

**MidAtlantic Fiber Association
Representatives Assembly Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2022**

Via Zoom

Board Members Attending:

Margaret Briggs, President
Sara Robbins, Membership Chair
Angela Fishman, Grants Chair
Dave Banks, Webmaster
Marla Campbell, Acting Treasurer
Helena Valentine, Past President
Patty Chrisman, Secretary

Guild Representatives Attending:

Ajayi Yemisi, Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers
Dave Banks, Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers
Diane Baumgartner, Foothills Spinners & Weavers
Margaret Briggs, Central Virginia Fiber Arts Guild
Elaine Brooks, Harmony Weavers Guild
Aileen Campbell, Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers
Pat Canaday, Hudson Mohawk Weavers Guild
Pat Capogrossi, Chesapeake Weavers
Patty Chrisman, Essex County Spinners
Barbara Diefenderfer, Weavers' Roundtable
Deborah Faehner, Handweavers of Bucks County
Angela Fishman, Three Rivers Fiber Focus
Patty Franz, Richmond Weavers Guild
Kelly Grotzinger, Central PA Guild of Handweavers
Debbie Hadfield, Three Rivers Fiber Focus, Washington Spinners and Weavers Guild
Peg Housman, Weavers Guild of Buffalo
Meg Lundsager, Waterford Weavers Guild
Joan Martin, Chautauqua Weavers Guild
Kathy Mayer, Jockey Hollow Weavers
Tina Mickley, Lancaster Spinners and Weavers
Sandi Petty, Tavern Spinners & Weavers; Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers
Linda Pierson, Palisades Guild of Spinners & Weavers
Sharon Resnick, Fiber Guild of the Blue Ridge
Julie Richie, Susquehanna Valley Spinners & Weavers Guild
Michelle Robertson, Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore
Sara Robbins, Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers
Jan Rowell, Hudson Mohawk Weavers Guild
Liza Jennings Seiner, Loyalhannon Spinners

Lizanne Smith, Warped Weavers Guild
Karyn Spertzel, Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore
Cecile Stiner, Susquehanna Valley Spinners & Weavers
Maureen Strazdon, Jockey Hollow Weavers
Sandra Talarico, Shore Fiber Arts
Dornan Trainer, Triangle Weavers Guild
Nancy Turner, South Jersey Guild of Spinners and Handweavers
Carol VanSant, Handweavers Guild of Bucks County

Welcome (Margaret Briggs, President) Margaret called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm, and welcomed the MAFA Reps with the following comments:

Welcome Reps! Who knew we'd be in our third year of the pandemic in May 2022, but here we are. MAFA is continuing to explore ways we can support our member guilds—you'll hear about our Micro-Grants program, and the Board has also approved a new MAFA Virtual project, which I'll talk about a bit later.

Thanks for meeting with us on Zoom instead of at the MD Sheep & Wool Festival! We think it will make participation by more guilds more feasible, particularly when we need to vote on something. Tonight, since we have some other guild leaders here for the discussion after the business meeting, in addition to our Reps, remember, **when we vote, we can take only one vote per guild.**

If you have any suggestions for how MAFA can help support your guild, email me at president@mafafiber.org.

Minutes (Patty Chrisman, Secretary) The minutes of the Reps meeting of October 26, 2021, were approved as published upon motion by Sara Robbins; second by Nancy Turner.

Treasurer's Report (Marla Campbell, Acting Treasurer) Marla reported the following. (Balance Sheets are appended to these minutes)

Money Market:	\$209,673.46
Checking:	31,057.56
MAFA Recovery Fund:	1,100.00
Total:	\$241,831.02

Board Status, Operations Manual update (Margaret Briggs, President) Margaret reported the following: As you all know, three board members resigned unexpectedly in late-February: 1st VP Communications; Second VP Conference; and Treasurer. Despite that hiccup things seem to be running smoothly and the Communications and Conference Committees have stepped up to get things done in the absence of the two VPs. We also implemented a Conference Advisory Committee to make decisions the Conference Chair would usually make. Our Past Treasurer has agreed to serve as Acting Treasurer for as long as we need her, and the Board has authorized her to act on MAFA's behalf with the bank. The remaining board members are:

President: Margaret Briggs president@mafafiber.org
Secretary: Patty Chrisman secretary@mafafiber.org
Membership Chair: Sara Robbins membership@mafafiber.org
Grants Chair: Angela Fishman grants@mafafiber.org
Webmaster: David Banks webmaster@mafafiber.org
Past President: Helena Valentine pastpresident@mafafiber.org

I'd like to read into the minutes that **the Board approved updates to the Operations Manual in late-March** to add various best practices policies that we are usually asked about during our biennial compilation—non-discrimination, conflict of interest, etc. Find the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Operations Manual linked from the MAFA Admin page under About Us on the website: <https://mafafiber.org/about-us/mafa-admin/>.

Conference (Margaret Briggs, President, and the Conference Advisory Committee)

Out of over 130 proposals, 42 proposals for the Conference have been selected. The Instructor contracts went out mid-April and the deadline for the contracts to be signed is May 20. The Committee is still discussing Keynote speaker possibilities and the idea of having mini-classes Saturday to help drive traffic to the vendor hall. There are a couple key volunteer positions open: Volunteer Coordinator and Communications Committee. Proficiency with MailChimp and WordPress is a plus. Additionally, we will need 4-5 volunteers to act as Instructor Liaisons.

