

NWA YE21 Member Survey Summary

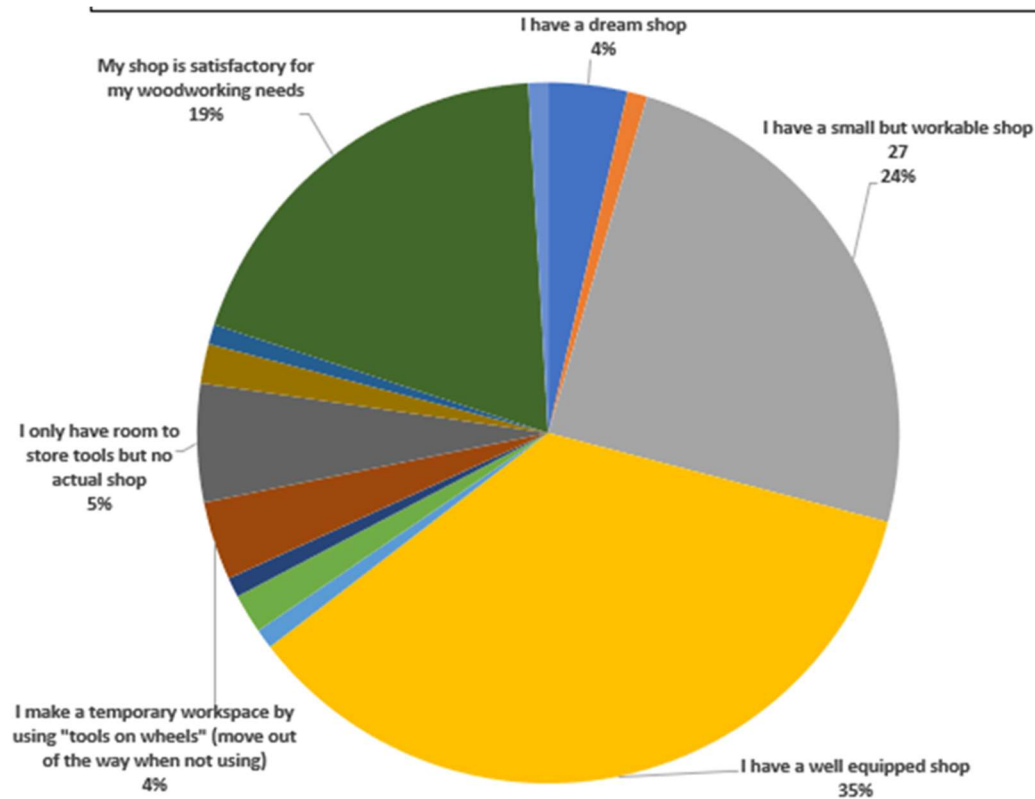
Survey Purpose

The leadership wanted to better understand:

- How many of our members have their own shops and if our members could benefit from other members' shop knowledge.
- Where we need to focus on sharing shop knowledge in NWA activities such as Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings, classes, and on-line access.

Slightly more than 100 members participated in the survey which was extremely helpful along with the detailed responses. We were extremely pleased with the number of responses as well as the wealth of important information you shared with us. The following summary provides some insight which will be used to design activities and classes as well as determine how to better manage distance and timing issues for the NWA shop's future efforts.

Responses to the question: "What type of woodworking shop is available to you?"



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- >75% of respondents have some form of workspace ranging from small workable to- well equipped shops for their woodworking interests.
- Relating to shops, there is a strong interest in:
 - Dust collection,
 - Floor layouts (including shop efficiencies), and
 - Shop tours to better understand how members handle the prior interests.
 - There were interesting comments asking for member tool selection choices and overall (performance) ratings of tools.
- Half of those responding stated they had attended meetings at the Railroad Ave Shop within the past 2 years.
- There was strong interest in SIG's with Hand-tools being the highest interest level.
- When it came to SIG (non)attendance, the major reasons given were:
 - Distance to the shop,
 - Timing of the meeting, and
 - Workload schedule conflicts.
- Our members expressed a strong desire to learn more about the core woodworking tools with the highest interest expressed for:
 - Band-saw,
 - lathe,
 - planer,
 - jointer, and
 - router.
 - There is continued strong interest in sharpening skills for all hand use tools such as: chisels, gouges, knives, planes, etc.

Steering Committee Recommendations

Based on these findings, we are recommending we address the following items with high priority (Please note these recommendations ARE DEPENDANT on finding and securing the people resources to execute them):

- Determine how to get some SIG mtgs out to the members on line as Distance, Timing, and Workload are major deterrents to member attendance.
- Develop Dust Collection and Floor Layout short courses to help members improve their own shops' health environment as well as offering ways to improve shop storage.
- Begin our awaited power tool certifications followed by advanced short courses-
- Restart short courses in sharpening which could be done in part through the SIG's.
- When appropriate (COVID), re-organize shop tours. These have been successful in the past and I know would be much appreciated. (It has the added benefit of causing us to clean up our shops!)

Finally

We would be very happy to hear more from you through informal emails or phone calls. We could certainly use volunteers to help with getting these areas going so don't be bashful. Let us know how you would like to help.

Our sincerest thanks for your collective insight. We want NWA to remain relevant to each of our members. The best way we know is by asking for your thoughts and your help. Each one of us is a volunteer who loves and appreciates woodworking in all of its forms.

By the way, if we are asking the wrong questions, please let us know that as well.

Thank you.

Your NWA Leadership

Compiled by Wally Carpenter