

**MidAtlantic Fiber Association
Representatives Meeting
May 3, 2008**

A meeting of the guild representatives of the MidAtlantic Fiber Association was held on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, Maryland.

MAFA Board members present at the meeting were:

Mickie Schneider, President
Nancy Lind, Vice President
Georgie Guthe, Treasurer

Lori Wall, Corresponding Secretary
Elisa Eiger, Recording Secretary

Guilds represented at the meeting were:

Albemarle Handweavers, Calvert Spinners and Weavers, Canyon County Fiber Arts Guild, Central PA Guild of Handweavers, Foothills Spinners and Weavers, Frances Irwin Handweavers, Jockey Hollow Weavers, Morgantown Fiber Guild, Palisades Guild of Spinners and Weavers, Paumanok Weavers, Potomac Craftsmen Inc, Seacoast Spinners and Weavers, Weavers Guild of Buffalo, Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore, Weavers Guild of Rochester, and Weavers Roundtable.

Note that these minutes are arranged by subject and general order, and are not in strict chronological order.

Call to Order

Mickie Schneider called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Verification of Quorum

According to the MAFA bylaws, Article V, Section 2, “a quorum shall consist of 20 percent of the voting representatives.” A quorum was present at the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting (October 20, 2007) were sent electronically a few weeks after the meeting and again on April 22, 2008. Diane Baumgartner (*Foothills*) moved to approve the minutes as submitted, and Jeanne Bohlen (*Potomac*) seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report (See Appendix 1)

- Net worth as of last night is \$50,738.28. (The half-sheet handout, which says \$50,708.16, is from March 31.)
- Georgie Guthe reviewed the budget for 2008
 - This year, there is a large amount (\$3000) budgeted for the audit. It is not yet clear how much the accountant will charge for the audit and tax return. The audit does not occur every year
 - Next year, the accountant’s bill will be only for preparing MAFA’s Form 990 (tax return), and the bill will be much smaller.

Old Business

Communications

- *Threadlines*, the MAFA quarterly print/online newsletter, is being discontinued for now because of lack of interest/volunteers. It is not irretrievably dead, and may be revived in the future if there is interest.
- Focus will be on messaging through the MAFA website and the new Reps list (mafareps@ mafafiber.org)
 - Email will be sent out to the reps when MAFA receives news of events, workshops, etc or when new articles are added to the website
 - This means that the guilds need to *send in* interesting stuff
 - The old MAFAreps Yahooogroup is being phased out
 - MAFA webmaster is Dave Banks (*Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers*)—for which we bless him!

Future of MAFA Committee

- Chair (Jeanette Rivere, *Shore Fiber Arts*) is not here today, and has no one to help her.

New Business

Nominations

- Lori Wall (*Morgantown*) has volunteered for Corresponding Secretary, and has started in that capacity.
 - Carol Wood resigned as Corresponding Secretary on April 30, 2008.
- Marion Flint (*Baltimore*) volunteered as the Recording Secretary, with her term to begin in October 2008.
- A volunteer is needed for the position of Vice President, starting in October
 - Nancy Lind briefly described the role of MAFA Vice President
 - Membership list; this is in part handled by a Membership Chairperson (currently Dave Banks, *Williamsburg*)
 - Step in for the president as needed on a one-time or permanent basis

2-Year Membership Cycle

- Mickie Schneider described a proposal from the Board to change membership to a two-year cycle.
 - Guilds appear to be joining in the conference years and dropping their membership in the “off” years. In addition to being unfair to the guilds that maintain their membership from year to year, this practice also makes it difficult for MAFA to cover its operating expenses in the non-conference years and to plan the next conference. Expenses include
 - Insurance premiums, for which \$5000 has been budgeted (*see Treasurer’s Report, Appendix 1*)
 - Audit [*legally necessary every other year, and occurring in the “off” years –EE*]

