



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Board of Directors Meeting

April 17, 2025 via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President KC Kendall at 4:05 pm. All Board members were present, with the exception of Reid Zimmerman. Executive Director Jen Newberg, and Journal Editor Josh Friend, were present for the entire meeting. Mike Summerer and Jamie Millard were present to make the Search Committee report for a new Executive Director (ED).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ron Day, with second by Chuck Lobaito, to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2025, Board meeting. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Ron Day, with second by Linda Britt, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2025, board meeting. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

KC Kendall welcomed Mike Summerer, former Board President, and Jamie Millard, who works for Ballinger/Leafblad, so they could report on the Search Committee's process to search for a new ED. After their report and the Committee's recommendation of who was unanimously selected by them to be the new ED, a motion was made by David Fellows, with a second by Chuck Lobaito, to accept the Committee's recommendation and that the offer to the prospective ED be finalized. Motion passed. The announcement of the new ED's selection will be made by the AAW. Mike Summerer and Jamie Millard exited the Board meeting at this time.

FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer Chuck Lobaito's finance report covered two month period ending February 28, 2025. Cash on hand is lower than same month in 2024 and at end of 2024. The decline is primarily due to a reduction in revenue, as well as increased payments for prepaid expenses, payment of outstanding bills from prior year and a rise in accounts receivable. Two grants have been recognized as revenue, but not yet received. Revenue is behind the budget and lower than in 2024. Symposium registrations are a bit down, but individual giving exceeds 2024 levels. Expenses are over budget due to an expense recorded late in 2024. Salaries are \$40K under budget due to unfulfilled positions. Motion to approve the finance report made by Linda Britt, with second by Jay Brown. Motion passed.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Most of the current work is about the Ellsworth book. The project has raised nearly \$50K and some donations have come from individuals who have not donated in the past. Between \$50 and \$75K is needed to support the project. Excess money raised will go to support the regular programming of the AAW.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Chair Linda Britt reported that three incumbents have advised they will run for re-election this year. Currently two candidates have announced they will run for the Board. Several other potential candidates that have been contacted are still undecided on whether they will run. December 31, 2026 will be the expiration of the terms of two current Board members and the Board needs to begin thinking about candidates to fill those two vacancies. Information concerning all candidates will be in the August Journal, with voting taking place electronically during the month of August, 2025.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Cultural Star grant is in implementation stage. A PR firm has been contracted to maximize symposium visibility for the public areas at the St. Paul symposium. Winners of the 2025 Chapter Awards have been notified and will be announced at the symposium and in the August Journal. The target for chapter insurance was reached, with 96 chapters participating. The AAW now has a plan for medical insurance for employees which started April 1. Interviews continue for Marketing Director and Website and Database Manager. The Irish Woodturners Guild will have a 40th anniversary exhibition at the Gallery of Wood Art during the symposium in June.

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Jay Brown advised there are currently 1,005 registered for the 2025 symposium, representing 49 states, and nine countries. 46 vendors have signed up and the space is close to being sold out. Early Bird registration ends on April 25, 2025. The Demonstrator rotation schedule has been published on the web and 38% of the volunteer positions have been filled. Jay announced Board assignments for the symposium. 2026 invited demonstrators have been selected and notified and the deadline for demonstrators to apply is June 1, 2025.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

KC reported Reid Zimmerman has been working on an assessment of AAW space in the Landmark Building and will make a report on his recommendations at future Board meeting.

A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Linda Britt, with second by Ron Day, at 5:20 pm. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Jay Brown, with second by Linda Britt, to exit Executive Session at 5:50 pm. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Jay Brown reported he had received information from Kip Christensen about a SkillsUSA conference to be held June 23-27 in Atlanta, GA. Kip is working to get a woodturning program similar to the one in Utah, active in other states. Kip will gather more information concerning the conference and David Fellows and Linda Britt, who live the closest to the event, advised they would be willing to attend and to do fact gathering.

A motion was made by Kimberly Winkle, with second by David Fellows, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed, and meeting was adjourned by KC at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Britt