



**MidAtlantic Fiber Association**  
**Representatives Assembly Meeting Minutes**  
**May 14, 2024**  
*Via Zoom*

**Board Members Attending:**

Margaret Briggs, President  
Patty Chrisman, Vice President  
Joanna Brandt, Treasurer  
Valerie Clark Bolton, Secretary  
Helena Valentine, Past President

**Guild Representatives Attending:**

Chris Asman, Fiber Arts Network  
Kate Banner, Woodstock WEavers  
Diane Baumgartner, Foothills Spinners & Weavers  
Margaret Briggs, Central Virginia Fiberarts Guild  
Joanna Brandt, Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore  
Nancy Butnick, North County Spinners  
Aileen Campbell, Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild  
Pat Capogrossi, Chesapeake Weavers  
Jean Chestnut, Three Rivers Fiber Focus  
Patty Chrisman, Essex County Spinners  
Valerie Clark Bolton, Philadelphia Guild of HandWeavers  
Barbara Diefenderfer, Weavers' Roundtable  
Sandy Dotts, Susquehanna Valley Spinners & Weavers Guild  
Denise Edmister, Southern Tier Lamb to Loom  
Jane Eisenstein, Handweavers Guild of Bucks County  
Nancy Everham, Harmony Weavers Guild  
Patty Franz, Richmond Weavers Guild  
Gretchen Fancher, Westfield Weavers Guild  
Kae Gregis, South Jersey Guild of Spinners & Handweavers  
Kelly Grotzinger, Central PA Guild of Handweavers  
Debbie Hadfield, Three Rivers Fiber Focus, Washington Spinners & Weavers Guild  
Carol Ireland, Fiber Guild  
Pat Jeski, Paumanok Weavers Guild  
Karen Kerchusky, Clothos Handspinners  
Pam Kicklighter, Blue Ridge Fiber Guild  
Diane Kowalski, Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild  
Meg Lundsager, Waterford Weavers Guild  
Jackie Martin, Handweavers Guild of the New River Valley  
Kathy Mayer, Jockey Hollow Weavers Guild  
Sally Orgren, Jockey Hollow Weavers Guild  
Judith Parsellis, Palisades Guild of Spinners & Weavers  
Suanne Pasquarella, Weavers Guild of Rochester  
Barbara Richter - Warped Weaver Guild  
Sandra Talarico, Shore Fiber Arts Guild  
Dornan Trainer, Triangle Weavers Guild  
Tracy Troutman, Lancaster Spinners & Weavers Guild

Helena Valentine, Harmony Weavers Guild, New York Guild of Handweavers,  
Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers  
Debbie Youngelman, Hudson-Mohawk Weaving Guild

**Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.**

**Welcome (Margaret Briggs, President)**

**Welcome Reps and thank you for attending this meeting!**

MAFA is in great shape, as you will hear, thanks to the dedicated work by our volunteers, and to all the great participation by our members. We have a very active Virtual program, we're hard at work planning the in-person conference for next June, and we'd love to give away some more guild grants.

We have several new guilds and that means new Reps, so a special welcome to the newcomers. Don't hesitate to ask Reps Liaison Patty Chrisman or me if you ever have questions about MAFA. Remember to check out the Guild Resources tab on the MAFA website, and in particular the Reps Corner where you will find links to previous minutes and newsletters, as well as other resources.

New Reps, please take a few minutes to read the Role of the Rep document on the website:  
<https://mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/Reps/MAFA-Role-of-the-Rep-20230207.pdf>.

Most importantly, we want to remind you to forward the bi-monthly MAFA News to your members, as well as other important notices. We'll include a note at the top of things that should be shared.

**Minutes (Valerie Clark Bolton, Secretary)**

The minutes of the Reps Meeting of October 24, 2023, were unanimously approved as published upon motion by Suanne Pasquarella and seconded by Jean Chestnut.

