

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, February 18, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the AAW Board of Directors convened via Zoom teleconference, at 3:02 p.m. Central Time on Thursday, February 18, 2021, with President Greg Schramek presiding.

The following Board members were present: Rick Baker, John Beechwood, Linda Britt, Jay Brown, Andy Cole, Joe Dickey, Mike Summerer, and Molly Winton. Also, in attendance were Managing Editor Josh Friend and staff members Phil McDonald, Jennifer Newberg, and Kim Rymer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Molly Winton made a motion for the Board to enter Executive Session. Rick Baker seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. The Board entered Executive Session.

LIVE SYMPOSIUM IN OMAHA

Rick Baker stated it would be impossible to hold the event under federal and international COVID-19 Pandemic health safety protocols preventing large gatherings, therefore it would be impossible to keep attendees and local citizens safe. He said attendees attend the AAW Symposium from all over the country and beyond and could spread the Covid-19 virus or its variants to others. Rick stated the most responsible thing the Board can do is to cancel the AAW Symposium.

Rick made the following motion:

“Due to the seriousness of COVID-19, and adhering to international, federal, and state advisories, the AAW Board of Directors approves cancellation of the 2021 AAW Symposium in Omaha.”

Mike Summerer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

TURNERS WITHOUT BORDERS (TWB) COMMITTEE

John Beechwood indicated the TWB's January 30 interactive remote demonstration (IRD) featuring Emiliano Achaval went very well. He indicated dates for upcoming events are March 20, April 17, and May 15. The March demonstration will feature Mauricio Kolenc. John said there are excellent people on the TWB committee, and he is looking forward to future events.

CONTRACTS COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Contracts committee, John Beechwood made a motion to approve an addendum to the Quad contract, which extends it for an additional three years. Rick Baker seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Greg Schramek called for corrections and changes to the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on January 21, 2021. There were no corrections or changes.

Mike Summerer made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting. Molly Winton seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Greg Schramek called for corrections and changes to the minutes of the Special Board meeting held on February 2, 2021.

Mike Summerer made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting. Rick Baker seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

GRANT APPROVALS

Education Opportunity Grants (EOG)

Molly Winton indicated there is a total of \$15k currently available to award to worthy EOG grant applications. She noted AAW does not have late packages from to distribute this year because the 2020 AAW Symposium in Louisville did not occur. Molly said there were very few applications for EOG grants this year and reminded the Board of the maximum grant award amounts: individuals \$1,000 and organizations \$1,500. She reported that a complete list of approved applications is included in the Board packet. The Grants committee proposed a total of \$12,550 in grant funding, which is under budget. Molly noted other grant applications received were not worthy of funding.

Underrepresented Events/Exhibitions Quarterly Allocations

Molly stated that the Grants committee recommends funding one Underrepresented Populations application for \$1,200. The applicant originally requested \$1,850. She noted the money for the Underrepresented Populations comes from Women in Turning (WIT).

On behalf of the Grants committee, Molly made a motion to approve the grants listed in the Grants committee report.

Rick Baker seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

MEMBER INITIATED PETITION

Greg Schramek reported Jimmy Clewes recently contacted AAW about the Bylaws. He noted a member petition is currently being circulated by Jimmy regarding AAW leadership. Greg asked the Board who it believes should respond to Jimmy.

Phil McDonald indicated he has continued to answer infrequent member service questions from Jimmy unrelated to petition issues as he would for any AAW member.

Josh Friend will connect with Phil to discuss communication of the recent Bylaws change in the *American Woodturner* journal.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financial Reports

Joe Dickey summarized the financial reports for January 31 and noted the following points:

- Income Statement, unadjusted year-to-date: \$19.1k (\$20.6k favorable to budget)
- Income Statement, 2020 year-end forecast: \$35.5k (\$0k favorable to budget)
- January 31 "Cash-on-Hand": \$1,392.0k
- Year-end Forecast "Cash-on-Hand": \$1,571.0k

Joe noted the following points:

- Early in the year, AAW's financials tend to fluctuate.
- Membership acquisition for January was good.
- Financial results for 2020 are being prepared for the auditor.

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM PLANNING

Mike Summerer stated that just in case the AAW decides to offer a Virtual Symposium in 2021, the Demonstrator Selection and Programming Committee has been performing groundwork behind the scenes.

Phil McDonald noted this will be a standing agenda item going forward.

ED REPORT

Jennifer Newberg reported membership renewals were excellent in January. AAW's aggressive renewal communications in December helped. She noted AAW is seeing more December expiration renewals in January. Jen explained that February numbers are not as far ahead. She explained she is working on vendor partnerships to expand prospective new members. Additionally, she is learning more about how members react and what incentives to offer.

YOUTH

Linda Britt stated the Youth Committee will have a virtual vendor booth at the Midwest Penturners Gathering April 24-25, 2021. She said the goal is to promote the AAW to visitors at the booth and to gather information about youth woodturning teachers and groups that have youth woodturning programs.

Linda explained the committee hopes to establish a teacher online community where teachers can collaborate, share resources, upload photos, etc. about their respective programs. Once the online community for teachers is established, it anticipates starting a student online community. Membership in both communities would be by committee invitation and would be monitored by members of the Youth committee for appropriate content.

Additionally, Linda noted the committee would like to pursue the possibility of having a panel discussion for youth woodturning teachers and groups during Special Interest Night at a future Virtual Symposium.

WIT

Linda Britt reported that WIT Presents continues to be a highly popular program of the WIT woodturning community. On February 20, WIT will host its eighth WIT Presents featuring Sally Burnett. She said WIT plans to continue this program into 2021 with artist Andi Wolfe as its March presenter.

Linda explained WIT concluded its first ever virtual WIT Exchange in January. She said 62 women from six countries participated. A second WIT Virtual Exchange will kick-off on March 8, which is International Women's Day. The Virtual Exchange is free and allows more women to participate than would an in-person event.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joe Dickey indicated a notice regarding Board nominations will be going in the *American Woodturner* journal. Additionally, there will be a direct email sent to membership and a notice will be listed on the Chapter Leadership online community.

The members of the Nominating committee are Joe Dickey, Jeff Brockett, Nick Cook, and Cheryl Lewis.

Joe encouraged Board members to reach out to friends and colleagues and encourage them to consider serving on the Board.

BYLAWS AND POLICY

Rick Baker explained he would like to dig into the Bylaws to make changes and correct inconsistencies in the document.

Greg Schramek suggested that Rick work on the Bylaws project with Linda Britt.

FUTURE MEETING

Greg Schramek stated he would like to hold an in-person Board meeting sometime during Summer 2021 but stated it would not be appropriate to make that decision yet.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

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

2021

- March 18, remote
- April 22, remote
- May 20, remote
- June 24, remote
- July 12, 13, 19 (Omaha face-to-face, July 11 arrival date) **** PENDING RESCHEDULING****
- August 19, remote
- September 16, remote
- October 21, remote
- November 13, 14 (St. Paul face-to-face, November 12 arrival date)
- December 16, remote

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Dickey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Cole seconded the motion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:26 p.m. Central Time, on Thursday, February 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Brown, Secretary