

AAFG board meeting - August 2, 2021

6pm Carol Fleischer's house

Attending: Teresa Garland; Marla Smith, Barb Schutzgruber, Carol Fleischer, Sharon McKenna, Cindy Harris, Anjanette Bunce, Amy Cameron, Elizabeth Walther

Agenda

Update from provided committee reports

Membership - Trish Richie/Elizabeth Walther

Elizabeth shared highlights from the emailed report and Teresa confirmed that Mary has put in the membership card order today.

Treasurer - Teresa Garland

- We are "in the black" from last year and Teresa used this toward Zion rent
- Accounting note: Borrowed \$300 from Ellen's fund for Guild expenses (Zion rent) that will be paid back when member dues are received.

Programs and workshops - Sharon McKenna

- All programs slots have been filled and Sharon is starting to work on programs for next year; April will be a Millie retrospective
- Website will be updated with the remaining programs

Fiber Feast - Sharon McKenna

- Cmte met recently - lots of ideas; including the idea of doing a challenge (similar to a *Threads* magazine challenge)
- Plans to outreach to with students
- 2023 is the next date we have for Fiber Feast at WCC

Ellen's Fund: Audra Wenzlow provided written report. Marla commented:

- 2 committed speakers for lectures 3 & 4; committee meeting in Oct and is looking at speakers for the following year.
- Sharon affirmed the earlier we can contact them, the better in terms of scheduling.

Exhibits - Cindy Harris

- Village Theater was a great show; lots of compliments!
- May/June - exhibit at Silver Maples; more details
- Booked again for next year at Village Theater
- Will reach out to Power Center for future booking

Jury - Susan Widawski

- No active jurying at this time

Publicity - Marla Smith

- Info to Observer, MLH, and to the Guilds we invite to Ellen's fund
- Discussed how to invite non-members to link to website in publicity that emails the AAFG mailbox - will continue to do this
- *Question from board member* - Do we have a student membership?
 - Not at this time, but this question (and other ideas about promoting to students) came up at retreat.

Website & Facebook: Liz Ritter and Mary Valerie Richter

- **Website Update**

Submissions are normally due on August 20, but in the spirit of knowing August is a busy month for most of us, we are requesting that program updates be sent to us as soon as possible.

We need complete information for the following meeting dates:

- September 13, 2021
- January 10, 2022
- March 14, 2022
- April 11, 2022

We are aware of some of the presenters' names and the titles of the programs. We need that information along with descriptions and photos.

- **Website Format/Calendar, Meeting Programs and Workshops**

Recommendation is that eventGTM's events go to the Guild membership as an email blast with links to the information on the NTGM's website and not be a part of the AAFG calendar. We currently provide a link to NTGM on our Resources page.

- **Newsletter**

An overview of the history of AAFG's newsletter was provided. The current method for spreading information to the members is via mono-subject email blasts with links to the specific website pages or organizations mentioned. The subject line of the email should be short and to the point. Members will open the email if they are interested.

- **Website Member Page Password**

Members will be able to choose their own unique username and password when they renew or join.

Membership Dues

There was discussion at the retreat regarding increasing membership dues from \$40 to \$50.

Facebook Update

Facebook periodically offers deals to us to advertise. We may want to discuss this as an avenue to increase Guild membership.

MLH - Betsy Szymanski

Nothing to report

Library - Amy Cameron

- Decided to not budget for library this year; we are doing well with books
- Amy wondered if we can still access downstairs if we are meeting upstairs? Teresa mentioned that we are not yet confirmed for upstairs - she is still confirming with Diane at Zion. Discussed checking to see if it's possible to move library upstairs. Teresa is talking to Diane later this week.
- Amy is thinking of opening the library an hour beforehand
- Amy is going to send a reminder to folks to return books this fall.

Zoom Coordinator: Nancy Staub

- Nancy is going to continue and Nicki Scholz has volunteered to help with Zoom

"Zoom Program Presentations at Zion Lutheran Church" Committee - Teresa Garland

- Currently surveying members to see how many hope to attend in person meetings

- Performing 1-2 live tests at Zion over the next few weeks to make sure that the Gathering Room and/or Piper Hall works for us. Zion will make their IT consultant available to help us figure things out
- Getting an update on the new projectors that Zion planned to install

Sunday Artisan Market: Agnus Soderbeck

- No update

Bylaws: Anjanette Bunce

- The Bylaws committee (Jan Frank, Agnes Soderbeck, Anne Flora, Carol Fleischer, Anjanette Bunce) have been meeting throughout the summer. We expect to present our recommendations to the board this fall.

Business

The board affirmed that the Ellen's fund is a committee of the board that is tasked with managing and directing the Ellen Fund and programming in coordination with the Treasurer and Programs chair.

Budget

Teresa introduced the budget adding a few notes and answered questions.

*Motion: Barb moved that we increase dues to \$50; Sharon seconded.
Motion passes but is then withdrawn.*

After the amendment passed, we realized that the timing would not work for a dues increase this year so the amendment was withdrawn. We discuss asking members to donate the additional \$10 this year and bringing a dues increase proposal to the membership in the spring. Currently, all donations are set to go to the Ellen's fund. We discussed changing this so that any general donations go to the general fund to be used for operating expenses.

*Motion: Teresa proposed that all unspecified donations as of August 2nd to go to the AAFG general fund;
Second: Amy
Motion passed unanimously.*

Brief discussion on MLH grants:

- Supporting guild and maintaining relationship
- Our members benefit
- MLH is for all fiber arts
- 2.8% of our budget

Motion by Teresa to pass the budget with two changes. Anjanette seconded.
Motion passed with one vote in opposition.

September membership meeting

We are planning to have a hybrid format:

- Speaker will be on zoom
- Members can join in-person at Zion or via Zoom
- Based on state recommendations and protection of our members; we will require masks for in-person attendance
 - We will include this in the meeting reminder
- Note: We will provide masks at the membership table
- Agenda: Program; Business meeting; Announcements; Breakouts; Closing

- Announcements from the floor - Carol will solicit announcements from members when sending out meeting reminder.

Audio/visual team needed to support our membership meetings

- Bob has volunteered
- Sue volunteered over email to be a remote tester of the hybrid meeting format.

Electronic payments / Membership cards and passwords

Discussed above; no additional discussions

Format for board meetings

Should upcoming meetings happen over Zoom or in-person?

- Board meetings are scheduled for September, November, January, March, May
- We are planning to have the September and May meetings in person
- November, January, and March meeting over Zoom
- Bylaws may be a special board meeting - timing TBD
- The September board meeting will be the Tuesday after Labor Day, Sept 7

Holiday party

- With current uncertainty, we aren't planning to have a holiday party this year
- The idea of planning a possible in-person spring event was mentioned as an alternative.

Programming for next year

- Sharon is working on scheduling for next year and asked if we could plan on December, January, and February being scheduled for Zoom. The board agreed with Sharon's recommendation and agreed that Sharon should continue to move forward with scheduling.

Sunday Artisan Market

- Per committee recommendation, we are not planning to pay for a spot at the Artisan Market this year. We may still look into the free promotional & demo opportunities discussed at the board retreat.

Donations after August 2021

- Per budget discussion, any unspecified donations will go to the general fund. Donations specified for Ellen's Fund will continue to go to Ellen's fund. The current priority is to make it easy to donate to the general fund and support our current budget and we will look into ways to also make it easy to donate Ellen's Fund prior to the next set of Ellen's Fund talks.

Professional development grants

- The board decided to not budget for development grants this year.

Meeting closes at 8:03.