

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Board of Directors Meeting

July 21, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the AAW Board of Directors convened at 3:01 p.m. Central Time on Thursday, July 21, 2022, via teleconference with President Mike Summerer presiding.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Summerer called for corrections and/or changes to the minutes of the Board meetings held on June 20, 21, and 27. There were a variety of changes and corrections noted. It was agreed the edits would be incorporated and the revised minutes would be redistributed for approval outside of the Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mike Summerer made a motion to go into Executive Session. Linda Britt seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The Board went into Executive Session. The regular Board meeting resumed at 3:19 p.m. Central Time.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mike Summerer made a motion requesting approval of the consent agenda. John Beechwood seconded the motion, and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer's Report/Financial Reports

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

- Income Statement, unadjusted year-to-date: (\$36.9k) (loss, \$162.0k unfavorable to budget)
- Income Statement, seasonally adjusted year-to-date: (\$74.2k) (loss, \$130.0k unfavorable to budget)
- Income Statement, 2022 year-end forecast: (\$187.3k) (loss, \$208.0k unfavorable to budget)
- June 30 "Cash-on-Hand": \$1,459.0k
- Year-end Forecast "Cash-on-Hand": \$1,350.0k

Chuck noted the negative shift over previous months can be attributed to the Chattanooga Symposium financial outcomes, and recognition of the second quarter unrealized loss position of the Fidelity mutual fund investment.

He said the reserves level is about \$250k more than the advised reserves level.

Mike Summerer requested a motion to accept the Finance Committee report. Linda Britt made a motion seconded by John Beechwood and the Finance Committee report was unanimously accepted.

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

Jay Brown indicated he was satisfied with how the Symposium ended up. He said most of the new changes implemented in 2022 will continue into the 2023 Symposium in Louisville. Jay said the Board needs to discuss planning and contracts for 2025 and 2026 Symposia.

Discussion followed and included:

- AAW has a loss for Chattanooga. What if there is another loss for Louisville?
- AAW saw the highest number of last-minute cancellations ever in Chattanooga.
- Travel expense increases negatively impacted Chattanooga attendance.
- AAW is already committed to Portland in 2024.
- Can AAW reduce expenses and still offer a good symposium?
- Pursue a hybrid concept symposium.
- Volunteer participation has decreased in recent years.
- AAW needs to do a better job of volunteer acknowledgement and should put something in the journal (photographic with names).
- Trends will emerge through upcoming regional symposia. Regional symposia present opportunities for prospective partnerships.

Phil McDonald explained he envisions several scenarios for future Symposia that should be taken into consideration before making longer term commitments.

Mike Summerer suggested the Board devote time during the August or subsequent meeting to flesh out this topic.

Jay stated the Louisville site visit will be in September.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mike Summerer recommended the Board take on four focus areas, devise specific deliverables for the next six months, and report on them. He noted KC had previously identified incomplete tactics from Vision 2020. Mike recommended staff provide feedback on what to put in the “buckets,” and Board members should review KC’s grid, add to it, and refine it.

KC displayed a “Strategy Evaluation Grid” to illustrate estimated item costs, duration, feasibility, resources, impact on goals, who will do the work, etc. For the total score, he said low scores are better and noted resources are general and include both staff and money. Next, KC presented a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats document.

Jen Newberg indicated it is important to know how these items fit with current priorities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Safety Committee Report

John Beechwood noted there are “to dos” related to Symposium contracts with vendors and demonstrators. He said there are a couple of issues. For example, what does AAW do if there is noncompliance? His committee will provide a recommendation to the Board.

Additionally, he stated there should be Symposium signage indicating specifically where Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is located.

John explained it is important that volunteer committee members know their limitations. Even if acting individually, those who serve on committees may be perceived as speaking for or acting on behalf of the AAW. Committee members should not perform any related outreach without explicit authorization of their committee. Any committee member who acts alone should be asked to step down from their committee.

Grants Committee

John Beechwood said he recently received five grant applications. Grant applications are reviewed annually January-March. John suggested the applications be reviewed more than once per year.

Kimberly Winkle indicated this year people found out about grants too late to act. She suggested that meeting quarterly would be a more effective workflow.

John asked whether any Board member opposes grant applications being reviewed more than once per year. No one objected.

Merit Award

Kimberly Winkle presented the name of the individual the POP committee selected for a 2023 Merit Award. The Board unanimously approved the recipient of the 2023 Merit Award.

Chapter Hybrid Meetings & Technology

Rick Baker explained resources on technology and hybrid meetings are desperately needed by chapters. He indicated there is no committee continuity for technology. He said John Kelsey is willing to work with AAW on this topic.

Rick stated he believes the endeavor should be a committee because technology is ongoing and continues year-to-year. He would like to see AAW stay ahead (not fall behind) and ensure technology information is passed on year-to-year.

Discussion followed which included:

- If we want chapter growth, AAW needs to make technology a chapter training and have a set of best practices.
- This could potentially be a funding initiative to present to donors for support.

Mike Summerer suggested Rick provide a recommendation to the Board about how it fits and how it is structured.

Member Meeting

Rick Baker reviewed the outcome of the Member Meeting at the Symposium in Chattanooga, indicating not enough resource was devoted to ensure remote attendees could hear or see well. The suggestion was raised to change the timing of the Member Meeting to not coincide with the in-person symposium. Following discussion it was agreed to plan for a virtual member meeting held in conjunction with the November regular board meeting held face-to-face. Jen Newberg raised the potential conflict in scheduling of the AAW Presents event Saturday of the November Board meeting.

Mike Summerer asked Linda Britt to come back to the Board with draft language to revise the Bylaws in reference to the timing of the annual Member Meeting..

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

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

2022 Tentative Board Calendar

- 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 4:36 p.m. Central Time, on Thursday, July 21, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Brown, Secretary