

Minnesota WoodTurners Association

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

AAW | AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF WOODTURNERS

Mini Newsletter No 10

**Teach someone to fish –
They can feed themselves
for life.**

**Teach someone
woodturning – they will
be broke for life!**



Instant Gallery

Linda Ferber



Revisiting a piece from 5 or 6 years ago.
Before and after photos.



Tips For Turners

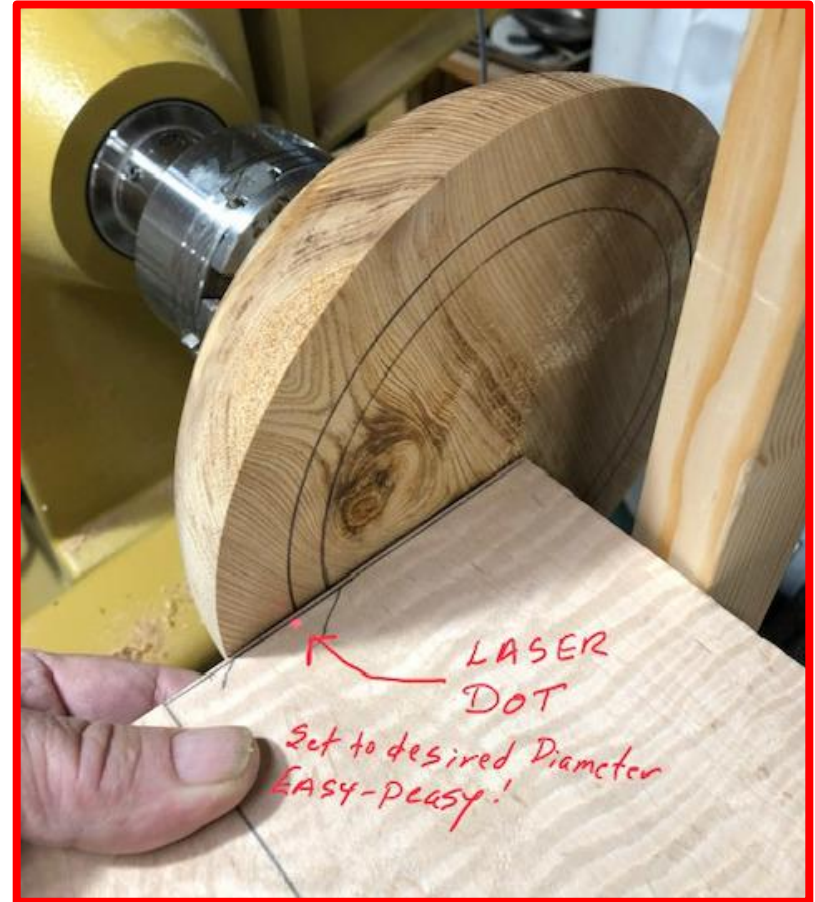
Intro: A little project for a rainy day. This little gadget works great for setting up your OneWay Coring system without measuring or relying on any templates and works regardless of the chuck you are using.



Buy a cheap laser pointer on eBay. Anything will work but a cylindrical one is easier to mount. The upright is simply a 2X2 with a 1-inch post turned on the bottom to fit in the OneWay post. I put a threaded insert in the top of the post to accept a thumb screw but that's not absolutely necessary. An ordinary screw will do.



Drill holes in the horizontal arm for the radius distance of each knife that you have. Just move the arm to the hole for the desired knife that you are using.



This is a very quick way to set the diameter of your core; no measuring, no math, nothing, nada.

Now set the depth of the cut. Again, no measuring, no math, no templates, nothing, nada. Can't go wrong.

I can't take credit for this idea, but I did greatly simplify the construction. It's cheap, it's easy to make, it's easy to use.



From the Mini Newsletter #4 Remember??

Hi, I found your contact info via the American Association of Woodturners website.

I'm looking for someone to make some custom, big caveman-style clubs like these. The size is shown on the photo.

They look like they are probably made of oak or a different hardwood.
They don't need any finish or sanding.

If this is something you could make, contact me. What would the pricing look like per club? I could probably supply the wood if that works better for pricing.

Ben Wales bwales89@gmail.com

Todd Williams made contact
with Ben Wales. Turn the page
for . . . THE REST OF THE STORY.

