

American Association of Woodturners
WIT Committee Video Conference
Thursday, May 7th 4 P.M. PDT

The video meeting convened at 4:00 pm PDT. Participants were Marie Anderson, Dixie Biggs, Janet Collins, Kathleen Duncan, Linda Ferber, Jean LeGwin, Andi Wolf, and Lynne Yamaguchi. Beth Ireland also joined us to discuss the Teacher's workshop.

WIT Presents: Kathleen proposed an idea she thought the WIT committee could undertake. The proposition is spin-off of something many chapters are doing during the COVID-19 stay at home policies. Chapters are meeting virtually for conversations to stay in touch with fellow woodturners. The WIT committee could use Zoom to provide a platform to bring women woodturners together to meet other woodturning professionals. We discussed format, potential presenters, and inaugural date. The event will be a webinar rather than a meeting. Beth agreed to be our first presenter on May 16th (subsequently scheduled for May 23rd). These events are intended to be conversations rather than demonstrations. Jean will work with Lynne and Beth on interview questions. Greg Schramek has already said the committee should move forward with this. Kathleen will talk with Phil MacDonald. Marie and Kathleen will draft a letter to go to the WIT email list. We will limit registrants to 100 for this first event. Kathleen will also outline the event plans at the next AAW board meeting and request a re-assignment of the funds allocated for the WIT EXCHANGE. We agreed that presenters should be paid an honorarium, but since this is not a demonstration, it would be less than what most demonstrators charge for online demonstrations (The name, **WIT Presents**, was subsequently agreed to by committee members.)

Linda's Retirement: Linda announced that, effective May 22nd, she will be retiring from AAW after 13 years. Kathleen has asked her to continue as a member of the WIT committee. We all wish her well and agree that she will never know how she had time to work.

Teacher's Workshop: We asked Beth to join us so that she could share her ideas on our teacher education project. In our discussion, both she and committee members shared ideas. Andi suggested that our endeavor could be the development of a "best practices". One of the things Beth stressed is that people should only teach what they actually know. She also recommended one of the best ways to teach is to find a 10-12 year-old and teach to them. She also stated that you must start with the premise that people want to learn. Many people say they want to learn, but don't want to change the way they do things. Another of her suggestions is that a teacher never take the tool out of a student's hand – a teacher should carry her own tool.

The bulk of the conversation with Beth will be in a separate document. That document will be the beginning of our best practices document. We appreciate Beth's willingness to share her ideas with the committee and look forward to working with her in the future.

Newsletter: The newsletter is on hold.

The meeting ended at 5:20 PDT

The next meeting is scheduled for June 4th, 2020 at 4pm PST.

Kathleen Duncan
WIT Committee Chair