

# Northwest News



Association of Northwest Weavers ' Guilds

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## Annual Board and Membership Meetings Recap

The annual membership meeting was held in Boise, Idaho, June 13, 2015. Guild representatives from Alaska, Montana, Canadian Provinces and the Pacific Northwest were present . **The Treasurer ' s report indicates ANWG holds just over \$46,000 in assets with adequate resources to cover anticipated operating expenses as well as start up costs for the 2017 conference in Victoria and the ANWG Challenge Grants. The need for updating the ANWG web site has been discussed and there will be support for the new Webmaster to proceed with this.**

ANWG now has 85 guilds—two new guilds and two revived guilds—and almost 4000 members. The second round of ANWG Challenge Grant applications are due October 1st.

Christine Purse, the 2017 Conference Chair, gave a thorough overview of the plans made and being made for an exciting and educational fiber experience in Victoria, British Columbia. Check the conference website for up-to-date information: [anwgconference2017.com](http://anwgconference2017.com).

Officers for the next term were elected (see box to the left).



TO

BETTY BELL

JANICE GRIFFITHS

MARTY LEMKE

GLORIA LEBOWITZ

CHRISTINE BUNNELL

RAE DEANE LEATHAM

BARBARA TAYLOR

THESE FIBER ARTISTS, FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERS  
HAVE SERVED *ANWG* WELL OVER THE LAST  
SEVERAL YEARS AND HAVE  
RETIRED FROM BOARD MEMBERSHIP

## Ask a Weaving Expert...

Note: I thought I would try this column as a means to have a conversation with ANWG members, and to share and learn from some of our advanced weaving and spinning colleagues. Please submit your questions for future editions—all will remain anonymous. pblanchard@eoni.com

Q: Some time ago I purchased rayon yarn made for knitting. It was so beautiful I broke all of my yarn purchase rules – **it wasn't on sale, it was very expensive, it was synthetic, it ravel**s terribly (3 strands), it is nubby and hard to work with. The only redeeming feature is its beauty. I finally decided to try something with this yarn and went through my normal calculations and planning (i.e., wrapped the yarn around a ruler for an inch and calculated the total yardage I thought would be needed for my project). I settled on a **shawl 16" wide on my table loom. There were 12 wraps on the ruler to an inch, so** thought to achieve balanced weaving the warp should be 6 per inch and the other 6 in the weft. I selected a reversing undulating twill because I thought it would help to display the shimmer of the yarn.

**It took three weeks to complete just 16" of warp. The yarn sticks badly to everything it touches, but I am still loving it. Expecting the worst, I start weaving and it actually isn't** that bad to weave although I have to be very careful advancing the warp through the heddles but have devised a gentle technique that has prevented any broken strands so far. Because the yarn is so nubby, you can barely discern the pattern.

The yarn is springy so I lay the yarn across an open shed and let the next shot hold it in place – I am not beating the yarn in - but am getting way more picks per inch in the weft **than the six I was anticipating. I've woven 3 inches with about 60 shots. It is thicker than planned but I still like it and it isn't densely compacted** – you can see through it, sort of. I think I have enough yarn to finish.

Do you think I am wasting my time – and this lovely yarn – and should stop now and use it to knit something instead?

## Ask a Weaving Expert...

Continued.

**Response:** With your careful consideration of the challenges of the rayon yarn, it would be nice to see if you could realize your initial vision for the yarn and the shawl. There are a few thoughts that come to mind, but not a clear solution.

Without seeing the yarn, a warp sett at 6 epi is very open and the weft will tend to pack in more because of all the space available for it to move between warp ends and you could end up with a weft-faced fabric which feels dense and heavy. Sett is a challenging concept because the best solution changes depending upon the yarns you are working with. Even though you are gently placing the weft, rather than beating it in, the rayon yarn might not want to remain open and prefer to pack in because of the movement, or slickness, of the fiber. Selecting twill as your structure you can sett your warp closer than you would for plain weave.

One way to overcome the disappearance of the undulating twill structure is to work with a contrasting color in the weft helping your eye see the undulations by way of contrast. Increasing your epi might be another way to bring the structure into more clarity. Sampling can be a great help in finding the best sett and weft color.

