

American Association of Woodturners
WIT Committee Telephone Conference
Thursday October 12, 4 P.M. PDT

The meeting convened at 4pm PDT. Participants by phone: Elizabeth Amigo, Sally Ault, Dixie Biggs, Kathleen Duncan, Linda Ferber, Jean LeGwin, Andi Wolfe.

WIT 2018 Budget: The WIT budget for 2017 was \$9,650. The anticipated income is \$4,500. As a starting point, we used last year's budget. We agreed that we should add \$200 for printing WIT newsletters for distribution at various events. We also agreed to add a line item of \$5,000 for expenses associated with the WIT eXchange. Kathleen will submit a budget request to the BOD prior to the next board meeting.

WIT eXchange at Arrowmont: Dixie and Jean presented a document articulating the purpose and preliminary details of the WIT eXchange. The committee unanimously agreed to accept the document and use it as the basis for planning for the eXchange. The cost for renting the facilities we need will be \$6,000. The cost for food will be \$150/person. Attendees and facilitators will make their own arrangements for housing. We agreed that, as an incentive to join AAW, AAW members will pay less than non-AAW members.

Facilitators: Those members of the WIT committee who wish to serve as facilitators may do so. Since facilitators will not be members of the groups and will not be working on projects, they will not pay registration fees. The facilitators will each be in charge of different rooms or areas. They will teach people to use various pieces of equipment properly, monitor safety, server as Sherpas and goffers.

Attendees: We will ask attendees to declare their skill level. Andi will put together the various groups. There will be assigned groups the first and second day. The third day, groups will be self-selected. Initial groups will be 3 people. On the third day, groups may be larger or smaller. We will need a registration form. Kathleen will start the form and pass it on to the committee for additions/corrections/deletions.

Jean pointed out that we need to stress that what is important for attendees to know that eXchange is about **process** not product.

We will have tee shirts included in the cost of registration. Tee shirts need to be of a good quality. Sally will do some research about suppliers. Dixie and Jean are working on a logo and should have that by our next meeting.

We should plan for evening activities such as panels, critique, pop-up demos. Proposals for pop-up can be part of the registration form. There needs time duration specified for pop-ups (10, 30, 45 minutes).

Instant Gallery: If we have an instant gallery, we will need a check-in procedure and security. Facilitators can probably cover security. At present, we don't know where the IG would be.

Other business: Why WIT? One of the questions we are asked is "why do we have WIT?". The committee agreed that we need an answer that both we and the BOD can use when asked the question. As Andi pointed out, given our current demographic, AAW **must** change the demographic, if we are to survive. We need to attract younger members and under-represented populations. Basically, we have a diversity problem. Women are the low-hanging fruit -- increasingly women have more time, disposable income, and a desire to try new things. Why WIT? **WIT is the first step in trying to increase diversity within AAW.**

Another suggestion is that we use WIT grant monies to sponsor women in hands-on classes in clubs. Jean pointed out that a member of her club felt so strongly about promoting women, that he anonymously sponsored one of his club members to attend Lou's retreat at Arrowmont. WIT can do the same thing with our grants.

Another suggestion -- we need to talk to individual clubs and find out how they are attracting women to their chapters. Even if they aren't doing anything, asking the question may get clubs to consider actions to attract women.

The meeting was concluded at about 5:15.

Kathleen Duncan
WIT Committee Chair

Next meeting: November 9, 2017.