**Treasurer's Report (Joanna Brandt, Treasurer)**

**Balances- as of May 12, 2024:**

Checking	\$30,906.89
MAFA Recovery Fund	\$1,100.00
Money Market	\$61,556.96
12 Month CD- 4.00%	\$50,000.00
5 Month CD- 4.93%	\$100,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$243,563.85</b>

For comparison: Total Assets on 12/31/23 = \$245,155.68

MAFA  
Balance Sheet  
As of May 12, 2024

	May 12, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
12 Month CD- 4.00%	50,000.00
5 Month CD 4.936%	100,000.00
Checking Bus Adv Plus	
MAFA Recovery Fund	1,100.00
Checking Bus Adv Plus - Other	30,906.89
Total Checking Bus Adv Plus	32,006.89
Money Market	61,556.96
Total Checking/Savings	243,563.85
Total Current Assets	243,563.85
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>243,563.85</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	251,874.90
Net Income	-8,311.05
Total Equity	243,563.85
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>243,563.85</b>

## MAFA 2025 Conference Report to the Reps (Margaret Briggs, President)

MAFA 2025 will be held June 26-29, 2025, at Millersville University.

**Admin:** Margaret and Debbie Faehner had a great meeting with MU Conference Services, and we're already well on the way to resolving the problem areas we had in 2023. This will be helped by our guy being on the job for more than a week, and his having a full staff in place.

**Education:** 40 workshops were selected from among 90 proposals (which includes some instructors submitting multiple proposals.) Contracts have been sent to all the instructors, and most have already been signed. The workshop breakdown is Weaving - 25, Spinning - 5, Dyeing - 2, Felting - 2, Other - 6. Classes will be announced in September.

**Committee:** For 2025, we still need volunteers for the following roles. Check out the 2025 volunteer page on the MAFA website at <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2025/volunteer-2025/> then email [conference@mafafiber.org](mailto:conference@mafafiber.org).

- Ads and Donations Coordinator – contact advertisers and organizations, and manage submitted ads and donations.
- Weekend Classes Coordinator – solicit, schedule, and coordinate a dozen 2 to 3-hour classes for day trippers on Friday afternoon and Saturday during the conference.

## MAFA Virtual Report to the Reps (Margaret Briggs, President)

Since beginning in September 2022, the MAFA Virtual program has been very successful and popular. The current status is that we will have run a total of 25 classes in FY 2023-2024, and all 2024 classes are open for enrollment. We already have 10-ish classes scheduled for Winter/Spring 2025, and those will open for registration in late-Summer. The goal is to offer two to three classes per month, September to early-June (mid-May in conference years), and we take July and August off.

At the end of this fiscal year, we project our net income from virtual classes will be a few thousand dollars, and going forward, that income should cover the cost of the free lecture series.

**MAFA Free Lectures** will continue with four to six lectures per year. We have one more lecture scheduled for this Spring on May 21 with Elizabeth Okeyele-Olatunji from Lagos Nigeria. Lecture registration is on Lessonface.

**MAFA Movie Nights** continue on second Wednesdays. Find details and links to previous videos on the MAFA website under Virtual/Movies, or email Kate Ohara at [movies@mafafiber.org](mailto:movies@mafafiber.org).

New this Spring is the **MAFA Book Group** which will meet quarterly to discuss fiber-arts related books. Our next meeting will be on July 26 to discuss *Women's Work: The First 20,000 Years* by Elizabeth Wayland Barber. The link to sign up for the book group email list is on the MAFA website under Virtual/Book Group and will be in the minutes, or email Patty at [events@mafafiber.org](mailto:events@mafafiber.org).

### **Grants and Fellowships (Angela Fishman, Chair)**

Patty Chrisman gave the following report in Angela's absence:

Two micro-grants were awarded since the first of the year, both to help guilds with technology needs. PLEASE consider applying for either a micro-grant (up to and including \$500) or a regular grant for needs over \$500. We are here to help you move forward!

MAFA is actively working on scholarships for the next in-person conference with preference for first-time attendees. Details will be posted in September.

