

**MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING
GUILD OF BOOK WORKERS, INC.
OCTOBER 28, 2021**

The Annual Meeting of the Guild of Book Workers, Inc., was held on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. EST via Zoom. President Bexx Caswell called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

The minutes of the October 16, 2020 Annual Meeting were approved as previously published on the Guild's Web site.

Bexx introduced the current Board of Directors, including the Executive Officers, the Standing Committee Chairs, and Chapter Chairs via PowerPoint slides.

Awards were presented to:

Cindy Haller – Laura Young Award (presented by Catherine Burkhard)

Mark Esser – Lifetime Achievement Award (presented by James Reid-Cunningham)

UPDATES FROM THE BOARD

President: Bexx Caswell-Olson

Bexx thanked Jennifer Pellecchia for her work with the virtual Standards conference, acknowledging what an accomplishment and success it was. She then moved on to the topic of the Guild's Library, explaining how the University of Iowa, where it is housed, approached the Guild with a proposal to take over ownership of the Library. Bexx solicited feedback from the Board and the membership about this idea, contracted an appraiser for the collection, and explored the tax implications of making such a gift. The Board has voted to proceed with negotiating the terms of a gift; the decision is thus not final, but negotiations will begin. Bexx also mentioned the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee's survey to help the Guild learn how to better serve its members and larger community. She has a Code of Conduct in progress and hopes to share it soon. Finally, she reminded those present that the Guild is seeking an interim Newsletter Chair, in addition to members of the Awards and Nominating Committees. The deadline to volunteer is October 31, 2021. Bexx concluded by thanking all the Board members, Chapter Chairs, and other volunteers who help to keep the Guild running.

Vice-President: Brien Beidler

Brien explained his role as facilitator for regional Chapter activities and support person for the Chapter chairs. He acknowledged Jim Stovall, who had taken over as the Southeast Chapter Chair shortly before his unexpected death. This loss has been deeply felt by the community, and Brien also recognized Jay Tanner's Newsletter piece about Jim. As head of the Scholarship Committee, Brien worked with Jennifer Pellecchia and the Board to offer 24 scholarships, half to members and half to non-members. Although only 15 applications were received, the pool was strong and included applicants from five countries. Brien currently leads the Guild's Diversity,

Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, which offered a survey to Guild members and interested

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non-members. A report of the survey's results was recently approved by the Board for distribution and will be published on the Guild's website. Now that this information is available, the Committee is working toward establishing priorities going forward. They will provide regular updates on their progress. Brien thanked the Guild and plans to remain involved.

Treasurer: Laura Bedford

Laura shared the table that accompanied her Annual Report. The Guild has gained funds over the year and is in a strong financial position. Though challenges have arisen with moving Standards to a virtual format and renegotiating hotel contracts, all those involved in programming have done great work to use the available funds wisely. Much of the Guild's money is with Morgan Stanley in money market accounts designed to earn interest. Going forward, funds will be put in a sequence of certificates of deposit guaranteed by the government. These certificates are laddered such that expirations will occur each quarter, and the Guild will have the option to withdraw the money at that time or to re-invest it. About two thirds of the Guild's money is in reserves, so there is room to grow programs moving forward and to support future Standards conferences. Laura then shared the budget for the upcoming year. As there is not a large variance, this may be a good time to take care of maintenance projects and make improvements. In her last term as Treasurer, Laura wishes she had become involved earlier and enjoyed working with the Board and other Guild members.

Standards: Jennifer Pellecchia

Jennifer thanked everyone who attended Standards, and everyone who has assisted with the Guild's first and possibly only online conference. Standards had four presenter sessions and seven breakout sessions. There were about 280 participants, including about 100 non-members, and those attending represented 14 countries. About half of attendees were participating for the first time. Jennifer thanked the presenters not only for doing great work, but for putting in the effort ahead of time to make her feel confident that the event would go smoothly. Recordings of the presentations will be available until the end of January 2022 and starting in February 2022 individual sessions may be rented through Vimeo. Renegotiated contracts will put the next two conferences in Atlanta (beginning 10/20/22) and San Francisco (beginning 9/26/23). Bexx thanked Jenn for her work in making virtual Standards such a success.

Library: Jay Tanner

Jay has finished uploading Standards presentation videos from 1984-1994 to the Guild's Vimeo site. He has also worked with Bexx and the Guild's contracted appraiser to facilitate the appraisal of the Library in preparation for making new arrangements. Although Jay initially had concerns about the changes proposed by the University of Iowa, after discussion with the Board his opinion changed, and he believes that the University will be a great home for the collection.

Exhibitions: Jeanne Goodman

Jeanne was unable to attend. Bexx reported that organizing an exhibition during a pandemic was challenging, and congratulated Jeanne and former Exhibitions Chair Lizzie Curran on their achievement. The exhibition drew 182 intents to enter, received 79 items submitted, and

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ultimately accepted 50 for the traveling show. As part of the Exhibitions Committee, Bexx saw all the entries in person and spoke for their excellent quality. She appreciated the jury's willingness to pivot to virtual evaluation of the submissions. The exhibition is currently at its third venue. A virtual version of the exhibition is available on the Guild's website. Bexx concluded by thanking Peter Verheyen for his work on the Journal's special exhibition catalog issue.

Membership: Cheryl Ball

Cheryl reported that while Guild membership has dropped during the pandemic, the numbers have started to recover since the virtual Standards conference. This is partly due to the non-member scholarship recipients also receiving a free year of membership, and to an increase in institutional memberships. Institutional members are drawn by print publications like the Newsletter, so its potential loss is troubling. Over the past year, Cheryl has worked to clean up the Guild's membership database, including merging duplicate records and standardizing mailing addresses to reduce the volume of returned mail. She is seeking committee members. In response to a member question, Cheryl reported 805 active members currently, up from 787 at the end of the last fiscal year.

Journal: Peter Verheyen

Peter had the exhibition catalog issue of the Journal out on time to the exhibition venues. He is proud that the Journal will proceed after he steps down, with Kyle Clark as incoming Journal Chair. Kyle and Peter have worked to assemble a core committee. Rebecca Chamlee has served as designer, Rebecca Staley worked on Volume 48-49, and Susie Cobbledick is working toward Volume 51. If all goes as planned, Volume 51 should be a full issue with a wide variety of articles, on topics ranging from coping as an artist during the pandemic, to more technical studies. Peter urged those present to pitch article ideas and to volunteer if possible. Peter thanked Board members, especially Rebecca Chamlee and Laura Bedford, for their work.

Communications: Marianna Brotherton

Marianna was unable to attend.

ANNUAL REPORT:

The Annual Report for the 2020-21 fiscal year (Attachment 1 to the original meeting minutes), which was previously published on the Guild's Web site, was presented.

Motion made and seconded to approve the 2020-21 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, Guild of Book Workers. **MOTION CARRIED.**

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bexx recognized outgoing Vice-President Brien Beidler, outgoing Secretary Rebecca Smyrl, and outgoing Treasurer Laura Bedford. Outgoing Board members were presented with certificates lettered by Maryanne Grebenstein, in portfolios bound by Jeff Altepeter.

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Bexx then introduced incoming Vice-President Henry Hebert, incoming Treasurer Larry Houston, and incoming Secretary Lindsey Jackson.

Bexx recognized outgoing Newsletter Chair Matthew Zimmerman, and outgoing Journal Chair Peter Verheyen.

Finally, Bexx introduced incoming Journal Chair Kyle Clark and reminded those present that a Newsletter Chair is still needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rebecca Smyrl
Secretary