

**MidAtlantic Fiber Association  
Representatives Meeting  
October 27, 2015**

The fall meeting of the representatives of the MidAtlantic Fiber Association was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 via recorded teleconference.

**Board Members in Attendance**

Ellen Turner, President  
Elisa Eiger, Vice President  
Dina Callow, Treasurer

Lori Wall, Corresponding Secretary  
Karen Miller, Recording Secretary  
Mickie Schneider, Past President

**Guild Representatives in Attendance**

Debbie Forrest, Blue Ridge  
Carla Brenner, Canaan Weavers  
Suanne Pasquarella, Buffalo, Rochester,  
Chautauqua  
Carol Ireland, Fiberguild, Harmony  
Helen Taylor, Foothills  
Fred Brown, Frances Irwin, Palisades  
Carolyn Moore, New River Valley  
Elizabeth Ator, Bucks County

Sally Orgren, Jockey Hollow  
Lori Wall, Morgantown  
Debra Foster, Shore Fiber, South Jersey  
Marion Flint, Triangle Weavers  
Lizanne Smith, Warped Weavers  
Joan Hutten, Waterford  
Deborah Herrin, Greater Baltimore  
Marsha Rehcamp, Williamsburg

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Ellen Turner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Representatives of 21 guilds were present.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES**

The minutes of the Reps Meeting of May 2, 2015 were approved as corrected.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Ellen enthused about the July conference – 304 attendees, 34 workshops, 30 vendors, 12 guild exhibits. The Conference Steering Committee found Millersville University to be very supportive. Although there were some problems, such as the dorm key registration process, we know we can fix these at the next conference. We are capturing lessons learned to pass on to the planners of the next conference.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Vice President Elisa Eiger noted that MAFA has money set aside to help support fiber-related, not-for-profit, educational activities in the public interest. Member guilds can apply for these grants. Grants have been awarded for one-time events such as workshops that are open to the public, as well as for recurring events such as fiber festivals and spinning retreats. Grants have also been given to support community resources such as fiber-arts centers.

She encouraged guilds to think about their activities and see if any of them might qualify for a grant. Information about the grants program can be found on the MAFA website. Grant applications for 2016 are due January 31, 2016.

### **RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Recording Secretary Karen Miller reported receiving 24 ballots, with all votes cast for Elisa Eiger for President, Dina Callow for Treasurer, and Lori Wall as Corresponding Secretary. No write-in nominations were received. One guild abstained. The proposed slate was elected. Ellen turned over the running of the meeting to Elisa as new President.

### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Corresponding Secretary Lori Wall reported that MAFA now has 43 member guilds. Because we are on a two-year dues schedule, dues are not due this year. Either Lori or Membership Chair Dave Banks will be sending out requests for guilds to update the names of their representatives, presidents and treasurers. It was noted that each guild could also name an alternate representative, if desired.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Dina Callow reported that the income from the conference was approximately \$175K. Expenses of \$150K, led to a surplus of approximately \$25K. We also gave 4 fellowships of \$300 each, and \$1200 from the Allen Fannin Fund for beginning spinners and weavers. The Ellen Dorosh Fund raised almost \$1600. Current bank balance is \$56K, and we have \$61K in a money market account, for total assets of approximately \$117K. These are unaudited figures.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***2017 Workshop Weekend***

#### **Location: Millersville University, Millersville, PA**

Based on feedback from the participants' survey and the 2015 Conference Committee, the Board has agreed that Millersville University is an appropriate venue for the next conference. Good groundwork has been established with the University. More new dorms will be finished, and Millersville wants to work with us to consolidate our classrooms into fewer buildings.

#### **Date: July 20-23, 2017**

After group discussion of various options for dates for the 2017 conference, Deb Foster moved that MAFA hold its 2017 conference on July 20-23. The motion was approved.

#### **Volunteers Needed**

Elisa noted it is not too early to get involved with a volunteer job for the conference. The big job, of course, is Conference Coordinator—the person who oversees and orchestrates the myriad tasks that go into producing a conference. There are also the committees and committee chairs that focus on specific aspects of the conference: Registrar; Education; Vendors; Communications, Marketing, and Publicity; Special Events (such as the fashion show, keynote speech, guild exhibits, or swatch exchange); and Volunteers. We will be contacting those who indicated on the post-conference survey a willingness to help, but we are also interested in hearing from others. Please email [mafaboard@mafafiber.org](mailto:mafaboard@mafafiber.org) even if you or your guild mates just want to find out more about the jobs available.

