

Blue Ridge Fiber Guild
September 16, 2023 Meeting
Location: Watauga Arts Space

Members Present: Susan Payne, Margie Cassan, Nancy Sigmon, Kim Potter, Julie Sakowski, Pam Kicklighter, Vicki Skywark, Rhonda Gladden, Hope Estepan, Betty Womack, Sali Gill-Johnson, Mona Alderson, Jeanne Lawrence, Jane Campbell, Mattie Banks, Karen Dendiu, Andrea Vail
Zoom: Susan Sharpe
Guests: Sarah Gomez, Cynthia Cero, Kathryn Costas, Peg Schroeder, Grace Mutz, Patricia Cone,

Business

Vicki Skywark called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, including several guests.

August minutes were approved with no updates. The last treasurer's report is available on the August minutes on the website. As there were several visitors attending, Vicki explained that the annual membership of \$20 is pro-rated 50% for those joining between October and December. The new member form is available on the website.

The guild still needs to fill the following positions for officers for the 2023-2025 and encouraged members to step up for an office and also for subcommittees. Also, if anyone has any skill sets that would benefit the guild, Vicki Skywark would love to hear from you!

- President/Co-Presidents
- Vice-President
- Secretary- Sali Gill-Johnson has agreed to continue if necessary, but would welcome a new person
- Treasurer- Vicki Skywark and Betty Womack will fill this position

The guild will resubscribe to Zoom for the coming year and Julie Sakowski has volunteered to provide equipment and expertise for the meetings. Some workshops or other activities may not be feasible to be zoomed, however the business and other information will be. Arts Space is one location that offers in-house video capabilities, and the guild will continue to look for ways to expand technological capabilities to allow for greater flexibility with meeting space etc.

Guild members present voted to approve the new "Guidelines for Management of Resources" which is a working document of resources available to guild members. Thanks to the subcommittee- including Pam Kicklighter, Mona Alderson, Julie Sakowski, Janeene Ross and Vicki Skywark. Tasks that remain include labeling all the "bits and pieces" of equipment, tools and supplies that are owned by the guild.

Several guild members attended and demonstrated at the King Street Farmers Market on September 5 from 4-7PM in the grass field in front of the Lois Harrell Senior Center/Social Services Center. Members expressing interest for doing this again were Karen Dendiu, Mattie Banks, Andrea Vail, Margie Cassan, Kim Potter and Sali Gill-Johnson, and the guild tentatively decided to do this again in October, Tuesday, date to be determined. We would need to let the sponsors know at least a week out. Members are welcome to be present to demonstrate and sell their own works, and the only commission is 10% payable to Blue Ridge Fiber Guild. There is a \$25 fee payable by the guild for the tent, tables and chairs they provide. Someone will need to volunteer to be the point person.

Upcoming and future events

Jeanne Lawrence has been in contact with Bethel Elementary about demonstrating spinning at the "Mountain Heritage Days" October 14. Anyone interested in participating with some type of fiber demonstration, please contact her at (828) 406-7193

October 21 is the next meeting date and also the same timeframe as the Southeast Animal Fiber Fair (SAFF) in Asheville. Members decided to go ahead with the meeting as scheduled. Location and program will be emailed

Mona Alderson circulated a list of possible program ideas and asked for input and additions. Some included Dorset buttons, louder braiding, tapestry, rug hooking, mordanting, needle felting

November 18 Guild Meeting- Susan Payne will lead a "How to Quilt" activity and members will take home a small piece. Details to follow.

Rhonda Gladden maintains a calendar on the guild webpage and members are welcome to send info to her to include. Events should be submitted with all necessary emails, in a "Press-Release" form so she does not have to rewrite or format. <rgwebweaver@charter.net>

Susan Payne volunteered to apply for the Edgewood Cottage Guild show next year. The application is due before Christmas and she will send out an email with details. Susan also volunteered to inquire about having a future show at the Ashe Arts Council and Florence Thomas Arts Center.

Some members presented show and share works. Mona Alderson presented an in-depth slideshow and talked about her recent trip to Bali to tour and participate in the indigenous culture of textile processes including ikat, indigo dying, trap and shabori. She brought back several wonderful examples, and also shared samples of fabric, buttons and other items as a fun giveaway.

Janeene Ross (treasurer) was recently diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer, and her husband Michael is also being treated for cancer. The guild will let folks know how we can support and help them, in the meantime, cards are welcome.

Janeene Ross 1109 Hwy 194 S. Vilas, NC 28692

Minutes prepared by Sali on September 17, 2023