

American Association of Woodturners

Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the AAW Board of Directors was convened by teleconference at 6:00 p.m. central daylight time on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, with President Greg Schramek presiding.

Board members who participated were Jeff Brockett, Denis Delehanty, Joe Dickey, Kathleen Duncan, John Ellis, Wayne Furr, Art Liestman, and Louis Vadeboncoeur. Staff members who participated were Linda Ferber, Phil McDonald, Kim Rymer, and Editor Josh Friend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 17, 2016, Board meeting were reviewed. Jeff Brockett made a motion to accept the minutes and Kathleen Duncan seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously accepted as written.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

August Financial Reports

Joe Dickey summarized the August 2016 financial reports and noted the following points:

- Net income unadjusted year-to-date was \$158.4k, which is \$56.7k favorable to budget.
- The 2016 year-end forecast for net income is \$32k, which is \$2.8k favorable to budget.
- “Cash on Hand” at August 31, 2016 was \$462k.
- The year-end forecast for “Cash on Hand” is \$586k.

2015 IRS Form 990

Joe indicated that he and Philip Hauser examined the 2015 IRS Form 990 tax return and agreed it was ready to be filed. On behalf of the Finance Committee, he asked the Board for approval to file the report.

Jeff Brockett made a motion to approve the 2015 IRS Form 990 tax return as presented. Denis Delehanty seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Membership

Joe reported that membership acquisitions for August exceeded budget targets, which was presumably a result of members renewing early ahead of the October 1 dues increase.

Symposium

Joe stated that the accounting for the 2016 Symposium is nearly complete. He anticipates the net gain will be nearly on target with the budget.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

2017 Budget Development Process

Phil McDonald reported that he will present the Board with a baseline 2017 budget proposal which includes basic revenue and expense estimates for current operations. Any proposed committee spending and new expenses will be separate from the baseline budget. That will allow for separate discussion and prioritization any of new spending.. The preliminary 2017 budget will be presented in October, with a detailed discussion at the Board meeting in November, and final Board approval scheduled for December.

Continuation of the Chapter Scholarship Program for 2017

Phil McDonald requested Board approval for continuing the chapter scholarships for 2017. He noted that new ideas were proposed during the June 2016 Board meeting and that the Board might decide to allow more planning before implementing any significant changes. At this point, AAW has a tentative commitment from Arrowmont and Campbell craft schools to renew their participation. There are sufficient funds available to consider one more school. Phil suggested that an arrangement with a craft school be contemplated to serve members west of the Mississippi. He explained that he has had dialogue with one school on this topic and there is potential for four scholarships, using a slightly different tuition payment model. The AAW direct contribution toward each scholarship continues to be approximately \$650.

Furniture Society

Phil McDonald encouraged Board members to review the White Paper Proposed Collaboration between the American Association of Woodturners and The Furniture Society included with the Executive Director report in the September Board meeting packet. He noted that the proposed collaboration will be on the agenda for discussion during the November face-to-face Board meeting.

POP Video Learning Library Concept Proposal

Phil McDonald suggested the Board revisit its June discussion about the POP video learning library proposal. He has kept in contact to support David Ellsworth as a more complete business plan has been developed, along with logistics and expense estimates. David would like to test a silent fundraising appeal to obtain an underwriter and contributions for the project. Phil indicated that the Vision 2020 oversight committee is supportive of the venture because it would offer new original content for AAW membership. A discussion about the fundraising aspects of the proposal ensued.

Greg Schramek asked Joe Dickey to review the POP proposal from a financial perspective and indicated that all AAW fundraising needs to be coordinated. Phil noted that unrestricted gifts for general operating income provide AAW with most financial flexibility.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Oversight Committee

Louis Vadeboncoeur reported that all of the Vision 2020 initiatives are moving forward and that leads have been identified for most of the prioritized projects.

