

**MidAtlantic Fiber Association
Representatives Assembly Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2023**

via Zoom

Board Members Attending:

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

Guild Representatives Attending:

Susan Baier, Piedmont Fiber Guild
Joanna Brandt, Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers
Margaret Briggs, Central Virginia Fiber Arts Guild
Nancy Butnick, North Country Spinners
Aileen Campbell, Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers
Pat Canaday, Hudson Mohawk Weavers Guild, Tryob Weavers Guild
Pat Capogrossi, Chesapeake Weavers
Mona Carver, Piedmont Fiber Guild
Jean Chestnut, Three Rivers Fiber Focus
Patty Chrisman, Essex County Spinners
Barbara Diefenderfer, Weavers' Roundtable
Patricia Doroski, Paumanok Weavers Guild
Sandy Dotts, Susquehanna Spinners & Weavers Guild
Jane Eisentstein, Handweavers of Bucks County
Gretchen Fancher, Westfield Weavers
Angela Fishman, Three Rivers Fiber Focus
Alice Garbarino, South Jersey Guild of Spinners and Handweavers
Kae Gregis, South Jersey Guild of Spinners and Handweavers
Kelly Grotzinger, Central Pennsylvania Guild of Handweavers
Debbie Hadfield, Washington Spinners and Weavers Guild
Carol Ireland, Fiber Guild
Pat Jeski, Paumanok Weavers Guild
Gloria Kilpatrick, Lancaster Spinners and Weavers Guild
Jinann Larson, Foothills Spinners and Weavers

Zebee Levet, Central Virginia Fiber Arts Guild
Meg Lundsager, Waterford Weavers Guild
Kathy Mayer, Jockey Hollow Weavers
Tina Mickley, Lancaster Spinners and Weavers
Karen Miller, Potomac Fiber Arts Guild
Nann Miller, Harmony Weavers Guild
Julia McDonald, Seacoast Spinners & Weavers Guild
Sally Orgren, Frances Irwin Handweavers
Suanne Pasquarella, Weavers Guild of Buffalo, Weavers Guild of Rochester & Chautauqua
County
Sandi Petty, Tavern Spinners & Weavers, Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers
Jane Phillips, Loyalhannon Spinners Guild
Linda Pierson, Palisades guild of Spinners & Weavers
Sharon Resnick, Fiber Guild of the Blue Ridge
Julie Richie, Susquehanna Valley Spinners and Weavers
Barbara Richter, Warped Weavers
Sara Robbins, Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers
Jenny Sethman, Handweavers Guild of Connecticut
Karyn Spertzel, Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore
Sandra Talarico, Shore Fiber Arts
Dornan Trainer, Triangle Weavers Guild
Lori Wall, Morgantown Fiber Guild
Linda Wilder, Handweavers Guild of the New River Valley
Carol Wood, Woodstock Weavers
Myra Wood, Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers

Welcome. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. President Margaret Briggs welcomed the Reps and noted that with 37 attendees, we have a quorum. Margaret reported the following:

I am pleased to say things are going very well for MAFA! We are very highly regarded among instructors, participants, and other fiber arts organizations and we should all be very proud.

This summer marked the return to an in-person conference with MAFA 2023, along with a sister event, the MAFA “Mini” virtual event two weeks later. Both events were well attended, and with the combination of in-person and virtual events we are reaching more members than ever.

The last time we met, I mentioned that when the Board approved our operating budget for 2022-2024, we approved a deficit budget to put some of our nest egg to work for members. I’d

like to tell you about some of the things we have done in the past year, and at the end of this meeting, we can discuss other ideas for how MAFA can support and benefit our member guilds:

- We increased the amount available for Microgrants
- We funded the Free Lecture series.
- We held conference costs down for attendees by subsidizing the registration fee.
- We continue to provide free Zoom meetings for all guilds who request them.

We will have elections in a few minutes for our four elected positions—president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. After the new board starts its term in October, we will firm up the appointed committee chair positions, if needed, for the: Conference, Communications, Grants, Membership, and Virtual committees.

Last but not least, thank you for attending this meeting. Reps fill important roles in helping us run MAFA, and we rely on you for communication with all the members of our member guilds. Please be sure to share the newsletter and other important notices with your members. Since we have some new Reps, I will remind you all to check out the “Role of the Rep” document on the MAFA website (look under Guild Resources, then Reps Corner where you will also find links to the newsletters and minutes. Role of the Reps is here:

<https://mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/Reps/MAFA-Role-of-the-Rep-20230207.pdf>.

Minutes. The minutes of the September 27, 2022 Reps Meeting were approved upon motion by Suanne Pasquarella; seconded by Carol Wood. The motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report (Marla Campbell) Marla submitted the following report:

Checking:	\$111,083.60
Money Market:	209,697.91
MAFA Recovery Fund:	1,100.00
PayPal:	832.33
Total:	\$322,713.84

Note: The MAFA Recover Fund is money set aside for a program still being formulated.

There was a question from the Reps about whether in the future there would be rebates from, or penalties for, MU for problems. Margaret will add a note about this suggestion to notes for MU.

Conference Report. (Margaret Briggs for Conference Committee) Report to the Reps:

- The MAFA 2023 return to an in-person event was successful. We had ~420 students, ~500 total attendees, and we ran 40 workshops. 42% of our attendees were

first timers. We think that having virtual activities since the last in-person conference helped us stay relevant and our attendance numbers were close to 2019 levels.

