

Arizona Federation of Weavers and Spinners, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2019
Chavez Library, Levee AZ

The April 6, 2019 Board Meeting of the Arizona Federation of Weavers and Spinners was called to order by President, Debbi Brunner, at 1:30 PM. A quorum was established.

Those in attendance were: Debbi Brunner, President, VFAG; Wendy Webster, VP, Tucson Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild; Carol Byrne, Secretary, Weavers West; Mary Humme, Treasurer, Artistic Weavers; Sheryl Merkel, Artistic Weavers; Gary Terlisner, Bisbee Fiber Arts Guild; Esther Federman and Bonnie Benson, Weavers West; Sus Bunker-Alvarado, FANA; Peggy Lokin and Jean Jowers, Sun City Handweavers and Spinners; Paula Rudnik and Ruth Greenspan, AZ Desert Weavers and Spinners; and Cheryl Dempsey, Twisted Threads Fiber Guild,

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

A motion to accept the January 12, 2019 minutes as written and distributed was made and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Humme gave the attached Treasurer's Report for September 1 thru December 31, 2018.

Checking Account

Beginning Balance January 1, 2019	\$20,950.79
Ending Balance March 31, 2019	\$20,876.89

Savings Account

Beginning Balance January 1, 2019	\$ 1,686.04
Ending Balance December 31, 2018	\$ 1,686.17

There being no changes, the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

Gary Terlisner moved that \$10,000.00 from the Linder Fund be moved into a 1 year TIAA CD at an interest rate of 2.78 %. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mary stated that the annual income from dues is approximately \$1,200.00 and this is now Federation's only source of income. This will not cover the travel expenses of a yearly traveling teacher and the \$500.00 grants to Guilds. The income from the interest on the Linder Fund CD will help to support the grants. At the current rate of spending, Federation's funds will soon be depleted.

It was noted by President Brunner that Federation's focus needs to continue to be on helping the Guilds with education.

Mary Humme stated that Federation is spending about \$70.00/month on storage space that is shared with AZ Desert Weavers and Spinners. Mary has brought to the attention

of the AZ Desert Weavers and Spinners Board that Federation may no longer need this 6' X 10' storage space, as Federation is only storing a few boxes of records and files. Following discussion, it was decided that the files should be culled again and possibly the info could be filed digitally. Mary Humme will look into the possibilities for this alternate storage. It was also mentioned that Phyl Cipolla of Weavers West retains the historical records of Federation. This culling project should be coordinated with Phyl.

The Treasurer's records must be retained for 10 years, but Mary will check with the AZ Corporation Commission on the retention time needed for other records such as the meeting minutes.

GUILD REPORTS

Wendy Webster reported for *Tucson Hand Weavers and Spinners* that the Guild has a membership of about 200 fiber artists. A recent member survey will be held to determine the Guild's path forward. On a monthly basis, one study group participates in an event held at Bookman's. There are many ongoing classes and workshops including two new workshops on Beading, Braiding and Beyond and Clothing and Costume Making. Outreach at the Pima County Fair and the Fiber Arts Show continues.

Debbi Bruner reported the 150-160 members of the *Valley Fiber Arts Guild* recently hosted Robyn Spady and Jennifer Gould for classes. Debbi stressed the success of the Guild's 13 Study Groups in a variety of fiber art disciplines including mixed media, collage, weaving, knitting, basketry, kumihimo and beading. A new member, Tamara Poff, who has written books on Rigid Heddle has moved to Tucson and is a possible workshop opportunity for other guilds. The Guild continues outreach with free classes to attract new members. A recent field trip to The Amerind Museum in Dripping Springs AZ located east of Benson in Texas Canyon featured jewelry, textiles and basketry collections. The museum provides a discounted admission for groups and supplies a docent tour.

Sus Bunker-Alvarado of *Fiber Artists of Northern Arizona* reported that they now have 40 members and next month they will elect their second round of officers. FANA is becoming a real entity. The Guild will have a large presence at the Flagstaff Wool Festival where they will have a large membership drive. The Guild has a program each month with their general meeting, with topics including snow dyeing and both needle and wet felting.

Peggy Loken of *Sun City Hand Weavers and Spinners* reported that the Guild offers classes in Beginning and Intermediate Weaving, rug making, beading and spinning to their 107 members. A beader from Washington, who does not charge for instruction, held classes in Peyote beading and amulet bags and these along with beaded jewelry sell very well at the Sun City annual craft fair.

Paula Rudnick of *Desert Weavers and Spinners*, reported that the Guild will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2020. Recent classes offered by the Guild includes Saori by Tara of Philadelphia, PA, tapestry weaving by Maria Conti, and Eco Printing and pine needle basket making by Ric Rao from Las Cruces NM.

Cheryl Dempsey of *Twisted Threads Fiber Guild* reported that this small guild is spread out over about 150 miles. They meet quarterly for a small workshop and meeting. Most recently they offered pine needle basketry by Gary Terlisner and Junk Journals by a local artist. They also do internal training. Over the next 6 weeks they will study wool fiber processing including shearing, skirting, scouring, etc. One member, Carol Farnsworth, teaches fiber related courses at community colleges and the membership often attends these classes.

