

# ❖ Northwest News ❖

Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds

northwestweavers.org

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## 2012 AGM set for 7/7/12 in Bellingham

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington on July 7, 2012. Be sure to save this date on your calendars! Dorm rooms and meals will be available for those who need them. Stay tuned, as more information will be available in upcoming newsletters.

Joy Winther  
ANWG First Vice President

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### How the ANWG Executive Board Works

Lately I have been re-reading some of the newsletters in the website archive (located under Member Resources). Reading each one makes me more aware of how many people over the years have contributed to making ANWG what it is today. Each Board has tried its best to provide the leadership that will support the work and learning of the member guilds. Sometimes the focus is on the structural part (Standing Rules and Bylaws), other times it is about communication; but, always, those who have agreed to serve are working to make this organization of weaving guilds in the 6 Northwestern states and 3 Western Canadian provinces as effective as possible.

Prior to e-mail, the Board would have meetings once a year in a physical place or through a teleconference, but, for the past 4 years, technology has made it possible for our Executive Board to communicate via e-mail. Through a Yahoo directors' website, we can post items for the rest of the Board members to see and respond to. Our meetings are on-line, which allows Board members to live in very different geographic places and still communicate as if we were in a room together. When an issue is discussed through the website, all comments are read by each member of the Board. People provide input at their convenience but within a determined time frame. If the topic is something that needs an official vote, I will ask that someone make a motion, ask for a second, give a certain period of time (maybe a few days) so that everyone can have a chance for input, and then call for the vote. Because each vote is cast through the website, we all can see how each has voted.

We try to follow "Roberts Rules of Order" as much as possible so that our secretary Janice Griffiths can take somewhat orderly minutes. If a Board member is going to be away from internet access, she informs the rest of us so that no vote or important discussion will take place until she is available again.

I have been very pleased with the way this particular Board responds to a question or suggestion, with each one bringing her own perspective to bear in our conversation. It took a few weeks to get used to this different way of running a meeting, but it is much better than having to drive long distances with expenses for lodging, etc. Almost every day there is an e-mail with a question, suggestion or idea from one of the board members. In this way we work at staying in touch with each other and being aware of the work of each Board member.



(Cont'd. p. 2)

### President's Message (Cont'd from page 1)

YES, modern technology has certainly changed long-distance meetings. Who knows, sometime in the near future, we may even expand our use of technology to use Skype or Instant Messaging.

Technology has also helped you (the guild Reps) via the Yahoo Guild Representatives site. You cannot only communicate with each other, you can also communicate with the Board members, since we are all on the Reps list. Therefore, when one of you asks a question, whether it is about where to find something or if you need some specific information or are confused by a procedure, all you have to do is ask the question. Your fellow Reps may answer, but additionally so may we Board Members. Also, the e-mail addresses of all Board Members are listed under Board on the website home page ([www.northwestweavers.org](http://www.northwestweavers.org)). Should there be an issue, raised by a guild that might be discussed by the Board, let us know and we will make sure that you have a copy of our discussion, and the results of any vote that we might have taken.

Currently there is an Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee (Linda Davis, Janice Griffiths, Daryl Ries, Wanda Shelp) working on some suggested changes that will be brought to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Bellingham on July 7. The Reps have already received the Bylaws change related to Affiliate Memberships. We would like this change to be brought up at your guild meeting for feedback from your members. Any other suggested Bylaw changes will be sent to all of the guilds at least 60 days prior to the AGM. We welcome and value your input, responses and suggestions.

Woven together,

Mary Anna Swinnerton, President

### It fits!

Mary Anna in Daryl Lancaster's Garment workshop at the 2011 Conference, a warm summer memory in January.



### News From Your Next Conference

Holiday celebrations done. Decorations tucked away for another year. I hope you all enjoyed your time with family and friends as I did. I am looking forward to an immersion into weaving this winter. The ANWG 2013 conference planning is well underway. I hope you have had time to visit our website: [www.anwg-conference-2013.com/](http://www.anwg-conference-2013.com/). I am really pleased with our conference logo. And the preliminary designs for our award ribbons from the Greater Vancouver Weavers and Spinners Guild promise to be a finished piece you will be proud to possess. So stir your imaginations and help make our juried shows and fashion night ones you'll remember for years to come.

