

Sun City West Clay Club

Board Meeting

May 6, 2026

In attendance were Cynthia Hurst, President: Cathy Sherrill 1st VP: Heather Sherburn, 2nd VP: Deb Harwell, Treasurer; Laura Nemetz, Secretary.

Also in attendance: Norene Harmon, Natalie Putnam.

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am. A quorum was established.

Cathy Sherrill made a motion to approve the minutes from April 1, 2026 Board Meeting, seconded by Deb Harwell. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

No Secretary Report

Treasurer Report-Deb Harwell

Deb Harwell

May 6, 2026, 5:53 AM (1 day ago)

to me

	April	Year	2026
Western Bank Checking	\$6,343.78		
Western Bank Savings	\$Reinvest the new 24,152.48		
CD1-7394	\$10,000.00	\$243.25	interest accrued, not deposited as of /30/2026
CD2-7395	\$25,000.00	\$608.12	interest accrued, not deposited as of 4/30/2026
CD3-7397	\$25,000.00	\$608.12	interest accrued, not deposited as of 4/30/2026
TOTAL	\$90,496.26	\$1,459.49	
		CD's mature on 5/10/2026	

The Current CD's Mature on 5/10/2026.

The bank allows 10 days to reinvest.

Deb Harwell will process the following action (approved by the board through an electronic vote), via phone, on Monday, May 11, 2026:

- Reinvest the interest earned this term right back into the CD's (estimated \$1,502.01)
- Reinvest the new CD's as follows:
- Two (2) 20K+interest CDs for 11 months at 3.65% interest.
- One (1) 10K+interest CD for 7 months at 3.65% interest.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

5.01 Laura Nemetz Class Proposal

Norene Harmon proposes a free, "informational" class to be offered twice a year (possibly June and December). The class would deal with tools, tricks and techniques. The format would be casual, scheduled over the lunch hour, allowing members to bring their own sack lunch to enjoy during the session. It would not involve any "hands-on" participation. The class content would be directed primarily at new members who have already completed their BHB training, however any club member is welcome. Online registration would be required to allow for proper room set-up. It was noted that Lori Bunn will be notified that the board approved the timing of these classes as typically, the DLS is not to be used between 11:30 and 1:30. Norene will write up the class description and submit to Lori. Class limit 20-30.

A second topic of discussion brought to the board's attention was the ongoing need to creation/use of stilts. Members continually ask about this. The Kiln team has rejected the requests for use of member-made stilts due to the use of weak, inappropriate materials which have caused damage to the shelves and other projects. Norene contends with PROPER instruction and QUALITY, APPROVED materials, the process could be allowed. Suggestion made that we add the proper pins to our inventory of tools for purchase to be sure members are using the right materials. Norene would like to teach a stilts class. Contact with the Kiln team will be made by the board.

Laura Mehr has been in the process of trying a new glazing process, involving the use of small pieces of glass. Laura worked with Carol Cummins, Gretchen Waller and Betty Lehman. Betty's report concluded:

- The process is suitable for a class, led by an instructor for members only.
- Materials used to include clay, shards, glazes and glass are safe for kiln firing.
- The process is acceptable for glaze firing in Kiln 7 or 9 only (kilns on the patio)
- Submissions of glaze/glass bisque pottery for routine firings are NOT acceptable.
- Projects utilizing glass are considered NOT FOOD SAFE
 - A suggestion was brought up that a stamp indicating "NOT FOOD SAFE" might be a good idea.

This special firing process is NOT part of Raku and will need to be written up as a regular class. Because only the outside kilns are available, a fall class/firing would be the best option for this class.

Laura Nemetz will contact Laura Mehr to have her write up a class request/reservation to be turned into Lori Bunn.

5.02 Natalie Putnam-PORA and Clay purchases

Natalie is requesting 10 minutes to make a presentation to the general membership at the next meeting on the importance of PORA to our community.

She gave a short background presentation on how PORA represents SCW in government decisions among all other cities in our county.

There is an Artists Advisory Council which directly affects many of our members as well. Yearly dues- \$15 single/\$25 couple.

