

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF WEAVERS AND SPINNERS
Minutes of the Meeting of 01/23/2021
Held via Zoom on the Internet

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Schroeder at 10:00 am via Zoom. Members responding included Alanna Strong, Dawn Ahlert, Melody Murter, Annette Cade, Barbara French, Linda Shelhamer, Tammy Jordan, Molly McKinnon, Marian Stratton, Lisa Brown, Elizabeth (Liz) Tritthart, Denise(DC) Ahlert, and Heather Johnson. Not present were Ruth Terry, Gwen Haferkamp, and Joan Goldstein.

MINUTES: Minutes from the 10/17/20 zoom meeting were sent out earlier today. No corrections were offered. Molly moved to approve the minutes, Annette seconded. Motion was carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Linda reported the balance of the MAWS account was \$21,970. She informed us that the dues paid for 2021 were \$1900 instead of her initial estimate of \$1250, with most guilds paying at least 80% of what they had paid last year.

ANWG UPDATE: The ANWG planning committee is still looking for a venue for the 2023 conference in Oregon. ANWG would still like Montana to host in 2027. Dawn informed the Board that she will be retired by then and may be available to chair the 2027 ANWG conference in Billings. Sharon was wondering if the Board would agree to release Ruth Terry from her position as ANWG chair since the 2023 conference is not going to be held in Montana. Also mentioned was releasing Barb French from her position of 2018 MAWS Conference Chair. Annette reminded the Board that she feels she can call Barb directly. A motion was made to release both Ruth and Barb from their responsibilities by Dawn and seconded by Tammy. The motion was carried.

WEBSITE: The new website designed by Liz brought MAWS into the 21st century. Many praises were given for the website. There was discussion on how to handle the "Show & Tell" page on the website. If we use a "Gallery", the website could potentially need more space in a few years. It was suggested we could put videos, etc. on YouTube and provide a link on the website. This would be good for the younger generations of weavers and spinners. Liz will develop a template to be submitted with pictures and videos. This information will be good to include in the newsletter. Several questions were suggested. What is your learning experience? What are you struggling with? Annette mentioned that during Joanne Hall's Counter Marche class, there were many requests for video to clarify and provide visual instruction. Alanna mentioned that the website was jumbled on the I phone and she had to rotate the phone to un-jumble it. Liz offered to look into it to be sure it is dynamic.

Linda suggested that this is a good time to set up a PayPal account and put a link on the website for members to pay their dues. Liz informed the group that several web pages are not completed, i.e. conference and guild pages. She also mentioned the need to report to her the changes that need to be made on the website. "I don't know what I don't know." She offered a 24 hour turnaround time for changes. Linda offered to send the stipend to Liz for her effort in developing the website.

OUTREACH: Sharon asked the Board what kind of outreach we should provide given guilds are continuing monthly meetings and study groups electronically. MAWS oversees the biennial conference, provides attendee scholarships, training grants for guild training and platforms to keep members connected (website, newsletter, Facebook.) Tammy asked if we should promote from within? Spin ins? Knit A Longs? Promote on Facebook? Linda states she posts on Facebook. She also reminded the group that we don't have to originate the content. Annette Schipf is teaching classes. Marion in Great Falls shared that this was the first time she had heard about the class and questioned where the class is being held since Gallery 16 is closed. Yarn & Honey was having the class. Farmer's Daughter is now in a larger building. Sharon summarized that helping and supporting the guilds is a better role for MAWS to be in.

NEWSLETTER: Newsletter deadline for submitting pictures or articles is February 1, 2021. Items included are: minutes of the 1/23/2021 Board meeting, Copper K Fiber Festival, Grazing Hills Fiber Festival, the form to submit with pictures or videos, Joanne Hall's class, and a call for guilds to submit items for the newsletter. There was discussion around including an article about Joan Goldstein's mother, Margaret Eagle, in the newsletter, who was one of the founders of the Helena Guild. The question was raised about giving a memorial donation in her name. Linda reminded us that the Board has never donated to the memorial of a former member and suggested it may be better to offer a scholarship with a more generic name. She also suggested putting the last 3 years gifts (about \$1000) into the scholarship and include the names "In Honor of...". A motion was made Annette Cade to establish the "MAWS Memorial Scholarship Honoring_____." Melody seconded the motion stating it is part of the history of the guilds. The motion was carried. Linda reminded that we had received 2 memorials and had mailed out letters thanking families for the donations. Linda offered to write an article for the newsletter about Margaret Eagle who owned the "Eagles" on the corner in West Yellowstone.