Our winter meetings will review our award categories so we can give you plenty of time to design and create for the conference. And please remember that we are still accepting instructor proposals. Please ask your favorite instructor (including yourself) to submit applications to our workshop committee ([Instructor-Info@anwg-conference-2013.com](mailto:Instructor-Info@anwg-conference-2013.com)) by February 16.

Registration for classes will begin in January of 2013. So mark your calendars. And join us in Bellingham June 17-23, 2013.

Rae Deane Leatham  
2013 ANWG Conference Chair



## Will ANWG Continue to Exist?

*If you can't find it on the Internet, it probably doesn't exist. And if it doesn't exist, you are wasting your time and energy looking elsewhere.*

When I heard these words on the radio several months ago, I was at first stunned and disbelieving. Then I realized it was self-evident. I admit to spending parts of virtually every day surfing the Internet, and many times searching for something that I think might exist (such as a certain type of thread or yarn). If I can't find it, I assume it must not exist.

So what does this have to do with ANWG? We exist as an organization and we have a major presence on the Web. But what would happen to ANWG and many guilds if we no longer had a website? Would we continue to exist in the minds of the fiber arts community in our region and beyond? And could we even survive if we can't continue to support this modern means of communication?

In 2011 we have had nearly 142,000 visitors to our website ([www.northwestweavers.org](http://www.northwestweavers.org)). Data from our website indicates that it has been important to people selling and buying equipment and supplies (both Classifieds and Suppliers sections), looking for guilds and contact information (Member Guild pages), and interested in events in our region (Events). The Top 10 pages represent almost 52% of all visits.

The website does not just happen by magic. Like everything in our organization, it is run by volunteers. To keep it running, we need volunteers willing to put in a few hours per month!

Now the good news about that. Web technology has evolved to the point that website development and maintenance can be done by people with fairly basic word processing and/or graphics editing skills. We no longer have to purchase expensive software that takes months to learn. The work can be done from any computer that has access to the Internet. That means it can be done from a public library, a business, a home – even from many mobile devices.

If we can find a webmaster and 3-4 assistants, maintaining the website will be easier than it has ever been, and there are a wider range of features we can incorporate that we don't have today. While we may consider reducing the scope of what is included, we may be able to improve the substance, reliability and currency of what we provide to improve its worth to the fiber arts community.

**Please let your guild and acquaintances know about our needs and if you know someone who has the time and interest to be involved, please let me know. No experience is necessary (but certainly helpful!)**

Linda Davis  
Interim Webmaster

## Bylaws Committee Report

Since its inception in the late 1970's, ANWG has been an association of weaving guilds. At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2010, the idea of establishing additional membership categories came up in a brainstorming session. After this meeting, then President Linda Davis appointed an ad hoc committee (ACH) to study the idea of "affiliate" memberships. The committee unanimously recommended that changes be made to the Bylaws and Standing Rules to provide additional categories. It also addressed the primary focus of ANWG as either one of weaving or the broader category of fiber arts. As the recommendations came late in the spring 2011, and with limited time on the 2011 AGM, the board deferred the issues to the current board to be addressed at the 2012 AGM. Further input on the idea came from a survey of ANWG Reps conducted in February 2011.

President Mary Anna Swinnerton appointed Second Vice President, Linda Davis to chair a Bylaws Committee (BC) to recommend changes to membership categories and also consider other possible changes in the Bylaws and Standing Rules for general updating and "housecleaning".

The BC that also includes Daryl Ries, Membership Chair 2009-2011; Janice Griffiths, Secretary 2010 to present; and Wanda Shelp, Communications Chair 2003-2005, first took up the topic of affiliate membership. The BC unanimously recommended to the ANWG Board that it approve the ACH's recommendations with some minor revisions. With approval by the Board, the recommendations have been forwarded to member guilds for their review and discussion. Specific wording of Bylaws and Standing Rule changes will be promulgated prior to the July 2012 AGM to meet requirements. At this time recommendations are being forwarded to guilds in conceptual form for discussion, questions and answers so that the actual amendments will have had ample opportunity for discussion and consideration before being drafted. To obtain a full report on this topic, find it on the Guild Representatives Yahoo group or contact Linda Davis at [webweaver@bendbroadband.com](mailto:webweaver@bendbroadband.com).

