

**MidAtlantic Fiber Association
Representatives Assembly Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2022**

Via Zoom

Board Members Attending:

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

Guild Representatives Attending:

Ajayi Yemisi, Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers
Diane Baumgartner, Foothills Spinners & Weavers
Margaret Briggs, Central Virginia Fiber Arts Guild
Nancy Butnick, North Country Spinners
Aileen Campbell, Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers
Pat Canaday, Hudson Mohawk Weavers Guild, Tryon Weavers Guild
Pat Capogrossi, Chesapeake Weavers
Patty Chrisman, Essex County Spinners
Barbara Diefenderfer, Weavers' Roundtable
Gretchen Fancher, Westfield Weavers
Angela Fishman, Three Rivers Fiber Focus
Patty Franz, Richmond Weavers Guild
Francine Jacobson, Fiber Guild
Gloria Kilpatrick, Lancaster Spinners and Weavers Guild
Meg Lundsager, Waterford Weavers Guild
Susan Makuka, South Jersey Guild of Spinners and Handweavers
Joan Martin, Chautauqua Weavers Guild
Kathy Mayer, Jockey Hollow Weavers
Tina Mickley, Lancaster Spinners and Weavers
Karen Miller, Potomac Fiber Arts Guild
Nan Miller, Harmony Weavers Guild
Leslie Mitchell, Three Rivers Fiber Focus
Julia McDonald, Seacoast Spinners & Weavers Guild
Bev Nerenberg, Woodstock Weavers
Judith Parsells, Palisades Guild of Spinners and Weavers
Suanne Pasuarella, Weavers Guild of Buffalo, Weavers Guild of Rochester & Chautauqua County

Sandi Petty, Tavern Spinners & Weavers; Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers
Linda Pierson, Palisades Guild of Spinners & Weavers
Sara Robbins, Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers
Jan Rowell, Hudson Mohawk Weavers Guild
Liza Jennings Seiner, Loyalhannon Spinners
Jenny Sethman, Handweavers Guild of Connecticut
Lizanne Smith, Warped Weavers Guild
Nan Solomon, Woodstock Weavers
Karyn Spertzel, Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore
Sandra Talarico, Shore Fiber Arts
Nancy Turner, South Jersey Guild of Spinners and Handweavers
Carol VanSant, Handweavers Guild of Bucks County
Linda Wilder, Handweavers Guild of the New River Valley

Welcome (Margaret Briggs, President) Margaret called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, and welcomed the MAFA Reps with the following comments:

Welcome Reps! Things are going great for MAFA. The 2023 Conference brochure and website were published last week; the MAFA Virtual Project has held its first events; and the Micro-grants are very popular.

Earlier this month, the Board approved our operating budget for 2022-2024, and I want to let Reps know that given our solid financial position, we discussed and voted on a deficit budget to put some of our nest egg to work for members. We have increased the amounts for Micro-grants and Free Lecture speakers, and we held conference costs down for attendees.

Under New Business, we will talk about the proposed bylaws amendments recommended by the three past-presidents and the current Board.

Minutes (Patty Chrisman, Secretary) The minutes of the Reps meeting of May 24, 2022, were approved as published upon motion by Patty Franz; second by Nancy Turner.

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

Money Market:	\$209,680.52
Checking:	26,640.58
MAFA Recovery Fund:	1,100.00
PayPal:	0.00
Total:	\$237,421.10

Our total Net Earnings thus far for FY2022 is **\$11,918.41**. This is primarily comprised from an income of \$250 from a 2023 Conference Sponsorship and Membership Dues of \$7,190.00

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

Margaret submitted the following report:

- The MAFA 2023 website is up at <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2023>.
- The Conference brochure is available to download at:
https://mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-Conference/M-23_Brochure_v5_20914c.pdf.
- Early registration will open February 4, 2023 for members.
- Given our great financial position, we have kept our registration fees down for attendees, by setting the workshop portion of the fee the same as in 2019.
- We will offer 42 workshops. Our Keynote Speaker is Suzi Ballenger. We will have our usual exhibits, with a new Hats exhibit, and the Towel Exchange. Entries for the exhibits and exchange will open February 15 both for attendees and members who are not able to attend.
- We plan to “live stream” some public events for those who aren't able to attend, for example the Keynote Speaker, Exhibits, and Open Studio visits.
- Goody Bag items - start thinking about guild items for the goody bags!
- Conference Advertising is available to guilds and other organizations. Find details, amounts, and events still available here:
<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2023/advertise-at-the-conference/>.
- Vendor Applications are open through October 15, and if you have suggestions, email vendors@mafafiber.org.
- We have several key volunteer positions we'd like to fill:
 - Communications Committee—Conference Communications involves website updates, email blasts, working with the Social Media group, compiling content for the website and brochures, and coordinating printed materials. Knowledge of MailChimp, and WordPress helpful.
 - Instructor Liaisons—We need 4 to 5 volunteers to help coordinate with our instructors. You will act as a point of contact to ensure instructors are getting updates, that we get all needed info and materials from them, and to coordinate with class “angels” before the conference.

