

Blue Ridge Fiber Guild Meeting Notes
November 16, 2024
Western Watauga Community Center

- 1. Call to Order-** Mona Alderson called the meeting to order.
- 2. Recognize visitors, new members-**There were 12 people in attendance, and one person on zoom. Patti Swatzbaugh and Hannah Chaney are new members who attended.
- 3. Cares and Concerns-** There are no known cares or concerns other than the ongoing effort by many to recover from the hurricane. Fiber artists in Asheville are of special concern.
- 4. Motion to Approve Minutes-**Pam Kicklighter motioned to approve minutes from the October meeting. Susan Payne seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5. Treasurer's Report-**Betty Womack reported a balance of \$2411.11. Receipts for 2024 should be submitted by our December meeting. Betty is collecting dues for 2025. The amount is \$20. Please bring payment to December meeting or mail a check to: Blue Ridge Fiber Guild % Betty Womack 1314 Grandview Dr. EXT, Boone NC 28607
Jeanne Lawrence moved to renew membership of Handweavers Guild of America. Pam Kicklighter seconded the move and the vote was unanimous to continue membership, for which Betty will pay. The only other membership for which the guild pays is the Mid Atlantic Fiber Association. We are paid through October of 2025. Betty will look into joining the Watauga Arts Council as opposed to making a yearly donation.
Betty will need budget projections from committee chairs for 2025.
- 6. Officers and Committee Chairs** Rhonda Gladden has decided to step down from her long time position as communications

chairperson. The guild is thankful for her many years of service. Additionally, Beth Reavis will resign from Membership and Hospitality chairperson. We are in between nomination years. Mona indicated that Membership is better aligned with Communications and that those two responsibilities will be linked going forward. Vicki Skywark has volunteered to assume responsibility for Communications/Membership Chairperson. Jeanne Lawrence moved that Vicki be approved for this position. Margie Cassan seconded. Those present voted unanimously in agreement. The motion carried. The position of Hospitality chair is available. Salli Gill Johnson agreed to facilitate Zoom at meetings. Mona would also like for another member to chair the Programs committee.

7. Johnson County Center for the Arts Show-

We have had an excellent opening. Sales are already over \$1000. Saturday, November 30 is small business Saturday. The guild members are invited to come and demonstrate (informally) at the show. Mona would like to know if you plan to be there. There is also a Holiday craft show at the high school that day. Sales should be brisk. That is the day that the show will be taken down at 3:00 p.m.

8. MAFA Opportunitites-MidAtlantic Fiber Association -

www.mafafiber.org

Pam Kicklighter reviewed several benefits available to all through our guild membership. Here are her notes:

BRFG is a member of MAFA and as a member of BRFG you are too.

What MAFA offers:

- Monthly newsletter
- Free Lectures
- o Jan. 18, 2025 screening of “The Nettle Dress” film by textile artist Allan Brown followed by a Q&A with Allan Brown
- Book Group
- MAFA Movie night – every second Wednesday of the month
- St. Distaff Day online Zoom spin along -Jan. 12, 2025 – 12:00 – 5:00 pm est.
- Reduced rates for online classes via lessonface - <https://mafafiber.org/virtual/faq/>

- MAFA 2025 biennial conference – June 26-29, 2025 at Millersville University in Millersville, PA. Workshops, classes, marketplace, exhibits, towel exchange, spinning games, studio tours and more. Scholarships and fellowships available.

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2025/schedule/>

- o Feb. 1, registration opens for MAFA members
- o Jan. 3, scholarship applications due
- o April 15, fellowship applications due

9. Committee Reports:

Programs- December 14- The meeting will be at Western Watauga Community Center at 10:30. We will have a pot luck meal and a fiber swap. Guild will provide paper products and utensils. ***Margie Cassan will not be attending and can not take notes. Please contact her if you could take notes that day. ***

Jan 18- meeting will be in person at Western Watauga Community Center at 10:30 and via Zoom. This will be an organizational meeting with focus on future programs. Members should be thinking about what they would like to see as programs in 2025. Some possibilities that were discussed:

- Mona has communicated with Miss Babs to do a program related to her very successful yarn business.
- Salli Gill-Johnson and Jane Campbell will reschedule their weaving workshop that was canceled due to the hurricane.
- Jeanne Lawrence is friends with Catherine Atlas, an art instructor at App State. She is a painter turned quilter and is available for a March presentation.
- Mona will teach a class on either ice dying or dorsett buttons.

February 15- Meeting will be at Western Watauga Community Center at 10:30 - zoom access will be available.

Membership- No new information

Exhibits and Shows- Susan Payne is looking into these possibilities- Jones House (potentially in June again), Florence Thomas, Johnson County, and Watauga Arts Council Art Space.

10. Old Business-

Emotional Support Chicken Campaign- (This is not a guild sponsored project, but Jeanne is hosting the knit along.) Jeanne Lawrence reported that this project is going well. Knit along products, emotional support chickens, are being sent to hurricane survivors. She thanked Vicki Skywark for telling her about the pattern which is available on Etsy and Ravelry. Bobbin Boy (Melissa and Alan Dewey) in Asheville is distributing the chickens as well as knitted caps and other items to survivors. There are over 100 people in 4 different countries participating.

11. Show and Share

Adjourn- The meeting was adjourned.

Program- Karen Dendiu provided a workshop on needle felting.

Submitted by Margie Cassan November 21, 2024