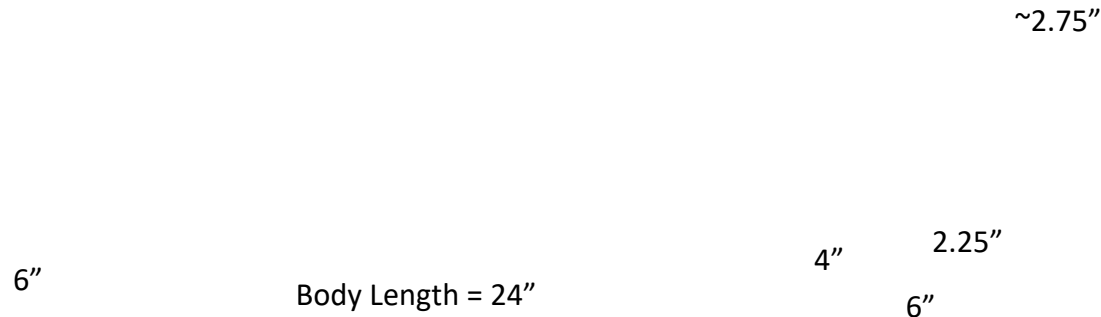
Need Help From Turners



You may recall a few months ago, someone wanted some exercise clubs made. I connected with him and succeeded in fulfilling his request. The clubs are called “meels” and I think originated in old Persia. They are used as heavy weight clubs in various exercise regimens. Here is a drawing I made for the commission. Note the size.

RE: Exercise Clubs

Create and furnish two each Exercise Clubs, according to the drawing below.



Club body and handle made of laminated layers of walnut plywood. Plywood sheets to be supplied by customer. All corners to be rounded. Slight concave on fat end.

Sanded to 240 grit. Two sets of shallow grooves for decoration as shown.

The length was the absolute longest I could accommodate on my Powermatic 35-20B lathe with an Elio spur drive. There was an unsuccessful effort to find wood large enough and crack-free, so we chose to use laminated blanks. He supplied 1" thick walnut veneer plywood (used for counter tops?). I cut it to size and laminated the strips into 8" x 8" x 36" blanks. What a job!



I could glue only two pieces at once, due to lack of large clamps and “skating” of the pieces. Note the “high quality” plywood had numerous gaps and voids, which I did not fill.

BIG Exercise Clubs

Todd Williams



Laminating blanks for
the exercise clubs





After glue-up, I cut the rough handle shapes on the band saw. The turning was the easiest part of the process.



BIG Exercise Clubs

Todd Williams



The finished clubs each weighed just over 8 lb.



Finally, the satisfied customer





First Day of School After COVID-19 LOCKDOWN



Drying Twice-Turned Bowl Blank Question

What techniques do you use when drying a twice turned bowl? Indoors vs unconditioned shop, sitting out in the open vs box/bag, should wet shavings be added? What factors should be considered?

Grant Determan

Bill Campbell

After rough turning, I put the bowl in my shop microwave for a bit. For a small piece, 1 minute on full strength, then I turn it over and zap it for another minute. I give larger bowls, e.g. more than 8-10", 2 minutes per side. Then I let the piece rest for 10-15 minutes and let the vapor dissipate from the microwave, then repeat the cycle a time or two.

In the meantime, I'm cleaning up wood chips, maybe sanding something else or oiling a piece previously turned. Finally, I'll put the piece on a shelf to sit for a while.



How long a while? Depends on the wood. Walnut dries within a couple weeks, ash a little longer. On the other hand, I turned some red elm 2 months ago and it's still drying - I'm losing patience. I use a 2-pronged moisture meter, measuring on a newly cut face.

Immediately after turning, pieces typically run 30-35% water. The meter won't measure accurately when the piece is hot out of the microwave, but after it cools it will typically show 10-15% water.

Caution: be very careful taking the piece out of the microwave, it can get quite hot. When it's been upside down, the bowl will be full of trapped steam. I recommend not using the microwave in your kitchen.

I once turned a piece of maple that was a little punky in spots. After a second one-minute zap it started smoking, I had to pitch it out the door before it burned down my house. I immediately bought a cheap microwave from Goodwill and installed it in the shop.



This process has worked well for me. I've never had a split or crack while in the microwave, though a few pieces have split immediately afterwards. I've learned to turn away the pith and be very careful with knots; those seem to be the tension spots where cracks start.