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

We now have 55 member guilds including our latest, the Handweaver’s Guild of Connecticut. Out of the 55 member guilds, we have had renewals from 36 (we have not heard from 14 guilds). Some guilds have not sent member rosters with their applications, although they have paid for renewals. They have all been sent two reminders. Please check that your guild has sent in their renewal and that they have included the

membership roster. Associate renewals and new members are joining daily. Reps are reminded to encourage their guild members to sign up to receive MAFA emails.

Sara announced that she will be stepping down next year as Membership Chair, a position where she has also put together the newsletter and arranged speakers for the Roundtable series.

Roundtables for 2022

October 25 - Cindra Kersher of “Shave ‘Em to Save ‘Em

November 22 - Kelsy Wiskirchen of “Weave a Real Peace (WARP)”

Roundtables for 2023

January 24 - Anne Choi - “Making Yarn from the Ground Up”

March 28 - Theda Sandiford - “Free Your Mind”

April 25 - Linda Cortright - Editor and Publisher of *Wild Fibers* magazine (Topic tbd)

July 25 - Reps Assembly

September 26 - Karen Hampton; “To Be Alive is a Political Act: My Journey as a Black Fiber Artist”

October 24 - Reps Assembly

November 28 - Hinda Mandell - Topic tbd

Grants and Fellowships (Angela Fishman, Grant Chair) Angela submitted the following report:

Nine (9) micro-grants proposals were received for the September review and five (5) were awarded to the following guilds: Shore Fiber Arts; Loyalhannon Spinners; Hudson Mohawk Weavers Guild; Weavers’ Guild of Buffalo; and the Central Pennsylvania Guild of Handweavers. The other four proposals are being returned for more detail.

Angela noted that the majority of grants awarded so far have been technology based.

The regular grant proposal cycle is now open with the Early Decision deadline of November 1. These grants are for requests over \$500 and up to \$3,000. For those planning on attending the Conference in June 2023, please consider applying for a Fellowship. The Fellowship provides \$300 towards conference fees. The Committee is looking for a diverse group of applicants.

Diversity Initiatives (Past President Helena Valentine) Helena reported that the Diversity Committee has been meeting regularly. They would like to work with guilds to help them identify, within their own community, ways to increase diversity. She noted that the new MAFA Virtual offerings have been a positive step in bringing in diversity of instructors/presenters and classes.

Communications (Nancy Everham, Communications Chair) Margaret gave an update on Communications on behalf of Nancy who was recently appointed Chair. Nancy will be coordinating our communications efforts along with the Social Media group. Initiatives they are working on include determining how we can better get the word out on MAFA. Additionally, while we have a Blog, it hasn't been used. The Committee would like to repost blog posts from member guilds.

MAFA Virtual Committee Report (Margaret Briggs) Margaret reported that our first class—John Marshall—was a great success and had more people on the waiting list than were able to take the class! An additional session has been scheduled. Margaret submitted the following report:

- Our first virtual class was held on September 11, and several classes have filled and have a waitlist. We have more classes being added to Lessonface all the time, and we are scheduling out through 2023. Go to lessonface.com/mafa to find all of our classes and lectures. **We need volunteers to help moderate classes.**
- MFA Movie Nights started in September as a way to build community. They will be on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Find details on the MAFA website Virtual tab, or email movies@mafafiber.org.
- MAFA Free lectures (what were previously called Roundtable lectures) are open to all and will move to Lessonface, starting with the October 25 talk, and will continue with four to six lectures per year. Be sure to register at lessonface.com/mafa.
- We have formed a small committee to manage virtual activities, and if you are interested in helping, please email virtual@mafafiber.org.
- We are planning a two-day “mini” virtual event with about two dozen classes, two weeks after the in-person conference, July 8-9, 2023.

