

**MINUTES  
ANNUAL MEETING  
GUILD OF BOOK WORKERS, INC.  
OCTOBER 27, 2017**

The Annual Meeting of the Guild of Book Workers, Inc., was held on Friday, October 27, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. PST, at the Hotel Murano, Tacoma, WA, during the 35th Seminar of Standards of Excellence in Hand Bookbinding. President Bexx Caswell called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. An agenda was distributed to those present.

The minutes of the September 16, 2016 Annual Meeting were approved as previously published on the Guild's Web site.

The Annual Report for the 2016-17 fiscal year, which was previously published on the Guild's Web site, was presented.

**Motion made and seconded** to approve the 2016-17 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, Guild of Book Workers. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**UPDATES FROM THE BOARD**

**President:** Bexx Caswell

Bexx offered her thanks to MP Bogan, Bonnie Thompson Norman, and Jodee Fenton for organizing the conference, and also thanked the conference sponsors. The GBW Newsletter contained the President's Annual Report which summarized the numerous activities of the board and the organization. Highlights include:

- Increased frequency of board meetings to monthly basis and switched to a video-conference platform
- Bexx is now contributing a regular column to the newsletter in order to increase communication with members
- There is now a GBW table in the vendor room featuring catalogs and merchandise for sale
- The Centennial Journal has had a lot of delays but will now be published online

**Vice-President:** Brien Beidler

Brien shared his joy in being elected as Vice President. He has familiarized himself with the GBW bylaws and the Chapter Handbook to help in his role as chapter liaison and he's feeling very optimistic after a productive Chapter Chair meeting. He has enjoyed helping Marianna and Cara to reboot the GBW blog and he's also set up an Instagram account for GBW which has been very successful. Finally, he congratulated the Scholarship recipients: Renny Russell, Wyatt Hall, Jay Tanner, Christina Lilly, Anna Curran, and Rachel Jackson.

**Treasurer:** Laura Bedford

Laura discussed the proposed versus actual Income and Expenses which were projected on the monitor for easy viewing. Overall income is increasing thanks in large part to the fundraising effort at the end of 2016. She offered tremendous gratitude to all who contributed. Other highlights:

- Jackie has done a great job with Exhibition income and planning
- Standards budget was kept in check
- We're continuing to be very responsible and conservative, especially with budgeted and unexpected expenses.
- GBW currently has \$285k in cash reserves. Now that Laura has been through a couple years of the financial cycle she is comfortable with investing some of the cash reserve in a low-risk investment. More information will be provided to the members as we explore that option.

**Secretary:** Katy Baum

The Board of Directors is now meeting on a monthly basis which made the AT&T conference calls prohibitively expensive due to the per minute billing structure. The board members agreed to try a video conference service instead and committed to a flat-rate annual contract with Adobe Connect. This has been a huge costs-savings and an exciting step forward with numerous benefits for the board. Katy will be stepping down but expressed her gratitude for the chance to serve GBW.

**Membership:** Jennifer Evers

Jennifer gave a brief update with the following highlights:

- 858 active members
- 15 lifetime achievement members
- 175 new members (includes lapsed members)
- 1 member still has no email address
- 150 members opt out of listserv

Jennifer will also be stepping down but has enjoyed her term and is grateful to the members and the rest of the board.

**Newsletter:** Lang Ingalls

Lang is hoping to find a new printer that is local to her in order to help control expenses. She is still early in her first term as Newsletter Chair but she extended her thanks to the other board members for all of their hard work and assistance.

**Library:** Ann Frellsen

Ann has been working with Marianna to improve the Library section of the website. DVD rentals continue to be a problem because of damage to discs and compatibility with players so she will continue to explore streaming video for the future but it will take time.

**Journal:** Cara Schlesinger

Cara began by acknowledging a huge contribution from Peter Verheyen on the Centennial issue, providing raw transcripts from the video presentations which just need to be cleaned up and then added to the website. Marianna has just added presentation content from Deb Evetts, Richard Minsky and Don Rash. The current issue of the journal is also in production with articles by Chris McAfee, Gabrielle Fox, Radha Pandey, and Bill Minter. Cara is also actively soliciting content for the next issue. Shannon Kerner has stepped up to edit the GBW blog. Cara extended her thanks to Ann Bromer of Bromer Booksellers for financial support of the journal, and ended with a round of thanks to the editorial board, proof-readers, and blog editor.

**Standards:** MP Bogan

MP offered thanks to Brenda Parsons for securing the Hotel Murano. Handouts from the 2017 presentation will be available on the GBW website soon, along with an evaluation of the conference. Evaluation results will be discussed by the board at the upcoming meeting. Next year's conference will be held in Minneapolis, October 18-20, at the Hyatt on Nicolette Mall. The April newsletter will have full information. Suggestions for presenters are welcome; please email MP at [standards@guildofbookworkers.org](mailto:standards@guildofbookworkers.org).

**Exhibitions:** Jackie Scott

Jackie has just completed her first full year as Exhibition chair and it's been a lot of work, but she's excited and feels passionate about it. The upcoming exhibition has 5 venues secured, with an opening at the Minneapolis Center for Book Arts to coincide with Standards 2018. There was a great turnout for intent to enter. Only 50 entries will be selected for the exhibit. Jackie's focus is currently on fundraising. She offered thanks to Karen Hanmer and Peter Verheyen for guidance, Marianna Brotherton for her assistance as Communications Chair, and Lizzie Curran as a committee member. Entries will be accepted digitally from January 1st to March 1st, 2018. Guidelines for photography will be sent out shortly.

**Communications:** Marianna Brotherton was unable to attend.

**RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Bexx recognized the contributions of two outgoing officers, Katy Baum (Secretary) and Jennifer Evers (Membership), and presented them with commemorative certificates.

Bexx welcomed the following new board members: Rebecca Smyrl (Secretary), Cheryl Ball (Membership), Christine Ameduri (Journal), and Brien Beidler (Vice President).

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Bexx asked for additional questions or comments. Betsy Palmer-Aldridge commended the Board of Directors for their hard work and leadership. Another member inquired about the possible leveraging of the large cash surplus. Laura Bedford explained that over \$100,000 belongs to the regional chapters and while the organization has had two really good years, we need to continue to grow the cash reserve before we can do something interesting with it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Katy Baum  
Secretary

Awards were presented during the Banquet on Saturday, September 17, to:  
Bill Minter – Laura Young Award  
Richard Minsky – Lifetime Achievement Award