

**The Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo  
Executive Board Meeting  
March 5, 2012**

**Present:** Esther James, Nan Krapf, Mary Jane Kreidler, Anne Mehring, Patty Reid, Marta Williams, Cory Zann **Time and Place:** 11am, Portage Public Library meeting room

**Nancy Crampton: Joan Sheridan Workshop and Report from the Nomination Committee**

- Nancy reported via email that arrangements are in place for the upcoming knitting workshop with Joan Sheridan. Anne Mehring volunteered to be responsible for the digital projector at the end of each day and will bring it to the Monday night meeting.
- Nancy reported that the Nominating Committee (Judith Jones, Chair, Nancy Crampton, and Cyndee Mishler) has found volunteers to fill all four elected positions on the 2012-13 Executive Board. The current Board extends its thanks to the Committee for its excellent work!

**Judith Jones: Policy and Terms for Subsidizing Guild Workshops**

Cory distributed copies of Judith's policy containing her (Cory's) suggested proof-reading changes. Board members discussed the changes and added several more to clarify content. **TITLE:** Judy had changed "Subsidy" to "Sponsorship" and asked for feedback. The Board felt that "Subsidy" better described the program. The title, *Terms of the WGK Workshop Subsidy Policy* was adopted. Cory will revise the document to include the Board's suggestions.

**Anne Mehring: Scholarship Program and Application Form**

Last spring, Anne and Gail Ross began revising the application form. Other members of the Board contributed feedback to their work. Anne updated the application to include all ideas currently discussed. Board members reviewed the new version and added suggestions. Anne will add their revisions and have the final draft for the March General Membership meeting.

**General Information about the Scholarship Program:**

- The Scholarship Program will be available for WGK members this year, pending approval of the 2012-13 budget at the April General Meeting.
- The Scholarship Committee will be composed of three members: one from the Board, one from the General Membership, and a third who may be chosen from outside the WGK, such as an area artist with expertise in fiber. No member applying for scholarship funds may be part of this committee or be present when applications are discussed.

**Scholarship Time Line**

- The Scholarship Program will be announced at the March meeting.
- April General Membership meeting: Applications will be available pending approval of the budget.
- May 31: Scholarship application deadline.
- June: The Committee will review all applications.
- June 30: The Committee will announce recipients of Scholarship funds.
- July Shuttle: Names of recipients will be published.

**Post-meeting note:** The Change-over meeting of June, 2010 decided to mail out a paper edition of the Shuttle in July to encourage payment of dues in time to include names in the Year Book and to encourage sign-up for workshops.

**Marta Williams: Distribution of Board and General Meeting Minutes**

In December, the Board voted to email both sets of minutes to all members as attachments to the Shuttle. The Board has now fine-tuned the emailing schedule so that both sets of minutes are received in a timely manner.

- Minutes of the General Membership meeting will be attached to the Shuttle.
- Minutes of Board meetings will be emailed to the full membership just prior to the General Membership meeting.
  - Board members present at the meeting will continue to receive the rough draft in order to make revisions and corrections.
  - The full Board will receive the final draft of Board minutes from Marta in the member-wide email.

**Members without email:** Marta reported that seven members do not have email. Minutes for the General Membership meeting will be mailed to them with their Shuttle. These people may pick up their printed copy of the Board minutes from either Cory or Marta at Monday night meetings. Copies not picked up will be mailed out after the meeting.

**Esther James: New Board members**

All agreed with Esther that those who volunteered to accept elected offices on the 2012-13 Board should be invited to attend current Board meetings. Becoming familiar with issues and procedures may ease their learning curve upon taking office. Marta will extend invitations when she sends out the Board minutes.

**Anne Mehring: April Board meeting**

Anne reminded the Board that Brian Zoher, Director of EFA (Education for the Arts), a county-wide arts program for students K-12, will be our guest. We will discuss how WGK and EFA can work together to support fiber arts in the schools. Formerly, we supported MAGIK (Making Arts Grow in Kalamazoo), a program of the Arts Council which is no longer offered.

**Nan Krapf, Treasurer: 2012-13 Budget**

Nan needed several pieces of information in order to complete preparation of the budget:

- An estimate on the cost of an outside audit – how much to allot for this line item.
- Due date for the MLH donation: Nan will contact Leslie Jo Hurwitz, MLH rep, as well as Cathy McCarthy for this information.
- West Michigan Area Show at KIA – presentation of the WGK award. Patty Reid volunteered to do this. Nan has sent them our check for \$250. The ceremony is on March 16th at 6:30pm.