### **Membership Report (Membership Coordinator Marla Campbell)**

Patty Chrisman presented in Marla's absence)

#### **Membership Report as of 5/7/2024:**

**Guilds:** 57 representing nearly 4,000 members

**Associates:** 240

**Lifetime Associate:** 1

We have had two new guilds join since we last met. Blue Ridge Fiber Guild in NC with 39 members and Spinning Study Group of Long Island in NY with 40 Members.

### **Communications Report (Communications Chair - Nancy Everham)**

Facebook views are up 37% from last month - mostly due to the post about the class on Fiberworks for Macs - 1.4K views. The least viewed was a post about Maryland Sheep and Wool - my guess is that the majority of our audience already knew about it. Also - we got a spike in views last Tuesday and Sunday (even though there were no new posts

on those days.) We are holding steady at 2.1K followers - with the majority female, aged 65+. I just added a story which allows viewers to see recent pics. These are all from classes that need filling. Gigi has been very helpful in providing good pics to use for social media posts; she has also been very attentive to postings on Instagram. Jenny has been posting on X. Dave has been contacted about recent decisions and webmaster info.

## **New Business and Announcements:**

### **Approve membership tiers and dues for 2024-2026:**

Per the bylaws, the board recommends the following dues for Reps approval:

- Keep the guild tiers and dues as they are for the 2024 - 2026 dues period:
  - 25 or fewer members: \$30
  - 26-50 members: \$60
  - 51-100 members: \$100
  - 101-150 members: \$150
  - 151-200 members: \$200
  - 201 or more members: \$250
- Reduce Associate dues from \$30 to \$25.
- Create a new Young Adult Associate category for those 18 - 25 years old, with no dues.

Upon Motion by Debbie Hadfield and seconded by Nancy Butnick, the updated membership dues for Associates and the newly created Young Adult Associate category were unanimously approved.

### **Webmaster search is open**

Some of you know how important Dave Banks has been to the MAFA organization for many many years. He managed membership before I joined the board, and due to his diligent efforts, we have detailed spreadsheets going all the way back to 2006. As webmaster, Dave was instrumental in creating and maintaining the old MAFA website, then since 2018, helping to keep the new site updated. Because Dave had a web hosting account with extra capacity, he offered to MAFA to host our member guild websites for free. That program has been a huge benefit to many of our guilds, especially some of the smaller guilds for whom web hosting would be too expensive. As of today, we are hosting 18 guild sites, with another three guilds in the queue, and two for whom we're providing their domain registration. Until last Fall, he wouldn't let us reimburse him either.

In August of last year, Dave had a bad fall and broke his hip, resulting in a long stay in rehab. Karen Borga and I have been covering webmaster duties since then. Just when we were ready to hand things back over to him, he had another fall in late-March. The Communications Committee has recommended to the board that it is time to start a search for a new volunteer webmaster.

In recognition of Dave's long years of outstanding service to MAFA, we hope to name one of the new conference scholarships in honor of Dave and his late wife Virginia Banks, as well as granting him lifetime honorary MAFA membership.

Reps, if anyone in your guild is experienced with WordPress and might be interested in helping with the

MAFA and guild websites, please ask them to email me at [president@mafafiber.org](mailto:president@mafafiber.org).

**Reps Open Discussion of Diversity Efforts in our guilds and MAFA:**

Helena Valentine facilitated a lively discussion and encouraged feedback from Representatives on their efforts to engage with and introduce fiber arts to non-typical groups in hopes of creating more diversity in the fiber arts community. A few mentions of note were:

- Outreach at Fiber Conferences
- Connect with Fiber Sheds
- Offer affordable workshops
- Connect with university students interested in the fiber arts
- Connect with fiber creatives via social media
- Offer fiber gatherings earmarked specifically to “younger” fiber artists, i.e. Mend-Ins

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

The next Reps meeting will be in October 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Valerie Clark Bolton, Secretary