

American Association of Woodturners
Board Meeting
February 11, 2013

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the AAW Board of Directors convened by teleconference at 6:05 p.m. CST, AAW Board President Dale Larson presiding. The following Board members also participated: Cassandra Speier, Binh Pho, Stan Wellborn, Tom Wirsing, Rob Wallace, and Lou Williams. Joining the call were Phil McDonald, Betty Scarpino, and Linda Ferber.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January meeting in Tampa, Florida, were approved as corrected, and will be posted to the AAW website.

Finance Committee Report on January Budget

Sandi and Phil noted that January budget results were positive and in line with expectations. Cash flow forecast anticipates minimum balances in August and September, but current projections do not envision problems for the overall year. Lou observed that three-fourths of AAW revenues come from three areas – membership, symposium, and journal – and the Board agreed that it would be a priority in coming years to diversify income from other sources.

Executive Director Report

Insurance Policies

Phil reported that 30 chapters had taken advantage of the optional insurance plan set up in the wake of the drop in insurance coverage from our previous carrier. Under this plan, AAW has arranged with The Hartford to provide approved commercial general liability coverage for a cost of \$425 per individual chapter. This chapter self-insurance policy will restore all of the coverage previously provided by Travelers Insurance Company. However, this policy is not available to chapters in Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Phil also noted that negotiations were continuing with other companies to provide similar coverage at a lower cost per chapter. However, he added that the outcome of any new policies will be a higher expense than AAW has budgeted for 2013. The AAW office has approached all chapters to ascertain their willingness to accept a share toward the higher premium cost, and as of this date nearly 100 chapters have said they would participate if offered coverage in the neighborhood of \$100 - \$150 per year. Once Phil and the Insurance Committee have determined that the specific coverage provided meets the best needs of all AAW chapters, Phil will inform the chapter presidents of the options being offered. He hopes to have this accomplished in the next two weeks.

In the meantime, Phil has renewed the current Travelers policy to carry us through this transition and when a new policy is selected this will be canceled with pro-rated premium refunded.

Phil also said that some requirements may be imposed on chapters under a new policy, including such things as safety equipment and procedures, to meet the provisions of the policy.

In addition, participating AAW chapters will be required to have at least four officers as AAW members in good standing. This would necessitate a change in AAW Official Policies, and is consistent with amendments to the AAW Policies approved by the Board at the January 2013 meeting.

Meeting Planner Contract

Phil summarized proposals submitted by three companies to manage logistics and planning for future national symposiums, including Complete Conference Coordinators (AAW's current conference planner); Helms-Briscoe; and Conferences Direct. A comparison of the major features of each proposal was provided to the Board, but no decision has been made to date. The objective is to achieve a multi-year contract based on good performance and familiarity with our unique requirements. Phil indicated the selection process should be completed within a week or two. Once a decision is made and the contract is approved by the Finance Committee, we will immediately begin to schedule the future site selection process.

2013 Tampa Symposium

Phil reported that planning is progressing extremely well. The office has established a bi-weekly conference call schedule with Gail Olmsted of CCC, and reports that communications are markedly improved since our on-site meeting in Tampa in early January. Dale noted that Kurt also recently indicated that planning is on track.

Phil has started a regular email communication with our vendors. The decorator contract is final and Gail will be emailing vendors with information about the decorator kit.

Board Committee Assignments

Board approval of Nominating Committee members is required. The 2013 nominating committee is to consist of: Binh Pho, chair; Jean LeGwin; and Ron Gerton. It was noted that Dean Adkins has been approached but he is unable to commit at this time. Our Bylaws indicate that a minimum of three members are required. If Dean accepts in the future there will be four members.

Stan Wellborn moved to accept the composition of the Nominating Committee, and Rob Wallace seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Ethics, Safety, and Chapters Committees will e-mail final roster of names to Linda as soon as they are available.

A report on the selection progress for the Ethics Committee was given by Binh Pho. Denise DeRose has accepted and will serve on the committee. The Board was encouraged to provide other suggestions for the Ethics Committee.

Unfinished Business

Binh Pho reported that in discussion with gallery owners regarding the SOFA 2013 exhibition, and several would contribute to expenses if AAW were to attend. Binh asked the Board to consider whether it could reconsider the decision not to participate this year if galleries would chip in to cover all or part of the costs. Binh will send information and updates out to Board via email. He will first check if space is still available at SOFA and if it is he will explore options.

During the January meeting Phil raised the idea of possible benefits of the IRS "group exemption" process for a national organization to more easily extend its 501(c)(3) status to affiliated chapters. Phil will continue to research this and will have an update for the March meeting. He will consult with Ellen McVeigh to see how much it would cost to have legal counsel study this issue and advise us.

New Business

Future Board meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 11

Monday, April 8

Monday, May 13

All teleconference meetings are scheduled for 6 p.m. central time.

Adjournment

Sandi moved the meeting adjourn, and Lou seconded. Motion passed unanimously and meeting ended at 7:11 p.m.

