

**MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING
GUILD OF BOOK WORKERS, INC.
OCTOBER 25, 2019**

The Annual Meeting of the Guild of Book Workers, Inc., was held on Friday, October 25, 2019, at 5:15 p.m. EST at the Loews Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, during the 37th 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 (Attachment 1 to the original meeting minutes).

The minutes of the October 19, 2018 Annual Meeting were approved as previously published on the Guild's Web site.

The Annual Report for the 2018-19 fiscal year, which was previously published on the Guild's Web site, was presented.

Motion made and seconded to approve the 2018-19 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, Guild of Book Workers. **MOTION CARRIED.**

UPDATES FROM THE BOARD

President: Bexx Caswell

Bexx reported that presentations from previous Standards meetings are now available for purchase or rental, and that the 2018 presentations are in the process of being uploaded. To date, there have been 110 sales and rentals of videos from Vimeo, compared to about ten per year with the physical DVD's. The Vimeo purchases have earned the Guild about \$1000 in revenue, and the yearly Vimeo fee is \$250. Uploading of pre-1994 presentations is in progress. A wide range of presentations have been purchased or rented. Jay Tanner will take over Vimeo administration from Bexx after this meeting.

Bexx encouraged members to consider joining a committee, per the call she sent on 9/1/19. The committees with the most pressing need for members are Nominating and Awards, but all would welcome new members. The deadline to respond to the call is 10/31/19.

Betsy Palmer Eldredge suggested an effort to acknowledge the Guild's vendors, some of whom have been serving the membership at Standards for many years. Bexx will bring this up at the November Board meeting.

Betsy Palmer Eldredge also suggested that the Guild introduce a Seniors rate for members over 90.

Bexx reported that the Guild's listserv has only about 600 of the Guild's approximately 800 members subscribed, and that the listserv functions separately from member profiles, i.e. when a member's profile email is updated, this does not automatically update on the listserv. Instructions for keeping contact information up to date will be provided in the next Newsletter. Anyone

experiencing problems should report them so that they may be fixed.

Page 2 -- Minutes

Annual Meeting, Guild of Book Workers

Oct. 25, 2019

Bexx concluded with a reminder that those wishing to donate auction items should do so by the end of the business meeting, and with thanks to the many people who have helped with the Standards conference, and with keeping the Guild running throughout the year.

Vice-President: Brien Beidler

Brien explained his role as facilitator for regional Chapter activities and to provide support the Chapter chairs. Brien also organizes the Scholarship Committee and reviews scholarship applications. He thanked Erin Fletcher and Cheryl Ball for their work on this committee. This year's seven scholarship recipients have green dots on their name badges and members are encouraged to offer greetings and congratulations. Brien gave a reminder that as the auction raises money for scholarships, bids exceeding the retail value of the items offered are contributions to this cause. Brien offered a reminder about the mentor-protégé event to be held directly after the meeting, which builds connections between members at different stages of their careers.

Treasurer: Laura Bedford

Laura reported that the Guild's financial position is solid, with all programs comfortably funded. The Guild ended this fiscal year with a balance of \$313K, up from \$265K last year. \$180K is in four certificates of deposit, from which Laura has not needed to draw. These have been accumulating 2.3%-2.4% interest; however, with the drop in the federal interest rate, the rate is now 1.8%. These certificates have generated \$2300 to use for programming.

Membership: Cheryl Ball

Cheryl reminded members to always use the same email address when logging into the Guild's Web site and when registering for Standards. Using a different address will create a second account, and this will mean that payments are tracked incorrectly. Work is in progress to remedy problems with the membership database, and it is likely that glitches will continue to occur. Anyone experiencing or hearing of problems on this front should contact Cheryl so that they may be corrected.

Newsletter: Lang Ingalls

Lang was unable to attend.

Communications: Marianna Brotherton

Marianna was not able to attend. On Marianna's behalf, Bexx reported that over the past year the Guild has encountered many database and Web site issues beyond the capabilities of its volunteer staff to address independently, which is typically the first course of action as the web management company charges \$300/hour. Due to the scope of these issues, surplus funds were directed to the professional help needed to resolve them.

Over 2500 people belong to the Guild's Facebook group, and the Guild has about 1500 Instagram followers. Since both of these numbers exceed the Guild's 800 membership count, ways to use social media to attract new members will be explored. Membership has dropped over

Page 3 -- Minutes

Annual Meeting, Guild of Book Workers

Oct. 25, 2019

the past year, perhaps due to technology issues making it difficult for people to join and/or renew. About 200 Guild members are not subscribed to the listserv.

Library: Ann Frellsen

Ann will step down as Library chair after many years of service. The new Library chair, Jay Tanner, will take over the task of making Standards presentations accessible via streaming video. Unlike downloading, streaming is similar to live television in that the videos cannot be saved or copied; however, they may be watched multiple times during the rental period. This technology is becoming cheaper and more accessible, and unlike with DVD's there will not be the risk of damage during rentals. The DVD's will still be available but will not be replaced as they deteriorate. Ann will continue to work with Jay on the physical library, though presents difficulties with neither of them living near its Iowa City location. Ann and Jay are looking for committee members, particularly those in proximity to Iowa City.

Journal: Cara Schlesinger and Chris Ameduri

Cara was unable to attend. Chris reported that she and Cara will both step down as Journal Editors after this meeting. They are in the process of finishing the next issue and hope to have completed it by the end of this calendar year and mailed out in early 2020.

Standards: MP Bogan

MP reported that the current Philadelphia Standards conference is running smoothly and offered huge thanks to the local planning committee. The 2020 conference will take place in Decatur, GA (outside of Atlanta) from October 15-17. Presenters will be Dr. Kathleen Baker, Jeff Peachey, Erin Fletcher, and Beatrice Coron. A contract is in place for the 2021 meeting in San Francisco. Cheryl Ball and Juliayn Coleman will serve as local hosts for that meeting, which will take place from October 28-30, 2021. MP thanked the generous sponsors of the event, whose contributions totaled \$4800, including \$1500 from an anonymous donor. Sponsors included Anonymous; The Pennsylvania State University Libraries Conservation Centre; Pattison Paperworks; J Hewit & Sons; North Bennet Street School; GBW Delaware Valley Chapter; American Academy of Bookbinding; Colophon Book Arts; Deb Wender; Austin Book Arts Center; Harmatan & Oakridge Leathers; Patrick Olson Rare Books; San Francisco Center for the Book; Jean Stephenson; Paper Star Associates; Shanna Leino Hand-Built; Paper Connection International; and Washi Arts.

Exhibitions: Lizzie Curran

Lizzie reported that Formation will close on October 31, 2019, and that the pieces included will be distributed to their owners shortly after. This winter she will send a formal call for work for the next exhibition, the theme of which will be Wildlife. She hopes that this theme will inspire a wide variety of interpretations. North Bennet Street School has been confirmed as one venue for

this exhibition, and Lizzie welcomes other suggestions.

Page 4 -- Minutes
Annual Meeting, Guild of Book Workers
Oct. 25, 2019

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bexx recognized the contributions of outgoing Library Committee Chair Ann Frellsen over her many years of service to the Guild. She also recognized outgoing Journal Editors Chris Ameduri and Cara Schlesinger. Outgoing Board members were presented with certificates lettered by Cindy Haller, in portfolios bound by North Bennet Street School students.

Bexx welcomed Jay Tanner, incoming Library Chair, and Peter Verheyen, incoming Journal Editor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Awards were presented during the Banquet on Saturday, October 26, to:
Don Glaister – Laura Young Award
Jennifer Rosner – Lifetime Achievement Award

Rebecca Smyrl
Secretary