



# MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

michiganwoodworkersguild.com



Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) January 2023 Vol. 44 No. 1

When / Where:

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023**

(Business meeting and Socializing Starts at 1:00 PM)

**In-Person Meeting:**

**Hand Carving  
by Dan Reahard**

Meeting Coordinated by: Ken Wolf



**IN-PERSON MEETING AT:  
Livonia Senior Center**

## **JANUARY:**

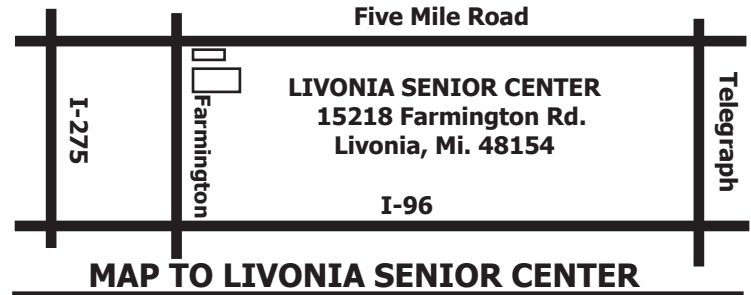
MWG Member **Dan Reahard**, who dates his membership to the early '90s, will demonstrate his phenomenal **Hand Carving** skills at our **1:00 PM January 8<sup>th</sup> 2023** in-person meeting at the Livonia Senior Center coordinated by **Ken Wolf**. Come see and be mesmerized with Dan's wonderful woodworking.

## **FEBRUARY:**

At our **1:00 PM February 12<sup>th</sup> 2023** In-Person meeting presented by **Rockler**, discover the endless possibilities of what you can make with a CNC Router! From 3D wood carvings and precision cuts to carved plastics to laser engravings, this live demo will walk you through the basics. Don't let this opportunity pass you by!

## **MARCH:**

Our 2023 full day seminar will feature **Mike Belzowski** demonstrating techniques for wood bending as well as veneering. Coordinated by **Ken Wolf**, make sure you sign-up right now for the Saturday, 11MAR2023 all day (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM) seminar at Livonia Senior Center.



**MWG THEATER FEATURE PRESENTATION:**  
**Gary Rogo's "Router Joinery"**  
Movie starts at 12:30 PM.

**Hand Carving  
by Dan Reahard**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>**

Organized by **Ken Wolf**, MWG long time member **Dan Reahard** will demonstrate hand carving techniques. Dan, who is also a member of **SAPFM**, will demonstrate traditional hand carving used in period furniture. Included in his demonstration, Dan will provide instructions for tool sharpening which will help all to advance our skills. This should be a fascinating presentation.





## President's Corner

By Jerry Romito



January 2023

Happy New Year for 2023. We have a full slate of monthly meeting programs planned for the year, and you can look at the newsletters and the website to see what is coming up.

For starters, the **January 8** meeting at the Livonia Senior Center will feature long-time member **Dan Reahard** demonstrating carving for period furniture along with tool sharpening.

Also save the date for **Saturday March 11** for our all-day seminar with professional woodworker **Mike Belzowski**. In the morning he will cover multiple methods of bending wood, and in the afternoon he will cover veneering basics and beyond.

I'm pleased to say that our guild remains strong and continues to grow. We have 179 members, having increased by 11 members in the second half of this year. Our treasury is comfortable, with a balance of \$15,272 at the end of 2022. Our toy program had fantastic volunteer participation this year, which you can read about in the article in this issue.

Another volunteer opportunity is available to build small kitchen tables for **CCRT**, a Pontiac charity that provides donated furniture to families in need. I have already built four tables, and we have been collecting additional wood from old table tops and beds that can be creatively repurposed for the new tables. There will be a selection of this material available for pickup at the January meeting for anyone who is interested in helping out.

And yet another volunteer opportunity is available for members who would like to participate with a board marketing sub-committee to generate ideas for promoting additional guild membership. You can contact

me at [GJRomito@aol.com](mailto:GJRomito@aol.com) to discuss any of these possibilities.

Jerry Romito  
MWG President



## MWG MEMBERSHIP



Your **Michigan Woodworker's Guild** yearly dues are now payable through **January 2023**.

