

Notes from the Chair...

Many of us kicked off summer this year in the best way possible by attending the wonderful MWA conference hosted by the Weaver's Guild of Minnesota. Weatherwise, the week was almost perfect, and the classes, exhibits, tours, shopping, and happenings were all first-rate. Attendee feedback to the conference survey was filled with comments praising the beautiful venue, the excellence of the instructors, the attention that was given to small details, and those wonderful "green apron" volunteers who were ever present to provide help. *Urban Fiber with a Minnesota Twist* delivered what we always look for in our conferences: the inspiration, resources, and community that supports and stimulates our passion for our crafts. We again thank the leadership team of Jan Nelson, Bonnie Buzza, Sue Bye, Louise French, Cindy Owen, and Geri Retzlaff along with all the Minnesota volunteers who worked so long to make the conference a memorable one.

The general meeting at the conference also was a time of transition as Patsy Ek stepped down from the Board while Emily Say was named as her replacement. Patsy had served for ten years, during which time she was responsible for the annual newsletter and for coordinating the leadership breakfast at each conference. We are so grateful for her many years of service. Emily was part of the leadership team for the 2013 conference in Kansas, and she brings to the Board a somewhat younger point of view and

great enthusiasm for all types of fiber arts.

One of the topics that we discussed at the general meeting in June was the current lack of a host guild for the 2019 conference. A summary of that discussion appears elsewhere in this newsletter. The Board also included several open-ended questions regarding conference hosting in the post-conference survey in an effort to gain more insight into member's ideas, concerns, and questions regarding this crucial role. In reviewing the survey, the Board also noted several recurring themes, and our responses to those concerns are addressed in sidebars throughout this issue.

But as we continue to look for solutions for 2019, there is much to look forward in the next couple of years. Con-

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Looking forward—2017 MWA Conference



www.midwestweavers.org

Indiana is excited about hosting MWC2017!

The dates are June 12-17, 2017.

Our theme is *Textiles at the Crossroads*.

We are thrilled that our keynote speaker will be Madelyn Van Der Hoogt, former editor of *Handwoven* magazine and current owner and operator of The Weaving School in Coopeville, Washington. She has a long association with past Midwest conferences and is very happy to be invited back.

The conference will be held at Butler University, in Indianapolis. Butler is a small private university with a

lovely campus in the heart of Indianapolis, just minutes from downtown restaurants and museums, some of which will be featured in our tours.

We look forward to welcoming you to our city and our conference in two years!

Keep checking back with the MWA website so you can LIKE our Facebook page. Rolling out soon!

MWA Board Members and Database & Website Managers

Carolyn Hart
Secretary
Route 3, Box 731
Vandalia, IL 62471
(618)326-8655
chart4009@gmail.com

Bobbi Humphrey-Stephens
Treasurer
9046 N. Regent Road
Bayside, WI 53217
(414)736-0496
nstephens24@att.net

Betty Huttner
Chair
5 Glendale Circle
Iowa City, IA 52245
(319)338-6146
icliz@yahoo.com

John Mullarkey
Web Site Manager
3932 Cleveland
St. Louis, MO 63110
(314)518-8350
webmaster@midwestweavers.org

Amy Norris
Database Manager
8742 Teasdale Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63124
(314)991-5237
amy@amyfibre.com

Linda Ryden
Newsletter Editor
3024 - 143rd Ave Ct W
Milan, IL 61264
309-787-6644
weavespin13@yahoo.com

Emily Say
Scholarship Chair
625 Garfield Street
Emporia, KS 66801
emsaywhat@yahoo.com

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vergence 2016 will be held in Milwaukee next summer, so many of us will take advantage of attending that international event in our own backyard. And then, in June 2017, we'll be heading to Indianapolis for *Textiles at the Crossroads*. The Indiana planning team has a great venue lined up at Butler University and is gathering a great array of teachers and programs for us.

I hope to see many of you at one of these upcoming events. In the meantime, I hope you find many hours to enjoy weaving, spinning, and any other fiber play you favor, and that you will consider exhibiting the fruits of your labor at our next conference.

