

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, February 22, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The February 22, 2024 Board meeting was called to order by President Mike Summerer at 2:36 pm EST. All Board members were present, plus Executive Director Jen Newberg.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron Day made a motion to accept the December 13, 2023 minutes, with a second by Jay Brown. Minutes were approved.

KC Kendall made a motion to accept the February 2, 2024 minutes, with a second by Ron Day. Minutes were approved.

Board entered executive session at 2:35 pm.

Board exited executive session at 2:40 pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Jen Newberg suggested the annual member meeting be scheduled for the first week of December, 2024. This would provide an opportunity to review the past year, along with information about what is planned for 2025. Would like to evolve the meeting, change the format and provide guest speakers. 88 chapters have paid for 2024 insurance to date. A FAQ regarding insurance will soon be added to the website. Jen also stated she is renegotiating an agreement with Club Express and is in conversation with Grouper, who provide dues reimbursement for social clubs through health insurance plans. Both companies will be at the Portland Symposium. Jen provided information about health insurance for staff. There are currently two positions open with the AAW.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Report - December, 2023:

Chuck Lobaito reported at the beginning of year we were down 229K and are now up 98K. Had a 175K investment gain, a 22K foundation gift, a 100K anonymous gift and 72K in membership and annual gifts. Income from chapter insurance is close to budget. A three year 66K grant was entered in 2023 income.

The Finance Committee made a motion to re-appoint John Hill to the Endowment Committee for a three year term. Second by Jay Brown. Motion passed. Jen Newberg will notify John Hill of his re-appointment.

Fundraising:

Reid Zimmerman reported the committee met at the end of January to review their process and work. A thank you process set up is working well. Committee is working on plans for 2024/2025 and will give to the Board in March to review.

Nominating:

Linda Britt reported that three potential board members are being interviewed and efforts will continue to find other candidates. Names of potential candidates should be sent to Linda by March 1.

Grants:

Kimberly Winkle advised she had created a rubric template to introduce efficiency to the grants process which has worked well. The committee has suggestions to revisit the grants program, including frequency of grant availability and amount. Jen suggested that process be moved outside of Grants Committee and focus on the impact the grant money makes. To be revisited at a future Board meeting.

Symposium:

To date 698 people have registered for the Portland symposium, which is about 500 people more than were registered for Louisville at this time last year. Matt Brubaker has done a lot of marketing which has been successful in reaching potential attendees. Chapters are still requesting discount codes and more than 200 have been used to date. Hotel has over 70% of contracted rooms and other hotels are being added. Early Bird registration ends April 6. Volunteer meeting in Portland went well and accomplished all goals. Site selection for 2026 is underway. Suggestions were discussed to use smaller venue and cap registration totals which would hold down costs and potentially raise revenue.

POP:

Kimberly Winkle advised POP has finished planning the POP panels for the Portland Symposium and exhibitions have been planned. Intimate Critiques will be handled differently in Portland as attendees do not have to sign up for a specific category.

WIT:

Kimberly advised the next meeting of WIT will be Tuesday, February 27 at 7 pm. Mike Summerer and Jen Newberg plan to attend this meeting. The next WIT Presents will be the first Saturday in March with a presentation on Joyce Anderson.

Youth:

Ron Day advised all is set for the youth program in Portland. Discussion was held about the donors who provide items for the youth room. Jen advised there is a process for shipments which will be launched on February 23, 2024.

Turners Without Borders (TWB):

Sally Burnett talked about the potential for using a sliding scale for cost of membership for other countries. There are three organizations on the web, including the American Society of Civil Engineers, who use World Bank information to determine a classification scale for reaching the discount level. Argentina would get a 33% discount using the World Bank information. A discussion was held concerning who to provide the discounts to, and the number, if limited, that might be available. The Board believes this is a worthwhile endeavor that the AAW should invest in. Various methods of funding this were discussed, but not decided upon at this time.

The TWB Committee made a motion: “The AAW will develop a graded scale of membership cost, with parameters spelled out for international membership.” Kimberly Winkle seconded the motion.

KC Kendall made a motion, with second by Kimberly Winkle, to amend the TWB committee’s motion to read: “The AAW will develop a graded scale of virtual membership cost, with parameters spelled out, for international membership, and include an evaluation of budget and cost and complete this evaluation within two months.” Motion passed.

This issue will be added to the April, 2024 Board agenda.

Strategic Planning:

KC Kendall, Reid Zimmerman and Ron Day worked on finding a company to do strategic planning for the AAW. They received six proposals, which were narrowed down to one, Vista Cova. This company has great references, with no negative comments. The plan would be for Vista Cova to develop an action plan, do research in the Spring, with results being provided after the symposium. A one or two day in person Board meeting would be planned, possibly in August to develop the strategic plan.

The Strategic Planning Committee made a motion that “The Board approve a contract with Vista Cove, with latitude to adjust the cost with them about the scope of work.” A second was made by Reid Zimmerman. Motion passed.

A discussion was held about the Board members doing a self-evaluation, which will be an ongoing project throughout the year.

The 2024 Board meeting schedule will be:

March 21 (at 2:30 pm)
April 18 (at 2:30 pm)
May 20-21 (in person Portland symposium)
July 18
August (dates to be determined)
September 5
October 17
November 15-16 (in person St. Paul, MN)
December 19

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Britt, Board Secretary