

**MidAtlantic Fiber Association
Representatives Assembly Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2020**

Via Zoom

Board Members Attending:

Helena Valentine, President
Margaret Briggs, 2nd VP; Conference; Membership Chair
Mary Strouse, Acting Grants Committee Chair
Marla Campbell, Treasurer
Patty Chrisman, Secretary

Guild Representatives Attending:

Deborah Amaral, Triangle Weavers Guild
Diane Baumgartner, Foothills Spinners & Weavers
Dorothy Berglin, Paumanok Weavers Guild
Margaret Briggs, Central Virginia Fiberarts Guild
Aileen Campbell, Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild
Marla Campbell, Central Virginia Fiberarts Guild
Pat Canaday, Tryon Guild
Pat Capogrossi, Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore; Chesapeake Weavers
Jill Coghlan, Harmony Weavers Guild
Barbara Diefenderfer, Weavers' Roundtable
Deborah Faehner, Handweavers of Bucks County
Marion Flint, Triangle Weavers Guild
Jody Forbes, Shore Fiber Arts Guild
Debbie Hadfield, Three Rivers Fiber Focus
Carol Ireland, Fiber Guild
Liza Jennings Seiner, Loyalhannon Spinners
Denise Kash, Fredericksburg Spinners & Weavers Guild
Tara Kiley-Rothwell, Central PA
Meg Lundsager, Waterford Weavers Guild
Charlene Marietti, New York Guild of Handweavers
Katherine Mayer, Jockey Hollow Weavers
Tina Mickley, Lancaster Spinners and Weavers
Sally Orgren, Jockey Hollow Weavers; Frances Irwin Handweavers
Suanne Pasquarella, Weavers Guild of Buffalo; Weavers Guild of Rochester & Chatauqua County
Debbie Patsel, North Country Spinners Guild
Sandi Petty, Tavern Spiers & Weavers; Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers
Jane Phillips, Washington Spinners & Weavers
Linda Pierson, Palisades Guild of Spinners & Weavers
Kathy Reed, Fiber Guild of the Blue Ridge

Sara Robbins, PGHW
Lizanne Smith, Warped Weavers Guild
Cecile Stiner, Susquehanna Valley Spinners & Weavers
Nancy Turner, South Jersey Guild of Spinners and Handweavers
Lori Wall, Morgantown Fiber Guild
Carol Wood, Woodstock Weavers

Welcome

President Helena Valentine welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Helena submitted the following report:

It has been a challenging year for all of us, both as individuals and as a country. The MAFA Board members have worked diligently to make good decisions in a sea of unknowns. We ultimately decided that it was impossible to move forward with plans for an in-person conference in 2021. We have decided to cancel the conference and plan a different kind of event. It will be virtual. Our goal is to take advantage of the unique opportunities this presents to achieve some of the goals that make a MAFA conference special while doing new things that are only possible in the virtual environment.

We are relying on the very special group of volunteers we have assembled to create that new virtual event and make it as memorable for the attendees as our in-person conferences always are. I look forward to seeing what we are able to create.

We have begun an important conversation about diversity and inclusion in our guilds and in our conference. Moving forward, I hope that we can assist our member guilds in identifying the best practices for expanding and broadening guild membership and holding ourselves accountable for the commitments we make to this. I look forward to working with a group of interested volunteers who want to address these issues. I'll have more to say about this in a future newsletter.

It is my great pleasure to be able to work with all of you.

Minutes

The minutes of the Reps Meeting teleconference held May 5, 2020, were approved as published upon motion by Margaret Briggs; Second by Suanne Pasquarella. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Marla Campbell) Marla submitted the following report:

Checking:	\$59,529.00
Money Market:	\$129,651.55
PayPal:	0.00
Total:	\$189,180.55

Communications Report No report

2021 Conference Report (Second Vice President Margaret Briggs) Margaret noted that the Board has been reviewing the issue of in-person vs virtual for several months. Margaret submitted the following report:

- The Board voted for the 2021 in-person conference to be cancelled and for the Conference Committee to plan a virtual fiber event to be held on our same dates, June 24-27, 2021.
- The virtual event will have lectures, classes, vendors, keynote, exhibits, and other activities. Yes, it will be different, but we are excited that this gives us a unique opportunity to reach members who usually can't or don't attend the conference.
- We have sent a notice and survey out to all 2019 attendees and to Reps. Please forward the survey link to all your guild members, as their input will help us with planning. The survey will be open until October 10. The survey is here:
<https://forms.gle/pUe2xKE4msSpoGUr6>

Membership Report (Margaret Briggs) Margaret submitted the following report:

- We currently have 52 member guilds; 104 associate members.
- The guild roundtable meetings have been very well attended and the recordings of the two diversity meetings are on YouTube and linked on the website in the Reps Corner:
<https://mafafiber.org/guild-resources/reps-corner/>.
- The October guild roundtable topic will be guild grants with Acting Grants Chair Mary Strouse. We will have a roundtable November 17 and will skip December.
- Dues: In May, the Board approved extending the due date for renewals to December 31, 2021 while we studied dues for 2020-2022. At the July meeting, the Board approved a recommendation to reduce dues by 50% for the 2020-2022 period for guilds and associates, with the understanding that dues will be reviewed again in 2022 for a return to normal rates. We are presenting this to the Reps for a vote at this meeting on a reduction in dues by 50%.

We are looking for suggestions for topics for future Guild Roundtables. Email Margaret at membership@mafafiber.org with ideas. Renewal notices will be sent to guilds and associates at the end of September.

Margaret Briggs made a motion that dues for guilds and associates for the 2020 – 2022 membership period for renewals and new members be as follows:

Fewer than 25 members: \$60 -- \$30
26 – 50 members: \$70 -- \$35
51 – 100 members: \$100 -- \$50
101 or more members: \$150 -- \$75
Associates: \$40 -- \$20

Discussion: There was discussion about reducing the membership fees, with the majority of members stating their appreciation for this idea as many guilds have lost members during this time period. There was concern expressed by a Rep that this could jeopardize not just a future conference, but other things that MAFA does. To allay fears that this would damage MAFA financially in the future, Margaret pointed out that the difference would be about \$4000.00 and that considering our financial status, MAFA will be just fine. Additionally, a Rep pointed out that a virtual conference will allow many guild members who normally have difficulty attending the conference in person, to attend ,and that may offset any financial loss.

Second to the motion by Kathy Reed. The motion carried.**

Grants and Fellowships (Mary Strouse). Mary discussed the decision of the Board, that along with going virtual, there will be no Fellowship program for the 2021 Conference. The program will be on hiatus and return at a later time. The Grants program, however, is now accepting applications for 2021 and the application is live on the website. The deadline for applying is January 8, 2021. For guilds that are ready to proceed now, there is an “early decision” deadline of November 1, 2020.

There will be a Guild Roundtable October 20 on the Grants program—a link to register will be sent out in the future.

There will be 2-3 openings on the Grants and Fellowship Committee by the end of the year. Please send expressions of interest to grants@mafafiber.org. There was a request for a description of the duties of the committee. This was previously included in the May 5, 2020 Reps Assembly minutes (see link below under “Chat.”)

Other Business There was no other business.

Adjourn Upon motion by Margaret Briggs; second by Debbie Hadfield, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Following are a few of the comments/links mentioned in “the Chat.”

- From Mary Strouse—sign-up link for the October 20 Guild Roundtable on Grants. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckdOGvrjsvGdSD5tGO3w54jp-CXgRpEc5k>
- From Margaret Briggs—Notice and link to Survey to all 2019 Conference attendees and reps has been sent out. Please forward the survey link to your guild as their input will help us with planning and the survey will be open until October 10. The survey is here: <https://forms.gle/pUe2xKE4msSpoGUr6>. Grants page on the MAFA website: <https://mafafiber.org/grants/>. Email to: grants@mafafiber.org.

- From Patty Chrisman: the Description of the Grants Committee responsibilities were included in the May 5, 2020 Reps Assembly minutes. [Minutes of Reps' Meeting of May 5, 2020](#)

**Voting was via poll function on Zoom. The votes were 23 (including one yes voice vote (Central VA Fiber Guild) not via poll) and 2 no votes.

Submitted by
Patty Chrisman, Secretary