Betty Huttner, MWA Board Chair

Minutes of the MWA General Meeting

The general meeting of the Midwest Weavers Association was held at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the O'Shaughnessy Education Center at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Betty Huttner, chairman. Betty thanked the Minnesota conference committee and the green apron volunteers for all of their work on the conference.

Carolyn Hart read the minutes from the last meeting. Betty asked for a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

Bobbi Humphrey-Stephens gave the treasurer's report. Expenditures since the last conference were \$6,735.62, income was \$23,600.54 for a total balance of \$88,352.52. Betty asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

Linda Ryden introduced the scholarship winners. The Jack Baker scholarship was awarded to Linda Gardner of Bloomington, IN. The two comprehensive scholarships went to Randi Rewoldt of Hebron, IL and Mary Cowen of Grand Marais, MN. Linda drew names for two free registrations for the next conference. The two names drawn were Mary Sims and Gale Rechter.

Linda Flotow nominated Carolyn Hart to serve as secretary of the Midwest Weavers Association Board. Betty asked for nominations from the floor. Betty asked for motion

to accept the nomination. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

Betty announced that Patsy Ek will be leaving the Board. She thanked Patsy for her service and for putting the newsletter together. Emily Say will be finishing Patsy's term on the Board.

Betty reminded everyone that there is no host guild for the 2019 conference. The Board has been discussing this and is not sure why no one has stepped forward. She assured the guilds that thought they might be too small to host a conference that the Board would provide support and financial backing.

A motion was made from the floor to collect dues at the time of the conference instead of the off year. Discussion ensued. The question was called. Betty asked for a motion to end the discussion. The motion was made, seconded and approved. The motion was then amended to change the by-laws to collect dues the year of the conference. Betty called for a vote. The motion failed.

Bobbi was the Board liaison to the Minnesota hosts of the conference. She thanked the conference hosts: Jan Nelson, Louise French and Cindy Owen, Jere Ratloff, Sue Bye and Bonnie Buzzza for all of their work on the conference and presented them with a gift.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Please feel free to contact a Board member at any time to share your thoughts and ideas regarding MWA. Contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter and on our webpage.

Awards from 2015 Conference

MEMBERS' EXHIBIT

Judge: Jane Patrick

Member & Guild Exhibits

Committee Chair: Jere Thompson

Awards Chair: Peggy Baldwin

A Splendid Home - rugs, blankets, pillows, wall hangings

1. Wynne Mattila
2. Debra Zeitler
3. Judy Santner

A Splendid Home - table runners, mats, towels

1. Lou French
2. Chris Jenkins
3. Karen York

Twister Trends - handspun skeins

1. John Mullarkey

Energy Transfer - items made with handspun

1. John Mullarkey
2. Louise Young
3. Heather Winslow

Mississippi Currents - woven on 8+ shafts

1. Heather Winslow
2. Lou French
3. Deborah Zeitler

Orchestrated Piece-by-Piece - clothing

1. Lou French
2. Sue Semrow
3. Chris Jenkins

Fiber Improv - miscellaneous

1. Deborah Zeitler
2. Patricia McQuade
3. Judy Santner

Elsie Bell Award - handspinning excellence

- ◆ Heather Winslow

Libbie Crawford Award - loom controlled handweaving

- ◆ Rita Hagenbruch

Ila Roberts Award - handwoven table linens

- ◆ Karen Mallin

HGA Award - certificate of accomplishment

- ◆ Mindy McCain

Complex Weavers Award

- ◆ Vicki Tardy

GUILD EXHIBITS

1. Sand County Weavers - After the Picnic
2. Northwest Arkansas - Napkins with a Checkered Past
3. Weaving Indiana - Not So Brown Bag Lunch