Membership Report (Sara Robbins, Membership Chair) Sara reported the following:

54 Member Guilds
238 Associate Members

Roundtable Lineup:

July 26: Melissa Weaver Dunning, *Traditional Knitting from England, Ireland, Scotland and the Shetland Islands* (open to all MAFA guild members).
September 27: Reps meeting and guild leadership programs
October 22: Cindra Kersher from *Shave 'Em to Save 'Em* (open to all MAFA guild members).
November 22: Karen Hampton, title TBD (open to all MAFA guild members).

Grants and Fellowships (Angela Fishman, Grant Chair) Angela submitted the following report: Three micro-grants were awarded in the May round of applications and checks went out today:

Palisades Guild of Spinners and Weavers: Shared Zoom Programs to fund virtual speakers

Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild: Back to the Future, Guild Style, to fund technology.

Three Rivers Fiber Focus: Rigid Heddle Looms, to fund equipment for programs.

One proposal was received to date for the July round. Please refer to the website for more specific information, Proposals which include aspects of diversity are highly encouraged!

Diversity Initiatives and Disaster Relief (Past President Helena Valentine) Helena reported that a Diversity Team has met. Offering virtual classes can really help with our diversity initiatives—to promote diversity of age, gender, ethnic background etc. The goal is to offer opportunities to new and diverse instructors. We will also promote diversity within our guilds with the help of our new micro-grant program. A question for guilds—do they have a feel for the diversity within their communities? Helena would love to hear from guilds that have had success in attracting new and diverse membership—contact Helena at pastpresident@mafafiber.org.

Helena noted the new MAFA Recovery Fund. We have started a two-year pilot program of offering up to \$500 to aid for the loss of the ability to continue a fiber craft. Any individual may apply or recommend someone for this program. MAFA Recovery Fund: No proposals to date

Website Report (Dave Banks, Webmaster) Dave reported that three new websites have been added to those sponsored by MAFA. Appreciation for Dave and this service of MAFA was expressed by the Reps.

New Business (explanations of two proposals can be viewed here):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ep6UE8dSgndWHUJ_W_m3uAN-T4nkbdZ50gx79EjyZpk/edit

- **A motion to approve the Bylaws updates was made by Meg Lundsager; second by Diane Baumgartner. The motion carried.**
- **A motion was made to approve the Proposed Dues Tiers and Membership Tiers for 2022-2024 was made by Patty Franz; second by Nancy Turner. The motion carried.**

MAFA Virtual (Margaret Briggs, President)

Our biggest takeaway from the 2021 virtual conference was the ability for all MAFA members to participate across our entire geographic area, many of whom don't or can't attend our in-person conferences. So, an important initiative for the current board was to look for ways to keep all our members connected and engaged, as well as to bring new and more diverse members into the MAFA community and our guilds. We think MAFA can do that by offering virtual programs throughout the year, as an adjunct to our in-person conferences.

- The Board has approved a project to provide virtual programs to our members between in-person conferences and we'll continue to look at whether it is also feasible to run classes at the same time as the in-person conference.
- We hope to schedule one or two events per month throughout the year.
- We plan to use Lessonface to manage registration and host the Zoom meetings and recordings. They have experience with fiber arts organizations including MDSW and the John C. Campbell Folk School.

- Programs will include lectures, classes and workshops, which will range from 2-hour sessions up to longer workshops of multiple 2-hour sessions spread out over days or weeks for more complex topics. All classes will be recorded.
- This will run much like guild programs and workshops do, and we expect the program to be self-supporting, or possibly to bring a little net income into the MAFA budget.
- We have formed a small committee to manage the project and if you are interested in helping, please email virtual@mafafiber.org.
- Our next step will be to start scheduling instructors. We particularly want to find some new and more diverse instructors and new topics that don't quite fit in the intensive in-person format. Please send instructor suggestions to virtual@mafafiber.org

We expect this program to be self-supporting and it is not our intention to compete with the guilds. Roundtables would still be offered free, but we intend to move them underneath the “virtual” umbrella. Regarding the types of classes—we will start with proposals for instructors that weren't able to participate in the in-person conference and those who are only interested in teaching online, such as John Marshall. In terms of cost, the fees will be structured like the MAFA 2021 virtual conference, and the instructors would be paid the same. Courses would be \$35-40/two-hour session.

Adjourn A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peg Housman; second by Debbie Faehner. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Submitted by
Patty Chrisman, Secretary

MAFA
Balance Sheet
As of May 24, 2022

	<u>May 24, 22</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking Bus Adv Plus	
MAFA Recovery Fund	1,100.00
Checking Bus Adv Plus - Other	31,057.56
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Total Checking Bus Adv Plus	32,157.56
Money Market	209,673.46
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Total Checking/Savings	241,831.02
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Total Current Assets	241,831.02
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TOTAL ASSETS	241,831.02
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	249,339.51
Net Income	-7,508.49
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Total Equity	241,831.02
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	241,831.02
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MAFA
Profit & Loss
 October 2021 through September 2022

	Oct '21 - Sep 22
Income	
Administration Income	
Banking	
Amazon Smile	8.75
Interest Inc	12.49
Total Banking	21.24
Total Administration Income	21.24
Membership Income	
Associate Dues	180.00
Total Membership Income	180.00
Total Income	201.24
Gross Profit	201.24
Expense	
Administration Expenses	
Accounting	2,022.45
Banking	8.59
Donations	457.92
Insurance	2,015.00
Office Supplies	261.00
Postage	69.18
Total Administration Expenses	4,834.14
Communication Programs Expense	240.00
Conference Expenses	1,820.00
Education Expenses	
Grants	-868.53
Micro Grants	1,275.00
Total Education Expenses	406.47
Other Programming	409.12
Total Expense	7,709.73
Net Income	-7,508.49