

American Association of Woodturners
WIT Committee Telephone Conference
Thursday April 4th, 2019 4:05 P.M. PST

The meeting convened at 4:05pm PDT. Participants were Marie Anderson, Dixie Biggs, Janet Collins, Kathleen Duncan, Linda Ferber, Jean LeGwin, Andi Wolfe and Lynne Yamaguchi

Updates: Linda reported the following numbers:

- EXCHANGE registrations – 25
- Liaison count 75 (we picked up a few more following the last announce meet in the chapter officers email)
- Membership grants to date: 7 applications with 2 pending, 5 new memberships

EXCHANGE 2019: We had a request for full refund for two registrations. Our current posted policy is no refunds except for medical reasons and no refunds within 2 weeks of the event. The AAW symposium refund policy is full refund less \$75 for processing. We agreed to adapt the AAW policy will a \$75 refund up through June 23. Except for medical emergencies, there will be no refunds after that date. We will allow 48 hours after registration for a full refund. Linda will change the WIT page to reflect these changes.

We will continue advertising through social media. We agreed to send a letter to chapter presidents asking them to consider a club scholarship for a woman to attend. Andi will draft a letter and Kathleen will contact Greg to ask that it be send in his name as AAW president.

Andi's blog has a section with lots of pictures from the EXCHANGE. She will report the blog on Facebook and Linda will add a link from the WIT page. We need to post other pictures or videos on Facebook and Instagram.

Linda will create a list of the 2018 attendees so that it can be compared to those registered for 2019.

Lou delivered the maple and ash baseball bat blanks to Jeff Brockett. We will find out the cost and send her payment. Jeff will see that the blanks are delivered to Arrowmont.

Liaisons: We received a sample welcome letter for liaisons to give to potential members. The letter came from Robin McIntyre (Cape Cod). We agreed that we should develop a welcome letter template that liaisons can tailor to their chapter. Kathleen will work on a draft.

Janet pointed out the in her chapter, the liaison may not know exactly what she is supposed to do. This seems to be the case in several chapters. The liaisons do not seem to be seeking out the new members or visitors and are not presenting information about AAW. Our next letter to the liaisons will include definitive guidelines on the duties of a liaison as well as the welcoming letter. Kathleen will draft both and circulate for editing.

Linda pointed out the AAW guest membership is going to be expanded to include a full digital membership.

We should ask liaisons to send information about what they are doing to Josh. This could go into the club news section of the Journal.

Diversity: This was a continued discussion from last month. Kathleen placed the issue on the agenda for the last AAW BOD meeting. The Board is amenable to adding a diversity statement to the AAW bylaws.

Janet did some research on similar organizations and unsurprisingly found that we are unique. What she did find surprising was that the ceramists, which is mostly women, has the same issues: men are getting the teaching jobs, gallery shows and published more than women. At the annual ENSECA conference, attended by about 5,000 members, they have panel discussion based on these. She didn't find as much information, but this seemed to be true for the jewelers as well. Last year, Linda attended some of the discussions at ENSECA when it was in Portland. Janet also found that only one of the organizations she researched had a diversity statement on its website or in its bylaws.

AAW's stated purpose is to provide education, information and organization to those interested in woodturning. However, in the discussion about diversity, the BOD does not believe diversity training is not something we can mandate. Where we can and will promote diversity training and awareness is through the work being done through the Vision 2020 committee. Diversity will be promoted through the education modules for demonstrators and educators. Our best way to promote on the chapter level is to have our liaisons encourage inclusivity in their chapters and programs.

There was a suggestion to look to Arrowmont and John C Campbell for how they address diversity. (Subsequent to this meeting, Andi sent several diversity statements many of which could be modified for AAW.) Kathleen will draft a statement and present it to the BOD after this Committee has had an opportunity to edit it.

Newsletter: Andi stated that Tania Radda is submitting an article. Janice Levi is submitting excerpts from her book. There was a question about copyright. Article ownership belongs to the author. This is similar to what AAW did when publishing articles for Fundamentals. Linda has a copy of that contract.

The newsletter will be used to introduce our liaisons. We can share their success stories. The June newsletter will feature NC liaisons since that is the location of the symposium.

Elizabeth will continue to edit the newsletter. We should talk to Josh about a small article about the liaisons in the Journal.

As an aside, Marie noted that there are very few articles in the English Woodturning publication. Linda said that she has talked to the editor and the problem is that he can't get women to write the articles. He has written about WIT and the EXCHANGE.

The meeting ended at 5:13 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd at 4 pm PDT.

Kathleen Duncan
WIT Committee Chair