If you are frustrated with the twill and still want an open cloth and a bit more work, you could look up bead leno as another structure option. You would take your warp out of the heddles, but leave it on the back beam and re-thread for bead leno which will allow for an open but very stable cloth which will really show off your yarn. You could use the rayon in the warp only, or in the warp and weft both. It is simple to weave and would create a beautiful cloth for a shawl.

As with many weaving questions, there are many solutions. Setting your warp closer, perhaps 10 epi, might be a good first step. Good luck!



MEMBERSHIP REPORT, June 17, 2015  
Christine Bunnell  
Membership Chair

Membership Summary, as of June 17, 2015

3824 Individual Members (within the guilds)  
84 Guilds  
1 Guild did not renew.

Total membership count from renewed guilds, U.S. = 2430  
Total membership count from renewed guilds, CA = 1394  
Total guilds renewed, U.S. = 49  
Total guilds renewed, CA = 35

In comparison, over a three year period, 2013-2015:

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Individual member count	3544	3541	3824
Guild count	80	77	84

Conclusion: There has been a 3.75% drop in guild membership between 2013 and 2014. There has been a 9.09% increase in guild membership between 2014 and 2015. There has been a .08% decrease in individual member headcount between 2013 and 2014. There has been a 7.99% increase in individual member headcount between 2014 and 2015. Please see starred ( \* ) notation below for further information pertaining to these changes.

There is one guild which is in partial arrears, but has been included in this analysis.

\*One guild did not renew. **REMINDER:** there are three association affiliates (HWSD, MAWS, and WEGO ). ANWG acquired two new guilds during the 2015 year. This would be Coquitlam Weavers and Spinners Guild in British Columbia and North Country Weavers Guild in Washington.

Washington guilds renewed at 100%.

The overall increase in guild membership and possibly guild member headcount, I feel, can be directly connected to the Challenge Grants ANWG is now providing for guilds.

## Membership Report continued...

### Communications

All communications for the membership year 2014-2015 were channeled through the reps network (via direct emailings and the newsletter). This was augmented with emails to individual reps and/or presidents. The communications entailed dues renewal reminders ( three ), information notices, check receipts and thank yous, troubleshooting on a guild by guild basis concerning the new ANWG website. Annual Membership Meeting notices were **distributed through the president 's email listing. The ANWG newsletter was used to distribute the membership forms and the Fall Howdy-Do.** The ANWG website was used to distribute membership forms as well.

### New Membership Year Goals

Of the seven goals for Membership this past year, please note the status in red:

To grow the guild numbers and/or grow the membership numbers.( **completed** )

Transition all membership functions to the new ANWG website. ( **in process** )

Open up conversations with the guilds. ( **in process** )

Invite and get more activity from associations which could be affiliated with ANWG.  
( **in process** )

**Compose Membership "How to" manual. ( **completed** )**

Convert membership files to flash drive storage, where possible. ( **completed** )

Purge old files. ( **completed** )

### Membership Committee

The By-Laws address the formation of a current Membership Committee. A new committee needs to be re-set. I would recommend a number of two plus the membership chair. This should happen in coordination with the new membership chair taking office in the Summer of 2015. This committee will support and assist the work of the membership chair. Such tasks will include but not be limited to: work on invitations to past guilds, new/non-member guilds and potential affiliated associations; making personal contacts with the guilds a must. The identification of new/non-member guilds and potential affiliated associations will be the greatest task and will need the help of the board and member guilds in ascertaining contact information.

## Membership Report continued...

### Other Items

The membership renewal form no longer requires a membership roster to be submitted with your renewal form. All dues must be based upon the membership of the guild as of June 30 of the previous year. No more waiting for everyone to pay their dues in the Fall before submitting the ANWG Membership Guild renewal form.

The cumbersome process between the newsletter editor, treasurer, membership chair, and web master is a thing of the past. Coordination of information is done by email and the use of the ANWG website.

**REPS:** Please note there is no further use of the reps group on the YAHOO site. It will be shut down shortly. Use the ANWG website and direct email.

Stay tuned for further updates on the distribution of information, forms and processes concerning membership on the new website, [www.northwestweavers.org](http://www.northwestweavers.org).

**REMINDER...REMINDER...  
REMINDER...DUES ARE DUE  
ANYTIME AFTER SEPT. 1!!!!**

At right, Annita Magee of the Anchorage Spinners and Weavers Guild discusses her fabulous vest she created... and wore, at the Annual Membership meeting in June.





