

WEGO GENERAL BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 19, 2024

Meeting Called to Order by Donna Wilson, President

Present:

Executive Board Members: Donna Wilson (President), Karen Sieradski (Vice President), Annali Cross (Treasurer), Sarah Mostkoff (Long Range Planning and Interim Secretary), Dorald Stoltz (State Fair), Pam Sullivan (State Fair Demonstrations), Lisa Krebs (Communications), LeAnn Meyer (Workshop and Education).

Guild Representatives: Cheryl Richardson (Columbia Fibres Guild and Gorge Handweavers Guild), Carrie Gordon (Central Oregon Spinners and Weavers), Cindy Fowler (Saturday Handweavers Guild), Lisa Bushman (Threadbenders), Patricia Beckmann (Webfoot Weavers & Fiber Artists), Leigh Wheeler (Aurora Colony Handspinners Guild, and Portland Handweavers Guild).

Absent:

Brenda Belongie (Heritage Textile Arts), Sandra McDonald (Humbug Mountain Weavers & Spinners), Kathy Nelson (Klamath Spinners & Weavers Guild), Corienne Geddes (Umpqua Weavers & Spinners),

Approval of the Minutes of the April 20, 2024 Meeting:

Karen Sieradski made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Carrie Gordon.

Vice President Report by Karen Sieradski:

Karen reported she received Scholarship reports from Columbia and Heritage guilds. Aurora Spinners are having their Scholarship class today and will be filing a report. Karen requested Saturday Handweavers Guild write a scholarship deferment letter to create a paper trail for WeGO's delay in not dispersing money.

Treasurer Report by Annali Cross:

Annali gave comprehensive information on the following reports: Balance Sheet; Profit and Loss; WeGO Budget 2024; and Statement of Activity Comparison. Some money is in a high interest account growing at a rate of approximately \$65-75 per month. Plans are to change from Quick Books to Wave Financial Accounting, a free version used during the ANWG Conference that proved reliable. Donna Wilson said that our ANWG Conference income was about \$7,900.

Communications Report by Lisa Krebs:

Communication usage documents available upon request. There were 218 views on the webpage which is down from the last reported period, while unique visitors were up 20%. The Facebook page is more active than the website. Lisa will link the Long Range Plan when it is

complete with the WeGO documents page on the website. Lisa thanked Pam for working with her to update the State Fair information. Lisa and Annali will discuss how to make sure the QR code stays current. When Membership Forms are updated on the website, the Secretary is notified and information is relayed to Communications. Annali will edit the website Membership Form to include Guild President contact information in addition to the current Representative's contact information.

Education and Workshop Coordinator by LeAnn Meyer:

LeAnn would appreciate suggestions for workshops or teachers. Annali will locate the contract template for the teacher's guidelines. Donna Wilson will contact Marlene Lloyd for past documents for Education and Workshop position. Clarification is needed for how Workshop instructors are paid, and how travel and hotels are covered.

State Fair and Demonstrations by Dorald Stoltz and Pam Sullivan:

There were 147 fiber art entries in 2024 compared to 109 in 2023. Weaving had 65 entries. Hand dyeing enjoyed increased interest. Pam encouraged participation in demonstrations. Columbia Fibres Guild brought an impressive display showing different wools and processing steps used in knitting and weaving. The display will be loaned again next year to the Fair. They average 20 demonstrators a day. It was suggested to look at the State Fair as a year long project within guilds, individual pieces can be put in County Fairs, local galleries, and the State Fair with opportunities to show your piece in multiple locals. Contact Pam if you have a volunteer interested in joining an informal planning group for state and county fairs. The WeGO QR code is available for demonstrations and booths.

Dorald Stoltz spoke about the State Fair. The Fiber Arts section is one of the few sections that award cash prizes. Best of Division has 5 categories, each awarded a \$100 gift card sponsored by WeGO and Eugene Textile Center. There were three \$100 cash awards: Handspun Yarn and Handspun Articles sponsored by Aurora Colony Handspinners Guild; and Handspun Articles sponsored by Salem Fiberarts Guild. Felting and Dyeing are looking for sponsors. Jennifer Marker of Compass Moon Creations sponsors an award for the children's division. This year had 2 entries. Please consider encouraging your children, and grandkids to enter the fair.