People's Choice - tie

- Duluth Fiber - Lake Superior Picnic
- Weaving Indiana - Not So Brown Bag Lunch

Margaret O'Shaughnessy Award

- ◆ Sand County Weavers - After the Picnic

FASHION SHOW

Judge: Liz Spear

Fashion Show Committee

Chair: Kala Exworthy

- ◇ Best Use of Silk - Vicki Tardy, Northern Lights
- ◇ Coats and Capes for All Seasons - Deborah Zeitler, Purple Flair Jacket
- ◇ One Fine Day - Beverly Martin, Laurel's Jacket
- ◇ Fiber Friends/ Collaboration - Eclectic Study Group, Robe Project
- ◇ Twin Cities Lights - Ann Masemore, Mississippi Mermaid
- ◇ 4 or Fewer - Mary Sue Fenner, Stretch Tunic and Shawl
- ◇ 16 or More Shafts - Katherine Buenger, Swinging into Cool Weather
- ◇ Judge's Choice - Jill Lynn, Siberian Date Night
- ◇ People's Choice - Vicki Tardy, Northern Lights
- ◇ Weavers Guild of Minnesota Special Award (in honor of 75th anniversary) - Sandy Cahill, Curly Cap Sleeve Jacket
- ◇ Margaret Grant Memorial Award - Beverly Martin, Beach Walk Jacket

Congratulations to all the award winners on their beautiful work!

FIBER ARTIST OF DISTINCTION

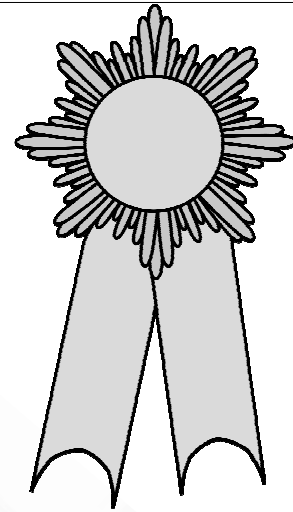
MWA has established an award to honor our many talented weavers. This award is based on a point system. Points are earned by receiving either a 1st place [3 points], 2nd place [2 points], or 3rd place or honorable mention [1 point] at MWA Conference competitions. When a weaver has accumulated 25 points, they will receive the Fiber Artist of Distinction Award.

Congratulations to Vicki Tardy on becoming our first Fiber Artist of Distinction!

Vicki has entered multiple items in the members exhibit, all beautifully designed and woven. She has earned many first and second place awards for her efforts and has accumulated enough points to become a Fiber Artist of Distinction. Congratulations, Vicki!

The following is a list of those members who have accrued 7 or more points.

- * Louise French - 14
- * Wynne Mattila - 12
- * Peggy Baldwin - 11
- * Marcia Kosmerchock - 8
- * Heather Winslow - 7
- * Karen York - 7
- * Deborah Zeitler - 7



MWA Scholarship Recipients

Urban Fibers with a Minnesota Twist

Linda Gardner, of Bloomington, Indiana, received the Jack A. Baker Scholarship, which is for a weaver with less than five years experience and provides conference registration fees, room, and board.

Randi Rewoldt of Hebron, Illinois, received a Comprehensive MWA Scholarship which also covered all of the registration, room, and board costs.

Mary Cowen, of Grand Marais, Minnesota, also received a Comprehensive MWA Scholarship to cover all of her registration, room, and board costs.

Margaret Dawson, of Indiana, and **Carolyn Sue Balde**, of Wisconsin, both received free registration vouchers in a drawing held at the conclusion of the Membership Meeting at the Prairie Winds Conference in Kansas.

The Board welcomes scholarship applications. Please contact Emily Say for additional information.

The Conference Hosting Dilemma

The call for host guilds for future conferences is a regular feature of this newsletter and a recurring agenda item at all MWA business meetings.

And as we have pointed out in previous newsletters, *we have no host guild for MWA conferences after 2017.*

The Board presented some alternative scenarios for solving this situation at the June general meeting that are summarized here. We also invited member input about conference hosting in the post-conference survey.

Hosting is a big commitment. As currently presented, our conferences have many moving parts, so the steering committees take on a large portfolio of work. They must consider budgets, find a suitable venue, arrange housing and meals, choose and contract teachers and speakers, coordinate exhibits, and juggle dozens of other tasks related to producing a valuable experience for attendees.

Impediments to Hosting

In the survey, members provided the following reasons that a guild might not step forward to host a conference:

- The guild is too small to take on such a big task.
- The older members of the guild no longer have the energy or desire to take on the commitment, and the younger members are too busy with jobs and families.
- The guild has recently hosted.
- The guild lacks members with the necessary skills in budgeting, website design, etc.

As a matter of fact, many of our most recent conferences have not been the work of a single, local guild but rather a collaborative effort.