WIT Committee

NOVA Lathes

Kathleen Duncan reported that the WIT Committee discussed distribution of the lathes that were donated by NOVA for use in the WIT Hands-on Room at the 2016 Symposium. The WIT Committee is divided on how the lathes should be distributed. Part of the Committee believes the lathes should support women turners and that the WIT Committee should determine who should receive them. Part of the Committee believes the lathes have already served their purpose and should be distributed by the EOG Committee as grants to qualified applicants. Kathleen asked the Board for guidance on how the WIT Committee should proceed.

Jeff Brockett affirmed the Technatool/NOVA commitment that accompanied their donation commitment was to support the hands on activity in Atlanta and expectations beyond that were to support making woodturning more inclusive to all. As a result, there was a consensus to include distributing the lathes as part of the EOG.

Denis Delehanty noted that, as a nonprofit 501(c)3, AAW is prohibited from making decisions based on race, religion, creed, color, etc. Alternatively, he suggested that an individual from WIT serve on the EOG Committee to help determine how grants are distributed.

The Board agreed that the addition of a WIT member to the EOG Committee was an appropriate option for representing the interests of the WIT Committee without jeopardizing the AAW's nonprofit status. Kathleen agreed that she would follow-up with Denis to identify an individual from WIT to serve on the EOG Committee.

2017 Symposium Committee

Kathleen Duncan explained that the WIT Committee is interested in purchasing space in the 2017 Symposium vendor area to sell merchandise, distribute information, recruit regional ambassadors, and showcase ongoing demonstrations by women.

The Board concurred that the trade show should continue to focus on vendor booths that feature woodturning products, tool and lathe manufacturers, and supplies.

As an alternative, it was noted that Jeff Brockett suggested the WIT Committee consider a 10' x 10' space in the main common area. The area would offer high visibility, but would not be able to accommodate a lathe or feature demonstrations. Space near the registration area is also a possibility.

One suggestion Kathleen had from the WIT Committee was that vendors be provided a list of women turners who are interested in demonstrating in vendor booths in order to showcase women turners in the trade show.

The Board discussed the possibility that Turners without Borders (TWB), Turners Beyond Barriers (TBB), and the AAW Board might also be interested in being featured in the main common area space.

Jeff Brockett indicated that the Symposium Committee would need to know if the WIT Committee is interested in main common area space or registration area space following the site visit in January.

2017 Demonstrator Selection Committee

Jeff Brockett reported that the complete lineup of 2017 Symposium demonstrators has been decided along with potential backups. He noted that demonstrators were required to provide handouts this year, which will add value for Symposium attendees. Jeff stated that the POP panel topics are in and include evolution of an artist, collaborations, ego and soul, all about craft shows, plagiarism, and more. He noted that there are moderators determined for almost of the panels. The planning process is ahead of schedule.

BOARD ELECTION UPDATE

Jeff Brockett reported that as of Friday, September 9, there were only 414 electronic votes cast and 2 write in votes cast. He noted that participation the voting process is declining, which is a disappointing trend.

The Board discussed methods for encouraging participation.

PLANNING FOR 2017 COMMITTEE MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

Greg Schramek led a discussion about advisory board member and committee member selections for 2017 and each year thereafter. He indicated that is healthy to affirm continuing interest to serve in committees and to rely upon committee chairs to make selections.

Denis Delehanty indicated that the Vision 2020 initiatives and leadership by the Oversight Committee has essentially replaced the role of the Best Practices Committee. He recommended that the Best Practices Committee be dissolved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- October 19th - Teleconference
- November 12th, 13th (Saint Paul; Friday, 11/11 fly-in day)
- December 14th - Teleconference
- January 14th, 15th (Kansas City; Friday, 1/13 fly-in day)

All teleconference meetings are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. central time.

ADJOURNMENT

Jeff Brockett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Denis Delehanty seconded the motion and the meeting concluded at 7:42 p.m. central daylight time, on Wednesday, September 14, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Duncan, Secretary