Feel free to get ahead of the renewal process by paying your \$25 dues **Early** and **Often**.

A membership renewal form can be found on the website dropdown menu under "Membership - Payment/Renewals"



## MWG 2023 Seminar



**Mike Belzowski** is returning for our March 11, 2023 guild daylong (9:00 am - 4:00 PM) seminar to share his skills and techniques on bending wood and veneering.

Mike will demonstrate multiple ways to bend wood including lamination and tapered laminations, steam bending, kerf bending and vacuum forming techniques. Mike also will present veneering basics and beyond including vacuum press gluing strategies, parquetry basics and scroll saw bevel techniques.

How to choose glue types for various vacuum pressing applications and alternative book matching methods are also planned. This all day event will include an on-site lunch for attendees who purchase a reservation to this special event.



## MEETING REVIEW



By Dale Aushman

### MWG Meeting Review

Steve Lash Making Period Furniture

13 November 2022

Our in-person program for November was **Steven M. Lash** speaking on the making of period furniture. Steve is an original 1981 member of the Guild and is a woodworker extraordinaire. He is co-founder of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers (SAPFM) and continues to make extraordinary American and English period furniture. He has written articles, lectured, and exhibited his furniture at a number of museums, including the Telfair Museum of Art in Savannah GA, The Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford CT, The Benjamin Franklin Museum in Philadelphia, and more recently at Ham House, A National Trust House Museum at Ham, Richmond-on-Thames, England. In 2010, Steve received the highly esteemed Cartouche Award from SAPFM for lifetime achievement. Steve is also active at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and is the immediate past president of the Associates of the American Wing.



Steve Lash

Steve also continues an incredible career in dentistry, with a BS degree from Wayne State University, a Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Detroit Mercy, and an MS in Orthodontics from the University of Michigan. He practiced general dentistry for two years in the USAF and has had a highly successful orthodontic practice in West Bloomfield, where he now still practices with his talented dentist daughter. Steve is currently an Adjunct Clinical Professor of Orthodontics at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and teaches craniofacial orthodontics, a sub-specialty of orthodontics that focuses on the treatment of patients with birth defects such as cleft lip and palate.

Steve's presentation focused on four of his many fantastic projects:

- 1) An oval bellflower-inlaid cellarette
- 2) "Clox" or combination clock/music box
- 3) Harp
- 4) A Tea Caddy for Dad

Steve also touched on his prior making of a Ben Franklin Glass Armonica with case and his current project of a *Bonheur du jour* French lady's writing desk. He started the discussion with early highlights of his woodworking life including a sixth-grade shop class "Pump" lamp (still used in his home) and a photo of himself bent over working in his cramped attic workshop while a young Air Force officer in the late 1960's.



Steve's First Project



Steve in Attic Workshop





One of Steve's most interesting projects was his **reproduction of a case and stand for a contemporary glass armonica**, a type of musical instrument that uses a series of glass bowls graduated in size to produce musical tones by means of friction. It was invented in 1761 by Benjamin Franklin and became quite popular at the time. (See Link: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glass\\_harmonica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glass_harmonica) ).



Franklin Glass Armonica

During Steve's research for his future harpsicord builds he came upon Gerhard Finkenbeiner, a master glass blower and accomplished musician who had solved the problem of reconstructing and playing a contemporary version of Franklin's instrument. Steve had also visited the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia where the original instrument in a Mahogany case was on display behind glass. (See Link: <https://www.fi.edu/history-resources/franklins-glass-armonica> ).

Steve proposed to Finkenbeiner (now deceased) that Steve build a replica case/stand to house an instrument to be provided by Finkenbeiner. They agreed and Steve spent over two years designing (via CAD), building, and finishing the case. The project was highly successful, with the reproduction armonica being played by professional musicians in various museum venues before being put on display in the Benjamin Franklin Museum (BFM) in Philadelphia. The highly popular display is now on permanent view after Steve

generously donated the instrument to the Museum in 2016. He did so after realizing that more people saw his armonica in one hour at the Museum than had seen it in 20 years at his home.