In 2003, the conference was spearheaded by the leadership team from the St. Louis Guild that had produced Midwest 2001, but individual committees were chaired by volunteers from throughout the midwest.

More recently, conferences have been hosted by statewide organizations that encompass all of the guilds from a single state.

Another important consideration is the level of support that is available to host committees from the MWA board. This assistance has increased considerably during the past eight years and now includes a board liaison to assist with all aspects of planning, website hosting and technical support, and substantial support with setting up and using the online registration system.

Expectations that Inhibit Participation

It is also notable that conferences do not have to conform to a single model.

Your conference does not need to look like the previous one.

In fact, it's the local twist that's usually the most memorable feature of each conference.

The conference guidelines provided by the Board are intentionally broad to allow each hosting guild to make the meeting their own. All the components of the conference that we've come to expect are mostly optional: it is possible to host a conference without a fashion show or preconference classes or tours or—heavens forbid—vendors. Venues need

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not be limited to college campuses. The conference could be scheduled for a different time of year. What hosts do need to provide is a time and place to meet for education in our crafts.

Options for the Future

While we are hoping that a host group will step forward soon to plan the conference for 2019 or beyond, the Board has been discussing and will continue to explore the following alternatives to the local host model.

- The Board could plan and host a pared-down conference in 2019 on a one-time-only basis. This scenario would probably be limited to a three-day conference with a limited number of classes and attendees, fewer or no evening activities, and the possibility that attendees would be responsible for their own housing and meals.
- A single location could be chosen as the official site of all future conferences. Teacher selection, themes, and activities could be planned by member guilds on a rotating basis but all administrative tasks would be handled by a coordinator hired by the Board for this purpose. This option would necessarily increase the cost of the conference.
- MWA could reach out to other regional organizations to share hosting responsibilities on a rotating basis. This option might provide access to different instructors and vendors, but it would undoubtedly increase the time and expense of travel to the conference.
- MWA could choose not to have a conference in 2019. This is the option that no one really wants. It is an option, however, that other regional organizations have taken only to see hosts come forward for future meetings.

So, that's where we currently stand. No decisions have been made at this time, and there is ample time for a host group to step forward. The Board is ready and eager to provide assistance to any hosting organization, and we also continue to welcome any suggestions about conference planning that you may wish to share. Our contact information can be found on the MWA website or on page 2.

From the Treasurer...

Our organization is fortunate to have over \$88,000 in cash balances.

These funds enable us to provide and continually increase scholarship offerings to diversify and broaden our membership and conference attendance base group.

Also, the funding needed to plan and secure conference venues has changed over the years, from needing \$1000 dollars to needing much larger deposits. This money is vital to the continuation of conferences, as it is needed well before any conference registrations are received.

The most important reason for this money is in case of a conference failure. This could be from a natural disaster such as an earthquake, tornado or other unforeseen circumstances as well as a conference that lost money. We would have to refund registrations in case of a disaster, while possibly losing our deposits to the venue along with all of the pre-conference expenses needed to build the conference. We work diligently to budget conferences wisely to prevent losses, but the possibility does exist.

Other expenses such as audits and accounting along with advertising, newsletters, awards and meeting expenses also rely on these funds. We manage our funds carefully to insure continuation of our organization.

MWA is an organization of volunteers.

Do you have a talent to share with the MWA membership?

Please contact a Board member to offer your services.

DUES

Attention: It's time to pay dues for 2016-17. The form and additional information are found on page 9 of this newsletter. **If you joined when you registered for *Urban Fiber* in Minnesota this summer, you will need to renew now to continue receiving the benefits of membership.**

One of the most important benefits of membership is that you receive a free copy of the registration booklet for the next conference as soon as they are available. Extra booklets are no longer printed, **so if you're not a member at the time the booklet is printed, you will not receive the printed conference booklet . . .** you'll need to print the information from the MWA web site.

MWA

FAQs

What does the MWA Board do?

- Identifies guilds willing to host the biennial conference
- Provides conference planning support for the hosting guild(s)
- Provides multiple scholarships for attending Midwest conferences

What support does the MWA Board provide to guild(s) hosting the conference?