I use the microwave to dry pieces that I turn only once, also. They warp, a lot or a little depending on the variety of wood. I usually like the resulting oval bowls, especially with smaller pieces. I usually have to sand the bottom flat, sometimes the rim as well. If I've turned thin, these pieces will be ready to finish (i.e., 5-6% water) in a few days.

My introduction to turning was at a full week beginners' class at the John Campbell Folk School. The instructor taught us to put a layer of wet shavings in the bottom of a brown paper bag, add the rough-turned bowl, and surround the bowl with more shavings. I brought back so many rough turned bowls from that class that my wife was concerned we wouldn't have enough room in the trunk of our car for our luggage.

I have mainly used this same method since then. The only things I do differently now are that I put several bowls in the same bag by nesting them and using a layer of shavings between the rough turned bowls and I write the species of wood, the size of the bowl, and (most importantly) the date it was turned on the bag. I also use a Sharpie to write the species of wood and the date on the bottom of each rough turned bowl.

The bags are stored on the floor of my studio. It is kept at about 60 degrees F in the winter when I'm working and 54 degrees F when I'm not there. Summer temperatures are uncontrolled; the humidity is uncontrolled year-round. I do experience cracks on about 10% of the rough turned bowls I dry this way.

The key is to rough turn the bowl as soon as possible after the tree was cut down. I wait at least 6 months and usually a year before final turning the bowl. Since I am in the high-risk age group for COVID-19, I am often pleasantly surprised by what I find in the bags when I open them up a year or so after rough turning the bowl. I do not use a moisture meter or scale to check for dryness.

Ask A Turner

Pepper on the Table Under the Peppermill

Warren Gerber

In our zoom meeting last night, the discussion on how to make an "upside down" pepper grinder to keep pepper off the table got more discussion than I thought it deserved. Lots of ideas about how it would have to accommodate the different problems that would have to be overcome, including even hooking up my shop vacuum to the lazy Susan on the kitchen table. But no one seems to have actually seen one, which I find interesting given the enormous problem caused by the wayward pepper flakes landing on the tabletop instead of the t-bone steak.

Maybe someone can figure out if it is "art", requiring a difficult to repair poly finish or a "utility item" requiring an easy to repair oil finish. Maybe we can brand it "The Minnesota Mill" to distinguish it as the "no pepper tracks pepper mill".



Riddle

Take the name of a European city (hint: a capital city), remove the 3rd letter and it is what you need to WIN A RACE. If you remove the 4th letter it will cause you to LOSE A RACE.

Send your answers to Editor Mike Rohrer, mdrprof@gmail.com



Tuesday MWA ZOOM Virtual Demo

The MWA sponsored a demo by Dan Larson through ZOOM virtual meetings on May 29. 38 people “attended” the demo.

Dan balances the bowl before turning in one of 2 ways, either at the rough cutting with the chainsaw or on the lathe by mounting between centers. At this time he can reverse the mounting so the bark is on top. An end-grain natural edge bowl tends to crack.



Dan using the new required tool along with the lathe for ZOOM demos, the computer



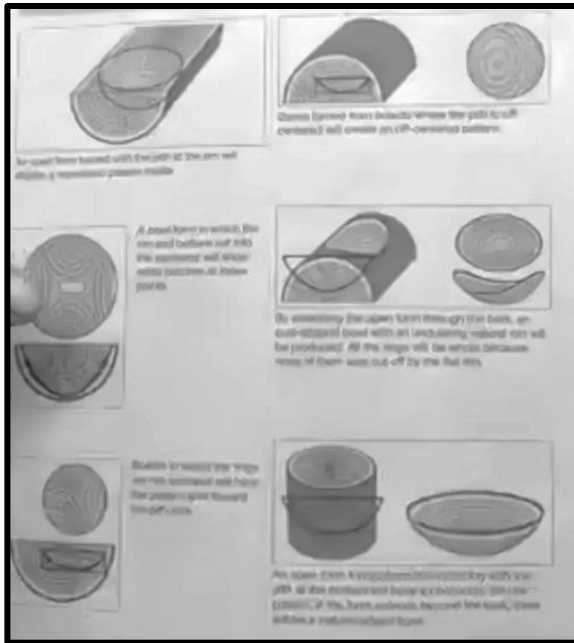
MWA ZOOM Virtual Demo- Dan Larson - Bowls



Pattern with an upside-down bowl but not with a natural edge



End-grain natural edge



Possibilities for cutting a log for producing a bowl



MWA ZOOM Virtual Demo- Dan Larson - Bowls



Cutting the bowl with the bandsaw: use a pattern for the blank template.
Take the bark off if possible.