### Oval bellflower-inlaid cellarette



Cellarette

When Steve entertains at home he likes to present his guests with a shot or two of his favorite whiskey. For a proper presentation of the bottles he decided he would build a **reproduction of a George III-era oval cellarette**. A cellarette is a small cabinet designed to hold bottles of wine or spirits. He found a photo of one he liked in a Bernard and S. Dean Levy auction catalog, a rare oval bellflower-inlaid cellarette. The original is attributed to the workshop of Levin Tarr, Baltimore circa 1800. Colonial Baltimore is known for its construction of curved pieces such



Cellarette Brickwork

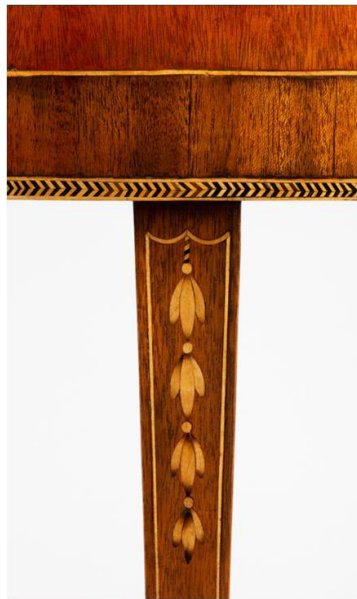


Cellarette Interior Sanding



as demilune table aprons and sideboard doors via brickwork stacked laminates. Thus is it not surprising that this Baltimore cellarette's oval case is constructed of brickwork stacked laminates, four oval-section "bricks" in each rank, with tangentially offset sections between adjacent ranks. Each curved "brick" is 1 inch high and about 5/8 inch radial thickness. The 14 ranks were all glued with liquid hide glue, and smoothed inside and out with a drum sander in a drill press every few ranks.

The completed oval case was carefully veneered, including adding Mahogany ribbon veneer around the sides of lid and lower section of case, with sanding of the first applied veneer (1/8 in thick) to make room for the 1/20 in ribbon veneer. Lots of decorative lines and bandings were required (Satinwood, Holly and Ebony), to separate the ribbon veneers, and as edge decorations. And there were large oval central figured veneer inserts on the side and top (Amboyna), both with Satinwood borders. The cellarette has federal bellflowers and stringing on the tapered legs, which end in brass caps with floating brass wheels.



Cellarette Leg Inlays

### "Clox" or combination clock/music box

Steve's very first furniture project many years ago was a grandmother clock case made out of a sheet of walnut plywood. That project was followed by a number of other small mantle clocks, a Pillar & Scroll clock, and later a reproduction of a Seymour-Willard Roxbury tall case clock. In about 2017 he had a desire to build another small clock in his new smaller condominium shop. **An 18th century ebonized pear wood mantle clock** was high on his to do list, and he

wondered if the clock movement from Kieninger's 250th Mozart Anniversary mantle clock (which chimes his favorite Mozart melody, "A Little Night Music") could fit in such a case. He found that he could buy the Kieninger movement without a case, and he located a period-suitable round white dial from a source in England. He then chose to make a copy of the ca. 1790 John Grant bracket clock which had been originally made with ebonized pear wood. Doing his CAD design of the reproduction clock he found he also had room to include a drawer to contain two 72 note triple melody music boxes, both also playing Mozart music. Steve thus named his creation a "Clox" – Clock and music box. He did a full CAD design and built a complete



Mozart Anniversary Clock

mockup to ensure that the clock-works, dial and music boxes would all fit appropriately.

One of Steve's reasons for choosing this project was so that he could explore 18th century oak gall ebonizing methods. Oak galls are crushed and soaked in water to make an oak gall solution,



Steve's "Clox"





Iron Acetate Process

which is applied first. Then steel wool is soaked for a month or so in white vinegar to become an iron acetate solution. This second solution is then applied over the dried oak gall solution surface. Like magic the wood surface becomes ebonized. This finish on the clock was wonderful. Steve entered his Clox in the Horological Crafts Competition at the 2018 National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors annual meeting and it won Class 6 - Wood Clock Cases.

