

WeGO General Board Meeting

Spring 2024

April 20, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Donna Wilson (President) at 10:00am on April 20, 2024, via Zoom.

Roll Call by Donna Wilson:

Present:

Executive Board Members: Donna Wilson (President), Karen Sieradski (Vice President), Annali Cross (Treasurer), Leann Meyer (Education, Workshop Coordinator), Lisa Krebs (Communication) Pam Sullivan (State Fair Demonstrations)

Guild Representatives: Leigh Wheeler (Aurora and Portland), Carrie Gordon (Central Oregon), Leann Meyer (Clatsop), Cheryl Richardson (Columbia), Sarah Mostkoff (Eugene), Kathy O’Hern (Gorge Handweavers), Kathy Nelson (Klamath), Lisa Krebs (Rogue Valley), Pam Sullivan (Salem), Lisa Bushman (Threadbenders), Corienne Geddes (Umpqua), Patty Beckmann (Webfoot)

Absent:

Brenda Belongie (Heritage), Sandra McDonald (Humbug Mountain), Cindy Fowler (Saturday Handweavers)

Approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2023 meeting:

One correction to the minutes was brought forward by Cheryl Richardson. The 2024 WeGO scholarships were awarded to the Aurora Colony Spinners Guild, Columbia Fibres Guild, Heritage Textile Arts, and Saturday Handweavers Guild. Portland was listed in error.

Carrie Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. The motion was 2nd by Lisa Krebs.

VP Report by Karen Sieradski (Vice-president):

Karen reported that she recently requested project updates from the 2024 scholarship awardees. Aurora Colony Spinners Guild, Columbia Fibres Guild, and Saturday Handweavers Guilds responded that they are moving forward with various projects. One guild, Heritage Textile Arts, has not yet responded with requested information. The deadline to use the scholarship funds is the end of calendar year 2024.

A discussion ensued about whether this monetary distribution should be considered a “scholarship”, “grant”, or something else. The guilds do not need to submit an application, the distribution is made on a rotating drawing. No changes will be made at this time.

Kathy Nelson, from Klamath Spinners & Weavers, questioned why her guild had not been reimbursed for their 2023 scholarship. Annali Cross (Treasurer) looked into this during the meeting and determined that the Klamath guild’s payment had been overlooked and a check would be mailed on Monday April 22, 2024.

Treasurer’s Report by Annali Cross (Treasurer):

Annali reviewed several financial reports in detail, including WeGO’s Budget, Profit and Loss Statement, and Balance Sheet. During the Treasurer’s Report Sarah Mostkoff was asked for a final financial report for the Filaments Traveling Show. After all expenses were paid the Traveling Show’s final balance was \$477.

WeGO Balance Sheet as of April 21, 2024	
ASSETS	
Current Assets	Total
Bank Accounts	31,618.13
Rivermark Checking	5.00
Rivermark Conf Savings	1,106.48
Rivermark Savings/Relief Fund	\$32,729.61
Total Current Assets	\$32,729.61

TOTAL ASSETS	\$32,729.61
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	27,382.19
Retained Earnings	6,987.15
Net Income	-1,639.73
Total Equity	\$32,729.61
TOTAL LIABILITY AND EQUITY	\$32,729.61

Donna informed the board that Annali will continue to serve as WeGO Treasurer.

Communication by Lisa Krebs (Communication Coordinator)

Lisa reported that she has been posting information on WeGO’s website.

Annali explained a change to the way guild dues can be paid. There is a new form on WeGO’s website under the “Meetings & WeGO Documents” tab. This form is fillable online and can be emailed; guild dues can be paid using PayPal. Or the form can be printed and filled in manually, then mailed. Instructions for mailing and addresses are included on the form.

Annual WeGO dues are to be paid by March 31, but the deadline has been extended until the end of April this year. Dues for this year have been received from Threadbenders, Columbia Fibres, Gorge Handweavers, Webfoot Weavers, and Saturday Handweavers.

Question from Donna – Should the president of each guild receive dues notifications from WeGO? Currently only guild representatives receive the notification. A decision was made to continue to send information to the rep only.

Guild representatives are reminded to review the information on the website for accuracy on a regular basis.

Education by Leann Meyer (Workshop Coordinator):

Leann is planning to send a questionnaire listing potential instructors for workshops to be held during fall 2024. If anyone has a suggestion for an instructor send the information to Leann to include in the questionnaire.

Some of the instructors being considered to teach a workshop are John Malarkey, Jane Stafford, Robin Spady, Janis Thompson, Susan Wilson, Patti Huffer, Theresa Ruch, Janis Thompson and Charlene Virts (Charlene has recently moved to Arizona).

Linda Hendrickson was suggested as a band-weaving instructor.