Sheryl Merkel of *Artistic Weavers and Fiber Artists* of Sun City reported that the Guild is winding down classes for the summer, but that basketry, coiling, rigid heddle, inkle and spinning groups will continue to meet. The Deborah Silver workshop was very well received. The Guild is developing a good social media presence with their website, oakmontfiberart.com and their participation in the SC arts and crafts fair held Thanksgiving Weekend. During the fall and spring, they have monthly meetings followed by a learning experience such as working with flax/linen. The guild has good teachers who offer classes on various subjects.

Gary Terlisner of *Bisbee Fiber Arts Guild* reported that their last meeting of the season will be held on 4-8 and there will be a stash sale in May. Classes include pine needle baskets taught by Gary, rigid heddle and scarf classes. The Bisbee Fiber Retreat is coming up June 21-23 at the Seven Sisters Studio. This event is limited to 50 participants and offers nine half day classes on a variety of fiber related subjects. Information regarding the instructors and class offerings, registration, accommodations, etc. can be found at the website for Bisbee Fiber Retreat. The cost is \$60.00/person.

Esther Federman presented a written report on the many activities that are ongoing at *Weavers West* in Sun City West. Workshops by Robyn Spady and Deborah Silver were enjoyed by many members. Ongoing classes, Weaving I – Rigid Heddle and Weaving II – Table Loom are offered year round. Bee in the Know educational programs are offered monthly by members on a variety of fiber related subjects. The Guild also offers social activities such as President's Pie Day, Happy Hour potlucks, a Spinning Bee which includes three local guilds and a Spring Luncheon. The Guild members participated in outreach projects such as the Linus Project, the Mourning Project and the Sun City West Happy Camp. A bi-monthly Newsletter and an up to date website keep members informed of the many activities offered by the guild.

Sus Bunker-Alvarado stated that at FANA they experience a barrier to forming study groups in that no one person wants to be responsible. She asked the Board for suggestions. President Brunner stated that at VFAG the study groups function under the direction of a coordinator. Each member takes one month to research, gather supplies, or

provide a supply list and present the sub-topic to the group. The Study Group might start with a class, workshop, video or book and continue to expand their knowledge and techniques on the chosen discipline. It is a shared study experience rather than a directed learning experience.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

Mary Humme presented the slate of officers to be elected for 2 year terms beginning in July of 2019.

President	Ruth Greenspan, AZ Desert Weavers and Spinners
Co-Secretaries	Suzanne Durling, Valley Fiber Arts Guild Carol Byrne, Weavers West Guild

Esther Federman moved that the slate be presented to the Directors for an e-mail vote following this 30 day notice. Motion carried.

Debbi Brunner will send the ballot to the Directors in 30 days with the request to Reply to All.

Traveling Teacher Program

An update on the Traveling Teachers was given by Mary Humme who coordinated the 2019 program. Deborah Silver was well received at the five participating Federation Guilds and it was agreed that this program sparked new interest in AZ Federation.

For 2020, Carol James who would teach Sprang has been previously suggested and Caroline Wise has volunteered to coordinate her visit. Ruth Greenspan suggested Elizabeth Johnson and Martha Owen of the John C. Campbell School who will teach a possibility of 1-3 day workshops. Day one will be Fair Isle Knitting with Handspun Yarns, the two day option will add Carding and Spinning and the three day option will add Dyeing Wool Fiber. Their fee is \$500.00/day for each instructor plus traveling expenses from NC. They could teach as many as 25 in a class. The workshops will be offered in late April and early May when Elizabeth Johnson will be in the states. During discussion, Carol Byrne of Weavers West stated that there would be very little interest from Weavers West as many of the members are snowbirds and the cost would be prohibitive for the few members who would be interested in this topic. Debbie Brunner added that the timing is not good for much of Arizona and that the climate for many is not favorable for wearing wool. It was suggested that perhaps this could be a class supported by AZ Federation at a central location, such as the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, where all interested Federation members could meet to attend the workshop and that suggestion met with favorable comments. It was also suggested that should this be the case, Federation could consider Carol James who is available anytime as a 2021 traveling teacher.

President Brunner asked that the Directors poll their membership to determine their level of interest in the Elizabeth Johnson and Martha Owen workshops. Based on the results of

the poll, Ruth Greenspan will coordinate a proposal for these workshops for April/May of 2020.

Paula Rudnick moved that Federation plan an event for 2020 now and lay plans for the 2021 program in September. The motion was seconded and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

An e-mail election will be conducted for the new officers in May and the next meeting will be held in the fall on a date TBD by Ruth Greenspan.

President Brunner stated that it has been an honor to have guided AZ Federation as President over the past four years. She feels that much has been accomplished and that she is glad to see that the organization will continue. Debbi thanked the candidates for their willingness to take responsibility for AZ Federation over the next two years and encouraged the incoming board to try new things and to change direction as needed.

The Board thanked Debbi for her leadership and wisdom in guiding AZ Federation through some difficult times.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM

Carol Byrne, Secretary