## Harp

Steve has always had an interest in building wood-based musical instruments, as he has built two harpsicords and the aforementioned Franklin armonica. He had a longtime interest in building a full-sized harp, the world's oldest stringed instrument. A couple of years back he stopped in a local harp center and saw a **vintage ebonized and gilded 19th c. English harp**. Steve had an interest in building another piece using the same ebonizing



Harp In Local Detroit Shop



Harp Soundbox

technique used on the Clox, so he ordered plans from Robinson's Harp Shop in Mount Laguna, CA and was off and running. The harp is basically made in three sections; the pedestal, the gracefully-curved



Harp Soundbox Bolted to Base



Finished Harp Played by Local Musician

neck, and the sound box. The pedestal and the sound box are connected to a base, which has four small feet which depicted as lion paws reflecting the Queen Ann period of English furniture. Steve wanted a rounded sound box and so modified the plans and made a sound box using ten  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. tapered staves. All of these weirdly-shaped pieces were quite complex to make. Steve also determined the position of the mounting hardware for the harp strings and tuned the instrument. He finished the harp with gold leaf gilding and ebon-



izing. Steve inlaid a brass rendition of his family logo onto the top of the pillar, and attached an engraved maker label on the neck.

### A Caddy for My Daddy



Caddy For My Daddy

Tea was a very expensive commodity in the 18th century so exquisite and lockable storage containers were introduced into England. Steve has previously made various forms of these but his latest continued with his pursuit of ebonized pear wood with gilding. This caddy was modelled after a George III satinwood oval tea caddy with ebonized trim. Steve's version was built of pine, with pear wood veneer where it was to be ebonized using the oak gall method described above. Even the inside of the lid was so prepared. The top and bottom, and bottom inside trim were made oversized and then carved to form small beads. These beads were then gilded with gold leaf. Steve then made many white smooth ovals onto which he placed decals of pithy sayings his father Irving had passed onto his kids and grandchildren. He placed two of these favorite maxims on the inside and top of the lid, while the remainder filled the tea box. Steve engaged the entire family in recalling these "Irvisms" and soon had the box full. Thus the project turned into a wonderful family project and a great way to remember Steve's dad.



Caddy with Sayings

Thus concluded Steve's review of selected past projects. For your information, very detailed articles with photos and drawings regarding the making of his



French Ladies Writing Desk

armonica, cellarette, clock, harp and tea caddy can be found in various SAPFM publications. If you are a member of SAPFM, or plan to join, let me know and I can direct you to the relevant publication.

Steve finished his presentation by discussing his current project, a **French lady's writing desk** with tambour doors and mahogany marquetry of cubes surface embellishment.

It has sheathed feet with brass ringed shoes. Apparently the French call this form a "Bonheur de jour" desk, which translates to "happiness of the day." If my wife had such a desk she would be happy indeed.

Once again I am awestruck by Steve's passion for super challenging period furniture projects, his prolific and passionate pursuit of their construction, his attendant woodworking skills, and his appreciation and knowledge of period furniture. We thank Steve for his hard work in preparing and presenting the informative and entertaining program, and for inspiring us to undertake challenging furniture projects. And we thank Ed Stuckey for arranging the program.

- Dale Ausherman

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Jeff Wilmot





### CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MWG PROGRAM UPDATE



## From Ron and Dan

Happy New Year from the Toy Committee!

The delivery of toys to the **Children's Hospital Snowpile Program** was completed on December 16th. Our total delivery for 2022 was **552** toys and **22** boxes.

Just as last year, we had newcomers to the program making toys, as well as several individuals who have been active for a number of years for a combined total of 14 makers. There were several fresh takes on old designs as well as some novel new ones, which we are doing our best to document. **Bill Rigstad** is assisting us in putting together an album of toys, which will be uploaded to the website.



Children's Hospital  
2022 MWG Toy Delivery

We would also like to give a special Thank-You to all the members who were able to make it a priority and create toys and boxes for the 2022 program. These include **Chuck Andrews, Larry Balast, Bill Damico, Ragnar Bergethon, Vic Bonora, Phil Hapeman, Dan Holowicki, Meg Larson, Larry Last, Dave McCagg, David Nordstrom, Ron Ross, Steve Vaertan** and **Ken Wolf**. Also a Big Thank-You to the MWG Board of Directors for continuing to support this program. Once again, Congratulations and big heartfelt

Thank-You to all those who were able to participate in making 2022 one of our best donation years in current history.

