

**The Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo  
Executive Board Meeting  
April 4, 2012**

**Present:** Ellen Colston, Nancy Crampton, Judith Jones, Nan Krapf, Mary Jane Kreidler, Stephanie Kyhn, Anne Mehring, Martha Reeves, Gail Ross, Marta Williams, Cory Zann **Time and Place:** 1 pm, Portage Public Library

**Cory: The Guild's Overhead Project and Carousel Slide Projector**

- Neither piece has been used in many years. After taking a year to assess the future need for them, the Board has decided to offer both for sale at the upcoming garage sale to be held during the April meeting.
- There will be a silent auction for each item. The Board determined that the auction format will bring in more money for WGK, as well as give all members an equal opportunity to bid.
- Bids on the overhead projector will begin at \$20; bids on the slide carousel will begin at \$15.
- NOTE: WGK could borrow a carousel slide projector from Nan, Judith, or Cory if one is ever needed.

**Cory: Refreshments for the May Guild meeting**

Since members are so busy in the spring, the Board will take care of this responsibility, relieving those scheduled to bring treats. Some of the remaining funds in the Program Committee budget will be used to purchase food for the May meeting. Nancy recommended the Board provide a medley of items, similar to what was done for the December meeting. All agreed, and Nancy will update Dawn Mergener, Hospitality, about the plans.

**Judith's Workshop Subsidy Policy: Final Draft**

Since the last meeting, Cory added a "Statement of Intent" to the document, which the Board approved. For simplicity, and to include new members joining throughout the year, Board members also dropped the requirement that dues be paid by June 1 in order to qualify for the workshop subsidy. Marta will send this document to members along with the Board minutes. Judith will introduce the Policy at the April meeting. The Board extends its appreciation to Judith for her vision of this Policy, as well as for crunching the numbers to create it.

**Anne Mehring: Brian Zocher, Director of EFA (Education for the Arts)**

Anne invited Brian Zocher, director of EFA, a county-wide arts program for all students K-12, to talk with us about how a donation from WGK might be used to promote fiber arts in our community. Brian explained that EFA receives grant money from the Gilmore Foundation and then directs it into four areas from which EFA then awards grants:

1. Funding for all levels of students, from beginners to the advanced student who may wish to study abroad.
  2. Grants to teachers and schools: teachers may receive instruction in an art form or work with a mentor in the area of interest.
  3. Project grants: Bring an artist to a class or provide funding for a class field trip.
  4. The instrument fund to assist with the purchase of better instruments for exceptionally talented and skilled young musicians.
- Nancy on the use of our donation: to help a teacher or fund an activity of direct benefit to students, such as a lunch club for knitting or inkle weaving. WGK wishes its donation to promote learning and study within the area of fiber arts; we do not want it to simply become part of a general fund. She emphasized that WGK does not wish to oversee the use of our donation, nor follow its use. In addition to a WGK donation, our members might also serve as teachers and mentors. Nancy herself has taught in four classrooms that received EFA grants.
  - Brian discussed his goal of coordinating arts activities for after- school hours as well as during the school day. He is building an on line resource to list all available options. It will include professional development

as well as coordinate information throughout community organizations, not just schools. This resource will be available to students and teachers looking for resources.

- Gail suggested that those receiving the WGK grant money also receive a complimentary one-year membership in WGK. Note: This is already in place for those receiving WGK grant money from Michigan FiberFestival.
- Thinking about the four focus areas of funding, Judith asked if any are underfunded. Brian: student grants.
- Nancy asked about the health of the endowment fund established many years ago. Brian: After difficult economic years, it's "back on track", with \$6-\$8 million in assets.
- Brian: Kalamazoo Book Arts is another organization involved with fiber that might be a good place for the WGK donation. They may be interested in WGK presenting a class or workshop. In the past, Kalamazoo Book Arts, Smart Shop and West Michigan Glass have partnered to work with students. West Michigan Glass and Kalamazoo Book Arts continue to partner to work with students.
- Anne asked if our \$300 donation was too small for EFA to consider. Brian: Roll it over to another year or hold it over.
- Nancy added that we want our money to be used. In the past, we've designated uses for it, but we no longer want to administer it. Gail added that we want it used for fiber art since we are a fiber art organization. Judith said members would prefer to see an end result for their dues rather than have the money become an anonymous part of a huge fund. "We are the gate-keepers for our members," she said, referring to the Board.
- Nancy asked if it would be better to make a five-year commitment to our \$300 donation. Brian: Consider holding your donation for a year, then make donations of \$500, a more useful sum. WGK would have a link in the teachers' resource area of the EFA website noting our donation. The funds would more likely be used if WGK advertises them in education newsletters where teachers could read about them.
- Stephanie Kyhn asked about home-school teachers and tutors using EFA funds. Brian: Students are eligible, but teachers must be part of the KRESA service district.
- Ellen said she is available to do programs for home-school teachers and their students.
- Judith asked about the application time line. Brian: The application deadline recently closed for this year. In January, they begin advertising again. If he finds among these applications, any for fiber arts, he will contact Anne so that we may make a donation. He suggested KRESA Foundation as another possibility for the WGK donation.

