

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, November 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The November 11, 2023 Board meeting was called to order by President Mike Summerer at 8:30 am. All Board members were present. Jay Brown and Chuck Lobaito were present via Zoom. In addition, Jen Newberg, Matt Brubaker and Josh Friend were in attendance. Also in attendance was incoming board member Reid Zimmerman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron Day made a motion to accept the September minutes. Second by Linda Britt. Motion passed.

2024 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Mike suggested the following officers for the 2024 board:

President - Mike Summerer
Vice President - Ron Day
Secretary - Linda Britt
Treasurer – Chuck Lobaito

Motion made by KC Kendall to accept the slate of officers, with a second by Sally Burnett. All voted in favor and motion passed.

Motion made by Kimberly Winkle, with second by Ron Day, that Linda Britt be appointed parliamentarian. Motion passed.

Motion made by Rick Baker, with second by Kimberly Winkle, that Marie Anderson remain chair of the Ethics Committee. Motion passed.

Motion made by Kim Winkle, with second by Chuck Lobaito, that Linda Britt be appointed Nominating Chair. Motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT

Chuck Lobaito discussed the latest financial report. The Finance Committee recommended the filing of the 2022 IRS 990 and approving the Minnesota Charitable Organization Initial Registration and Annual report form resolution, finding no issues. The IRS 990 will be filed next week with Jen signing as officer of AAW. There is an anticipated deficit of \$110,000 which is less than originally \$228,000 deficit that was forecast. Successful fundraising efforts led to the reduction in the deficit. Chuck and the finance committee are working to automate more of the accounting procedures and there will be streamlined reporting in the future.

A motion was made to continue using Olsen-Thielen as the independent auditor for 2024 by Kimberly Winkle, with a second by Linda Britt. After some discussion, the motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Fundraising Committee: KC Kendall reported the Fundraising Committee had done a lot of work in 2023 with very good results. The committee obtained over \$200,000 in donations from 46 donors. KC also reported on the Challenge Grant Fund, which now has 13 donors. The committee is also working on a Planned Giving Program. There was discussion about building a relationship with a specific foundation. Kimberly Winkle, Reid Zimmerman and Jen were going to work on a plan on how to best build a relationship with the Foundation. KC reminded board members that it is important that all board members donate to the AAW, but did not ask for a specific amount. It is important to tell potential donors that all board members donate to the AAW.

Ethics Committee: Board liaison Rick Baker reported there had been no complaints to investigate in the past year. The Ethics Committee is charged with reviewing the ethics forms and the Ethics Manual once a year. Recommended changes to the Ethics Manual were made by the committee. Linda Britt made a motion, with a second by Kimberly Winkle, to accept the changes. An updated manual will be sent to the Ethics Chairperson.

Nominating Committee: Linda Britt led discussion about the best practices to find qualified candidates to run for open board positions. More discussion will be held during a planned Strategic Planning session in the future.

Symposium Committee: Jay Brown reported that work continues on the Portland symposium. Registration to open on November 13. St. Paul, MN has been selected as 2025 symposium site.

Demonstrator Selection Committee: KC Kendell reports that demonstrators have been selected from the 60 people who applied to demonstrate in Portland. Between the invited and selected demonstrators there is good diversity. The scope of the committee has changed to exclude anything except for picking demonstrators for symposia.

KC made a motion on behalf of the committee to change the charter of the Demonstrator Selection and Program Development committee to be only the Demonstration Selection committee. Rick seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion passed.

POP Committee: Kimberly Winkle reported the committee is finalizing panel moderators for Portland, and the topics have been selected. They are waiting for the demonstrator list to be complete so they can get some moderators from the list. Artist showcase artists will be Heather Marusiak and Kevin Jesequel.

Safety Committee: Chairman Ron Day reported the committee has not met recently but will do so after first of year.

Turners Without Borders: Sally Burnett reported that the committee in a holding pattern until we can find a way to move forward with international affiliations. She would like to try to find a way to move forward without it being a budget issue. Affiliation with Irish Woodturners Guild is progressing. Sally and Mike met with leadership and discussed ways to move it forward.

Definition of international affiliation still being determined. TWB would like AAW to consider offering woodturners from Argentina a reduced rate to obtain an online membership to AAW. Sally made a motion for the Board to consider offering reduced rate, with second by Kimberly. Much discussion followed and motion made to add this to December agenda and vote on it then, with input from staff. Motion passed with one dissent by Jay Brown.

WIT Committee: Kimberly Winkle reported the committee had a very productive year with three (3) WIT Presents. Average attendance is 135. Plans are being made for another WIT Exchange in 2024.

Youth Committee: Ron Day reported plans are being developed for Portland. Number of lathes being provided by Powermatic is still not determined which will affect final plan. Youth and pen turning area will be in same space. Youth instructors have been identified.

Technology Committee: Ron Day said the committee is pretty large and people come and go. Hybrid meetings was main topic last year and it has gotten many chapters up to speed. It is harder and harder to find new topics. Requests to have information added to the website have not been done to date. Using this committee to find streaming technicians for symposia is a great resource.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Jen Newberg reported key accomplishments and challenges.

Multi-year Grant from Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation: The Maxwell /Hanrahan Foundation granted \$66,000 over the next 3 years to support grants of tools and equipment to individuals and programmatic and financial awards to Artist Showcase recipients. Programmatic staff support and administrative overhead have not been calculated yet to determine how much of the grants will go directly to individuals. We are very excited to begin this relationship with the Foundation and can see future support and investment possibilities from the foundation.

