

◆ Northwest News ◆

Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds

northwestweavers.org

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"The Times They are a' Changing"...so Bob Dylan sang in the '60's. Remember? I know many of you do! I know because the conference survey we conducted in February indicates that most of you out there are of my generation, more or less. Of course, back then, the circumstances that Dylan wrote about were different, and times have certainly changed since then.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AGM Agenda & Proposed amendments	9
Conference 2011	6
Conference 2011 Grants	5
Credit where Credit is Due	6
Financial Report	2
Library	5
Map Project	5
Membership	4
Nomination Report	3
Noted in Passing	5
Proxy Form	10
Registration for AGM	9
Silent Auction	4
Survey on the Future of ANWG	7
Survey on Future Conferences	8

I'll be blunt! ANWG is challenged by the changing times. First, the vast majority of our guild members are aging...and we are not being replaced by younger members. To some degree, we are being replenished by retirees who are either returning to weaving and the fiber arts or are pursuing a life-long dream. But for sure, we know that younger members, while perhaps as enchanted with the fiber arts as we were way back then, are not joining guilds. And some guilds are declining in membership and may fade away in the coming years.

The reasons are numerous and well-known, and not unique to guilds. More families have two wage earners, and there are many households where someone is unemployed. Time is precious when you are working and raising kids. And the cost of supporting a hobby like weaving is high. Some are satisfying themselves now with fiber arts activities that are less expensive than floor loom weaving and we have seen a resurgence of interest in the fiber arts overall. But will these younger devotees ever have the time and interest in guilds? We don't know. With other options for involvement, such as online groups like Weavolution, guilds that involve meetings and commitments may fade from interest by younger fiber artists.

Along with that question is the destiny of ANWG whose existence is to support guilds within our region, in particular biannual conferences. Our guilds, populated by an aging membership who have "been there and done that" are no longer as willing or able to volunteer their services to put on these fantastic events. So what are we to do? And in particular, can we attract those younger blooming fiber artists out there to somehow partake of our conferences and maybe even join our guild ranks? Who are the leaders of the future?

So we have at least a double challenge. One is to continue having the educational opportunities that have been responsible for the growth and development of so many of us, and ensure they are available to the newcomers. The second is to attract people NOW to help us continue the practices and traditions to ensure that we are here and able to pass on what we have to offer.

Holly Gordon, Nominations Committee Chair, has worked admirably to find candidates to fill positions on the ANWG Board. We have a wonderful slate of officers and chairpersons that have agreed to serve, and we are immensely grateful to them. But it has not been an easy task for Holly, and we have one position that, as of this writing, she has been unable to fill. The First Vice President traditionally moves up to President after two years. This is not automatic – it is subject to nomination and election, but the idea has been that the First VP is an "apprentice" to the President. As we go to press, we do not have a candidate for the First VP, thus we do not have someone in line for the Presidency in two years.

In terms of conferences, it is no secret that we have been unable to find a guild, or group of guilds, or a chair willing to plan and/or host a conference in 2013. Thus the Board will have to look at different options if we are to provide anything. The survey we conducted in February provides us with a lot of valuable information, supplemented by the survey of Guild Reps on the Future of ANWG. See more complete reports in this newsletter about the results of the two surveys.

What does all this mean for us? Here are my thoughts.

Continued page 6

ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST WEAVERS' GUILDS
Income and Expense Report
 January 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2010

ANWG BOARD MEMBERS**PRESIDENT**

Linda Davis,
 webweaver@bendbroadband.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Anna Swinnerton,
 luvmaps2@bendcable.com

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Alison Addicks,
 addicks@centurytel.net

SECRETARY

Janice Griffiths
 jmgriffiths@shaw.ca

TREASURER

Linda Ann Smith,
 lindaannsmith7@comcast.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**EDUCATION**

Vacant

MEMBERSHIP

Daryl Ries,
 wries@bresnan.net

COMMUNICATIONS

Ellie Sheeran,
 ebsheeran@gmail.com

CONFERENCE CHAIR

Suzie Liles, suzie@eugenetextilecenter.com

WEBMASTER

Donna Faulkes
 anwgweb@telus.net

LIBRARIAN

Deanna Welsh
 deannawelsh@shaw.ca

INCOME

Dues	\$3,659.00
Interest Income	\$67.03
AGM campus housing	\$826.50
In Kind/Donations *	\$486.10