- MAFA kept our registration fees down for attendees by setting the workshop portion of the fee the same as in 2019. So, overall, and as planned, we may have a loss on the conference. Since we are still waiting for our final disbursement from Cvent and on a corrected invoice from MU, we will give a report on the final numbers at the Fall meeting.
- We did have some issues as Millersville University returns to full operations, and due to staff departures in conference services. However, we think the issues we faced will have solutions in the next two years, and our current plan is to return to MU rather than have to search for a new venue.
- Surveys: As of July 25, we received 323 responses, mostly favorable. Currently we are 58% Excellent, 34% Very Good, 6% Good, and 2% Fair. Workshops and events received positive reviews. We know we need to add activities to attract more daytrippers on the weekend, and so more vendors. We will follow up on comments as needed, and use suggestions to make improvements. For example, we will study a scholarship program, and ways to improve DEI.
- Returning to Millersville: We had a very productive debrief meeting with MU last week and have already started to work on things that will improve our experience as planners, as well as the experience for attendees. We know there were major issues with the Hash Building and we will never use it again. We also know there were significant issues with dining services, which we expect will improve with better communication next time.

Virtual Committee (Margaret Briggs) Margaret submitted the following report:

- We have held stand-alone virtual classes from September 2022 through May 2023, and will continue classes this Fall after a break this summer for the conferences. Our classes and lectures will be posted at lessonface.com/mafa as soon as we get them scheduled.
- MAFA Movie Nights also started in September as a way to build community, and they have had attendance of anywhere from 25 to over 100, with great discussions by participants on the artists. Movie Nights will continue on second Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Find details on the MAFA website Virtual tab, or email movies@mafafiber.org.
- MAFA Free Lectures will continue after our Summer break with four to six lectures per year. Our upcoming lectures are in September and November.
- We offered a two-day “mni” virtual conference as a sister event to the in-person conference. The Mini had ~1,350 class enrollments (including 178 for the conference pass). We had ~515 unique students. Projected net income from the Mini is ~\$12,000.00. To date, survey responses have been very positive about the platform, format, instructors, and that we should do this again.

Membership (Sara Robbins) Patty Chrisman read Sara's Report:

- There are currently 54 Member Guilds
- There are currently 223 Associate Members

It was noted that this is not a "dues year."

Grants/Fellowship Committee (Angela Fishman) Angela reported that Micro Grants were awarded to the Central Pennsylvania Guild of Handweavers for a dedicated laptop; and to the Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild of the purchase of a rigid heddle loom to use to teach weaving in the studio.

The Grants Committee has awarded 19 microgrants since the beginning of the program. Applications for both microgrants (up to \$500) and regular grants (over \$500) are now accepted. Additionally, the Grants/Fellowship Committee is looking for new members!

Diversity Initiatives and Recovery Fund (Helena Valentine) no report at this time. Helena did note that there was an increase in diversity at the in-person conference, including a greater diversity of age, gender and ethnic background.

Communications (Nancy Everham) Margaret Briggs reported that the Communications Committee has been extremely successful with targeted advertising and a very strong social media presence.

Other Business and Announcements.

Nominating Committee (Helena Valentine) The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of candidates for the MAFA Board:

President–Margaret Briggs (current President)

Vice-President–Patty Chrisman (current Secretary)

Secretary: Valerie Clark Bolton (Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers)

Treasurer: Joanna Brandt (Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore)

Motion: Pat Canaday made a motion to approve the slate presented by the Nominating Committee; second by Kelly Grotzinger. The motion carried.

Open Discussion and Questions from the Reps.

Did we do anything special to increase the diversity at the conference? *Social media really helped as did the 2019 Virtual Conference.*

There was a question about the future of conferences for MAFA and other regional conferences. *There is definitely a need for both the in-person and virtual going forward. For the foreseeable future, we are planning both.*

Other topics regarding the 2023 conference were discussed, including the long lines in the cafeteria and whether there is a better time to hold the various get-togethers for Reps according to State, and for the various guild officers. *We can certainly look at better ways to hold these meetings in the future. We are limited in the times we can offer this.*

One Rep spoke up about how covid had affected her guild and how membership had declined during that time. She asked for suggestions from other Reps on how they managed to keep their guilds together. There were a number of useful suggestions:

- Virtual programming
- One guild received a microgrant for a special workshop that helped attract new members.
- One guild noted that they hold classes regularly and that drives people to the guild.
- Using the MAFA Zoom account to hold hybrid meetings has been quite successful for several guilds.
- Exhibits, accompanied by “rack cards” with contact information for the guild.
- Demonstrations at craft fairs and historic sites—“Make a spectacle of yourselves!”

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

MAFA
Balance Sheet
As of July 10, 2023

	<u>Jul 10, 23</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking Bus Adv Plus	
MAFA Recovery Fund	1,100.00
Checking Bus Adv Plus - Other	119,116.29
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Total Checking Bus Adv Plus	120,216.29
Money Market	209,697.91
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Total Checking/Savings	329,914.20
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Total Current Assets	329,914.20
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TOTAL ASSETS	329,914.20
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	238,562.82
Net Income	91,351.38
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Total Equity	329,914.20
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	329,914.20
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