A summary of the recommendations:

- Maintain ANWG primarily as an organization of weaving guilds, recognizing that many guilds include other fiber arts.
- Establish two affiliate membership categories, "affiliate individual" and "affiliate organization". Members could be involved in committees and hold board positions, but could not vote as a general member.

In addition to membership changes, the Bylaws Committee is continuing to work on other aspects of the Bylaws and Standing Rules that are outdated or no longer workable. These amendments will be a major topic at the 2012 AGM in Bellingham in July.

**Membership Information and News**

The guilds which have renewed their association with ANWG total 64 guilds. This means there are 43 guilds that have not renewed, as of yet.

Of the 64 guilds in good standing, the following statistical analysis illustrates, by state and province, the total members represented within these guilds.

Alberta	53
Alaska	118
British Columbia	753
Idaho	146
Montana	118
Oregon	498
Saskatchewan	22
Washington	1264
Wyoming	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>2998</b>

Any discrepancy between the dues deposited and the total membership headcount within guilds is attributed to some apparent overpayments of dues to cover future membership headcount increases (that only the guild can forecast). There is a discrepancy of \$22 (at this point in time). This should work itself out by the end of the fiscal/membership year.

The analysis of the non-renewed guild numbers show, by state and province, how many guilds fall into this category and where they are located.

Alberta	1
Alaska	1
British Columbia	16
Idaho	2
Montana	7
Oregon	9
Saskatchewan	1
Washington	6
Wyoming	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

The membership numbers, associated with the non-renewed guilds, for this year are unavailable since no information has been submitted.

ANWG's present renewal rate is at 58%. The 43 non-renewed guilds represent only 42% of the past membership.

(Cont'd above)

The numbers include organizations other than guilds (example: MAWS, WEGO, etc). There are two to three entities that I have posed the question to the reps as to whether they are still viable organizations. And presently we have only one guild that does not want to be associated with ANWG, but they were a carry-over from prior years as a memorandum item only and are not included in these numbers.

If you are a non-renewed guild, please submit your renewal dues as quickly as possible. The renewal form can be found in the Membership 2012 file on the Yahoo Rep site OR on the ANWG website. Your information is important to us. Please help us to assist you with information and services.

Christine Bunnell  
Membership Chair

**ANWG Annual Financial Report  
2011**

**Income and Expenses**

Income	
Dues	\$3639
Silent Auction	1323
2011 Conference	<u>9863</u>
Total Income	\$14,825

Expenses	
Conference Awards	\$4000
Administration	108
Conference Award	150
Silent Auction	366
Website	<u>260</u>
Total Expenses	\$4,884

**Conference Loans**

Repaid from WeGO 2011	\$7,500
Loaned to Seattle 2013	10,000

**Current Assets as of December 31, 2011**

Checking Account	\$19,515.24
Savings Account	<u>44,918.68*</u>
Total Assets	\$64,433.92

Marty Lemke  
Treasurer

# CONGRATULATIONS!

The ANWG Board is pleased to announce the recipients of the ANWG Workshop Grants for 2012.

As in the past, a committee was established to read, discuss and decide on the distribution of the available money. The members of the 2012 grants committee were Joy Winther, (Vice President), Ellie Sheeran, representative for the Spokane Guild and past ANWG Communications Chair, and the Education Chair.

In addition to e-mail conversations, we held a conference call in which we discussed the submitted applications. Our final decisions were based upon the nature of the workshop (*i.e.*, the number of people likely to be served as well as the level of the workshop), the relationship to weaving techniques and/or related concepts, and the geographic location of the guild and its members. We also considered whether or not the guild had received a previous grant and, if so, when.

This year ANWG was again able to make \$4000 available for grants to help reduce the cost of workshops. Eleven guilds from our region (three provinces and six states), applied for a Guild workshop grant. Happily, we were able to provide monies to all eleven. We congratulate them all and look forward to reading the reports they will be submitting after each of their workshops.