TOTAL INCOME**\$5,038.63****EXPENSES**

Administration	
Office supplies/Postage	\$91.69
Licenses & Dues	\$10.00
	\$101.69

Communication

Website	\$678.35
Newsletter	\$172.95
	\$851.30

Membership	\$50.00	\$50.00
------------	---------	---------

AGM Meeting Expense

Venue expense	\$1,802.27
Insurance	\$164.00
Board travel, accomm	\$1,630.74
Speaker, prize	\$221.35
Catering	\$837.50
Total Meeting Expense	\$4,655.86

Education

Guild Grants	\$4,000.00
Video library	\$69.90
	\$4,069.90

TOTAL EXPENSE**\$9,728.75****ASSETS as of DEC 31, 2010**

Business Money Market	\$44,851.75
Checking	\$8,474.81
Total Checking/Savings	\$53,326.56
Seed Money Loan	\$7,000.00

TOTAL ASSETS**\$60,326.56**

*in kind are expenses donated by board members

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
REPORT**

The next ANWG AGM will be held during the Conference in Salem, Oregon and will be Friday June 3 at 7:30 a.m. on the Willamette campus. Consult the Conference Schedule for location.

The following officers are nominated by the nominating committee. At this date, there is no nominee for First Vice President. Nominations from the floor at the AGM will be requested to fill this position.

Executive Board:

President: Mary Anna Swinnerton:

I began weaving in Washington, D.C. in the mid- 1960s where I was a member of the Potomac Craftsman Guild. The amazing things that can be created on very simple looms and very complex ones continue to fascinate me. I took weaving classes when we lived in Milwaukee, WI for two years, and was a member of the Milwaukee Weavers guild. In the 1970s while still living back in northern Virginia, I also learned to spin. A move to Northern California in 1977 and, having 3 sons and a daughter headed to college, my weaving skills “morphed” into a part-time business in my garage called The Seat Saver...reweaving all kinds of chair seats. Spinning “morphed” into becoming expert at the natural cattail rush seats, twisting from 2 to 18 leaves to a consistent diameter for weaving a particular chair seat. All the children educated and my husband retiring, we moved to Bend, OR and my weaving and spinning came back to soft fibers. Becoming a member of Central Oregon Spinners and Weavers in 1999, I have served as Program Chair, President, and Newsletter Editor. Through the guild I was introduced to ANWG and have attended conferences in Eugene, Tacoma and Spokane. In 2009 I was elected 1st Vice-President and have learned more about ANWG through the on-line board meetings and coordinating the Annual General Meeting in Salem this past summer. My experience of being part of 3 different guilds continues to reinforce my first impression that weavers and spinners and other “fiber folk” are interesting, creative and all around nice people, ones that I enjoy getting to know better.

First Vice President: nominations from the floor will be requested.

Secretary: Janice Griffiths:

I have been President of the Greater Vancouver Weavers Guild and I was the Treasurer of Convergence 2002.

I started weaving almost 35 years ago and I now weave on a drawloom as well as an 8 shaft loom. I also spin, sew and machine knit. I work full time in Human Resources for an agency that provides services to children and adults with special needs.

Treasurer Marty Lemke:

Marty Lemke has spent most of her career in the field of human

services after having received a master’s degree in social work (UC Berkeley) and a master’s degree in public administration (PSU). She has been involved in the provision and administration of human services as well as social work education. For over a dozen years she served as the senior program officer for the Meyer Memorial Trust, a large private foundation, evaluating and funding projects throughout the Pacific Northwest.

She currently spends her time as a volunteer both locally and internationally. She has just finished twelve years of service as a board member and endowment trustee of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the largest repertory theater in the United States. She has served on the board of directors of Global Volunteers, an international peace organization that sends teams of volunteers to work on human and economic development projects in nineteen countries. She has participated on over 30 Global Volunteer teams. She currently serves as president of the Timberland Regional Library Foundation, serving over 27 libraries in 5 Washington counties.

She is also an avid weaver. She has volunteered with her local guild, Clatsop Weavers and Spinners Guild as well as WeGO. She is currently treasurer of the 2011 ANWG conference in Salem, Oregon.

Committee Chairs are appointed by the President and are not elected. They do have a vote on the Board.

