

General Membership Meeting
Philadelphia Minutes
Members meetings May 21st & 23rd, 2009

The general membership meeting was called to order at 2:50 PM. At which time no quorum was met. Members continued to come in, and at 3:05 a quorum was attained.

SNAG president, Kris Patzlaff, makes the following announcements: Conference attendance is 800. Metalsmith redesign is praised. Garth Clark is announced as the invited curator of 2010 EiP is . Membership is thanked for their generosity during this last years donation appeals. The Board of Directors is introduced to the membership. Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) chair, Kristen Beeler is introduced.

Thanks is extended to John Rose of 2 Roses Studio for creating the on-line voting software and launching it for SNAG. It's the first time SNAG has had this capability and 2 Roses Studio donated all their time and expertise to SNAG. Two candidates for the board are running for two positions. Technically one candidate was formally on the ballot for the board and the other offered her name as a write-in candidate. Three candidates are running for one position on the NEC. Voting times and the ballot are reviewed.

Treasurers Report is presented to the membership. The 2008 fiscal year ended with a surplus. This news was warmly received by the membership. Financial success in 2008 was due to several concurrent factors: diligent and focused revenue monitoring, the board's budget reductions in March 2008, and strong fundraising. The reserves still need to be built back-up on an annual basis. Annual reports were available to the membership at the door and at the Members Services Table.

Formal membership meeting is adjourned.

Friday May 22nd, General membership meeting is called to order. As members continued to come in, a quorum was attained.

Executive Director, Dana Singer, makes her report to the membership. Thanks are extended to Suzanne Ramljak for the redesign of Metalsmith magazine. SNAG staff and Nancy Monkman are thanked for their hard work. Meeting a la Carte, vendor room vendors, supporters and sponsors are all thanked for their help in making the conference a success.

Editorial Advisory Committee board liaison Sandie Zilker makes her report.

Thanks Suzanne Ramljak again for her work on the magazine redesign and asks the membership for feedback. She announces the 2009 EiP “Saturated: Color and Metal” and the 2010 EiP to be guest curated by Garth Clark.

Board Liaison, Anne Mondro, makes her report on conferences. Houston, March 10-13, 2010 specifically mentioning that in 2010, the PDS will be moved into the body of the conference. It will no longer be held on Wednesday afternoon. The Education Dialogue will now have its own budget line item, also starting in 2010. Additional future conferences will be in Seattle, 2011; Washington D.C. 2012; Toronto, Canada, 2013.

The meeting is opened for new business.

The Winners of the Educational Endowment Scholarship are announced, with a presentation of the metal work that each scholarship recipient submitted for the scholarship.

A suggestion is made that the Student Exhibition be given autonomy to use the entry fees for the show as funds for a catalogue or DVD of the show.

Vickie Sedman makes a motion: Take any money leftover from the student exhibition and restrict it to supporting students in some fashion.

A quorum is established. Bryan Parks seconds the motion.

Call for discussion. During discussion of the motion, the fact of inconsistency is pointed out that the surplus, which exists this year, is not consistent year to year and in some years there is a shortfall. There is extensive discussion about the budget line for the student exhibition and how any excess funds are currently handled.

Vickie Sedman then changed her motion to “all money raised from the student exhibition will be restricted to support or assist the conference student scholarships or other student related programs such as a print catalog or CD of the student exhibition.” Friendly amendment, with the help of Don Stuart, that the surplus be earmarked in this manner, not 100% of the money that comes in from entry fees.

Former president, Sam Shaw, cites that the board tries to allocate resources as best as possible to benefit as many programs as possible. To restrict funds causes budgetary difficulties.

Matthew Hollern: nothing is murky here. Entry fees should not be used to support anything but the show, not for prizes, not for any other activities.

Erin Williams request that the Student Exhibit be required and have a line item in the annual budget. The board informs the membership present that the Student Exhibit is in SNAG's annual budget and has a designated line item budget of \$4,000, which was actually increased this year.

SNAG member Melissa Huff cites that the student fees do not cover the cost to attend the conference. At this conference alone the subsidy was \$16,000. The surplus of \$3,800 from this years student show is a minor percentage of the overall subsidy to student members.

Angela Gleason: If this passes, the money will be taken out of something else in the budget.

A call for a vote is called: 25 votes in favor, 52 vote opposed, 1 abstained. Motion is denied.

Then SNAG member Rebecca Strzelec asked how much funding the board allocated to the Education Dialogue going forward, and whether it is guaranteed every year from now on. Answer: \$2,500 for 2010, and nothing is guaranteed, the budget always depends on how well SNAG is doing each year.

Non-member Daniella Kerner, "Is it SNAG policy to pay our conference speakers only a \$300 honorarium?" Kris Patzlaff affirmed while also explaining the entire package that SNAG pays to its speakers (airfare, hotel, ground transportation, conference fee waivers, etc.) and Kris also points out that the board has just voted to give all conference speakers single rooms. Daniella: "It's still not enough."

Kerner makes a motion: Conference co-chairs shall be allowed the freedom to utilize their budget to change the honorarium as they see fit. Motion is seconded. Call for discussion.

SNAG member, Victoria Lansford, cites that comparable guilds and professional conferences do not offer honorarium to their speakers at all.

Phil Renato cites that shifting the numbers in the budget to pay for larger honorarium will cut funding available for other programs at the conference. This will add to the burden of the co-chairs.

SNAG member, Daniel Morris, cites that SNAG is just recovering from a budgetary shortfall and raising the honorarium is ill-advised at this time.

SNAG member, Emiko Oye, from the San Francisco Metals Guild cites that their

guild offers an honorarium of \$400.

Stanley Lechtzin offered that this won't increase the budget line at all—it's to untie the hands of the co-chairs.

Motion is amended to read: Co-chairs have the freedom to utilize the speakers budget as they see fit as long as they stay within the conference budget. Call for a vote: 62 votes in favor. 12 votes abstain. There was no time to call for votes against as conference attendees were entering the hall for the next speaker.

The motion is outside the rules of order and therefore must be resubmitted for a vote at a later time. Meeting is called to an end to make way for the next Speaker.