**Marta Williams: Web Site Policy and Security**

Marta spoke with a person who has legal background, although not an attorney, about WGK posting photos on line. He told her that there are certain rights that cannot be signed away. This is of concern since the rough draft of the Board's web policy states that the web master is not responsible if photos are posted and the member has failed to complete paperwork that denies permission to post their personal photos. *Marta is concerned that the Board be very proactive on this issue to avoid inadvertently*

*undermining the safety of a member or causing a law suit that could close down WGK.* **Note:** The Board thought that permission to use photos could be added to the membership form and would therefore, be a way of obtaining permission to use/not use photos from each member. Marta pointed out that she often receives money for membership **without** receiving the membership form – which means that some members have not responded to this issue.

**Comments on this topic:**

- Cory suggested that personal photos be limited to those of groups where written permission to use the photo could be easily obtained from each person at the time the photo is taken.
- Patty felt that seeing each other's work is our greatest motivation, more so than photos of WGK activities. She wants to see the issue of permission worked out with the Guild photographer so that when she, as web master, receives photos, she knows that permission forms have been already signed and are housed in one location.

All agreed with Patty that the Board must develop the permission form. The next step will be to work with the photographer to implement the Board policy.

**Marta Williams: Posting the Shuttle On Line**

Marta asked if the Shuttle should be posted on line.

Patty said she has found critical information in Shuttles such as the WFA budget. She questioned if that information should be in the Shuttle at all. Patty suggested posting Shuttles and other items with personal information on a *Members Only Page* with a password that changes each year. Some felt this would not provide security given the large number of people with access to it. Patty suggested this issue may be one for the "Parking Lot", i.e., for the next Board to handle.

Marta suggested posting an on line version of the Shuttle without personal information.

Patty shared a bit of what she had learned from a web security person about who is vulnerable to hacking and why.

**Judith Jones: Hiring WGK Members as Program and Workshop Presenters**

Cory prefaced this topic by explaining that two points of view exist in regard to paying our members to present programs or workshops: Because many of our WGK members have achieved such expertise in fiber arts, some members of program committees have expressed interest in hiring one of our own members to present a program or workshop; others believe we should pay only those from outside our Guild for such services. These members do not feel we should pay our own members for service to the Guild because so many have donated so much, in so many ways, since WGK began.

In her absence, Judy asked that Cory pass on her (Judy's) idea that members be considered for such paying opportunities IF they meet the same artistic and pedagogical standards as those set by the Program Committee for non-member presenters.

Cory recommended that the Board get a legal answer on whether or not WGK can pay its own members before moving forward on this topic.

Esther James, a founding member of WGK, expressed opposition to paying WGK members to present programs or give workshops. She feels we all work very hard for the Guild and asks why anyone should be paid: where does payment to members begin and where does it end? Esther also expressed frustration with the speed of change within the Guild in recent years, with the increasing use of technology and with talk of changing the Bylaws.

**Other comments on the topic:**

- All agreed that the Board needs to make a decision about paying members and then write it down, thus moving it from the realm of Guild tradition to that of Guild policy.
- Anne explained that the issue of paying members came up recently in conjunction with the effort of spinners to find a presenter.
- Patty reiterated that the Guild needs a clear decision on this issue.
- All agreed that a decision on this subject - one way or the other - should not be made to accommodate any individual or interest group within the Guild.

**Patty Reid: Dawn Edward's workshops**

Patty asked via email if anyone objected to posting Dawn's information about upcoming workshops on the web site. Since WGK is not sponsoring them, Nan suggested that the information was fine, but that Patty add a link to the registration form instead of posting it on our site. All present agreed with Nan.

Patty asked about posting the notice of an Ann Arbor Fiber Arts Guild program. All agreed that a notice of an upcoming activity from the Ann Arbor Fiber Arts Guild was an appropriate item for the web site.

**Marta Williams: Suggestion Box**

Marta said members had asked her where the Suggestion Box was located and if they can make suggestions on line.

**June Change-over Meeting:** Members felt plans must be made for the June Change-over meeting.

**Next Board Meeting: April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm. Portage Public Library Meeting Room**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cory Zann,  
Secretary