

American Association of Woodturners

Board Meeting

April 8, 2013

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the AAW Board of Directors was convened by teleconference at 6 p.m. central time, April 8, 2013, Board President Dale Larson presiding. The following Board members also participated: Kurt Hertzog, Stan Wellborn, Tom Wirsing, Rob Wallace, Botho von Hampeln, Lou Williams, and Cassandra Speier. Joining the call were Phil McDonald and Linda Ferber. Binh Pho later joined the meeting in progress.

Approval of Minutes

March meeting minutes were approved as submitted and will be posted on the website.

Finance Committee Report on Budget

Sandi and Phil presented a summary of financial statements and reported that performance is in accordance with the 2013 budget plan. Membership dues are above what was anticipated for the end of March. End-of-year forecasts are being revised on a monthly basis, but to date the budget is roughly \$28,000 ahead in revenues, and \$66,000 below budgeted expenditures, for a positive net gain of around \$94,000. A portion of this gain is attributable to invoice timing differences for journal printing costs and design fees.

To be sure, the additional costs of restructured insurance policies will have an impact on budget projections, but Phil noted that more than 100 chapters have confirmed that they will pay additional costs of AAW-negotiated insurance for their local organizations. More chapters are expected to sign on in coming weeks, and Phil will give a more complete tally at the June meeting. Responding to questions about those chapters that have not opted into the AAW insurance, Phil said that some chapters had arranged for their own coverage separately, and he has asked for all chapters to report their preferences by April 15.

Phil also reported that because AAW would not receive an arts grant from the state of Minnesota for fiscal year 2014 to cover gallery operations, the net financial impact for 2013 will be a loss of \$30,000. This is shown in the March financial report.

Phil reported on ad sales for journal, handbook, and directory. Journal ad sales targets will be exceeded again for the June issue of the journal, and the symposium handbook will cover costs through advertising. The 2013 Resource Directory will require higher printing costs than previous directories, and a proof of the publication is expected in May.

The Finance Committee met by phone last weekend and approved the financial report.

Executive Director Report

Phil gave background on the status of the Minnesota State Arts Grant. During a formal site monitoring visit in January by state officials to assess progress of grant projects, AAW understood that its eligibility for funding consideration for 2014 was intact. In a subsequent phone conversation, it was revealed that AAW did not submit a required interim application and therefore our grant funding will not continue. Phil will prepare an action agenda for the May meeting on future options and budget implications, and will plan to re-apply for the grant in 2014.

The journals-to-books launch is underway. Four initial titles of the new on-demand workbook series are in production. This initial cohort has been branded "Getting Started in Woodturning." The first title, *Safety for Woodturners*, is complete and is listed on Amazon.com. The remaining three titles are in proof phase and will be launched in rapid succession following the initial safety run. Phil described this as a test of the viability of on-demand publishing, and a thorough assessment of initial results will be conducted. A targeted marketing campaign via e-mail to chapters and members is in progress.

Phil discussed an outline for monthly e-mailed Board messages, and submitted a preliminary schedule of message from individual Board members.

Symposium Update

Initial concern about getting local team leaders in place has been alleviated as Florida chapters continue to recruit necessary manpower. Lathe assignments and other equipment priorities are being handled, and youth room activities are on track.

Concerns about performance of the new video equipment is being tackled through early training and run-throughs with video operators, and Kurt believes the seven-second delay experienced during camera switches in San Jose will be eliminated this year. All demos will have the option of being recorded. Demonstrators will gather in late afternoon Thursday for a safety message followed by room checks to make sure all equipment and wood supplies are available. Volunteers will have rooms set up and checked before the 3:30 p.m. pre-demo meeting.

Dale is organizing the Instant Gallery critique, and Gail Olmsted will be assigned to find a turntable for display and proper lighting of items for the auction. Rob raised a question on the need for balance among presentations at Friday's Special Interest Night to assure comparative quality among all sessions. Three SIN presenters have been arranged, and there is consensus that five topics will be sufficient to ensure good audiences.