State Fair by Pam Sullivan (State Fair Demonstration Booth Chairperson):

Reported by Pam for Dorald Stolz (State Fair Coordinator):

Guild representatives are urged to encourage their guild’s members to enter items in the State Fair. There are many prizes and ribbons awarded.

Entries are to be brought to the fairgrounds on August 16 or 17, 2024. If your guild is mailing a box of entries, they must arrive by August 16. Identify every item in the package and include a master list of items. Include a return address label. Annali will reimburse postage expenses. Take a photo of your receipt and text it to Annali.

This year the children’s category age breakdown is age 0-13, 14-17, 18+ will be considered “beginners”.

Pam reported that there will be a new layout in the demonstration area that will make more sense for attendees passing through.

If anyone is willing to demonstrate they will receive a parking and entry pass. Contact Pam if interested. Camping is available at the State Fairgrounds.

Pam and Dorald will Zoom in to guild meetings to talk about the State Fair. Contact one of them if interested in doing this.

Annali suggested that Pam work with Lisa to post State Fair information on the website.

Traveling Show by Sarah Mostkoff (Filaments Coordinator)

Sarah thanked Marilyn Robert and Charlene Virts for their help in planning and executing the Filaments Traveling Show. This show was a 4-year process, time extended due to Covid.

The successful show was displayed in 6 venues around state and included 46 entries from Oregon weavers. The final location of the Filaments show in Salem had 3,605 visitors!

Sarah compiled a very detailed ***Filaments Traveling Show Final Report*** that is available on WeGO's website under "Meetings & WeGO Documents". Lisa asked Sarah to review this document on the website to make sure it's complete.

Other business:

The names/addresses/phone numbers of WeGO representatives were reviewed for accuracy.

Sarah Mostkoff has filled the HGA Rep position.

WeGO needs an ANWG Rep. Karen Sieradski went over the responsibilities of an ANWG rep. Guild reps are asked to go back to their individual guilds and ask if anyone is interested in filling the role of ANWG Rep for WeGO.

Ten-minute break

Guild Reports:

Member guild representatives each reported on the activities of their guilds during the past 6 months. Photos included impressive woven items, and other fiber arts, created by guild members. Several guilds have programs and strategies to engage new members and keep them interested in the fiber arts.

Guild reports are posted on WeGO's website.

New Business

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee is needed to identify a slate of candidates for several positions for the 2025-2026 term. Positions are:

- President
- Secretary
- Communications (Lisa Krebs says she will continue in this position)
- Long Range Planning (Sarah Mostkoff will continue in this position)

The Nominating Committee will be chaired by Sarah Mostkoff. Carrie Gordon and Kathy Nelson will be on the committee.

A Secretary is needed to complete Cassandra's term since she has resigned. No volunteers at this time.

By-Law Change

A change to the By-Laws to reflect how dues are paid is needed. A committee consisting of Kathy Nelson, Cheryl Richardson, and Annali Cross was identified to work on this change.

Long-Range Planning by Sarah Mostkoff

Sarah went over the “2023 Summary of WeGO’s 10 Year Long Range Plan”. The “Goals Not Met” and “Partially Met Goals/Objectives” sections were reviewed. Sarah pointed out that some goals are obsolete, some need to be revised, and others have been met.

One change since the plan was written is the use of the internet for communication. This eliminates the need for many printed materials.

A discussion about WeGO developing a training program, or a resource list, of fiber arts judges led to Carrie Gordon offering to talk with her guild’s ANWG rep about their fiber arts judge resources. This may help clarify what’s already available.

Sarah will continue working on this document and have a revision for the Fall 2024 meeting. She says it will take at least one year to work through the document revisions. Sarah asked for someone to assist with this project by proofing her text; Carrie Gordon volunteered to do this.

A long exchange ensued about what WeGO is and what WeGO offers to member guilds. All agreed that networking among Oregon guilds and weavers is a benefit, also workshops and scholarships. WeGO reps are tasked with promoting WeGO to their individual guilds.

Certificate of Excellence

The Handweavers Guild of America (HGA) has announced that it is suspending the Certificate of Excellence program.

Donna asks if there is interest in developing the WeGO Weaving Mastery Certificate Program discussed during the Fall 2023 meeting, especially now with HGA’s announcement. This may be important for new weavers in Oregon to develop better weaving skills.

Lots of questions:

Who would coordinate such a program?

Could this be done at the local guild level rather than through WeGO?

Is it necessary? Are we re-creating the wheel?

Are we just making work for ourselves?

This Certificate Program idea is tabled for now.

Next Meetings

Meet via Zoom on October 19, 2024 at 10:00am

Meet via Zoom on April 19, 2025 at 10:00am

Meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.

Minutes submitted by Kathy O’Hern, substituting for Secretary Cassandra del Nero