

American Association of Woodturners
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday, May 19, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the AAW Board of Directors convened at 4:01 p.m. Central Time on Thursday, May 19, 2022, online via Zoom, with President Mike Summerer presiding.

The following Board members were present: Rick Baker, John Beechwood, Linda Britt, Jay Brown, Sally Burnett, KC Kendall, Chuck Lobaito, Mike Summerer, and Kimberly Winkle. Also, in attendance were Managing Editor Josh Friend and staff members Phil McDonald, Jen Newberg, and Kim Rymer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Summerer called for corrections and/or changes to the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on Thursday, April 21, 2022. There were none. Rick Baker made a motion to approve the minutes. Chuck Lobaito seconded the motion, and the minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Treasurer's Report/Financial Reports

Chuck Lobaito summarized the financial reports for April 30, 2022, and noted the following:

- Income Statement, unadjusted year-to-date: \$81.9k (gain, \$35.1k favorable to budget)
- Income Statement, seasonally adjusted year-to-date: (\$45.0k) (loss, \$36.5k unfavorable to budget)
- Income Statement, 2022 year-end forecast: (\$189.5k) (loss, \$210.0k unfavorable to budget)
- April 30 "Cash-on-Hand": \$1,524.0k
- Year-end Forecast "Cash-on-Hand": \$1,228.0k

Chuck noted the year-end income forecast has changed because the Chattanooga Symposium is now anticipated to perform at a loss due primarily to lower than expected attendance.

Phil McDonald mentioned the 2022 operating budget was developed on the basis of 1,500 attendees, but the registration pace has been lagging. The new projections fall within a range, and a conservative estimate based on 900 attendees has been factored into the financial forecast.

Chuck also indicated the April income statement incorporates a \$55.0k unrealized loss attributed to the Fidelity and Vanguard mutual funds. He said that reserves are still above the level needed.

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

2022 Chattanooga

Jay Brown stated there is much happening within the Symposium Committee, but not much to report.

Jen Newberg explained there are 767 registrants to date for the Chattanooga event and showed a graph of registration. She said hotel pick up is better with 2,100 room nights among the three

hotels. Jen indicated the anticipated 10% attrition has not happened yet, but she expects to see it soon. For the Saturday evening dinner, 373 tickets have been sold to date.

Mike Summerer informed the Board that the intent is for Symposium attendees to have a superb experience. There is no plan to reduce quality while controlling costs. Mike also requested a 3" x 5" card with all staff/Board member phone numbers and email addresses for use at the Symposium.

2023 Louisville

Three prospective demonstrators for Louisville declined the invitation. They have been replaced by two others and an invitation is currently out to a third demonstrator.

NEW BUSINESS

Fractal Burning

John Beechwood reported there was a recent incident that resulted in two fractal burning deaths in Wisconsin. He informed the Board some chapters are posting photos of fractally burned items in their newsletters, on social media, and on their websites. He asked how the Board feels about advising chapters not to post images of fractally burned work. There are lots of YouTube videos that show dangerous practices and there is no UL approved fractal burning unit on the market.

Mike Summer stated there are risks associated with using ordinary woodturning equipment. However, the dangers of working with 40,000 volts of electricity is different story. He asked the Board what AAW should do to communicate and reinforce the dangers of fractal burning among chapters who have looser, more permissive standards. He also asked how this will impact AAW's insurance. Most DIYers are using neon sign or microwave transformers which inherently have a higher level of danger than other fractal burning devices.

KC asked, if someone dies from fractal burning and they had been encouraged by chapter, would AAW be found complicit.

Phil McDonald said AAW's affiliation with chapters is loose and if AAW is aware of a chapter doing or encouraging fractal burning, it needs to make sure they are not covered under the AAW policy.

Jay Brown asked whether Josh should put an article about the dangers of fractal burning in the American Woodturner journal once a year.

Phil McDonald commented that removing chapters from the policy should be timed with insurance renewal. AAW needs to remind members of the dangers of fractal burning more frequently.

More discussion followed and included the following:

- AAW should make any fractal burning statement about education and awareness.
- AAW needs to take a firm stance on the subject.
- The Board should expect to get strong pushback from some members and chapters.
- AAW cannot force members and chapters to follow its ban. AAW can only provide best practices.
- For chapters, the only real lever to pull is the insurance.

Mike Summer outlined the actions to be taken: 1) Chapters will not be allowed to renew insurance with AAW without supporting the AAW's ban on fractal burning, 2) An article from the Safety Committee will be drafted, emailed to membership, and published in the *American Woodturner* journal.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Linda Britt reported there are nine candidates currently being interviewed for 2023 Board positions. Interviews will be finished by May 31; at which time the Nominating Committee will present a list of six final candidates to the Board. Only two of the candidates will be at the Chattanooga Symposium.

Mike Summerer stated the Board will approve the list of six.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

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

2022 Tentative Board Calendar

- June 20, 21 & 27 (Chattanooga, June 19 arrival date)
- July 21, remote
- August 18, remote
- September 15, remote
- October 20, remote
- November 19, 20 (St. Paul face-to-face, November 18 arrival date)
- December 15, remote

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting chair Mike Summerer made a motion to adjourn the meeting because all business was complete. No second was needed, and the Board meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:50 p.m. Central Time, on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Brown, Secretary