

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, July 23, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the AAW Board of Directors convened via Zoom teleconference, at 3:00 p.m. Central Time on Thursday, July 23, 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. Managing Editor Josh Friend was absent.

AAW members were in attendance monitored the meeting.

Greg Schramek enquired whether an Executive Session was necessary. No Executive Session was indicated, and the Board proceed with the regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Greg Schramek called for corrections to the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on June 18, 2020. One correction was noted by Joe Dickey. Jeff Brockett made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18 Board meeting. Mike Summerer seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Greg Schramek called for corrections to the minutes of the Special Board meeting held on July 13, 2020. There were no corrections. Kathleen Duncan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special meeting. Jeff Brockett seconded the motion, and the minutes of the July 13 Special Board meeting were unanimously approved.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Greg Schramek read the following AAW Governance Statement.

The AAW has received several questions from the membership regarding recent social media posts relating to AAW governance. In effort to keep the membership informed the Board has the following responses to those questions. We realize that this statement may not be received with complete satisfaction by some members. We are an association of 15,000. The Board makes every effort to listen to the interests of each individual member; then must judiciously weigh any impacts those interests may have on the health and vitality of the whole association. These statements are given from that perspective.

- **Social media post concerning Jimmy Clewes.** The AAW has posted a response from the Board on the AAW website.
- **Social media posts concerning the removal of a Board member.** The removal of ANY AAW Board member or staff member is considered a personnel matter and as such is strictly confidential.
- **Removal of AAW Forum posts regarding Jimmy Clewes and the AAW Board.** These posts have been removed because the forum is intended for woodturning discussions only and does not permit any discussions that contain uncivil behavior or personal attacks or innuendo regarding any AAW member.
- **Members requesting to monitor Board meetings.** Members' rights to monitor the Board's formal meeting proceedings are incorporated into the AAW Bylaws. Meeting dates and access instructions for all Board meetings are published on the AAW website.
- **Members requesting to make recommendations.** Any member who wishes to make a recommendation should contact any AAW Board member or staff member by email. The AAW President will either include that recommendation on the next Board meeting agenda or assign the recommendation to the appropriate committee or to staff for review and comments.
- **Members questioning the recent bylaws change allowing the Board to appoint Board members.** This was presented to the AAW membership for approval. There were 1,892 total votes cast with 1,647 approving and 246 not approving. An independent auditing firm (Olson, Thielen, & Co. LTD) was retained to administer and verify the balloting process.
- **Members recommending changes to some of the bylaw's language.** These recommendations have been given to the AAW Bylaws Committee for review and recommendation.
- **Members recommending changes to the safety guidelines.** These recommendations have been given to the Safety Committee for review and recommendation.

Members questioning validity of voting process. All AAW member voting initiatives votes are handled by the independent auditing firm previously referenced (Olson, Thielen & Co. Ltd). The AAW Board encourages those who are monitoring the Board meetings to get involved. As members, this is your organization. You can volunteer to be on a committee or run for the Board.

After reading the statement, Greg suggested Board members provide the statement to anyone who has questions on any of the topics referenced.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financial Reports

Joe Dickey summarized the financial reports for June and noted the following points:

- Income Statement, unadjusted year-to-date: \$32.5k (\$6.9k unfavorable to budget)
- Income Statement, 2020 year-end forecast: \$323.0k (\$172.0k favorable to budget)
- June 30 "Cash-on-Hand": \$930.9k
- Year-end Forecast "Cash-on-Hand": \$1,151.0k

Joe indicated that most of the Virtual Symposium numbers are in and net income for the event is approximately \$81k. He cautioned, while this is positive AAW must take into consideration unrecoverable expenses from Louisville Symposium. He also noted that unrestricted reserves at June 30 were \$467k.

ED REPORT

Membership

Phil McDonald stated there was no significant change in the prior months' membership acquisition trending. Dues revenues are currently under 3%. He noted a detailed assessment of the membership model being used under the new monthly AMS accrual system will be undertaken and with consultation with the Finance Committee. He said AAW will be able to devote more time to reviewing underlying factors behind new memberships and renewal trends.