First of all, one MWA Board member agrees to be the conference liaison and is available to the hosting committee to answer questions, attend planning meetings, provide resources, and generally help every step of the way. Everyone on the Board has had firsthand experience hosting a MWA conference, so if the designated Board liaison doesn't know the answer, there are others willing to help.

Secondly, the Board has prepared conference guidelines (which are available to anyone on our website: <http://midwestweavers.org/MWAConferenceGuidelines.pdf>). These guidelines provide resources such as sample

contracts, budgets from previous conferences, possible planning timeline, etc.

In addition, the Board provides the funding and technical support for the conference website. All website content about the conference is provided by the planning committee, but the MWA hosts the site and our webmaster formats and maintains the site to relieve the planning committee of that burden.

Lastly, the Board provides considerable support for the online registration process. In fact, the Board voted at its most recent meeting to provide someone to build the registration site and provide all the reporting for future conferences.

What does the Board require from guild(s) hosting the conference?

Enthusiasm and creative thinking!

However, the shape of the conference--how long it is, what activities are included, who teaches and what subject-- is entirely up to the hosting committee. The Board has no requirements for what the conference has to include.

MWA Membership Dues for 2016 and 2017

These dues are for 2016-2017. Dues are collected the first of January every even-numbered year and run through the end of the next/odd-numbered year.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Name and address of guild(s) you participate in _____

Please make checks payable to "Midwest Weavers Association".....\$10.00

Please send this form and your check to:

Amy Norris
8742 Teasdale Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63124

Please do not include my name, city, and state on the on-line membership list.

Membership Dues

Membership dues are collected on a biennial basis. The dues cover the period beginning in January of even-numbered years and carry you through the end of the next odd-numbered year, which is also the year of the MWA conference. These dues help defray the cost of conference scholarships, newsletter mailings, and web site maintenance. Benefits of being a member of MWA include receiving MWA annual newsletters and ***automatically receiving a free registration booklet for the next MWA conference.***

To facilitate networking between fellow fiber enthusiasts, we'll be including MWA's membership list on our web site. The list will only include a person's name, city, and state, and will not include any personal contact information. We'll automatically include your information on the web site unless you opt out now or sometime in the future (you can either check the box on the membership dues renewal form or e-mail John Mullarkey, the web site manager).

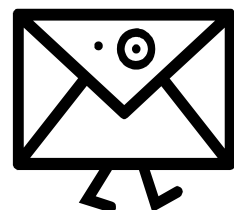
Please complete the form above and return it with your check for \$10. These dues are for 2016 and 2017. Hope to see you at Midwest 2017 ***Textiles at the Crossroads*** in Indianapolis!

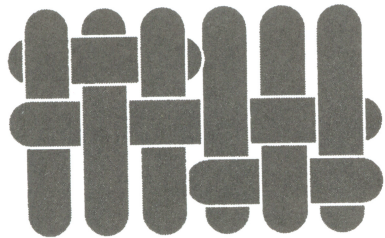
Address Changes

If you move, please let us know by sending your new mailing information to:

Amy Norris
8742 Teasdale Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63124

or send her an e-mail at: amy@amyfibre.com. Thank you!





Midwest Weavers
ASSOCIATION, INC.

The official newsletter of

Midwest Weavers' Association
c/o Amy Norris
8742 Teasdale Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63124-1926

E-mail: amy@amyfibre.com

**More
MWA
FAQs**

What do I get for my MWA dues?

Membership in the Midwest Weavers Association (MWA) is required in order to register for the MWA biennial conference. In addition, members receive a printed copy of the conference registration booklet, plus one printed newsletter each year, usually mailed in the fall.

Why can't I just pay my dues when I register for the conference?

Less than half the membership attends any given conference, so when dues were changed from "lifetime" to every other year, it made more sense to make dues payment a completely separate transaction. Renewal notices appear in the fall newsletter after every conference. And the newsletter is mailed to all members, whether they attend the conference or not.

Why can't I pay for multiple two-year membership periods in advance?

Again, it's a matter of simplicity and ease in record keeping. When the newsletter goes out with the renewal notices, it goes to all paid members. It's not practical to have two newsletters -- one for people who need to renew, and one for people who don't.