



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Board of Directors Meeting

August 28, 2025 via Zoom

Rev. 9-15-25 4:30pm

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President KC Kendall at 2:05 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron Day made a motion, with second by Reid Zimmerman, to approve the July 17, 2025 minutes. Motion passed.

Jay Brown made a motion, with second by Sally Burnett, to approve the July 29, 2025 minutes. Motion passed.

FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer Chuck Lobaito reported that cash had decreased since May, but remained up compared to December, 2024. The POP and AAW auctions exceeded expectations. Symposium expenses were under budget. The symposium made money but due to fewer registrations than projected, it was a lower amount than planned. Overall the AAW remains in a good financial position.

The finance committee made a motion to approve the financial report, with second by Linda Britt. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ron Day reported on the ad hoc committee to find a replacement for *American Woodturner* editor Josh Friend. Ron stated there are eight candidates being vetted and first round of interviews have started. A decision should be made by mid-September so the person can work with Josh for the December issue of the Journal.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Gretchen reported AAW membership as of August, 2025, was 12,829. 4,505 members have renewed, joined or re-joined. The AAW got a new phone system the end of August, with a \$300 a month cost saving. Deadline for open positions at the AAW is August 29, and hundreds of applications have been received. Changes will be made to the office space in the Landmark Building. Planning for the Raleigh Symposium is underway. A draft of the 2026 budget will be presented to the Board in October, with final approval at the November Board meeting.

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Jay Brown reported the attendee survey from the St. Paul symposium had a 4.7 overall satisfaction rating. There were 1,061 in person registrations (126 comps) and the virtual had 840 registrations. Attendees were from 13 different countries, and 48 out of 50 states were represented. There were 1,400 walk-ins from the public, and a total of 90 TV and radio clips with a total local viewer ship of 841,544. The Gallery of Wood Art had 625 visitors. The symposium committee is reviewing all suggestions made in the survey in planning for the Raleigh Symposium.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Due to several Board members and the Executive Director attending either the Mid-Atlantic Symposium or the Rocky Mountain Symposium from September 18-21, the September 18 Board meeting has been moved to October 2. This October meeting will combine the September and October Board meetings and the scheduled October 16 Board meeting will be cancelled.

The November meeting will be an in-person meeting in St. Paul, MN on November 13-16, 2025. Thursday and Sunday will be travel days, with a full day meeting on both Friday and Saturday.

Reid Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Chuck Lobaito. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Britt
AAW Board Secretary