

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday, April 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the AAW Board of Directors convened via Zoom teleconference, at 3:01 p.m. Central Time on Thursday, April 22, 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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Greg Schramek called for corrections and changes to the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on March 18, 2021. No corrections or changes were indicated.

Linda Britt made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting. Jay Brown seconded the motion, and the minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financial Reports

Joe Dickey summarized the financial reports for March 2021 and noted the following points:

- Income Statement, unadjusted year-to-date: \$3.4k (\$8.6k unfavorable to budget)
- Income Statement, 2020 year-end forecast: \$8.6k (\$26.8k unfavorable to budget)
- January 31 “Cash-on-Hand”: \$1,415.0k
- Year-end Forecast “Cash-on-Hand”: \$1,333.0k

Joe noted the following points:

- Virtual event programming is running at \$12k net income ahead of plan.
- Audit field work has been scheduled and staff is currently responding to follow-up requests.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Membership

Jen Newberg reported membership renewals are close to target.

She explained the focus of membership follow-ups has been on December expirations. These are some of AAW’s oldest members; some are deceased, and others are not turning anymore.

Jen indicated YTD actuals for both member counts and dues revenue are very close plan and within 2% variance to plan. AAW had 14,160 members at end of March 2021 (this number is missing some of the Family Associate members).

She explained April is “National Woodworking” month and AAW is promoting a free download of the “Nitty Gritty of Sanding” booklet, which has been offered to all members.

Regional Symposium Relationships

Phil McDonald stated AAW is tracking reemergence of regional events (after COVID) and stated he hopes to reengage with regional symposia in a different way in the future. He has reached out to regional organizers and said it is a good time to generate new ideas about how we can work together effectively.

2021 VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

Phil McDonald reported that AAW hopes to offer a Virtual Symposium experience like a live AAW Symposium experience.

He stated there has been more planning time for the 2021 virtual event. The conference software platform includes a wide variety of features that will enable AAW to offer a broader palette of offerings including multiple demonstration rooms, virtual rooms/tracks, and more choices overall.

Mike Summerer indicated demonstrators for the Virtual Symposium were chosen based on those selected for Omaha along with their technical ability.

Jen Newberg explained the schedule will be available mid-May to June. There will be much to consider for the schedule, such as which sessions compete with one another, and she will ask for a lot of feedback during this process. She said that May 5 is the target date for opening registration.

Jen stated AAW's ad team, Betsy Pierre and Erica Nelson, have been talking with all vendors from the Omaha trade show about the variety of Virtual Symposium options available including recorded content and live demos. She said it has been interesting to obtain their feedback. Some vendors are a little gun-shy about trying the Virtual Symposium software platform, but all vendors are looking forward to the live AAW Symposium in Chattanooga.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joe Dickey reported the Nominating Committee has narrowed the original list of potential candidates for the Board from 60 to 12. To date, the committee has received completed packets from four candidates and has called each of the other prospective candidates who have not yet submitted a packet. Joe explained the packets will be reviewed within two weeks of the deadline and he expects the list of candidates for nomination to be very strong.

Josh Friend noted he will need the content for the *American Woodturner* journal by mid-June.

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

Jay Brown reported that planning for Chattanooga is underway and the committee is exploring how to deal with pent-up demand. Additionally, the committee is discussing how the AAW Symposium might look in five years.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Schramek reminded Board members about the face-to-face Board meeting July 28-29 and asked them to make their travel arrangements. He said the location of the meeting will be at Landmark Center in St. Paul or at the airport.

Andy Cole reported he has a schedule conflict with the September Board meeting.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

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

2021

- May 20, remote
- June 24, remote
- July 28, 29 (St. Paul face-to-face, July 27 arrival date)
- 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

Rick Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Cole seconded the motion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 4:19 p.m. Central Time, on Thursday, April 22, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Brown, Secretary