MWA ZOOM Virtual Demo- Dan Larson - Bowls

Don't force the bandsaw; use a 3/8" blade.

Dan likes the worm screw for mounting. He still brings the tailstock up to the blank.



He lowers the tool rest so he can drop the handle of the bowl gouge. Dan keeps the tool rest at 45 degrees to the wood. He starts slowly, 500 rpm if possible. The rest, the handle, the flute are all at 45 degrees.



MWA ZOOM Virtual Demo- Dan Larson - Bowls

Dan starts with the pivot cut. The gouge is against his body and he only cuts ½" at a time with the tip of the tool. For the tip to move ½", his body moves at least 1 foot. He keeps the tool rest close to the wood.

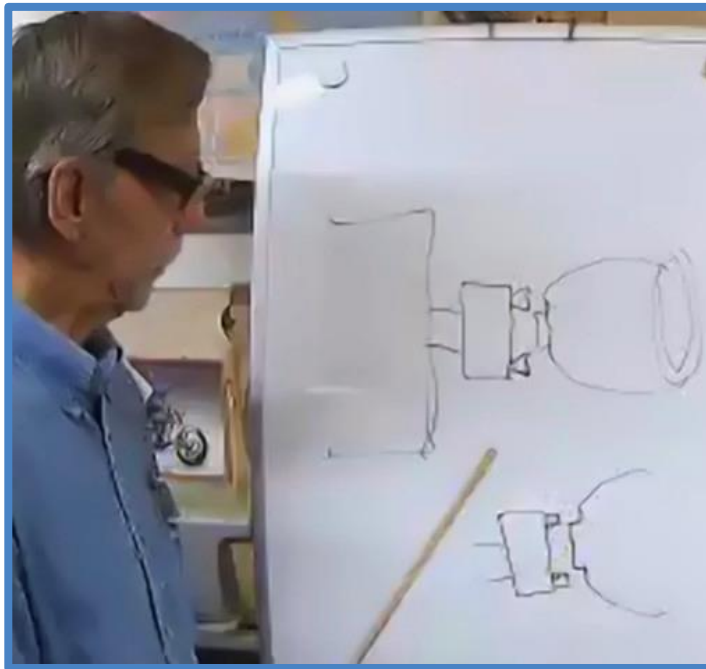
You can open the flute totally if you ONLY use the tip. The pivot cut turns into a bevel cut and Dan will ride the bevel as long as possible.

Dan establishes the top of the bowl and bottom tenon to establish the dimensions of the bowl before he starts working on the shape. Dan then raises the tool rest so he can cut at the center line, which is easier.

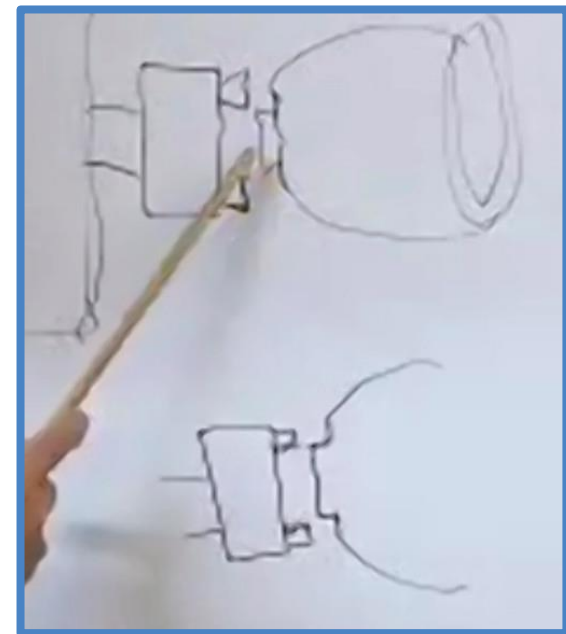


MWA ZOOM Virtual Demo- Dan Larson - Bowls

Making the tenon: angles meet to match the flat of the jaws to establish stability. How deep should the cut be to make the tenon? At least half the size of the jaws. Make sure there is air space between the tenon and the base of the chuck. Don't angle the tenon so it doesn't match the either the dovetail or 90 degrees on the Stronghold chuck. You can tune up the tenon with a parting tool ground to the angle of the chuck jaws.



