

**MidAtlantic Fiber Association
Representatives Assembly Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2021**

Via Zoom

Board Members Attending:

Margaret Briggs, President
Laura Womack, 1st. VP, Communications
Carol Steuer, 2nd VP, Conference
Liz Heine, Treasurer
Sara Robbins, Membership Chair
Dave Banks, Webmaster
Helena Valentine, Past President
Patty Chrisman, Secretary

Guild Representatives Attending:

Dave Banks, Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers
Diane Baumgartner, Foothills Spinners & Weavers
Margaret Briggs, Central Virginia Fiberarts Guild
Elaine Brooks, Harmony Weavers Guild
Amy Bush, Fiber Arts Network
Aileen Campbell, Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild
Marla Campbell, Central Virginia Fiberarts Guild
Pat Canaday, Tryon Guild
Patty Chrisman, Essex County Spinners
Marilyn Cowgill, Handweavers of Bucks County
Barbara Diefenderfer, Weavers' Roundtable
Deborah Faehner, Handweavers of Bucks County
Gretchen Fancher, Westfield Weavers
Marion Flint, Triangle Weavers Guild
Kelly Grotzinger, Central PA Guild of Handweavers
Debbie Hadfield, Three Rivers Fiber Focus, Washington Spinners & Weavers Guild
Carol Ireland, Fiber Guild
Meg Lundsager, Waterford Weavers Guild
Tina Mickley, Lancaster Spinners and Weavers
Karen Miller, Potomac Fiber Arts Guild
Eric Mosley, New River Valley
Sally Orgren, Jockey Hollow Weavers; Frances Irwin Handweavers
Suanne Pasquarella, Weavers Guild of Buffalo; Weavers Guild of Rochester & Chautauqua County
Sandi Petty, Tavern Spinners & Weavers; Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers
Linda Pierson, Palisades Guild of Spinners & Weavers

Sara Robbins, Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers
Liza Jennings Seiner, Loyalhannon Spinners
Inger Seitz, Outer Banks Fiber Guild
Lizanne Smith, Warped Weavers Guild
Carol Steuer, New York Guild of Handweavers
Cecile Stiner, Susquehanna Valley Spinners & Weavers
Sandra Talarico, Shore Fiber Arts
Dornan Trainer, Triangle Weavers Guild
Nancy Turner, South Jersey Guild of Spinners and Handweavers
Lori Wall, Morgantown Fiber Guild
Laura Womack, Handweavers of Bucks County

Welcome (Margaret Briggs, President) Margaret called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm, welcomed the MAFA Reps with the following comments:

I am so happy to be continuing on the MAFA board, though in a new role as president. It's been an exciting past two years -- maybe a little too exciting sometimes -- but we are all looking forward to what we can accomplish in the next two years. We started conversations about diversity and inclusiveness, and that work will continue and hopefully grow under the guidance of our past president, Helena Valentine, because it's important to engage all who are interested in fiber arts.

Who would have thought a global pandemic would help strengthen our organization and bring all our members together in new ways. But that's exactly what it did. For a start, Zoom meetings. I know, Zoom meetings. But they allowed us to continue meeting as guilds, to bring far-flung members back into the fold, to attend programs and take classes anywhere in the world. For MAFA, we started the guild Roundtable series, that we plan to continue and expand going into next year, with programs for all members. And, most importantly, video conferencing allowed us to have a conference anyway.

Our biggest takeaway from that virtual conference was the ability we found to engage MAFA members across our entire geographic area, many of whom can't attend in-person conferences. Now we want to keep all our members connected, and my goals as president include exploring ways we can keep that engagement, offer programs beyond just the conference, and expand our outreach efforts - both on our own, and through guild grants.

I welcome suggestions for how MAFA can better support your guilds. Email me at president@mafafiber.org.

Introduction of Officers

Find MAFA officer full bios and email addresses on the website under Contact Us/Meet MAFA's Officers:

<https://mafafiber.org/about-us/contact-us/mafafa-officer-bios/>

President: Margaret Briggs president@mafafiber.org

Margaret has been on the MAFA board since 2017, most recently as 2021 Conference Chair, from 2017 - 2020 as Membership Chair, and as Volunteer Coordinator for the 2019 Conference.