Communications: Barbara Taylor:

I bought my first loom, a four harness Gilmore, in 1993 and taught myself to weave using Deborah Chandler's Learning to Weave. After retiring from teaching, I joined Threadbenders Guild in 2005. I finally had the time and contacts to begin weaving as I had dreamed of when I bought that first loom. My weaving education has continued with workshops at ANWG conferences and local workshops. I took over the ANWG rep job in March 2006 and the Secretary/Newsletter job in October 2006. I have enjoyed both positions ever since because I am snoopy enough to always want to know what's going on.

Membership: Christine Bunnell,

This group is facing many changes in its growth process and I want to be there to help it succeed. I feel I would be an excellent addition to your team and a fine support person for the new incoming president.

Summary of Experience: 25 years system management for a college in the State of Washington, 6 years instruction (private and public).

Skills and Abilities Summary: 1. General Management and Administration, a) Organizational Planning; b) Project Management; c) Strategic Analysis; d) Economic Models; e) Applied Research; f) Contract Administration; g) Legal Issues, 2. Public/ Interpersonal Relations, a) Customer Service Programs; b) Team Building; c) Staff Training and Development; d) Job Descriptions; e) Performance Evaluations; f) Mediation; g) Clear and Concise Communication Style, 3. Information Systems: a) Data Base Development; b) Operational Reporting Systems; c) Payroll/Personnel Management Sys-

continued from page 3

tems; d) PC Systems and Software (DOS and MS); e) Platform Conversion, 4. Financial/Accounting, a) Forecast and Management (85% of the college budget) [editor’s note: format edited]

Education: Gloria Lebowitz

Whatcom Weavers Guild, Bellingham, WA 98225

I have been collecting weaving tools and fibers since approximately 1991, when I lived in Greeley, Colorado and belonged to the Northern Colorado Weavers Guild. When I joined the Guild, I didn’t own a loom but had enjoyed the two weaving classes I’d taken while living in the Washington DC area. I also did not own -- or know how to use -- a spinning wheel. I now have two 4 harness and a rigid heddle loom and a spinning wheel and drop spindles. As I made job-related moves, I joined other weaving and spinning guilds (Atlanta, GA; Bellingham, WA; Spokane, WA; and Bellingham, WA). I dabble in several fiber related areas.

I am currently the Member-at-Large/ANWG representative for WWG (2nd term). As ANWG rep, I was able to persuade the Guild members to develop a booth for the 2009 ANWG Conference. We’ll be doing so again in 2011. I was one of the volunteer helpers (for set-up) at ANWG 2009. I am the Check-in Chair for the 2010 WWG Fibers & Beyond Annual Sale.

For a copy of the Standing Rules and Bylaws of ANWG or for information, access the files on the Guild Representative Yahoo group, or contact a member of the board.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This year the Greater Vancouver Spinners and Weavers Guild won the drawing from renewal of ANWG membership prior to the November deadline. Congratulations!!

As of March 1, 2011 all of last year's members had renewed with the exception of 4 guilds. Our current Guild count is 88 and our individual members total 3,677. We continue a slight decline in individuals over the past 2 years.

Daryl Ries, Membership Chair

2012 Convergence Date Announced

Convergence® 2012 will be held in Long Beach, CA.

July 15 - 21, 2012 . Check out details at

www.weavespindye.org

SILENT AUCTION

ANWG's Silent Auction will take place during the Salem conference on Saturday. We plan to open the tables for your auction bids at the same time as the Vendor Hall opens on Saturday. (Check your conference booklet for opening times.) I will be in the Vendor Hall on Friday beginning at noon to accept auction items. I will have additional forms available if you, your guild, or your fav vendor sends on another item with you to conference. The more, the merrier!

Do you have a large item which needs to be shipped before conference? Please, call or e-mail Alison Addicks, 509 738 6998, addicks@centurytel.net to make arrangements.

Items donated for the auction will be placed on tables in the Silent Auction area of the Vendor Hall. We’ll have signs! Please look for ‘ANWG Silent Auction 2011’ Each item will sport a page which contains a brief description, a suggested opening bid (all information provided by the donor!) and a long list of blank spaces where you can pencil in your bid. Then someone else bids. And you bid again. And again. Don’t worry, I’m bringing pencils and pens! Just bring money! ANWG can’t handle credit cards, but we will accept checks or cash in US dollars. Thank you and see you in Salem!

The Silent Auction will close all bids at 7 PM on Saturday and winners can pay and collect their items immediately in the Vendor Hall.