Good angles



Bad angles

MWA ZOOM Virtual Demo- Dan Larson - Bowls

Dan uses a chain to develop a natural, CONTINUOUS curve.



Now shape the bowl. This is when you can speed up the lathe. Dan likes to use a 55-60 degree angle for roughing. Take the tailstock away for a 40 degree gouge for finishing, keeping the tool parallel to the floor cutting on the center line.



MWA ZOOM Virtual Demo- Dan Larson - Bowls

If cracks are evident, repair with thin CA glue with accelerator early in the shaping of the bowl.



For the edge Dan like to do an ogee shape. He goes SLOWLY. Sand any tear out areas before sanding the entire surface so you can blend the areas.

For the final cut:

1. Sharp tool
2. Increase the speed of the lathe
3. Go VERY SLOWLY



If there is a slight bump in the curve, don't sand it or chase it with a bowl gouge! Use a negative rake scraper if the wood is fairly dry. Hold it level; cut on the center line with a light touch.



MWA ZOOM Virtual Demo- Dan Larson - Bowls

You can scrape with the bottom wing of a bowl gouge. Drop the tool handle and just use the bottom flute.

To turn the interior, mount by pushing only in the center and tighten the jaws of the chuck. 1) Flatten the surface, and 2) tune up the edge.



As Dan touched the gouge to the bowl, the bowl broke off leaving the tenon in the chuck jaws. [Secretly, most of the attendees were somewhat pleased to see this happen to one of the very best turners in our club; it made them feel better for all of their big and little disasters. Even Dan Larson can have a problem.]



MWA ZOOM Virtual Demo- Dan Larson - Bowls

Dan said that in his shop he would try at least 3 times to remount the bowl. If it doesn't work after 3 tries, he cuts it in half, and it becomes firewood.

On questioning regarding the choice of mounting with a tenon or a recess, Dan said he prefers using the tenon, but will use a recess if he wants to use all of the wood for the height of the bowl. A recess with internal expansion to hold the bowl requires enough wood for resistance to the expansion.

Dan will continue the bowl turning demo at the next Tuesday ZOOM. We thank him for his efforts to keep the educational and demonstration efforts of the MWA continuing at the highest level.



MWA Demonstrations Since July 2017

Warren Gerber suggested that I incorporate an easy way to locate a previous demo that has been documented in the newsletter since July 2017. As a trial format, I will list them chronologically and include this list in the newsletters. Let me know what you think.

Mike Rohrer, Editor

<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Demo</u>	<u>Demonstrator</u>
July 2017	Hollowing for Embellishment	Gary Mrozek
Aug 2017	Turning & Decorating a Platter	Jeff Luedloff
Sep 2017	Bowl Coring	Neil Robinette
Oct 2017	Natural Edge Bowl	Bob Meyer
Nov 2017	From Tree to Bowl	Dan Larson
Dec 2017	Turning Ornaments	Jim Jacobs
Jan 2018	Making a Pendant	Alan & Lauren Zenreich
Feb 2018	Spindle Turning/Milk Paint	Linda Ferber
Mar 2018	Chain Saw Safety & Techniques	Steve Hagen
Apr 2018	Lidded Boxes	Steve McLoon
May 2018	Hollow Forms & Platters	Trent Bosch
	Platters & Bowls	Mike Mahoney
June 2018	Travel Mug	Greg Just
July 2018	Log Preparation & Sawmill	John Enstrom
Aug 2018	Squarish Platter	Mike Hunter
Sep 2018	Pens	Ed Mielech & Rick Auge
Oct 2018	Safe & Comfortable Turning	Eric Lofstrom
Nov 2018	Finishing	Mark Palma
Dec 2018	Finials	Steve McLoon
	Lefse Sticks	Jim Jacobs
	A Shop	Todd Williams
	Handles	Tim Heil