Optimistic Results from implementation of new marketing strategies: In addition to the metrics presented by Matt Brubaker, new memberships are 31% higher in July-October than the same timeframe in 2022.

New Exhibition opportunities and increased public exposure to woodturning:

In 2023, we received a non-restricted, unsolicited donation of work from Elizabeth and the late Frank Amigo. Items included a large number of demonstration pieces, damaged pieces, and personally inscribed work. There are 59 documented turned pieces in the donation, with an estimated value of \$7500, based on general experience and auction values when available. In

this case, there were only a few comparable auction house figures available. A large selection from the Amigo donation was on display in the gallery this summer 2023.

As part of the Kaplan donation, we received a number of non-turned wood art pieces. One piece, a carved spoon made by Norm Sartorius, was loaned to Museum for Art in Wood for a solo exhibition, after which they expressed an interest in having it for their permanent collection. Over time, we agreed to trade two Sartorius spoons for a selection of ornamental turned boxes and bowls in wood and in metal by Dale Chase. Each museum will acknowledge the donating organization in exhibition labeling and any publication.

Sale of Unrestricted Pieces: In 2023, a 2001 black spiral vessel by John Jordan originally purchased for \$1500, was sold for \$2600 at the AAW Live auction at the Symposium. The second item was an un-dated pierced cowboy hat with stand made by Richard Morris. It came with no purchase history but was appraised at \$1800. It sold for \$450.

AAW Gallery of Wood Art: To date, we have served approximately **4,000 visitors**, coming from **43 states** and **21 countries**. 2023 exhibitions included **Living with Craft** with North House Folk School; the POP exhibition **Form|Content**, and the AAW member exhibition, **Out of the Woods**. Our summer and winter shows, **Art from the Lathe**, are drawn from the AAW's collections. Work from the Permanent Collection is also on display at Saint Paul's City Hall and Courthouse.

Multiple simultaneous changes/priorities leading to overwork and missed deadlines: The workplan early in 2023 was robust and encompassed all areas of the organization. These new initiatives and implementation of best practices, in hindsight weren't the right pace for the capacity of staff and volunteers while continuing ongoing programming and focusing on eliminating the budget deficit.

Data and Website infrastructure fixes: The iMIS database and connect RISE website continue to be barriers to program progress and user engagement. To be effective, these software tools need highly trained technical staff and often require custom coding for smooth user experiences. New issues arise every day and take a substantial amount of time (and when consultants are needed, money) to fix.

2024 BUDGET

The initial 2024 budget projects a less than \$50,000 deficit, an improvement from 2023, but still requiring financial support from reserves. Discussion followed.

Discussion led to interest from Board of Directors in offering Health Insurance Benefit for staff. Jen was charged with researching plans and costs to inform the December board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called by Mike Summerer.

Meeting was suspended at 5 pm until 8:30 am on Sunday, November 12, 2023.

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 pm on Sunday, November 12. All Board members were in attendance, plus Jen Newberg, Matt Brubaker, Josh Friend and Reid Zimmerman.

Honorary Member 2024 Award: The Honorary Member Award recipient for 2024 was discussed and the recipient was determined. KC made a motion, with second by Ron Day to accept (name redacted until award presented) and the motion passed.

POP Awards: Kimberly Winkle presented POP's recommendation for the annual POP Merit Award Winner. No second necessary. After some discussion the Board voted to accept POP's recommendation. Winner will be recognized at 2025 Portland Symposium.

Board Calendar 2024: Mike advised that several Board members suggest the Board meeting more frequently, and monthly Board meetings will resume on the third Thursday. The next Board meeting is December 14 at 3 pm to approve the 2024 budget. The Board schedule for 2024 will be:

- February 15
- March 21
- April 18
- May 20-21, Portland, OR in person
- July 18
- September 5
- October 17
- November 15-16, St. Paul, MN in person
- December 19

Rather than have a face-to-face meeting in January, an in-person meeting may be scheduled later in the year to work on a strategic plan. The Board will need to determine the agency to work with and begin data gathering exercises. Reid Zimmerman will research finding an agency to work with. Ron Day will check with groups he has worked with in North Dakota. Need to determine if we have skills on staff and board to do the work. Jay will talk with Patty Wilder as a resource to help find a group to work with. Mike suggests we identify a consultant as early as we can in 2024. Action steps are to identify potential consultants and provide the information to Jen and Mike.

Mike suggested the Board might need a Human Resources committee or advisor to determine if the AAW could offer more benefits to staff. Jen to contact some insurance agents to find out potential costs to provide health insurance to staff.

Other Business:

The Code of Ethics forms were distributed to each person attending to be signed and returned to Jen. A link to the ADA training will be sent to each person, who will certify to Jen that they have viewed the training session.

Jen will send out a list of upcoming 2025 regional symposia and board members should let her know if they are able to attend any of them.

Mike recognized outgoing Board member Rick Baker, who has served six (6) years on the AAW Board.

Jen asked the Board to approve a Social Media Code of Conduct. This request is based on previous topics, comments, spam, rude comments to others, etc. that have been posted on social media. This code of conduct will be posted on the website and Facebook to remind people the AAW expects all comments to be courteous to others. A motion was made to approve this Code of Conduct by Ron Day, with a second by KC Kendall. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am CT.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Brown, Secretary