A few of the exciting items donated so far:

A designer vest by Anita Luvera Mayer (donated by Anita, thank you!), a complete set of Weavers Magazines, a handwoven wool sofa throw, custom printed posters of an original work by Sheila O’Hara, VHS tapes on various weaving and spinning topics. And a Glimakra swift, valued at \$69, from Glimakra USA - Thanks, Joanne! And a scarf kit with beautifully dyed yarns from Just Our Yarn.

Has your Guild donated yet? Are you interested in supporting the Auction? Just contact addicks@centurytel.net for details,

I’ll update this list as more items are donated - and thanks! for your support of the Auction. It’s a fun event, and the income is needed to support the ongoing educational programs of ANWG.

We now have well over 60 items (I counted every single one) and have only just begun.

Alison Addicks, addicks@centurytel.net, 509 738 6998

ANWG Map Project

Because of my own curiosity as to the location of all the ANWG guilds, the idea of a map that includes the U.S. states and the 3 Canadian provinces is "in the works". Many thanks to the 43 guild reps who have already sent me the general boundaries of their guilds. **It is not too late for the rest of the guilds to send in their information.** (You don't need to send a map, just listing the cities or towns where your members are located will be fine. E-mail to Mary Anna Swinnerton, luvmaps2@bendcable.com)

The plan is to have a physical map that includes all of the states and provinces in ANWG with pins marking guild locations. Hopefully this will be displayed near the guild booth area at the conference in Salem in June. At the same time I am working on the computer to create the map using a teardrop for guild location. By clicking on the teardrop the guild boundaries, website address, contact information, etc. will be displayed. I'm hoping that this map can then be put on the ANWG website. If you are traveling, moving to a new area or want to know other guilds that are near you, this will be a resource you can use.

This has also been a great way for me to exchange e-mails with many of the reps and learn more about where ANWG members are located.

Mary Anna Swinnerton, 1st Vice-President

LIBRARY REPORT

Below are the poll results on the video library. Three guilds sent their vote by email. The numbers in parentheses are the corrected numbers when the three emails votes are counted in. Thank you to all guilds who participated in the poll.

Subsequently, the Board has voted to sell the VCRs and retain the DVD library, monitor the usage and decide at a future date whether or not to retain this portion of the library.

POLL QUESTION: For many years ANWG has maintained a video library from which member guilds can borrow for guild programs and study groups. It has both VCR tapes and DVDs. The cost to ship these, especially across international borders, has steadily increased and usage overall has gone down. It was suggested at the July 2010 AGM that ANWG consider discontinuing this library. The Board wishes to obtain a broader cross-section of input on this issue. Please indicate your guild's preferred option:

CHOICES AND RESULTS

- Maintain the current library of both VCR tapes and DVDs and add new DVDs., 3 votes (+1), 9.68% (11.8%)
- Dispose of the VCR tapes at the Silent Auction but retain and expand the DVD collection., 10 votes (+.5), 32.26% (30.9%)
- Discontinue the ANWG video library altogether and sell off tapes and DVDs at the ANWG Silent Auction., 18 votes (+1.5), 58.06% (57.4%)

NOTED IN PASSING

James Koehler

James Koehler died March 3, 2011. This was recently posted on Weavolution and confirmed at jameskoehler.com. There are no other details. It is saddening to lose a great teacher and artist. Our hearts go out to his family and friends. Our community will miss him.

2011 CONFERENCE GRANTS

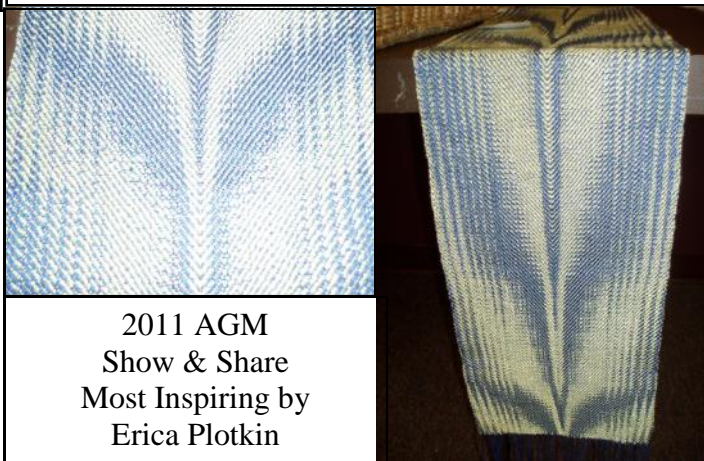
The 2011 Conference Grants Committee (Alison Addicks, Mary Anna Swinnerton, and Deanna Welsh) wishes to thank each guild and applicant for their participation in the 2011 grant process. With more than twenty applications in all, the grants program is a success which will enable the winners to attend conference in Salem this year. Please note: unfortunately, due to family obligations, one of the original winners, Noreen Hogan of Cross Borders Weavers, WA, is unable to attend conference and the award was given to the first alternate, Tom Seymour of SFG, OR.