## Annual Meeting Guild Weaving Show

One of the highlights of the Annual Membership meeting is the show of woven items – one from each **guild**. **This year 's show in June** was wonderful, colorful and inspirational. The picture at right is **Laurene Chapman 's Navaho Tapestry Rug** which was recognized in two categories: **MOST INSPIRING** and also **BEST OVERALL**.

Laurene weaves on a Navaho Tapestry style rug loom that was built by her husband and is easily disassembled for traveling. Laurene does not use a



cartoon but starts with a vague picture in her mind and the weaving pattern emerges as she **weaves**. **The weaving just “takes over” as Laurene describes it.** **All of Laurene 's colors** are natural dyes from materials largely collected around her wonderful log home in the forest. The wool is hand spun by Navaho Indians with a very tight twist to handle the strain of warping. Laurene belongs to Threadbenders Guild in NE Oregon.



### **Kathy Semmes ' work**

( Columbia Fibre Guild ) was voted the **BEST WEAVING** for a wonderful silk tie she wove for her husband. Kathy used a 24 shaft AVL and weaving software Fiberworks, WeavePoint for Mac and Photoshop Elements.

**Beginning with Bhakti Ziek 's** photoshop workshop at the last ANWG conference in Bellingham, Kathy started work on this project using a photo of her **husband 's Porsche race car.** She simplified to 5 colors, each representing a weave structure. **See Kathy 's tie at right..**

Mary Barent of the Weaving Guild of Boise was recognized for the **BEST USE OF COLOR.**

**Mary 's weaving was completed** for marketing purposes for Lunatic Fringe yarns and was designed by Katzy Luhring and Michele Belson. See the following page for a photo of Mary 's stunning work.





This piece was woven as gamp and sample to see how a different arrangement of the colors can vary how the overall gamp looks. The pattern is an 8-shaft 'snowflake' pattern using 20 Lunatic Fringe colors in 20/2 pearl cotton sett at 30 epi. The color arrangement gives a nice dark/light value alteration.

Mary is a popular weaving instructor.





## ANWG Challenge Grant Reports...

### Midnight Shuttles Spinners and Weavers (Campbell River, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada )

The Midnight Guild was able to leverage the \$600 ANWG Challenge Grant with the activities of the annual Fibre Fest community event of the Campbell River Community Centre which supports the local Recreation and Cultural Department. The Guild brought Terri Bibby of Salt Spring Island in for a three day workshop on Saori weaving open to guild members as well as interested community members who came from all over Vancouver Island and mainland British Columbia. A sample of the workshop output is shown below.

In addition, the guild had a demonstration of weaving and spinning, and a display of Saori weaving. Being able to participate this way in the Fiber Fest gave the guild much broader ability to host and advertise an event of this magnitude—reaching the approximate 800 participants at the Fest.



## ANWG Challenge Grant Reports...

### Cross Borders and Kettle River Weaving Guilds

These two guilds joined forces to conduct the Magic Mountain Fiber Retreat held in Curlew, Washington. In all, 23 people participated in 9 classes including wheat past resist and salt dyeing techniques, woven tote bags, weaving toothbrush rugs, needle felting, multi-media weed basket weaving, egg basket weaving, 3D felting and Embellishments, carding artful batts and making stitch markers. In addition to the classes, the retreat included time for socialization and good food and libations. The event was so successful, the two guilds plan another retreat soon.. Christine Bunnell, the registrar, would be delighted to share information about future attendance and the instructors for the many classes. Contact: [woodtick50@aol.com](mailto:woodtick50@aol.com).



## ANWG Challenge Grant Reports...

### Clatsop Weavers Guild (Astoria, Oregon)

The Clatsop Weavers Guild conducted a two-day workshop in early May for brand new weavers. The workshop attracted new weavers from three local counties. The guild had 12 looms pre-warped and the students were able to weave a variety of structures with the assistance of 10 guild members who served in the roles of teachers and mentors.



### *WELCOME*

To a new guild the *GORGE HANDWEAVERS GUILD* (The Dalles, Oregon) which is spinning off from Columbia Fibre Guild. The weavers going to the new guild and the spinners remaining with Columbia Fibre Guild.