thick
- Planar-sander, 130 hp with spiral cutting head
    - Wide belt sanding head (2)
- Optimizing defect saw line.
    - 16 ft. long hardwood
    - Operator marks defect in wood with crayon
    - Saw cuts 140 ft/min
    - Maintains count, trims end
    - Five stations on pusher. Kicks out pieces for product.
- CNC machining centers.

  - 24,000 rpm which is faster than metal.
  - Owned since 1996.
- By 1998 they bought a 12 hp router,
  - 10 tools, rapid tool changer,
  - 18 drill bank,
  - 12'x10' table.
- Non-mitered picture frame from Midwest Wood Products was acquired. Another smaller CNC machine also purchased in 1998
- In the fall of 2014 they acquired a 5-axis CNC machine.
  - It is dedicated to outside customers.
  - It has a 5'x12' table, 14 tool changer,
  - 16 hp plus reserve 22 tool changer at back.
  - Auto sorts tools for a job.
  - Tool length probe used to prevent table damage.
  - It can cut a sphere from a cubical block of wood

Additional information is available at http://www.circletrim.com.

Next Meeting. The 2014-2015 year has now ended. The next meeting will be on September 9, 2015.

Meeting Adjourned. President Dorhout accepted a motion for adjournment at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Stevenson