Winners, 2011 Conference Grants

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Troyce Brooks | Arachne Weaver's Guild, WA | Judith Burger-Meyers | Central OR |
| Dale Friend | Whonnock Weavers & Spinners, BC | Leslie Leonard | Eugene Weavers Guild, OR |
| Denise Maas | Rogue Valley Handweavers, OR | Kim Palmer | HTAG Coos Bay, OR |
| Erin Riggs | Portland Handweavers Guild, OR | Tom Seymour | Salem Fiber Guild, OR |
| Toby Smith | Greater Vancouver Spinners & Weavers, BC | Toni Smith | Moonspinner, WA |

Alternates

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Barbara Hicks | Desert Sage Spinners & Weavers Guild, BC |
| 2. Elinor Tapio | Skagit Valley Weavers WA |



**2011 AGM
Show & Share
Most Inspiring by
Erica Plotkin**

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE DEPARTMENT

Here is correspondence regarding some of the lovely items entered in the 2010 AGM "Show-n-Share," pictured in the September 2010 newsletter.

"Wasn't quite sure who to send this to. Can you advise me or forward the information to the appropriate person? The photo on page three of the September Newsletter shows a scarf attributed to Tami Herridge. The scarf is actually one by Erika Plotkin of Olympia. I imagine there is another about showing Tami's entry. Could a correction be arranged?"

Hi, -I make the mistakes, corrections come to me! My records showed that Tami displayed the scarf, and the photo should have noted that it was "displayed by" rather than implied woven "by". I'm grateful to have your note, and I'm glad to have your information, and Erika will get credit for her beautiful weaving. I believe Tami also displayed a knitted scarf, which while really appealing to the knitter in me, it didn't win a Show and Share award at the AGM. Thanks for your assistance, it is *truly* appreciated, Ellie Sheeran, ANWG Northwest News Editor

President's Letter continuation from first page

1. We need each other more than ever. We need to adapt ANWG to changing times to meet the needs of our members now and into the future. It will take time and considerable conversation to chart a successful course. We need to keep you engaged! ANWG Reps have an important role to play in this discussion.
2. We need to reach out to new fiber artists. Are our guild meeting times, places and programs conducive to attracting new members, especially younger people? I know from personal experience that we are often set in our ways, having our meetings to the convenience of current members, without a thought about whether these meet the needs of potential new members. And, are we open to ideas from new members who might suggest, as an example, that our guild be on Facebook?
3. We need to hang in there! It is going to take time to make transitions. Nothing can happen without the continued support of our volunteers, whether it is serving on the ANWG Board, on conference committees or as officers of our guilds. It will take dedicated, thoughtful people who can help us make these transitions with their time and talents. It's not just about saving ANWG but ensuring that weaving and other fiber arts don't truly fall into the "ancient arts" category.

It has been an honor to serve you these past two years as President. It has been a challenge, to say the least, but certainly educational. I thank the outgoing board members for their service. The support of ANWG Reps is important to the Board. I urge you to continue this support to our next board that will take office during the AGM on June 3, 2011. We look forward to seeing you there and continuing this conversation.



Linda Davis, President



**EXPLORING FIBER HORIZONS
ANWG
CONFERENCE 2011**

Exploring Fibers Horizons is a wonderful conference. There are incredible teachers and classes. And of course, we have great Vendors coming to tempt us with their goods.

The way to make this your conference is by being a part of it. To date we have about 300 participants, but there is room for 400. We really want to encourage everyone to enter items into the gallery shows and the Fashion Show. The Fashion Show is a big part of the conference, and working with more entries will be inspiring to both new and experienced weavers. Don't worry, deadlines are being extended.