- Postage, copying, office supplies
 - Greatly reduced because of email and website, but not completely eliminated
 - The Board's proposal:
 - Guilds could pay dues in one lump sum or in two annual installments
 - The members of guilds that have not paid their two years' dues would pay non-MAFA rates for the conference (a surcharge of \$10 per person)
 - This change would go into effect in October 2010.
- The reps discussed and modified this proposal.
 - There was concern over membership levels rising from one level of dues to a higher one (the first plateau occurs at 25 members) from the first year to the second year.
 - Consensus was that the dues should "lock in" at the first year's rate, even if the membership should rise from, say, 23 to 27.
 - If membership drops, it will be possible to negotiate a reduction for the second year.
 - It was considered "too confusing" to think of the process as paying dues for two years in order to be eligible for the member rate at conference; "if the DMV can have registration for two years," it makes sense for MAFA to have a two-year membership.
 - Most reps thought that paying two years in one lump sum would pose no hardship or difficulty. Anne Vonnegut (*Albemarle*) pointed out that she needed to confirm this with her guild first.
 - Georgie Guthe suggested an "easy payment plan" of two yearly installments should guilds have difficulty budgeting for an expense that occurs every other year.
 - Current annual dues are:
 - \$30 for 25 or fewer members
 - \$35 for 26-50 members
 - \$50 for 51-100 members
 - \$75 for over 100 members
- Elisa Eiger restated the revised proposal: Starting in October 2008, the guilds will be paying dues for two years, which represents a doubling of their existing one-year dues. This covers them for the entire two years. If there are issues with paying dues all at once, the individual guilds will contact the MAFA treasurer and make arrangements.
- Jeanne Bohlen (*Potomac*) moved that the revised proposal be accepted. Lois Cain (*Frances Irwin, Jockey Hollow*) seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Instructor Database

- Form needs to be corrected; Mickie Schneider will be talking to Ellen Dorosh, who's in charge of the Instructor database; Elisa Eiger will assist as needed.

Workshop Sharing

- Mickie Schneider presented the Board's proposal for a new MAFA membership benefit: Workshop Sharing.

- Allows members of MAFA guilds to take better advantage of the workshop opportunities in the area by giving them ample notice
- Benefits the guilds by allowing them to know more quickly whether there are sufficient students to allow a workshop to run.
- Details:
 - MAFA guilds offering workshops will announce these to the MAFA reps list as soon as they know they're going to try to hold a workshop.
 - Members of other MAFA guilds can send in a check for the workshop and thereby sign up for a waiting list.
 - Since they are not members of the guild, they will pay the non-member rate
 - People on the waitlist may not get a place, and their check will then be returned.
 - Once a person has committed to a workshop, the only certain way for that person to obtain a refund is to arrange with another individual to purchase his or her place.
 - Workshop information should be sent to Corresponding Secretary Lori Wall, who will forward it on to Webmaster Dave Banks for posting to the website calendar
 - The Calendar is on a public part of the website; everyone can see it.
- The proposal was discussed.
 - Reps noted that they have already been getting some announcements of workshops through the list
 - MAFA's large geographic range means that it's not often feasible for members of other guilds to attend a workshop
 - Jeanne Bohlen (*Potomac*) initially expressed concern that this might complicate logistics for the workshop registrar: Would a non-guild member on the waiting list (since they've already paid) take precedence over a guild member who expresses interest because another guild member has to drop out?
 - Mickie Schneider responded that no change in procedure is implied. Guild members come first. What the proposed plan does is expand the potential for filling empty slots in workshops. Deadlines would still apply.
- Since this was a suggestion, not a change in policy, this was not voted on. However, the reps seemed to think it was a good idea.

Workshop Weekend 2009

- Workshop Weekend will be Friday, July 31 through Sunday, August 2, 2009 at Marywood University in Scranton, PA
 - Activities actually begin Thursday night, as most people arrive Thursday afternoon.