First Vice-President/Communications: Laura Womack firstvp@mafafiber.org

Laura is new to the board and joins us with a background in both journalism and textiles. She is a member of the Handweavers of Bucks County, Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers and New York Guild of Handweavers.

Second Vice-President/Conference: Carol Steuer conference@mafafiber.org

Carol is president of the NY Guild of Handweavers, and though new to the MAFA board, she has been the vendor coordinator for the 2019 and 2021 Conferences. She will put 20 years of project management experience to use as the new Conference Chair for 2023.

Treasurer: Liz Heine treasurer@mafafiber.org

Also new to the board, Liz is a member of Westfield Weavers Guild, Jockey Hollow Weavers, and Handweavers of Bucks County.

Secretary: Patty Chrisman secretary@mafafiber.org

We are delighted that Patty Chrisman has returned as secretary. Patty is a member of Frances Irwin Handweavers, North Country Spinners, Essex County Hand Spinners, and the New York Guild of Handweavers.

Rounding out the board are our Membership Chair Sara Robbins, Grants Chair Angela Fishman, Webmaster David Banks, and Past President Helena Valentine.

Minutes (Patty Chrisman, Secretary) The minutes of the Reps meeting and election of July 27, 2021, were approved as published upon motion by Dave Banks; second by Karen Miller.

Treasurer's Report (Liz Heine, Treasurer) Liz submitted the following report:
Balances as of September 30, 2021:

Money Market:	\$129,665.57
Checking:	119,673.94
PayPal:	0
Total:	\$249,339.51

Liz noted that we are starting our financial review with an auditor and that it should be completed by mid-December.

[The Balance Sheet for September 30, 2021, is appended to the end of the minutes.]

2021 Conference Report (Margaret Briggs, President) Margaret submitted the following report:

Budget

All income and expenses have been addressed and we can report Conference 2021 net income of \$61,410. This includes that Cvent waived a \$8,750 video coverage fee. This far exceeded our expectations and will provide breathing room for other MAFA activities in the future.

Surveys

The Conference survey received 267 results and comments were overwhelmingly positive. That feedback will be used by the 2023 Conference Committee to consider whether or how to incorporate virtual activities with the in-person conference, and we will also look at scheduling virtual programs at other times for MAFA members who may not be able to attend conferences.

2023 Conference Report (2nd VP Conference, Carol Steuer) Carol reported that she will be announcing a “kick-off” meeting for the 2023 Conference Committee soon. She noted that the first task will be to compile a list of potential instructors (suggestions welcome) and to send out RFPs to these instructors. Volunteers for the Conference Committee are welcome.

Membership Report (Sara Robbins, Membership Chair) Sara reported the following:

- Member guilds: 54
- Associate members: 225

The next Roundtable will be November 23, 2021, when Frances Irwin Handweavers will present their MAFA grant funded project “Linen: the Journey from Seed to Cloth.” This Roundtable is open to ALL members.

Grants and Fellowships Secretary Patty Chrisman gave the report on behalf of Angela Fishman, Grants Chair:

Do you have a great idea on moving forward now that we may be seeing the end of the pandemic? Please consider submitting a grant proposal to MAFA. The early decision deadline is November 1, 2021, for those of you who want to be up and running in 2022. The regular deadline is January 10, 2022, for those of you not in a big hurry. Please see the guidelines on the MAFA page under the Grants Tab.

If you have questions or want to run an idea past us, feel free to send an email to grants@mafafiber.org. Even small grants are welcome.

With a new year upon us we have some vacancies on the grants committee. If you have an interest, or know someone who does, we could use representation from all the states other than PA and NY (already represented). The terms are two years, and the grant evaluations are generally early in the year. It’s a great way to get to know how other guilds and groups are doing in their communities. If interested, please send a short bio to grants@mafafiber.org. We would love to have you join us.

Website Report (Dave Banks, Webmaster) Dave reported that several guilds would like to set up websites with MAFA support. That is keeping him busy.

New Business

- Discussion of proposed dues for 2022-2024. Proposed realignment of membership tiers, and should we continue the option to pay half dues.