Anne thanked Brian for taking time to meet with us. They will remain in contact as needed. The Board appreciates Anne's arranging this meeting. We have learned more about EFA's role in supporting the arts, as well as new options through which WGK can full-fill its objective of supporting fiber arts in our community.

**Continuing the topic:**

- Cory asked about WGK funding one opening in a fiber class at KIA. Nancy suggested that Ann Niemi's class for beginning weavers would be an excellent use of our money, as well as a place to volunteer our time –

although not as an alternative to an EFA donation. Nancy noted that Ann's class is one of the few places to learn to weave. Marta mentioned Kalamazoo Book Arts as a possible site for teaching fiber art.

- Judith expressed concern that our money be received with enthusiasm. Nancy suggested that with a time commitment, word of mouth would help. Ellen added that word of our funding also spreads through her school demonstrations.
- Cory mentioned a knitting program by a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Amberly Elementary in Portage. Nan asked about getting the names of more teachers who could use supplies or donations. Suggestions included newsletters, emails, and a note in the Shuttle requesting such names.

In summary: Brian will contact Anne if he has applications regarding fiber grants. If he finds none, the Board will not give the money to EFA this year. The incoming Board will then decide where best to donate our funds.

#### **Cory: Change-over Meeting**

The Change-over meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Crampton has invited us to her new home on Duchess Drive for a potluck, beginning about 5:30, followed by the meeting.

#### **Marta: New Format for the Responsibility Guidelines**

Marta has created a new format for the job responsibilities that is both attractive and user- friendly. Responsibilities for each job will be in calendar format with footnotes for task details. *The Responsibility Guidelines* will be updated to the new format throughout the coming year. Cory will continue to update the 2007 edition using information from those currently holding each position and give the updates to Marta.

#### **Judy: April Guild Meeting Agenda**

Items for the April agenda were compiled:

- Introduce the 2012-13 budget, to be voted on at the May meeting.
- Introduce the slate of 2012-13 candidates for elected offices. Voting will take place at the May meeting. (Pres: Martha Reeves, VP: Juanita Manning-Walsh, Treasurer: Nan Krapf, Secretary: Anne Mehring)
- Announce activities for the May meeting: election of officers, approval of the new budget, study group exhibits, Board-arranged treats, table for individual projects, membership dues drive (Two-for-One)
- Show and Tell –remember to check the table
- Scholarship Program and Application
- Workshop Subsidy Policy
- Silent auction for the Guild's slide and overhead projectors
- Treats: Mini-study groups and Swatch Study Group

#### **Anne: WGK Scholarship Program**

Anne walked Board members through the new Scholarship Program and Application. She explained that each year the deadline date will change and that she expects the document will be updated each year as needed. Marta will send out this form attached to the Board minutes. **Note:** This program has been under revision since spring, 2011. Many thanks to members of last year's Board for their suggested revisions, to Gail Ross who worked with Anne on the first rough draft, and especially to Anne, who has midwived the new version of this program through its many drafts.

#### **Judy: Web site**

- Judy opened discussion, saying that a great deal of evaluation has taken place this year on the web site, as well as many other topics.
- Cory felt the Board's lack of a unified vision for the web site this year has made it more difficult to make decisions about it. She mentioned that, as per the December 2011 Board meeting, the Board's six-month

evaluation of the site is due in June.

- Marta agreed with Cory, but felt the Board should establish a clear vision before voting on the site.
- A separate Board meeting in June dedicated to the web site was suggested. Marta reiterated the importance of beginning with a Board vision for the web site.
- Cory emphasized that whatever is done, it must be safe for all Guild members.
- Mary Jane shared two examples of web site hacking.
- Ellen uses a designated email address for service requests, separate from her home email address.

**Nan: Two items**

- **MLH Award:** Nan needed information on relaying the check to MLH. A plan to do this was created.
- Nan will be absent from the May Board meeting.

**May Meeting:**

Judy will check with Patty on her plans for the May meeting.

**Next Board Meeting:** Wednesday, May 9, Portage Public Library. **New Time!** Room opens at 12:30 pm. **Meeting begins at 12:45 pm.** Please be prompt. We must vacate the room by 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cory Zann, Secretary