Suzie Liles, www.exploringfiberhorizons.com

...And this just in...a message from Nancy Bond Hemming, Fashion Show Chair, that the deadline for submitting entries into the conference fashion show has been extended to April 12. Entry forms can be found on the conference website, www.exploringfiberhorizons.com/. Please encourage your guild members to submit entries. Questions can be addressed to Nancy at: nbhemming@comcast.net

THE FUTURE OF ANWG SURVEY

The ANWG Board conducted a survey from February 16-March 19, 2011 through SurveyMonkey.com. The following is a summary of the findings. These will be further analyzed and discussed over the coming two years to determine what changes should be made to ANWG's Bylaws and Standing Rules. One change is already proposed for approval at the 2011 AGM related to the proxy voting process.

Summary of Findings:

1. A total of 56 completed the survey out of 92 ANWG guild representatives who were sent the link to complete it. This represents a response rate of 61%. Two notices of the survey went out to all reps with the link.
2. Over 76% of respondents had been their guild's representative to ANWG for at least one year. Over 47% have been a rep for over three years.
3. Over 87% of reps indicate that their guild allows time for them to give reports at guild meetings.
4. Over 76% of respondents are members of the ANWG Guild Representatives Yahoo Group. Included with the chart are responses from some as to why they do not belong (note: these responses also indicate that some who participated in the survey are not guild representatives).
5. Those who belong to the Yahoo group find the biggest value in finding out what is going on with the ANWG organization. The least valuable has been exchanging information among guilds.
6. Only slightly more than half of the respondents say their guild is officially organized as a non-profit.
7. More than a third (39.3%) of guild reps say their guilds have grown in the past five years while only 16.1% say they have declined. Most, just under 43% say they have stayed about the same. Over the next five years a larger percentage say they don't know about future growth with the same percentage (43%) saying their guilds will stay about the same.
8. The largest focus of guilds is weaving, followed by spinning, dyeing, knitting, and felting. Nearly 76% say that the focus has remained the same during the previous five years while 20.4% say the focus has changed.
9. Regional conference is the most important ANWG program, followed by conference grants and guild grants. Least valuable is the video library.

10. Nearly 65% indicate that the ANWG website is of minor or no importance in attracting new guild members, while 35% say it is somewhat or very important.
11. Only 27.3% of guilds have liability insurance.
12. All respondents indicate that their guild will rejoin ANWG next year. However, under comments, two guilds indicated that either border crossing issues or annual vote by members may change this. (charts for these two questions not included here)
13. In terms of whether ANWG will remain a viable organization in the coming years, 51% say it will require some or significant changes. A large percentage (34%) do not know.
14. By far, the two biggest factors affecting the viability of ANWG are finding people to fill board positions and getting guilds to host regional conferences. An aging guild membership and/or shrinkage of guilds is also seen as a major factor. The fact that ANWG is in two countries, and its overall large geographic size, are not seen as a significant factors. Furthermore, respondents did not indicate that there was a shrinkage of interest in the fiber arts that affects ANWG while the lack of interest in joining guilds by young people was seen as somewhat of a factor.
15. In terms of the off-conference year annual general meeting (AGM), most respondents feel that the AGM could either be held through the Yahoo group or optional as determined by the board or a certain percentage of guilds requesting one. A significant number believe that a mini-conference in conjunction with the AGM might be a good idea. Very few feel the current AGM format is fine the way it is.
16. Nearly 60% of respondents feel that the Bylaws requirement that all guilds be represented in person or through a proxy at the AGM should be optional based on the guild's preference.
17. Over 48% of respondents feel the Bylaws should be amended to permit three membership categories: guild, associations and individuals. Another 20.4% would change them for guilds and individuals. Altogether, a little over 74% would support some type of individual membership category.
18. Regarding conferences, only 9.3% want to continue with the traditional arrangement of local guilds planning and hosting regional conferences. Nearly 63% would prefer to see ANWG put on the conferences directly through appointment of a conference chair as an ex officio board member, with most supporting a team effort between the board and local guilds. Only 7.4% support hiring of a conference planner that might increase conference registration costs. No one wants to see regional conferences discontinued.

Linda Davis, President

SURVEY ON FUTURE ANWG CONFERENCES

From February 4 through the 25th, the ANWG Board conducted a survey related to future ANWG conferences. The survey, through an online website Survey Monkey, was open to anyone residing within the ANWG region. In total, 461 people completed the survey. The following are the key findings.