We have purchased 558 bags/279 boxes of clay. The final per-bag cost is mainly due to the fluctuation in delivery costs. There is a concern about the amount of time it is taking to unload which is adding to our cost. Natalie is continuing to find ways to evaluate and improve the process.

5.03 Deb Harwell-Locking File Cabinet

We have purchased two "new" locking file cabinets to more securely hold club, membership and financial information on site. They will be in the back office.

5.04 Cynthia Hurst-Glazing from Festival

Joanie, a member of the Festival Clay Club has offered to have some of their members head up some classes on glazing for our members. This would be at no charge to our to do that, the issue is finding someone who wants to teach the class. We decided to Get more details on just what the Festival club members would be presenting.

5.05 Thursday Afternoon Fun

Dates are as follows: June 11/25 July 9/23 August 6/20. Betty Cool is having a meeting with instructors on 5/7/2026,

President-Cynthia Hurst

6.01 Rita Ward- One thousand new brochures advertising the club have been ordered. Rita was able to negotiate the 1000 for the same price as the original 500 we had approved.

6.03 Mike Deal-Maintenance-Mike would like to have a new cover for Kiln #9 (on back patio). Cost will be about \$50. Approved

VP 1-Cathy Sherrill**7.01 Cleaning-Cathy Hamilton**

Daryl Buswell has joined the cleaning team. Cleaning the refrigerator has been added to the task list.

7.03 Kiln-Betty Lehman

A "number of items box" to check will be added to the blue, low-fire ticket.

7.04 Kiln Shelves-Lora Aleo

Forty-nine shelves have recently been refurbished.

7.05 Mud Buckets-Donna Oliver

Ask Donna to replace the newspaper under the magic-water spout when buckets are emptied.

FYI- a second step ladder has been provided in the back office (behind the DLS) to avoid having to drag the other one through the classroom.

VP 2 Heather Sherburn**8.01 Monitors-** We have no monitors for Sundays on May-5/17, 24, 31.

June Monitor sign-ups are lagging.

Treasurer-Deb Harwell**9.01 Social-Linda Kanable**

Based on the findings from the recent survey, the social committee has reduced the number of events to one every other month. There will be two events in the summer- June 18- a salad luncheon. August 20- Root Beer floats.

October 29- Fall Brunch held in the club. This will be free, food provided by committee.

Holiday sock tree will go up before Thanksgiving.

The Holiday party has been set:

- Wednesday December 2, 2026
- Band- Still Above Ground \$500
- Caterer-Fat Freddy's
 - Main dish choices-Prime Rib, Bacon Wrapped Pork Tenderloin, Apricot Mango Chicken
 - A vegetarian option will be offered.
 - Sides include Potatoes, Grilled vegetables, Salad, Rolls & Butter
 - The committee will purchase desserts.
- Quote for meal \$6,199.24 (for 145 guests) Other costs include tips, decorations, prizes, games, etc.
- Proposal: charge \$30 guests; \$30 members with members check returned. Proposal unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business

Purchasing

- Will be selling Blick pencils- \$10.
- Will order usual number of stickers- even at the increased price (\$661) in attempt to avoid any additional price increases.
- Name badge prices have increased drastically. Last year \$902-\$9.27 per badge. This year, \$1599- approximately \$14.30 per badge. Decided to table this purchase. Try to find some other options.
- Paper masks have been placed by the grinding area.
- Gloves have been supplied by the glazing area.
- Tools seem to be missing from the drawers behind the monitor's desk. It was discussed at length, and we feel we need to keep all tool drawers locked except when selling an item. Suggested putting up some sort of barrier to keep members from going back behind the desk. Only ones allowed behind the desk are monitors and board members. Heather will put together a message for Rita Ward to post on the website to alert members that members are "on camera."

New Business

Terry Roy has asked for permission to display his plates in the club window. After some discussion, it was decided the display windows are for items for upcoming classes, photos, library books.

General Comments

13.01 Liability-Cynthia has verified that as residents all members are covered under the RCSCW liability insurance when involved in Club activities.

It was also noted that Wendy McCormick interviews all prospective members, stressing with them the need to be able to lift 25# and that they are able to do substantial standing and other physical tasks.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Nemetz, Secretary, SCW Clay Club.