For those who may be interested in what types of toys are being made here is a breakdown.

- By far the most common are cars (352) and trucks (123), followed by planes, helicopters, boats and pull toys.
- Of the boxes donated, 13 were memory boxes, 8 were plain boxes and there was 1 tool box. Obviously this changes from year to year, but we will continue to keep track of what type of toys and boxes are donated.
- By far the most prolific builder this year was **Bill Damico**, with a combined total of 150 cars and trucks. A very special Thank-You to Bill for all his years of supporting this program.

To those of you who have built toys and boxes in the past or who are thinking of doing so in the future, do not be intimidated by that impressive total of Bill's. Even if you can only complete a few toys or boxes, it is much appreciated by the Guild and Children's Hospital.

With the assistance of the MWG Design Staff, we will continue to add new designs to the website. We will also be actively updating our list of approved finishes. However, this will take some time and research as we must obtain SDS's and CPSIA certificates from the manufacturers.



2022 MWG Toy Contest Entries





Now onto another subject, our **First Annual Toy Contest**. As mentioned previously, this contest was open to any member who wished to participate with one entry only. The entries were judged to determine the individual toys with the best painted finish, best clear finish and best overall design. Each of the three winners received a \$25 gift card to Woodcraft. There were a total of 8 entries, one each from **Bill Damico**, **Larry Last**, **Dave McCagg**, **Dan Holowicki**, **Phil Hapeman**, **Ragnar Bergethon**, **Vic Bonora**, and **Steve Vaertan**.



2022 MWG Toy Contest Winning Entries

The Best Design winner was **Bill Damico**, with a very nice tow truck design. Best Painted Finish was won by **Vic Bonora** with his retro 50's car. Best Clear Finish was won by **Steve Vaertan** with his race car.



Bill Damico - Best Design

Vic Bonora - Best Paint Finish



Steve Vaertan - Best Clear Coat

The MWG Design Staff has committed to making a drawing of Bill's tow truck to be included on our web-site. Congratulations to all the winners and all those who participated.

As has always been the policy, the Guild will provide standard wheels (1", 1 1/4" or 1 1/2" dia), nylon washers and wheel pegs free of charge to any member who wishes to make toys for this program. We have plenty on hand and if you need these items, they can be obtained by contacting Ron or Dan.

The Guild also has an inventory of non-standard wheels and other toy parts that have been recently categorized. While we do have a limited supply and do not plan to re-stock these once the current supply runs out, we currently have;

- 1 3/4", 2", 2 1/4", 2 1/2", 2 3/4" and 3" diameter standard style wheels
- 1", 1 1/4", 1 1/2", 2 1/4", 2 1/2" and 2 3/4" diameter grooved tire style wheels
- 2" and 2 3/4" diameter wagon style wheels
- 1 1/4", 1 1/2" and 2 1/4" diameter flanged style train wheels
- Wood shapes such as acorns, beads, balls, caps and discs
- Large and small shaker style pegs
- Three sizes of wood peg people
- Steam engine/steam train smokestacks
- Various small pieces of poplar, suitable for glue-up

We will continue to set a goal of delivering 400 toys to Children's Hospital for the **Christmas Snowpile** program. This program is only a part of the toy distribution.

Throughout the year a fair amount of simpler toys are distributed to all the clinics within the Children's Hospital Complex. These toys are used by the children in the waiting rooms as they wait to see a specialist or treatment. Some toys are passed out to siblings of child patients when they come to visit. Other toys stay with the children when they are released from the hospital.



The hospital also has a need for boxes, both plain ones, which the children can use for activities during their hospital stay and somewhat fancier boxes, usually made with hardwoods and more intricate joinery, which are presented to family members of children who did not survive their afflictions. The hospital does like boxes that are about the size of a shoebox. Also the picture frames on top of the memory boxes are well liked by the hospital staff but not necessary.

