

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, July 13, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the AAW Board of Directors convened via Zoom teleconference, at 3:02 p.m. Central Time on Monday, July 13, 2020, with President Greg Schramek presiding.

The following Board members were present: Rick Baker, John Beechwood III, Jeff Brockett, Andy Cole, Janet Collins, Joe Dickey, Kathleen Duncan, and Mike Summerer. Also, in attendance were staff members Phil McDonald and Kim Rymer.

AAW members were in attendance monitored the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

John Beechwood, III, made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session. Kathleen Duncan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. At 3:04 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session until 3:59 p.m.

GUIDELINES FOR AAW FORUM

Greg Schramek explained that the purpose of the AAW Member Forum ("Forum") is to promote woodturning, woodturning education, and to offer apolitical communications between members. He stated that attacks and criticisms against AAW members, volunteers, members of the Board, or any other person are not appropriate and are not allowed. These types of exchanges have recently done significant damage to AAW and need to be managed better.

Rick Baker stated that the Forum should be a wholly moderated forum.

Kathleen Duncan indicated Forum exchanges are automatically posted. The volunteer Moderators are aware of the recent inappropriate communications and were appalled. The Moderators would like to work with the Board to establish specific guidelines for participant conduct. She said that there has always been a policy of no politics and Moderators should not have allowed recent posts. Various moderation options were discussed.

Phil McDonald reported that the member-moderated forum has worked well for many years until the recent breakdown occurred. Phil said that AAW will need to diagnose the matter fully to develop an appropriate resolution. Technology may be a consideration, as well as conduct guidelines. He stated that operational assets need accountability and should reside with the Executive Director. Phil reiterated that AAW is about to launch the companion connected communities service to the Forum that will enable members, chapters, and other interest groups, to interact and share resources.

Greg Schramek provided a closing statement explaining the personal harm caused by recent social media posting critical of the AAW Board. The Board is elected by members and works for the members. Greg said he was appointed to serve as Treasurer, then President. After that, he was elected to the Board and Board elected him to serve as President. AAW membership elected him again and the Board again selected him to serve as President. He suggested that others also consider becoming involved in volunteer service to the AAW.

ADJOURNMENT

Rick Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Brockett seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Central Time, on Monday, July 13, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Duncan,
Secretary