

## Potomac Fiber Arts Guild (PFAG) – Board Meeting – February 4, 2017

Attending Board Members: Margaret Fisher (President), Lisa Walsh (Vice-president/Programs), Gayle Roehm (Treasurer), Esther Asaki (Secretary), Cathy Irish (Membership), Val Hildebrand (Newsletter)

Also Attending: Dolly Perkins (Website), Ruth Blau (Equipment), Diane Mularz (Conant Grant), Clara Graves (Study Groups)

Absent Board Member: Carla Gladstone (Librarian), Elizabeth Cowley (Outreach), Priscilla Stultz (PFAG Gallery chair)

Meeting called to order at 10:01 by Margaret Fisher at Gayle's house.

Topics of discussion, reports, and decisions made as follows:

### 1) Announcements/Updates – Margaret Fisher

Due to personal issues, Margaret will temporarily be unable to fulfill her duties as president for 4-6 weeks after March 15<sup>th</sup>. Lisa will be acting president and stepping in to run the meetings. Gayle and Esther will be available to assist.

A nominating committee has been established to find candidates for the elected-officer positions that will be vacated: President and Vice-President/Programs (Lisa will move from VP to Webmaster)

2) Treasurer Gayle Roehm prepared a statement of the Guild bank balances. Including the Janda Fund (\$35,000), the Guild has approximately \$100,000. The Guild sold six tote bags on Zazzle with the new PFAG logo. She will add additional products, e.g. mugs, t-shirts, if the group feels it will be useful.

### 3) Website progress – Lisa Walsh

- Website outsourcing – The new website has the bare-bones structure. It will have a member login section and a shopping cart.
- Additional information that could be added: library database, rental equipment.
- The website developers will also provide monthly analytic reports.

### 4) Equipment – Ruth Blau

Ruth is interested in replacing the current Ashford spinning wheel to be useful for the general public. She will ask Guild members for donations. She requested a budget if we needed to purchase one – perhaps an Ashford Kiwi. The board approved a budget of \$450.

### 5) Janda Grant – Dolly Perkins (interim coordinator)

Dolly said that the first Janda grant was awarded to the Felting 1 Study Group which is currently making plans for their grant-related activities next year.

#### 6) Conant Grant – Diane Mularz

Diane has been Conant Grant coordinator for a couple rounds. Original funds ( ~\$6,000) came from a surplus from a Convergence program in 1992. Though original funds have been distributed, the Guild has continued to fund the program. Diane asked for other ideas increasing the scope of the grant. Some ideas are to fund fiber artists for attending conferences, research, mounting a show, short term projects (with multiple awards), someone to develop a workshop to teach train-the-trainer program for DC school teachers (in art and math). Diane will explore some of these ideas.

#### 7) Study Group Focus Group – Clara Graves

Kerry Gruber facilitated a focus group of PFLAG members to collect information about the Guild's study groups. Several suggestions were made, e.g. encourage members to sit and talk after meetings instead of immediately putting their chairs away. Clara discussed from the report some issues associated with starting study groups – geographic, connecting, starting a group could seem intimidating. Clara has been the point person for connecting interested parties and has developed (and posted to the Yahoo Group) a document for helping people start study groups. Suggested poster-style study group displays at meetings throughout the year to publicize types of study groups. Val felt that the way study groups are displayed on the web page gives the impression that all the groups are open to new members. Later, people are disappointed when they find out that many of the study groups are closed.

Group also discussed best way to collect information about interest in study groups and volunteer opportunities.

#### 8) Newsletter – Val Hildebrand

Val asked for feedback on the newsletter. She is interested in publishing articles about Guild workshops and about interesting art that members have seen. Discussed the distribution and duplication of information on Facebook, website, and e-list. Val tries not be too repetitive in the newsletter. Also discussed was distributing information to non-Yahoo group members.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Esther Asaki