10 Year Long Range Plan by Sarah Mostkoff:

A discussion began with adding one sentence to the Mission Statement: "WeGO supports diversity and inclusivity." The goal is to increase our outreach and increase guild membership.

Mission Statement

The purpose of WeGO is to encourage weaving and related fiber arts in Oregon; to foster inter-guild cooperation and communication; and to provide educational opportunities. WeGO supports diversity and inclusivity.

Dorald Stoltz, Pam Sullivan and Sarah Mostkoff to write the criteria and create a Certificate Of Merit template to award at county fairs and fiber events when requested. Wording was changed in the Long Range Plan to more accurately reflect weavers, spinners and other fiber arts.

Handweavers Guild Of America report by Sarah Mostkoff:

HGA finished their Spinning and Weaving Week. HGA continues to work on Certificate of Excellence for various fiber arts. These are being revamped to reflect consistency across all users. HGA has a traveling exhibit and are looking for smaller venues around the country. There are about 30 pieces. Please check out the free weekly Textile and Tea virtual interviews. This Tuesday featured Suzie Liles from Eugene Textile Center. Beki Ries-Montgomery won third place for her hand felted and eco-dyed dress at Convergence. There were several Oregon entries accepted into the regional show.

ANWG Report by Cheryl Richardson:

ANWG needs volunteers for the conference in Yakima. Sponsors are accepted for coffee stations. Website: anwgconference.com.

5 minute break followed by Guild Reports

1230 15 minutes break

Scholarships by Karen Sieradski (Vice President)

Karen will notify winners by email and reiterate guidelines to receive payment.

2025 Winners:

COSW, Threadbenders, Salem Fiber Arts, Rogue Valley Handweavers

Alternate Guilds:

Gorge Handweavers, Columbia Fibers, Klamath Spinners and Weavers, Heritage Textile Arts

New Business by Donna Wilson (President)

Voting Rights:

A discussion was held re voting rights. The two options presented to the General Board were "One person, one vote; or One guild, one vote". The Executive Committee's recommendation was "One person, one vote". A motion was made for "One person, one vote. In the event that one Representative represents two or more guilds, that person gets one vote for each guild represented."

Discussion: - Should Committee Members participate in votes? The motion was withdrawn to clarify verbiage in conjunction with the Bylaws.

Donna reported on ANWG's request for WeGO to consider holding regional conferences in the State of Oregon based on the MAWS model (Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners) if no one steps forward to host ANWG after the 2025 Yakima Show. Annali requested Guild Representatives take this conversation to their guilds and assess local interest in holding regional conferences, and if not, why aren't they interested. At this time there is not enough information available to make an informed decision.

Recruitment and Retention was deferred to a future meeting.

Mentoring Guilds by Sarah

A discussion was held about communication hindered by the digital and analog divide in remote rural guilds such as Humbug Mountain who do not have the technological skills to join

meetings or share opportunities with other guilds. WeGO will continue to be a digital format going forward. Our information is all accessed on the internet. Guilds have access to hard printing the information and distributing it in an analog fashion. Unfortunately it is not feasible for WeGO to pay for, nor ask a volunteer to be a traveling resource. WeGO members are encouraged to visit guild meetings when they are traveling.

Old Business

Annali reported the Bylaws committee is proposing changes and will present them at the Spring Executive Meeting. This includes revised job duties of the Secretary, Treasurer and Communications positions. Others included modifying statements about in person and/or virtual meetings; adding email voting; removing stipend language; how dues are structured; assessing dues; and voting rights.

Elections

A motion was made to accept the candidates as presented. All in favor, and the motion was passed.

President - Donna Wilson

Secretary - Sarah Mostkoff

Communications - Lisa Krebs

Long Range Planning - Sarah Mostkoff

Karen reported the sad news that Bette Nordberg, (Co-Chair of ANWG 2025) and her husband Kim are deceased after a motor vehicle accident. Sarah will send a condolence card to the Co Chair of the Seattle Guild.

Seattle Weavers' Guild
1245 10th Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102

The Family of Bette and Kim Nordberg
11323 136th AVE E
Puyallup, WA 98374

NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL BOARD APRIL 19, 2025

Lisa Krebs moved to adjourn, Cheryl Richardson seconded the motion.

Submitted by Sarah Mostkoff
October 19, 2024

