

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, May 20, 2021

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, May 20, 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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Greg Schramek called for corrections and/or changes to the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on April 22, 2021. No corrections or changes were indicated. Jay Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting. Rick Baker seconded the motion, and the minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financial Reports

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

- Income Statement, unadjusted year-to-date: (\$25.1k) (\$41.3k unfavorable to June 20, 2021 budget)
- Income Statement, 2021 year-end forecast: \$7.4k (\$28.1k unfavorable to budget)
- January 31 "Cash-on-Hand": \$1,377.0k
- Year-end Forecast "Cash-on-Hand": \$1,347.0k

Joe also mentioned the following points:

- The negative April income resulted from timing differences between Virtual Symposium revenues and payables.
- Consultations with the independent auditor have been ongoing. AAW can expect a draft of the audited financial statements within about two weeks.
- Unrestricted reserves are almost \$500k and are intact.

Phil McDonald indicated that the 2020 tax exposure was due to excess of *American Woodturner* journal advertising revenues over the journal's cost of print production. In 2020, there were historically high ad revenues and lower production costs.

ED REPORT

Membership

Jen Newberg reported that April membership numbers exceeded the target due to continuation of reminders and incentives. She said that May is on the same trajectory. The issue with obtaining correct total membership from the iMIS membership system has been resolved. Current membership is at 14,710, which includes all Family Associates. There are almost 500 Family Associates, and the system was incorrectly reporting them previously at only about 50 prior to the fix. Additionally, Jen explained monthly membership income does not currently balance with the budget model projections and she is investigating whether the problem is in the model or the system.

July BOD Meeting Agenda

Phil McDonald indicated he is working with Greg Schramek to develop the agenda for the in-person Board meeting scheduled for July 28-29 at Landmark Center in St. Paul, MN. He noted some of the agenda topics will include long-term issues, the Board allowing staff to do the groundwork, diversification of membership beyond the U.S., and activities beyond Covid-19.

Greg Schramek stated he would like to see the Board discuss where AAW is today and where it is headed. He said topics should relate to ability to touch AAW membership. Greg mentioned virtual platforms, chapter leaders hosting discussions on post-Covid issues, and opportunities with other groups, such as Turners Without Borders, International Association of Penturners, Segmented Woodturners, etc. He said the Board should discuss what AAW is doing in one year, two years, and five years from now.

Rick Baker explained that some Symposium Committee members discussed going to the warehouse after the in-person Board meeting. They are considering who best might be involved for the visit to the warehouse. Discussion ensued and Jen Newberg suggested the discussion be taken outside of the Board meeting within the Symposium Committee.

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

Phil McDonald reported that staff set up a Virtual Symposium critical path plan and most decisions will be made in June. He said the team is on track regarding scope and schedule. Jen Newberg explained there are 618 registered to date, which translates to \$26k in revenue. She reported that volunteers with technical expertise are needed for the Hopin platform and asked for help in this area.

Jen also asked the Board to act as ambassadors for AAW and help promote the event. She mentioned that by following AAW's social media accounts and sharing event posts, Board members can help broaden the audience for the event.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Joe Dickey made a motion to approve the following slate of proposed Board candidates: Carlos Angulo, Sally Burnett, Ron Day, Chuck LaBaito, Mike Summerer, and Kimberly Winkle. Rick Baker seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE – CHATTANOOGA 2022

Jay Brown stated the Symposium Committee held a Volunteer Lead meeting for Chattanooga. He noted that Jen Newberg asked the Symposium Committee to brainstorm a theme, tagline, and logo for the event. Jay requested Board members share any ideas with Jen by July. Jay noted there will be one room in Chattanooga dedicated to virtual components of the event.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Rick Baker reported that winners of the 2021 Chapter Newsletter and Website awards competition have been selected. Greg Schramek asked Rick to send a copy of the results to the Board.

Josh Friend suggested honoring the winners during the Virtual Symposium. Greg recommended that any ideas for recognizing award winners be sent to Jen Newberg.

TURNERS WITHOUT BORDERS

John Beechwood explained the Turners Without Borders free, online events in Spanish language have received good ratings even from people who don't speak Spanish. The Committee is working on setting up the next meeting.

He reported the following attendance metrics for past events: Emiliano Achaval – 210 registered, 111 attended; Mauricio Kolenc – 299 registered, 124 attended; Adam Luna – 297 registered, 132 attended; Fran Ferrer – 137 registered, 55 attended.

John noted the Committee is hoping to expand its online events to another language.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board Meeting Calendar

Greg Schramek stated the September 16 Board meeting date has been changed to September 21 to accommodate Andy Cole's schedule.

John Beechwood asked whether the October Board meeting could be held one day earlier, on October 20 instead of October 21. The change was approved by the Board.

Andy Cole asked for clarification about when a faceshield is required for the AAW Presents: Eric Lofstrom, Namaste Bowls online event. Rick Baker indicated, for AAW events, a faceshield is always required when at the lathe. He noted that it is okay to paint without a faceshield.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Schramek indicated the Smithsonian will present David Ellsworth with its Visionary Award on October 27. To attend the event, the cost is \$250 for dinner and \$150 for the after event. He said AAW can get reduced rate. He suggested sending two people to represent AAW staff and Board: Joe Dickey, and Phil McDonald or his designee. The Board collectively agreed with the suggestion.

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 21 remote
- October 20 remote
- November 13, 14 (St. Paul face-to-face, November 12 arrival date)
- December 16, remote

ADJOURNMENT

Andy Cole made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Molly Winton seconded the motion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 4:49 p.m. Central Time, on Thursday, May 20, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Brown, Secretary