Vision 2020

Phil explained the Long-Range Planning Committee has been reengaged and will also serve a more near-term role. The Committee will engage in operational topics (vs. AAW Symposium issues). He said the Vision 2020 model allowed AAW to do research that enabled it to execute a plan with more than 30 initiatives since 2016, including developing infrastructure and launching new technology in mid-December 2019. The Long-Range Planning Committee will use similar planning methodology.

Phil stated that the following initiatives will launch soon:

- **Woodturning Communities:** AAW has the technology to launch to a "Chapter Leadership" community to more than 1,000 chapter leaders.
- **Demonstrator Event Calendar:** Remote demonstrations are a reality. Demonstrators who offer remote demonstrations will be able to submit and post upcoming events, including how to register, on the new remote demonstrations calendar to meet the new needs of members. The calendar will be released in the coming weeks.

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

Virtual Symposium Planning Recap

Greg Schramek stated that the Virtual Symposium Planning Committee had less than two months to plan and execute the entire online event. He said they are "Super Stars."

Janet Collins stated the Committee had a recent event debriefing. Overall, the team felt the event was a success and identified areas for improvement. She reported that the Committee has the background information to work with to move forward successfully.

Phil McDonald indicated:

- The Virtual Symposium had 3,926 registrants from 29 different countries. Of the registrants, 444 were not AAW members. Phil will provide a report of consolidated attendee survey results to the Board. He noted that AAW is in a unique position to deliver content to the masses because of its access to members and past members.

- Gross proceeds for the POP Auction exceeded budget. Gross proceeds for the AAW Live Auction were lower than budget, but there were fewer pieces in the auction. Overall, the average sale price for auction items was comparable to past years. Phil explained that integration of the auctions to other software was not possible making it difficult for some to participate. He said AAW will take this need for integration into account for future remote auctions.
- The Sales Team is in the process of soliciting feedback for the Trade Show and Phil will provide a results summary soon. Integration of the Trade Show was also an issue that can be enhanced in the future.

2021 Omaha Planning

Janet Collins indicated the Symposium Planning Committee will be meeting soon to discuss planning details.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Reinstate 2020 EOG Lathe Grants

Jeff Brockett explained that items awarded to grantees through AAW's Education Opportunity Grant (EOG) program typically come from vendors who donate equipment and materials for the Annual AAW Symposium. Due to cancellation of the 2020 AAW Symposium in Louisville, AAW informed 2020 grantees that their lathe grants would be delayed a year. Obviously, this was a disappointment. Jeff indicated he reached out to JET and determined that AAW can obtain 10 mini-lathes and stands for \$3,649. With shipping, the cost would be less than \$5,000 and would enable AAW to fulfill the 2020 grants this year.

Jeff Brockett made a motion that the AAW Board of Directors approve the purchase of 10 JET 1015 mini-lathes and stands to be given to the recipients of the AAW 2020 EOG lathe grants. The four grantees are non-profit organizations that provide woodturning instruction. These organizations include Waldorf School of Chicago, 2 lathes and stands; Mount Pleasant High School, 3 lathes and stands; Denver Tool Library, 2 lathes and stands; and Central Illinois Woodturners, 3 lathes and stands. John Beechwood, III, seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kathleen Duncan reported that candidate photos, statements, and videos are on the AAW website. An email about voting will go out to all members on August 1, followed by several reminders. This year, the Committee recommended five candidates, not the usual six. Voting will be open August 1-31, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Schramek explained that present circumstances (COVID, social distancing) do not make in-person meetings viable. The November 2020 Board meeting, which is usually held in person, will convene on Zoom.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

All remote sessions will be held at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

- August 20, remote
- September 17, remote
- October 22, remote
- November 14 and 15, remote
- December 17, remote

ADJOURNMENT

Jeff Brockett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Cole seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:44 p.m. Central Time, on Thursday, July 23, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Duncan, Secretary