### ***Ellen Dorosh Scholarship Fund***

Ellen gave some historical background to the creation of the fund. There was some discussion about how these funds could be awarded. It has been assumed that these funds would be awarded as a one-time event, as a memorial to Ellen. Could/should they be awarded in multiple units? Or as a grant? For student scholarships? Or for awards at juried exhibitions? As a hardship grant to guilds or individuals? If the guilds have any other suggestions, please forward them to the board. Elisa plans to ask the Grants/Scholarships Committee to organize this award.

### ***Bylaws and Operations Manual Updates***

Elisa reported that MAFA made some minor revisions to the bylaws in May 2013. We now need to make a change to explicitly allow electronic balloting. (The Attorney General of Pennsylvania has recently ruled that this is allowable for us, but it needs to be stated in the bylaws.) We may also want to make some changes to the composition of the board – e.g. adding the Conference Coordinator as an elected office.

The bylaws are a legal document, and are short and concise. The Operations Manual provides detailed information and guidelines about how the organization is run. This document has not been revised since 2006.

If something is not spelled out in the Bylaws or Operations Manual, MAFA, like other organizations, is required to follow procedures in *Robert's Rules of Order*—which, although revised, is still based on a book first published in 1876.

If anyone would like to work on a committee to review the bylaws and/or the operations manual, please send a note to [mafaboard@mafafiber.org](mailto:mafaboard@mafafiber.org)

Current Bylaws can be found here:

<http://mafafiber.org/resources/MAFA-By-Laws-May2013.pdf>

And the Operations Manual can be found here:

<http://mafafiber.org/resources/MAFA-Ops-Fall2006.pdf>

### ***Other Volunteer Opportunities***

**Vice President** – with Elisa's election to the presidency, we now need a Vice President. This person acts as president in the absence or incapacity of the president, and serves as a member of the Grants Committee.

**Nominating Committee** – This committee serves as the talent scouts for MAFA, building a slate for elections, looking for “future talent,” and helps find other key personnel. We currently have two volunteers serving on this committee, but need a third person.

**Conference Manual** - Members of the 2015 Conference Committee have started work on this, but additional ideas and assistance are welcome.

**Grants Committee members** – The Grants Committee reviews guild grant requests and may also look at fellowship applications for the workshop weekend. The majority of the work for this

committee falls in January and early February of every year, and in March of the conference year. We need several new members.

### ***Workshop Database***

A number of years ago, MAFA set up an "Instructor Database." This was to have included instructor reviews from the MAFA conferences as well as ratings submitted by guilds after a workshop. One rep noted that one or two guilds did submit data, but that it then became difficult to extract data. A new "Workshop Database" was proposed as a workable alternative to the Instructor Database. The Workshop Database would include past and future guild programs and workshops, with a contact person who could give other programs chairs a candid perspective on a particular program and instructor. One rep noted that much of this information is now available on Ravelry, Weavolution and Interweave. The group felt that the idea of a "database" was perhaps more than what was required, but it was agreed that we should find a way for guilds to share ideas about their programs with each other. Even just sharing the year's planned programs and workshops might be helpful. Perhaps a working group should be stood up to look into how best to facilitate this.

### ***Other New Business***

Elisa asked if there were other things that MAFA could look at to help guilds. We had talked about "outreach" on the post-conference survey, and got some volunteers. It was noted that a big concern some guilds have is how to reach adult weavers, and grow the guild membership.

Carolyn Moore of the Handweavers Guild of the New River Valley shared that her guild demonstrates weaving at the Blue Ridge Institute's farm museum's Life in Mid-1800s Appalachia festival, where they find that displaying overshot samples (as might have been woven in the 1800s) with modern items woven with modern fibers such as bamboo and tencel often attracts the adults, as well as the children.

MAFA should think about how to get guild members together to discuss what works.

Elisa reiterated the Board's desire to hear suggestions on how we can improve MAFA. Please send your ideas and suggestions to [mafaboard@mafafiber.org](mailto:mafaboard@mafafiber.org)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Karen Miller  
Recording Secretary