

**MidAtlantic Fiber Association
Representatives Assembly
September 27, 2016**

The fall meeting of the representatives of the MidAtlantic Fiber Association was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 via teleconference.

Board Members in Attendance

Elisa Eiger, President
Charlene Marietti, First VP\Communications
Donna Mentzer, 2nd VP\Conference
Marla Campbell, Treasurer

Karen Miller, Secretary
Carol Wood, Grants Chair
Dave Banks, Membership Chair

Guild Representatives in Attendance

Marla Campbell, Albemarle
Sara Bixler, Central Penn
Karen Miller, Foothills
Suanne Pasquarella, Buffalo, Rochester,
Chautauqua
Leah Haymaker, Fiber Arts Network
Carol Ireland, FiberGuild, Harmony
Sally Orgren, Frances Irwin, Jockey
Hollow
Donna Mentzer, Lancaster
Charlene Marietti, New York, South
Jersey

Patty Chrisman, North Country Spinners
Linda Ihle, Outer Banks
Debbie Cummings, Philadelphia
Carol Wood, Southern Tier
Lizanne Smith, Warped Weavers
Deborah Herrin, Baltimore
Barbara Diefenderfer, Weaver's
Roundtable
Stephen Fox, Westfield
Dave Banks, Williamsburg

CALL TO ORDER

President Elisa Eiger called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Representatives of 22 guilds were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

The minutes of the Reps Meeting of May 7, 2016 were approved as posted.

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Elisa Eiger reported that the Board has been working on "infrastructure," talking to other regional fiber organizations such as the Conference of Northern California Handweavers (CNCH) and New England Weavers Seminar (NEWS) about things like insurance and non-profit status. It is beginning investigation of how MAFA might help the guilds in these areas.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Marla Campbell provided a balance sheet as of August 30, 2016, showing a year-to-date balance of \$112,481.13

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR REPORT

Communications Chair Charlene Marietti reported that volunteers have been busy putting together the conference website. The social media teams have also been active on Facebook, Pinterest, Ravelry, Weavolution, and Twitter. She called for a volunteer to help with the Weavolution platform. She also asked the reps to help get the word out on the conference and the many activities that will be open to the public.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Conference Chair Donna Mentzer reported that next year's conference would be held from July 20-23 at Millersville University. See <http://www.mafa-conference-2017.org> for the latest information. The forty workshops are described there. A PDF of workshop information will be available later this fall. On January 2 online registration will begin; students will be able to see immediately which class they have been enrolled in. We have over 30 applicants for the Marketplace vendor slots. There will be speakers, spin-ins, demos, and other activities in the Marketplace. The vendors will be announced in the next month. The Fashion Show will be juried; an exhibit will showcase all the submitted entries. The Sample Exchange is being revived.

There was some discussion about the Sample Exchange books from previous years. They are currently stored at Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Center. Sara Bixler agreed that the books could stay there, but suggested we should look for ways to make them more accessible. Elisa has asked for volunteers to digitize the samples, but has not yet received any responses.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Chair Dave Banks said that there are currently 44 guilds. The renewal form will be sent out this week. We are asking for all guilds to provide some additional information this year, including member numbers and lists of members. The membership lists will only be used to determine eligibility for membership discounts during conference registration.

GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Grants Committee Chair Carol Wood reported that the MAFA website contains the list of the 4 current winners of the Guild Grants, and the reports from the previous year's winners. Guidelines and applications will be available on the MAFA website by November 15. The deadline will be January 31, using the same criteria as in previous years – education in fiber arts, with some impact on the public.

The committee has been charged with managing the Conference Fellowships process as well. This year there will be an additional fellowship for weavers – the Ellen Dorosh Award. Deadlines for these will be April 1. Application information will be available over the next few months on the conference website.

It was suggested that Elisa address the grants, fellowships, and scholarships available in her next reps message. She should also include information about the Fannin Fund for year-end giving. It was also suggested that MAFA update the Grants/Fellowship section of the MAFA website to summarize these programs, with a few bullets on criteria and deadlines, since there seems to be a lot of confusion surrounding them.

NEW BUSINESS

Associates

President Elisa Eiger led a discussion of associate membership.

Suanne Pasquarella moved *that the associate dues be raised to \$40 for a two-year period*. Seconded by Barb Diefenderfer. The motion carried unanimously.

Carol Ireland moved *that MAFA create three types of associates: individual, commercial and institutional*. Patty Chrisman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Stephen Fox moved *that each type of associate be allowed one discounted conference registration*. Donna Mentzer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

It was suggested that MAFA create printable material that could be distributed to fiber shops and organizations, to encourage additional associate memberships.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elisa discussed the role of the Nominating Committee, to assemble the slate of officers to be elected at next summer's conference. Mickie Schneider and Suanne Pasquarella are currently on the committee. Elisa asked for another volunteer. Leah Haymaker of the FiberArts Guild volunteered to serve on the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Miller
Recording Secretary

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the MAFA Representative Assembly will take place in the late afternoon on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. Exact time and location will be publicized later next spring.