

WEGO (Weaving Guilds of Oregon)

WeGO represents the 16 member guilds of Oregon spread throughout the state. When the ANWG Conference (Association of Northwest Weaving Guilds) was hosted in Bend, Oregon in the late 70's, Dee Potter organized the Oregon guilds to put on the show. Afterwards in the early 80's the Oregon guilds wanted to continue the camaraderie forged at the ANWG event and in 1982 WeGO formed as a statewide organization. We are now a 501(c)(3) with a PayPal account and a QR code on our website.

WeGO was formed to facilitate communication between the 16 Oregon weaving guilds, to share knowledge and increase community awareness about fiber arts in Oregon.

Here is what your membership in WeGO affords you:

- Thanks to WeGO we were able to have the ANWG Conference hosted in Bend, Oregon this past summer. Volunteers from WeGO are very proud to bring this great educational event to our state every 10 years!!!
- WeGO rotates among the guilds awards of 4 scholarships per year of \$500 each to be used for education.
- WeGO donates money for fiber arts prizes at the Oregon State Fair.
- WeGO pays for "guild shipping" to and from the Oregon State Fair.
- At the Oregon State Fair, WeGO has sponsored the fiber arts booth for some 40 years, not only overseeing the judging and setting up the displays but also hosting weaving and spinning demonstrators each of the 11 days of the annual fair.
- Our goal is to provide 4 reduced price workshops to all guild members every two years.
- WeGO created a Disaster Relief Fund for guild members.
- WeGO produces the Traveling Show every 3-5 years. In 2023 we had \$1,200 cash available in awards for guild artists.
- WeGO promotes sharing of class and workshop spaces with other guilds if there are spaces available.

Like all organizations we need volunteers to make great things happen! Any guild member is welcome at the meetings and we encourage guild visitors. We have some remarkable people creating magic at WeGO. You do not have to be a Representative or Board Member to volunteer on

ad hoc committees. We are happy to plug you in! This is a good opportunity for new members in a guild to volunteer and learn how WeGO supports the guilds. You do not have to be a seasoned guild member, or an experienced weaver. Like guilds, WeGO wants to help grow fiber art members.

At semi annual online meetings, Guild Representatives give reports on what our 16 guilds are doing, what programs and workshops are being provided across the state, and which teachers are offering popular classes.

When there are extra spaces in classes, we communicate via WeGO to let other guilds know of educational opportunities. If a guild has a problem or concern, it can be voiced at WeGO and there is a good chance someone has an idea of how to help. For example, budget concerns; increasing membership; ideas on how to keep guilds viable during the early years of COVID! Even ideas for revamping contracts.

These are some of the things WeGO does to help build a community of Oregon weavers and increase awareness of fiber art in our state.

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