President Margaret Briggs submitted the following proposal for discussion:

MAFA Proposed Dues 2022-2024

This is an issue that goes back to my time as Membership Chair, then the issue was tabled due to the pandemic. What I observed is that we have several small and mid-sized guilds paying a disproportionate share of the dues. Meanwhile, since the top tier of membership is for guilds with 101 or more members, the very large guilds pay the same as guilds half their size.

Since 2022 will be a renewal year, we want to start a discussion with the reps about revising the membership tiers so that there is time to review this with your guild board. There is also the question of continuing an option for 50% dues. Then we will vote on adopting dues for 2022-2024 at the May Reps Assembly so the renewal process can start in late summer.

First, we propose adding two tiers of very large guilds. Then we started figuring dues with the idea of a per capita dues amount of \$1.50 per guild member. Since administering every guild having difference dues based on number of members as of a particular date was going to be confusing, we calculated a rough average for the tiers of guild sizes to arrive at a proposed amount for each tier—with the following result:

- The smallest guilds dues go down slightly.
- Mid-size guilds dues remain the same.
- Large guilds dues go up because they are in a new tier.

Proposed dues tiers are:

- 25 or fewer members: \$50 (*was \$60*)
- 26 – 50 members: \$70 (*was \$70*)
- 51 – 100 members: \$100 (*was \$100*)
- 101 – 150 members: \$150 (*was \$150 but tier now caps at 150*)
- 151 – 200 members: \$200 (*was \$150 in the old 101+ tier*)
- 201 or more members: \$250 (*was \$150 in the old 101+ tier*)

There would be no change to dues for Associate members which will remain at \$40.

There was discussion regarding the above proposal as well as the proposal to offer the option to pay half dues to guilds who are still struggling due to the pandemic. Knowing that guild membership can be in flux during the year, the proper dues tier should be based on the number of guild members at the time of renewal. The time frame for dues is two years, therefore the notice of renewal will go out in August 2022.

Examples of how various guilds fared during the past two years were discussed, with some expanding membership while others had a decline in guild members. For a number of guilds, dues are the primary revenue. One guild noted that their budget was impacted as they provided increased programming online. Additionally, many guilds were not able to hold sales—a major source of revenue for some guilds.

Concern that reducing dues might negatively impact MAFA was mentioned, however Margaret Briggs noted that dues are less than 25% of MAFA income, and the success of recent conferences has given us a strong base.

Follow the link below for a detailed listing of the proposed tiers, dues, and the membership tallies by guild:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/14kYQRrUvy3N51P__IOysglhCOE1r8uXa/view?usp=sharing

Other Business Sara Robbins reminded reps to make sure to get the newsletter to their guild members.

Adjourn Upon motion by Suanne Pasquarella; second by Helena Valentine, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

The next Reps meeting will be in May 2022. We are looking into having that meeting via Zoom rather than at Maryland Sheep & Wool as in previous years; however, we will have a “meet up” for MAFA at the festival.

Submitted by
Patty Chrisman, Secretary

10/25/21

MAFA
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2021

	Sep 30, 21
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking Bus Adv Plus	
Disaster Relief Fund	1,100.00
Checking Bus Adv Plus - Other	118,573.94
Total Checking Bus Adv Plus	119,673.94
Money Market	129,665.57
Total Checking/Savings	249,339.51
Total Current Assets	249,339.51
TOTAL ASSETS	249,339.51
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	188,912.10
Net Income	60,427.41
Total Equity	249,339.51
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	249,339.51

MAFA Proposed Dues 2022-24

10/26/2021

Current Dues for 2020-2022 reduced by 50%:	Old Full Dues
Fewer than 25 members: \$30	\$60
26-50 members: \$35	\$70
51-100 members: \$50	\$100
101 or more members: \$75	\$150
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Associate member: \$20	\$40

PROPOSED 2022-24:	Full	Half
25 or fewer members:	\$50	\$25 Decreases by \$10 for the smallest guilds
26-50 members:	\$70	\$35 No Change
51-100 members:	\$100	\$50 No Change
101-150 members:	\$150	\$75 Same dues, tier caps at 150 members
151-200 members:	\$200	\$100 New tier with higher dues, could also be 151 or more
201 or more members:	\$250	\$125 New tier over 200 with higher dues
Associates:	\$40	\$20 No change to Associates