Classes and Registration

- Contracts have been sent to 22 instructors; they applied to MAFA to teach a class, so we expect that we should get back their signed contracts quickly.

- The instructors will be announced at the October meeting
 - An announcement will probably be made sooner, but is contingent upon the contracts being received
- Usual rules apply: if 0-1 students register, the class definitely will not run. It is not clear what the minimum class size will be, since this depends on overall enrollment.
- Classes will remain small, but we hope to have more of them
- Will release names of instructors once we receive their signed contracts
- Registration forms will be available online only; print copies will not be mailed.
 - There are local public libraries with Internet access, printers, and helpful librarians; there are also guild members who can help out
- Registration will open in January
- Registration materials will include some caveats based on previous experience: bring soft sheets; towels are small; bring soap
- No phone number will be given in national advertising
 - In 2007, the special dedicated phone turned out to be a large expense and not particularly necessary; Registrar Terry Edwards reported that there were perhaps 20 phone calls in all.
 - A contact number will be given in the participant's packet after they register.

Volunteers and Activities

- Alisa Brown (*Ulster County Spinners*) will again be running the fashion show. It will be similar in format to 2009, but participants will be limited to one item each.
- Guilds have already volunteered for on-site registration and goodie bags
- Need volunteers to pick up and drop off instructors at the airport
- Looking into amenities such as
 - golf carts to transport those with special needs between buildings
- Amenities that will certainly be available include:
 - access to stairs
 - refrigerators for storing insulin that are always accessible to the owner
 - food to meet dietary restrictions (with 2 weeks advance notice)
- Marywood has been extremely accommodating. However, they can't meet all our requests from last time, such as moving the cafeteria closer to the classrooms.
- Will have vendors; we don't know who yet

Next Meeting

The next Reps meeting will be held on Saturday, October 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the Arts and Crafts Building at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck, New York.

Adjournment

Lois Cain (*Frances Irwin, Jockey Hollow*) moved to adjourn. Ann Vonnegut (*Albemarle*) seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Elisa Eiger*

Appendix 1: Treasurer's Report

5/3/2008 rps

MAFA Board Report:31
10/1/2007 through 3/31/2008

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Category Description	10/1/2007- 3/31/2008	
INCOME		
Donations		
Alan Fannin scholarship fund	100.00	
TOTAL Donations	100.00	
Dues Associate	40.00	+ 40 = 80
Dues Guild	1,165.00	+ 210 = 1375
Insurance Refund	320.00	1455
Interest	16.37	
Transfer To Money Market	1,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME	641.37	
EXPENSES		
Allen Fannin Fund	315.00	
CD	30,000.00	
Insurance		
Other Insurance	1,002.00	Crime ins 250
TOTAL Insurance	1,002.00	= 1252
Service Charge	48.00	Office Supply 20.52
Transfer From Checking	1,000.00	Postage 22.95
Transfer To MM	0.00	Shipping 8.76
WSWE-Refund	400.50	52.23
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,765.50	
OVERALL TOTAL	30,124.13	→ 50,938.28

Net Worth // - As of 3/31/2008:10
As of 3/31/2008

Rep'd 5/3/2008

4/3/2008

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Account	3/31/2008 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
10 25 2008	10,000.00
6 25 2008	10,535.06
6 29 2008	10,211.21
8 26 2008	10,000.00
Checking	6,476.29
Money Market	3,485.60
Cash on Hand	0.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	50,708.16
Other Assets	
Membership Dues	0.00
TOTAL Other Assets	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	50,708.16
LIABILITIES	
	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	50,708.16

Operating Expenses

Rep'd 5/3/2008

Accounting(CPA)	3000
Copies	250
CT Corp	1000
Crime Ins	650
Flex 5	2300
Gen Lib	1000
Marywood Rider	50
Office Supplies	400
PO Box Rental	100
Postage	250
Shipping	100

	9100