<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Demo</u>	<u>Demonstrator</u>
Jan 2019	Scandinavian Inspired Bowls	Dan Larson
Feb 2019	Segmented Turning	Curt Theobald
Mar 2019	Peppermills	Tom Sciple
Apr 2019	3-Legged Stool	Keith Gotschall
May 2019	Baby Rattle with Captive Rings	Gary Mrozek
June 2019	Spheres & Embellishments	Steve McLoon
July 2019	Wood-Mizer Portable Sawmill	John Enstrom
Aug 2019	Finial Box	Cindy Drozda
Sep 2019	Spalting	Seri Robinson
Oct 2019	Rings True to Life	Phil Holtan
Nov 2019	Be More Creative	Beth Ireland
Dec 2019	Holiday Ornament	Bob Meyer & Mike Hunter
Jan 2020	3-Pointed Vase/Box	Tom Sciple
Feb 2020	Long-stem Natural Edge Vessel	Rudy Lopez
Mar 2020	Hollow Form	Lyle Jamieson
May 2020	Shop/Multiple Topics	Mike Mahoney
Mini # 11	Bowl Turning. Part 1	Dan Larson





For Sale



I am now offering a new style bead box kit.

These have the body and top assembly ready to go on the lathe. Designed for the intermediate wood turner.

Total cost of \$25.00 includes shipping to your door.

Can accept checks or Pay Pal.

Contact Jim Jacobs

woodmanmn@aol.com

or 651-497-1309



For Sale or Trade



Brazilian cherry 1"thick by various widths by 16-30"long . . . I have a lot!! Pay what you want or trade for native wood.

This wood is used a lot for flooring - it's hard! makes great cutting boards, and it's pretty!

Contact Jim Jacobs

woodmanmn@aol.com

or 651-497-1309 Call or Text



Member Help Line

The club is setting up a "Member Help Line", the purpose of which will be to answer questions /give advice/ and help educate our membership. Maybe you're a beginner looking for advice on what to buy. Maybe you have questions on chucking. Maybe you have sharpening questions.

We would like more members to volunteer for our Member Help Line. If you would like to be "on call" please contact Mike Rohrer at mdrprof@gmail.com with your phone #, email address, area where you live, areas you'd be willing to help with, and your name will be added to the list.

Name	Phone	Email	Areas of Turning	Location
Mike Rohrer	612-276-9556	mdrprof@gmail.com	bowls, boxes	South Mpls
Steve Miller	715 821-8726	ssmiller920@gmail.com	all types, light on segmenting	River Falls, WI
Lee Tourtelotte	612-670-1874	leetourtelotte@icloud.com	all types, beginner, advanced	South Mpls
Warren Gerber	651 403 2883	xlwalleye@gmail.com	Bowls	Mendota Heights
Jim Jacobs	651-437-1309	woodmanmn@aol.com	beginner/advanced, segmenting, skews	Hastings
Dick Zawacki	507-744-5748	dickzawacki@gmail.com	general, bowls, wood carving	Northfield
Mike Lucido	651-738-2551	mike.s.lucido@gmail.com	general woodturning	Woodbury
Bill Campbell	715-338-2634	wm.e.campbell@uwrf.edu	general woodturning	River Falls, WI
Mark Kelliher	651-636-8678	markandkathy007@comcast.net	general woodturning	Arden Hills
Todd Williams	651-274-4658	toddwilli@comcast.net	general woodturning	Lake Elmo
Bob Meyer	651-483-6187	rjmbobco@comcast.net	bowls, ornaments, sharpening, gen'l.	Lino Lakes
Dick Hicks		rbhicks@rbhicks.com	platters, spindle work, bowls	Zoom from shop
Steve Mages	952-544-5286	smages@juno.com	general woodturning	Minnetonka
Neil Robinette	763-639-1085	northsideturners41@gmail.com	sharpening, tool control, turning vs budget	Brooklyn Park



Editor's Notes

The publication the 11th of the mini newsletters, published in this format because of the COVID-19 pandemic, comes at the end of a week of world-wide demonstrations, many including personal injury, some loss of life and much severe destruction of public and private property. It is hard to fathom that this world-wide situation began one week ago today with the murder of a black man in Minneapolis by a policeman.

In the coming days we all need to reflect on how we can effect change on a personal level, local level and on a broader level. We need to be part of the solution so that all Americans are treated fairly and have equal opportunities and respect.

As Governor Walz says, we pride ourselves on a state of openness, a state of being friendly. This is a community that demands and expects more than words. Minnesota should expect results. But it's on us to put things in order. To establish order in our streets, to establish and rebuild trust in our communities.

- Stay healthy. Be safe in all ways.

Mike Rohrer, Editor mdrprof@gmail.com

