

**American Association of Woodturners
Board of Directors Meeting
December 18, 2013**

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the AAW Board of Directors convened by teleconference at 6:05 p.m. CST on December 18, 2013, Board President Dale Larson presiding. The following board members also participated: Tom Wirsing, Kurt Hertzog, Stan Wellborn, Rob Wallace, Lou Williams, Binh Pho, and Cassandra Speier. Joining the call were Phil McDonald, Philip Hauser, Denis Delahanty, Betty Scarpino, and Linda Ferber. Botho von Hampeln was absent due to travel.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November meeting in Saint Paul were approved as submitted, and will be posted to the AAW website.

Finance Committee Report on November Budget

Sandi and Phil stated that the year-end financial forecast remains on target for a net gain of approximately \$150,000. Phil noted that November membership totals were below expectations, with combined new and renewed memberships totaling 1,640 versus the target of 2,359. The office will continue to convey renewal communications to the membership. The impact of the lower results on the November dues income is negligible because most is deferred into next year. AAW will now require approximately 4,000 membership confirmations during December to remain on the pace required to meet the projections incorporated into the 2014 dues revenue budget.

A motion from the Finance Committee to accept the November budget report was approved unanimously.

Report from the Executive Director

Phil is working with the Publications Committee to prepare the job description for the AAW editor position. Once finalized, the job will be posted to a variety of editorial employment sites and association job boards as well as to AAW membership. Phone and face-to-face interviews will be conducted with finalist candidates.

Symposium planning for Phoenix in 2014 is well underway to accommodate program and schedule changes presented at the November board meeting. Contractual arrangements are being made with vendors in Pittsburgh for the 2015 symposium. Site visits were conducted to Atlanta and Kansas City in November and December to explore symposium venues for 2016 and 2017. Gail Olmsted will present a status report at the January board meeting.

The new AAW membership database and website is proceeding toward a planned launch of February 3, 2014. More than 45,000 membership records have been transferred to the *yourmembership.com* system, and preliminary designs for web landing pages are being completed.

Kim Rymer has accepted our offer of employment for the new position of Marketing and Communications Director. Kim has 30 years of experience in corporate and nonprofit communications in the areas of marketing communications, brand and reputation management, and public relations. Her job priorities will include symposium marketing, new membership development and marketing plans, administration of the new website, and coordination of AAW communications and outreach.

Approval of 2014 Operating Budget

Dale brought up for consideration the Finance Committee motion to approve the 2013 AAW operating budget that was discussed in detail at the November meeting. The board voted unanimously to approve the budget.

POP Committee Budget

Dale reported that the POP Committee had submitted a plan and proposed budget that will keep the board better informed about POP activities and spending.

Establishment of New Money Market Accounts

The Finance Committee has recommended that the board authorize establishment of up to two money market accounts with high creditworthy financial institutions in order to diversify funds to different institutions and thereby lower the association's credit risk concentration. Since these funds will be invested in the money market they will generate interest without any restrictions as to when funds may be withdrawn to satisfy working capital requirements.

The Finance Committee presented the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the corporation be, and hereby is, authorized to apply for banking accounts with high credit quality financial institutions for the purpose of establishing interest bearing money market accounts. FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director be, and hereby is, authorized to execute and to take such other action, as he shall deem necessary to accomplish the foregoing resolution.

After discussion, the motion from the Finance Committee was approved unanimously.

Turners Without Borders Support of FERINART Festival in Puerto Rico

The board discussed a proposal from Louis Vadeboncoeur of Turners Without Borders to support a demonstration and representation of AAW at the FERINART Festival (<http://ferinart.org/>) in San Juan, Puerto Rico May 2-11, 2014. Carmen de la Paz and Rudy Lopez will work at the festival to demonstrate and build woodturning capacity at a five-day workshop for local wood artists. Interested parties will be encouraged to establish an AAW chapter in San Juan to encourage a sustainable woodturning interest in Puerto Rico. Phil, Dale, and Louis will coordinate this project for AAW.

Rob moved to have AAW cover travel costs of \$2,000 to support the project, and Tom provided a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tom reported that Melinda Wirsing is building a database of woodturning resources around the world as a TWB project.

World Wood Day Planning

World Wood Day will be observed in Shenzhen, China March 19-29 as part of Mike Wen-Pin Hou's International Wood Culture Society agenda. IWCS is covering costs of taking five AAW members to the events in China for demonstrations and teaching.

Related events are being planned by an IWCS committee in Washington, DC for March 21 and 22, including a symposium, turning demonstration and tour of the wood art collection of Judith Chernoff and Jeffrey Bernstein. Stan Wellborn will be AAW's representative on the IWCS planning committee for events in Washington.

Support of Mingei International Museum Exhibit in San Diego

Dale was approached by the Mingei Museum in San Diego seeking AAW financial support for an exhibition of Bob Stocksdale's turnings that will run from September 2014 to March 2015, including a book to be published about the exhibition. Stocksdale was made an Honorary Life Member of AAW in 1995 and is one of the early leaders of woodturning in the United States. After discussion, Binh moved to provide \$500 in support of the exhibit. Rob seconded, and the measure passed unanimously.

Approval of the Full Nominating Committee

Binh Pho, chair of the Nominating Committee, moved approval of the full membership of the committee to include Donna Banfield of New Hampshire and J. Paul Fennell of Arizona. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Binh reopened the issue of a proposed dues increase for AAW membership beginning in 2014. He and Phil suggested that an annual increase of \$6 would be too heavy a cost to be imposed on members. After consultation with Advisory Board members and others, they proposed that a \$2-per-year increase over the next three years would be more appropriate.

After discussion, Sandi as Finance Chair moved to rescind the previously approved \$6 annual increase. The motion passed unanimously.

Sandi then moved to approve a \$2 increase in annual dues for all membership categories except Supporting, Benefactor, and Patron members, effective April 1, 2014. Rob seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

The board will next meet in Phoenix on Saturday, January 25, and Sunday, January 26, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Wellborn, secretary