



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS
Special Board of Directors Meeting
May 15, 2025 via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President KC Kendall at 4:02 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Board members Linda Britt, Jay Brown, Sally Burnett, Ron Day, David Fellows, KC Kendall, Chuck Lobaito, and Reid Zimmerman were present. Also present: AAW Executive Director Gretchen Wilbrandt, Journal editor Josh Friend, and former AAW Executive Director Jennifer Newberg. Board member Kimberly Winkle was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chuck Lobaito moved to approve the April 17, 2025 minutes. Second by Ron Day. Motion passed.

FINANCE REPORT

AAW Treasurer Chuck Lobaito reported that cash had increased in March and was also up from the end of December. Money was received from the Maxwell/Hanrahan grant with an additional payment due later in the year. Investments income is down due to the current market. Individual giving was up compared to 2024. Membership remains strong. Reid Zimmerman moved to approve the finance report. Second by Sally Burnet. Motion passed.

Annual Audit

Chuck Lobaito reported the AAW had received a clean preliminary audit report from Independent Auditors. The finance committee moved to approve the audit report for 2024. Second by Reid Zimmerman. Motion passed.

Resolutions

The Finance Committee moved for the Board to approve four separate resolutions reflecting signature authorization changes for the Bremer Bank, Axos Bank, Fidelity Investments and TIAA Financial Services. The motion was seconded, and the four resolutions passed.

"Whereas, effective May 15, 2025, all previous signers will have their signing privileges canceled, and the following Officers and Executive Director shall be assigned full authorization to act on behalf of the American Association of Woodturners with regard to the corporation banking and in full accordance with [see the 4 separate resolutions] business account certifications and corporate resolution.

*KC Kendall, Board President
Charles Lobaito, Board Treasurer
Gretchen Wilbrandt, Executive Director*

It is further resolved that the Executive Director be, and hereby is, authorized to take such action deemed necessary to accomplish each resolution."

Nominating Committee

Linda Britt, chair of the nominating committee, reported there are three incumbents who are running for a second term. The committee interviewed prospective candidates and recommend that Larry Curry, Louis Currier and Keith Baizer, be placed on the ballot. The election is online from August 1 to 31. The Board accepted the ballot as presented.

Development Report

Board members interested in hosting a table at the St. Paul Symposium banquet should send a note to the ED to reserve one or more tables. The Board member is responsible for filling the table. A plan to recognize major donors is being developed.

Executive Director Report

Gretchen Wilbrandt advised there are currently 13,837 AAW members. 4,261 have renewed, joined or re-joined so far this year. The June exhibition by the Irish Woodturners Guild has been cancelled due to the uncertainty in shipping to the US. Planning for the David Ellsworth Legacy Project is on schedule. A booth will be in the vendor section at the symposium to interview attendees to capture stories about David. The funding goal for the project has been reached.

Symposium Committee

Jay Brown reported that 1,000 people have signed up for the in-person symposium and 403 have signed up for the virtual as of May 15, 2025. Tests for the streaming portion of the live symposium are done. Board members have been given their assigned areas at the symposium. The symposium debriefing has been changed to a week following the symposium.

Strategic Plan Update

First email to chapter leaders was well received, and another email is planned for later this month.

Office Assessment

Reid Zimmerman is still working on assessing the AAW's office requirements and information will be presented to Board at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft agenda for June Board meeting circulated for comment. Board meeting will be held Tuesday, June 10 at the Landmark Building in St. Paul. A Zoom Board meeting will be scheduled for September 3 or 4 to review the results of the August election and to appoint a the third Board member.

David Fellows and Linda Britt will visit the Skills USA conference being held in Atlanta, GA in June to learn more about the organization and see if, and how, the AAW might want to get involved in the future.

KC Kendall stated that on behalf of him and the Board, he would like to formally recognize Jennifer Newberg for her service and hard work over the last four years as Assistant Executive Director and Executive Director. She put a lot of effort into supporting the AAW, with good contributions and suggestions. She will be formally recognized at the symposium banquet that she will attend with her family.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Chuck Lobaito, with a second by Ron Day, to enter into Executive Session at 5:40 pm. All attendees were invited to stay. Motion approved.

Motion to exit executive session made by Ron Day, with second by David Fellows, at 6 pm. Motion approved.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Britt, with second by Jay Brown. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Britt
AAW Board Secretary