GUILD	Area	# members	Old Half	Old Full	Proposed Full Dues	Proposed Half Dues	Pro-rated @ \$1.50	Average for tier	Proposed Dues
1 Three Rivers Fiber Focus	PA	10	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$15		
2 Outer Banks Fiber Guild	NC	13	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$20		
3 Canaan Weavers	WV	14	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$21		
4 FiberGuild	DE	15	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$23		
5 Palisades Guild of Spinners & Weavers	NJ	15	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$23		
6 Richmond Weavers Guild	VA	15	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$23		
7 Woodstock Weavers	NY	16	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$24		
8 Sunnyside Weavers	VA	17	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$26		
9 Morgantown Fiber Guild	WV	18	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$27		
10 Warped Weavers Guild	MD	18	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$27	\$27	\$50/\$25
11 Westfield Weavers Guild	NJ	18	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$27		
12 Foothills Spinners & Weavers Guild	VA	20	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$30		
13 Waterford Weavers Guild	VA	21	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$32		
14 Chesapeake Weavers Guild	MD	22	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$33		
15 Tryon Weavers Guild	NY	23	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$35		
16 Weaver's Roundtable	MD	24	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$36		
17 Mountain Homespun Fiber Guild	NC/VA	25	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$38		
18 Sandhills Handweavers Guild	NC	25	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$25	\$38		
19 Essex County Spinners	NJ	27	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$41		
20 Shore Fiber Arts Guild	NJ	27	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$41		
21 Seacoast Spinners and Weavers Guild	NC	28	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$42		
22 WIAC Fiber Guild	PA	28	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$42		
23 Loyalhannon Spinners	PA	30	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$45		
24 Chautauqua County Weavers Guild	NY	32	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$48		
25 Paumanok Weavers Guild	NY	34	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$51	\$55	\$70/\$35
26 Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild	NY	37	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$56		
27 Tavern Spinners & Weavers Guild	VA	39	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$59		
28 Fiber Arts Network	WV	43	\$30	\$60	\$70	\$35	\$65		
29 South Jersey Guild of Spinners & Handweavers	NJ	44	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$66		
30 Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers Guild	VA	45	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$68		
31 Frances Irwin Handweavers	NJ	49	\$35	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$74		
32 Fiber Guild of the Blue Ridge	VA	50	\$50	\$100	\$70	\$35	\$75		
33 Clothos Handspinners	VA	51	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$77		
34 Weavers' Guild of Buffalo	NY	51	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$77		
35 North Country Spinners	NJ	53	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$80		
36 Washington Spinners & Weaver's Guild	PA	53	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$80		
37 Jockey Hollow Weavers Guild	NJ	54	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$81		
38 Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild	VA	65	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$98		
39 Third Star Fiber Guild	NJ	67	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$101		
40 Susquehanna Valley Spinners & Weavers Guild	PA	70	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$105	\$105	\$100/\$50
41 Harmony Weavers Guild	DE	78	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$117		
42 Handweavers of Bucks County	PA	80	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$120		
43 Black Sheep Handspinners	NY	81	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$122		
44 Hudson Mohawk Weavers Guild	NY	86	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$129		
45 Handweavers Guild of the New River Valley	VA	87	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$131		
46 Central PA Guild of Handweavers	PA	87	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$131		
47 Lancaster Spinners & Weavers	PA	91	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$137		
48 Central Virginia Fiberarts Guild	VA	112	\$75	\$150	\$150	\$75	\$168		
49 New York Guild of Handweavers	NY	135	\$75	\$150	\$150	\$75	\$203	\$199	\$150/\$75
50 Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore	MD	150	\$75	\$150	\$150	\$75	\$225		
51 Weavers Guild of Rochester	NY	159	\$75	\$150	\$200	\$100	\$239	\$249	\$200/\$100
52 Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers	PA	173	\$75	\$150	\$200	\$100	\$260		
53 Triangle Weavers, Inc.	NC	220	\$75	\$150	\$250	\$125	\$330	\$405	\$250/\$125
54 Potomac Fiber Arts Guild	MD	320	\$75	\$150	\$250	\$125	\$480		
Number of Guilds belonging to MAFA =	54	3165	\$2,315	\$4,630	\$4,730	\$2,365	\$4,748		