Once again, thanking all of you toy makers for your support along with the Guild's board for allowing funding to purchase wheels distributed free of charge to all the makers.

### Ron Ross & Dan Holowicki

For further information on our toy program, request wheels and axles or to arrange to drop off toys, please contact:

Ron - 734- 812-5531 - [rross1508@gmail.com](mailto:rross1508@gmail.com)

Dan - 313-702-5836 - [dan56laura@att.net](mailto:dan56laura@att.net)

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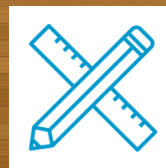


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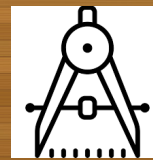
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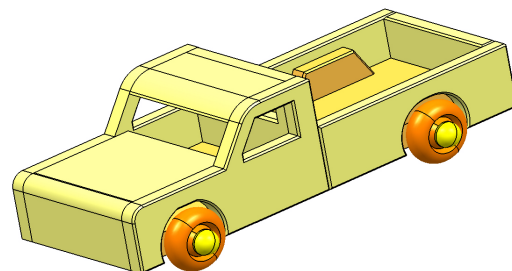


## From the Editor

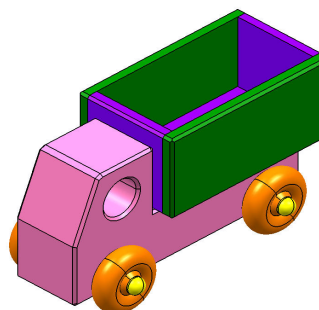
In support of the MWG Toy program, the MWG design staff has been steadfastly at work developing new designs. The latest are a toy pickup truck (F-150) and a dump truck.

Drawings for these new toy projects can be found on our website at the links shown below. Be the first on your block to make them.

Everyone is encouraged to make these new projects and then send your feedback to the MWG Newsletter Editor.



**MWG Pickup Truck (F-150)**



**MWG Dump Truck**

You can find the MWG **Dump Truck** plans on the MWG website with the following link:

[https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/toys/MWG\\_Dump\\_Truck\\_12-29-22.pdf](https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/toys/MWG_Dump_Truck_12-29-22.pdf)

You can find the MWG **Pickup Truck** plans on the MWG website with the following link:

[https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/toys/F-150\\_Pickup\\_Assembly\\_12-2-22.pdf](https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/toys/F-150_Pickup_Assembly_12-2-22.pdf)



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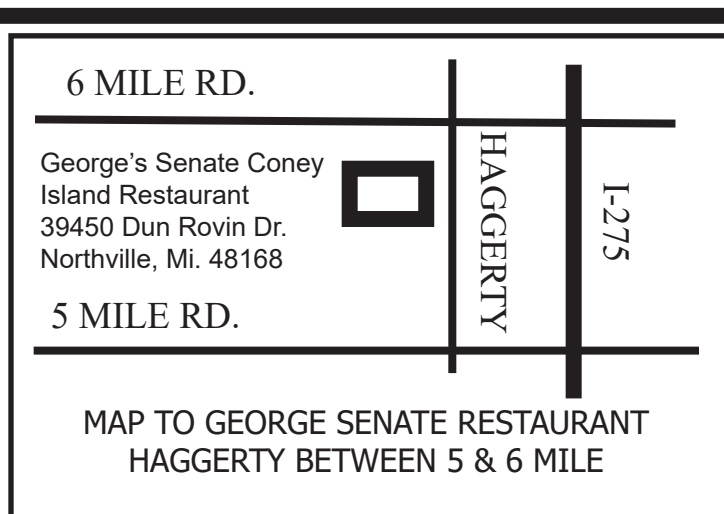
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**For membership information contact****Dave McCagg at: [d2mccagg@provide.net](mailto:d2mccagg@provide.net)****For name tags, sign up with Ed Stuckey at a regular meeting.**

Next MWG Luncheon: (Coordinated by Bill Rigstad)  
**Thursday, 26 January 2023 at 10:16 AM**

**Executive Board Members / Committee Chairs**

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Dan Holowicki.....	Vice President.....	734-283-9898
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Ron Ross.....	Toy Program.....	734-812-5531
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