The grants were awarded to:

<u>Guild</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Workshop</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
Alpine Weavers & Spinners	MT	Tapestry Bag Weaving	J. Contraman
Clatsop Weavers ....	OR	Adventures in Double Weave	J. Moore
Desert Sage Weavers	BC	Value of Value	S. Swett
Eugene Weavers	OR	Secrets of Creativity	A. Luvera Mayer
MAWS/Missoula Weavers	MT	Inkle/Card Weaving & Pick-up	S. Lamb
Midnight Shuttles, Spinners	BC	Color & Design for Fibre Artists	E. Duncan
Portland Handweavers	OR	Understanding Weave Structure	S. Alderman
Richmond Weavers & Spin	BC	Ripped about Rep	R. Neilson
Skagit Valley Weavers	WA	Ways to Improve Weaving	R. Spady
Threadbenders	OR	Thread-painting	S. Pilgrim
Whatcom Weavers Guild	WA	Vested Interest	A. Luvera Mayer

## Distribution of Grants

BC = 3

MT = 2

OR = 4

WA = 2

Provided that monies are available in the future, ANWG hopes to continue offering Guild workshop grants as well as Individual grants for Conference.

Once again, congratulations to the recipients of the 2012 ANWG Guild Grants.

Gloria Lebowitz  
Education Chair

## **SUMMARY OF MINUTES NOV. 1, 2011-DEC. 31, 2011**

All members of the board were present via email for discussions and voting.

Linda Davis reported on her work updating the website. She and Mary Anna have contacted local people about regarding a possible future webmaster. The website needs upgrading. Linda has been using an updated version of Dreamweaver software and finds it to make the job easier.

Joy Winther moved and Marty Lemke seconded that the board authorize the purchase of a permanent upgrade of the Adobe Dreamweaver Software to be purchased for about \$200.00. Carried.

Mary Anna asked for a motion to accept the By-Laws Committee Report on Affiliate Membership.

Marty Lemke moved and Joy Winther seconded that the Board accept the By-Laws Committee Report on Affiliate Membership. Carried.

Mary Anna requested that everyone work on their job description and complete the preliminary description by Jan. 1, 2012. These descriptions will be helpful to the Nominating Committee.

Barbara Taylor asked for input for the newsletter by January 7.

Gloria Lebowitz reported on the applications for the guild grants. The deadline for applications was extended to December 1. Discussion was held on what guild grants can cover.

Marty Lemke asked some questions regarding the handling of money. She submitted the 2012 Budget, based on the 2010 Budget.

Barbara Taylor moved and Joy Winther seconded that we authorize the Treasurer to send the \$1000.00 deposit to Western Washington University for the AGM in July 2012. Carried.

Results of the Website Survey were discussed. There was general agreement that the Suppliers page should be removed. There was a difference of opinion on the importance of the Coming Events page.

The Guild Grant Committee met on-line and by phone. Eleven guilds applied for the grants, and all were awarded.

Mary Anna adjourned the Board until the second week in January.

Note: This is a summary of the minutes for Nov. 1 to December 31, 2011. For a complete copy of the minutes, contact Barbara Taylor, ghosttrail@msn.com.

## **ANWG BOARD MEMBERS**

### **President**

Mary Anna Swinnerton  
luvmaps2@bendcable.com

### **First Vice President**

Joy Winther  
joyful\_weaver@msn.com

### **Second Vice President**

Linda Davis  
webweaver@bendbroadband.com

### **Secretary**

Janice Griffiths  
jmgriffiths@shaw.ca

### **Treasurer**

Marty Lemke  
lemke@willapabay.org

### **Education Chair**

Gloria Lebowitz  
glolebow@yahoo.com

### **Membership Chair**

Christine Bunnell  
bunnell.Christine@yahoo.com

### **Communications/Newsletter Chair**

Barbara Taylor  
ghosttrail@msn.com

### **Conference Chair (Non-voting)**

Rae Deane Leatham  
gerryrae@gmail.com

### **Interim Webmaster**

Linda Davis  
webweaver@bendbroadband.com