

MINUTES

Vermont Weavers Guild Meeting

May 13, 2023

White River Craft Center, Randolph VT

Welcome

Sign-up sheet for attendance, and one for Exhibit

Went over what happened at last meeting, re: exhibit. Julie George available to fill us in on next steps. Also notes on Pillow Challenge.

Annette (Library, Book Sale). Books and magazines for sale are arranged in meeting room, also on shelves opposite library. Also has put out sample books. We will have sample books out at every meeting. They cannot be taken out of the Library.

Treasurer's Report: Ron Halterman. At last month's meeting, Ron presented the state of the Guild's finances for this fiscal year, and a proposed budget. He presented this information as the VWG budget for the coming fiscal year, 2023-24, without substantial changes in categories or amounts. We are currently \$2000 ahead or in the black, based largely upon revenue from workshops registrations. Analysis revealed that membership dues and sales of books would not cover all of our expenses (by about \$500), but that workshop registrations offset this deficit. However, at the last meeting, we noted a substantial increase in our rent-obligation for the Library.

This brought about suggestions for increasing our membership and other methods of raising awareness of the benefits of membership in the Guild. Layne Tharp was knowledgeable about how the space(s) at VT S & Wool will be assigned. Claudia and Ron were to manage obtaining the sponsorship / advertising the Guild with the VT Sheep & Wool Festival, as well as obtaining space for a non-profit booth.

There was a suggestion to approve the budget after the Exhibit is over, as there may be additional funds (this suggestion arose from the question of whether to invest \$5000 savings in a short-term CD. Asked about dues, Ron pointed out that about a third of members opt for the higher membership tier (\$75.00).

Ann Levy brought up that we need at least 60 dues-paying members to pay for the Library space alone, asking if there could be a consideration regarding the rent we pay for our meetings. The WRCC is willing to charge us for only a half-day if we only use the morning for a meeting. They also will not be charging us for the exhibit which will occupy the downstairs for a week in May.

Discussion about how to keep the Library open more often (Susan Rockwell and others are available on Fridays and other days). Becky Jensen pointed out that \$40 annual dues would pay for one weaving book. Members who live further away from

Randolph should consider doing a road trip together to visit the library. Library materials can be taken out for the entire summer.

The proposed budget was put up for a vote / show of hands. The action passed with one abstention (Ron Halterman).

The Vermont Weavers Guild Exhibit ("We Made It!") will be hung on May 26 and come down June 3. We have advertising postcards available today. *Julie George* designed and had printed these cards; she offered to send out cards to those who aren't here; she suggested posting them, as well as mailing them to interested parties. Trudy Otis has rounded up awards (about a dozen of them). She has received 34 pieces from 16 exhibitors.

Call for volunteers: to sit at the gallery, to help with hanging, and to help with takedown on the last day. Jurying will be this Wednesday – we need two secretaries for the jurors, starting at 9:30.

Instead of an opening reception, we will hold a closing reception on June 3rd, from 1 to 3 PM and we need volunteers to help with the takedown the pieces and pack them, as well as to provide refreshments for the reception.

Question about if someone asks if a piece is for sale? Pamela Wilson urged exhibitors to consider pricing their work, in case someone inquires. Julie will contact all the exhibitors, asking if their piece(s) can be for sale, and make up a price list.

About half of the pieces are going on to exhibit at NEWS' Gallery and Fashion shows. Julie will pack these separately and she has collected the necessary paperwork to accompany that collection.

The Pillow Challenge: We have several pillows already; if there is another pillow someone has made over the year, it can be part of the Guild Table exhibit at NEWS in July. We are also displaying our pillows here, with the Exhibit in May/June.

NEWS 2023: Claudia: There are 23 Vermont Guild members who have registered so far. This organization is volunteer-run, with about 40 members of the New England guilds working collaboratively to accomplish it. Attendants can help the Vermont Guild by identifying potential instructors who impressed them and bring these recommendations to our Programs crew.

Election of Officers: Claudia Gibson, who is proposing herself for election as President, outlined her goal for the next term:

- one is to produce a "procedure manual" for the Guild itself, so that long-term projects (e.g., the yearly Challenges and appearances at the VSWFestival as well as the bi-annual Guild Exhibits and preparations for exhibiting at New

England Weavers Seminars) as well as month-to-month guild business are all attended to.

- Another goal is to merge the Guild's central activities (library, exhibits, most workshops) within a *regional* network allowing members to regularly meet closer to their homes to share their weaving with each other.**

The position of Vice-President is open – any nominations from the floor. There were none. The job of the Vice-President was being Chair of the Programs Committee. Layne has put herself forward to organize Program Planning (getting people together to design the year's program). Vice-Presidency will remain open.

Susan Rockwell moved that the group nominate and elect Claudia Gibson for President; seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed. (Claudia abstained).

** This led to further discussion and questions:

** Susan Rockwell explained that the Connecticut Guild has "state-level" meetings at one location approximately 5 times per year; there are regional meetings, hosted and led by an individual member of the Guild, which can meet more often and are physically more accessible to most. Most of their workshops happen at State meetings; the regional meetings can have speakers, too. There was discussion about how our guild could use a more de-centralized approach.

Would regional groups automatically be all members of the Guild. What would be the reward for a coordinator of a regional group? Our library and sample book collection would be worth becoming members of the Guild. A Guild member could become responsible for taking a sample book to one of the regional meetings. We could have a network for sharing the sample books.

Also, members pay lower prices for workshops. We could charge a lower cost for workshops for folks who are part of a regional group, but are not Guild members. We could set up study groups, using our Zoom account.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Gibson