If you have ideas for topics that could be added to our business meetings, be sure to send them to Sara at membership@mafafiber.org.

Other Business/Announcements

Bylaws/Operations Manual Updates. (Margaret Briggs) Margaret noted that she met with three past-presidents (Elisa Eiger, Karen Miller, Helena Valentine) to discuss the makeup of the Board. She read the following statement on an Historical Perspective and Rationale for the changes from Elisa Eiger, Past-President of MAFA:

For MAFA's first 30 years or so, the Vice-President's role was defined as: running meetings in the absence of the President, being the person designated to step into the role of President in the event of a vacancy, and performing “other duties.” Since “other duties” were vague and rarely assigned the Vice-President functionally lacked a useful role. In 2016, the bylaws were revised to address issues involving having two Secretaries

(Corresponding and Recording) and a Vice-President with “nothing to do,” and the Vice-President was put in charge of communications (partly because the individual standing for VP at the time had a great deal of skill and professional expertise in communications).

In time, it became clear that equating the VP role with Communications wasn't an ideal solution either. As an all-volunteer organization, MAFA and its Board need to be flexible. It makes more sense to craft roles to fit the skills and interests of the people who are capable and eager to serve rather than to find individuals who match an arbitrary checklist.

The 2022 revisions to the bylaws and operations manual reflect MAFA's desire to maximize its ability to tap into the interests and strengths of those who are serving in leadership roles. The Vice-President is expected to serve as a Committee Chair or Coordinator. This may be a continuation of a previously held position or a new role.

Should a vacancy occur, including in the presidency, the members of the Board will work together to determine who should shift into or be appointed to that role. The hope is that being able to do this will minimize disruption to the organization and will ensure that Board members never find themselves in the position of being required to, for example, drop the job of coordinating the conference because they need to become President. Following is a summary presented to the Reps:

Bylaws Updates - Key Changes and Discussion:

1. All changes are in Articles VI, VII, and VIII, other sections are unchanged.
2. Change to a single Vice President.
 1. They will not automatically succeed the President, and are not required to chair the Communications Committee, but may chair any committee.
 2. Not all who are interested in the VP position have the interest or technical knowledge to lead the Communications Committee. The VP may be better suited to chair some other committee.
 3. If the President must be replaced, we believe it is better for the board to appoint the best person for the position, rather than the VP automatically becoming President.
3. Change Communications Chair to an appointed position.
 1. The Communications Chair ideally knows MAFA and our members well, is familiar with the conference, and will innovate new ways to communicate with our members and the public.
 2. It is important for this committee chair to have a voice on the board, but not necessarily to be elected an officer.

3. All communications duties previously listed under First VP are now under Article VIII, Section 2.
4. Keep Conference Chair on the board, change to an appointed position.
 1. Eliminate the Second Vice President position.
 2. The Conference Chair must be part of the board for reporting and approval of conference activities, but need not be an elected officer.
 3. The board would like the flexibility to appoint co-chairs to lead the conference, if necessary.
 4. All duties previously listed under Second VP are now under Article VIII, Section 1.
5. Change the Nominating Committee to be appointed by the board instead of elected. This gives the board additional flexibility to appoint members to the committee as needed instead of being tied to the officers' term.

In the next week, Margaret will send out a report on the suggested changes and schedule a Reps meeting (virtual) for the purpose of voting to approve the proposed changes.

There was discussion following a question from a Rep regarding changing the nominating committee to an appointed position rather than elected. Karen Miller, past president, explained that it wasn't felt that it was necessary that the committee be elected. That historically, past-presidents have been part of the committee and that MAFA has become a much more transparent organization. Additionally, the timing wouldn't work with the notice period for elections.

Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Submitted by
Patty Chrisman, Secretary

4:38 PM
09/27/22
Cash Basis

MAFA
Balance Sheet
As of September 27, 2022

	<u>Sep 27, 22</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking Bus Adv Plus	
MAFA Recovery Fund	1,100.00
Checking Bus Adv Plus - Other	<u>26,640.58</u>
Total Checking Bus Adv Plus	27,740.58
Money Market	<u>209,680.52</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>237,421.10</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>237,421.10</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>237,421.10</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	249,339.51
Net Income	<u>-11,918.41</u>
Total Equity	<u>237,421.10</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>237,421.10</u></u>