Oneway Manufacturing will lend AAW five lathes for the symposium and asked to put a flyer in the registration packet.

In response to questions from Dale, Phil confirmed that AAW's contract with Complete Conference Coordinators has been signed and is in place for three years, with a clause for early termination without cause. In addition, an event cancellation insurance policy is in place and signed.

EOG Awards & ERF Discussion

Kurt reported the 2013 Educational Opportunity Grant process is complete and the AAW office has the list and is working on issuing checks to grantees as well as letters of regret. Total grant disbursements are \$37,500. The Emergency Relief Fund was disbanded last year with \$20,497 in funds raised from the

lathe raffle still remaining in the balance sheet account. Phil suggests we wait for guidance from auditors as to proper dispensation.

VISA Requirements for International Demonstrators

At the request of Turners Without Borders, Tom investigated the legal requirements around compensation of international demonstrators at AAW symposiums. He found that citizens from 37 nations can visit the United States to demonstrate under an “automatic” visa. Demonstrators from other nations must obtain a work visa in order to be paid a stipend. Invited demonstrators must apply for the work visa at an American embassy and pay a \$160 application fee. The approval process usually takes about three months. Depending on specific requirements, the visa may remain in effect for multiple years. Payments to foreign demonstrators are considered taxable to the U.S. under Internal Revenue Service rules.

After discussion, the Board decided that the AAW would give foreign demonstrators subject to the work visa rule the option of being issued higher per diem payments or a standard honorarium. In future years, AAW will advise invited foreign demonstrators that it is their responsibility to obtain the proper visa and to pay any taxes due. Dale and Tom will discuss this privately with any demonstrators in Tampa who may be subject to this process, and will provide detailed information to demonstrators from abroad in future years.

Nominating Committee Update

Binh reported that nominations for Board candidates are in process, with an entry deadline of May 1. The committee would like to have twelve candidates, and he and Jean LeGwin are working on recruiting.

Ethics Committee members have been assigned and they will have conference call, when they will elect a chair.

Honorariums to Jurors of Theme Exhibits at the Symposium

Binh suggests that jurors of the theme exhibits at the annual symposium be provided travel funds to attend the event. Jurors selected 38 pieces for the *Currents* and *Harmony* shows, and case prizes will be awarded from the entry fees. Phil will plan to provide travel expenses from the symposium contingency fund and will include such fees in future symposium budgets.

Fuller Craft Museum Raffle Tickets Event

Fuller Craft Museum, a Massachusetts-based non-profit, is selling raffle tickets for a piece of Binh’s donated work. The museum supports woodturning and its current wood exhibit is entitled “Across the Grain.” Binh would like to see AAW support the museum by spreading the word to help sell raffle tickets. Dale advised that allowing the museum a table in Tampa to sell tickets would be similar to support the AAW provides other non-profits. Phil said we would be happy to work with Binh, and will follow up.

Unfinished Business

A question was raised about advance sales of lathe raffle tickets by chapters. The Board confirmed that AAW-affiliated chapter leaders would be able to assist in selling raffle tickets for the painted blue Powermatic lathe if they are attending the symposium and accept responsibility for numbered tickets stubs and payments. The chapter leaders can sell a ticket in person to a member that is not attending the symposium. At the symposium, they would report the sales and turn in their receipts, and sold ticket stubs would be submitted for the drawing. State regulations prevent the sale of raffle tickets online.

New Business

Tom reported there is a college scholarship at Colorado State University sponsored by AAW. In 1993 or 1994, AAW donated some proceeds from the symposium to invest in the establishment of an annual student scholarship administered by the university. Total funds in the scholarship have grown to around \$50,000. Tom plans on writing an article on the scholarship for the AW journal.

Botho reminded that he had sent out thoughts about ways that AAW could establish a more formal relationship with its chapters. This topic will be on the agenda at the June Board meeting. Next meeting will be Monday, May 13, 2013 by teleconference at 6 p.m. central standard time. The first meeting in 2014 will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, January 22-24.

Adjournment

After a motion by Rob, meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Wellborn
Board Secretary