- Response Number:** The biggest group of responses came from Washington with nearly 41% of all responses.
- Who attends conferences:** Over 58% of respondents have attended at least one ANWG conference; 40% of respondents have never attended an ANWG conference.
- Who plans to attend in 2011:** A little over 28% of respondents plan to attend the 2011 conference in Salem
- Why more don't attend:** Conflict with job or family responsibilities and expense are the two primary reasons for not attending, representing almost 55% of responses.
- How important are conferences:** Nearly 60% of respondents feel that regional conferences are very important and another 33% feel they are important. Less than 3% feel they are not important.
- The most important conference features:** Seminars and vendors are the most popular features of a regional conference, followed closely by exhibits and pre or post conference workshops. Banquets/catered events and field trips and tours are the least important.
- Favored venues:** College campuses remain the favored location for regional conferences; nearly 27% would choose a hotel-convention center, with almost 6% of those selecting this choice even if it meant down-scaling the conference. Nearly 22% do not have an opinion on this question.
- Time of year:** June remains the favored time of year for conferences. March is the least desirable month.
- Conference locations:** Respondents overwhelmingly want to see conferences rotated around the region (nearly 76%).
- Help in planning:** Only 5% of respondents are interested in helping participate in the planning for a 2013 conference, although nearly 25% "might be".
- Age of respondents:** In terms of age, the biggest group of respondents is 55-64 years; in total, 82.5% of respondents are over 55 years of age.
- Employment status:** Just under half of respondents are retired while 35% are employed either full or part time.
- Fiber interests:** By far, weavers make up the largest segment of respondents – 400 indicated weaving as a high interest. Spinning and knitting were the next highest areas of interest. While not a choice offered, dyeing and surface design were indicated in the "other category".
- Guild memberships:** Not surprisingly, most respondents are members of weaving and/or spinning guilds.
- Sources of information and instruction:** By far, books and periodicals are the primary form of information and instruction for respondents, followed by organizations and "doing my own thing". Non-conference workshops and classes are more important than conferences as sources while networking and videos are the least used.

Analysis:

Q1: How representative is the survey of fiber artists in the ANWG region?

A: As of the period of the survey, ANWG had guilds representing 3,650 members. With 461 people completing the survey, most of whom are guild members based on one of the questions in the survey, we can calculate that the survey was at least a 10% sample. This was not a random sample survey, but a "self-selected" survey, meaning that respondents were not chosen at random. Rather, a notice of the survey was sent out to Guild Representatives and Presidents and they were asked to forward to all "fiber friends" whether or not they were guild members. As the survey was neither restricted to ANWG guild members, or guild members at all, we cannot be sure how representative it is of all fiber artists. A 10% response rate in surveying is considered a very good to excellent sample. Washington, which has 38% of the guild members in the region had 40.9% of the responses in the survey, very close. However, we have no idea what percentage of all fiber artists within our region are members of guilds so the survey has to be seen as more representative of guild members than of non-guild members.

Furthermore, the survey was biased toward those who have internet capability. We do not know how many fiber artists overall have such capability. And finally, those who answered the survey were in some way motivated to do so. They either had very strong opinions about conferences or felt an obligation to respond.

Q2: Are conferences important?

A: While conferences are important to very important, the aging population represented in the survey and the fairly low (but not totally discouraging) response to helping for a 2013 conference indicate issues trying to plan and organize conferences beyond 2011. The fact that respondents find other sources of information and instruction to be more utilized than conferences seems to provide some question as to how useful conferences really are in the education and instruction of fiber artists in the region. In a cross-tabulation of age with sources (not included in this report), there are no significant differences. In other words, we cannot assume that conferences might be more important to one age group vs. another.

However, another cross tabulation (not included in this report) between those who have attended one or more conferences versus those who have never attended one, indicates that conferences are more important to those who have attended (65% say they are very important) as compared to those who have never attended (55.9% say they are very important).

Overall, those who have attended conferences at all, and the more they have attended, the more important they feel they are to provide educational opportunities.

Q3: Does the survey indicate we should make changes in conferences?

A: At first glance, it would appear that the general format of conferences is still popular. Seminars, vendors, workshops and exhibits are the most important features and likely the biggest draw for a regional conference. Guild booths, keynote speeches, fashion show and meetings have split opinions on importance. Field trips/tours and banquets/catered events might be eliminated and not have much impact on attendance. College campuses remain a favored location. We do not why unless it could be a perception that a hotel/convention center might be more expensive. Whether it would be or not, it is clear that one would have to be cost competitive and include the key features that people like at conferences.

For more information, find a complete report on the ANWG website: <http://www.northwestweavers.org/Documents/SUMMARY%20OF%20SURVEY%20ON%20FUTURE%20ANWG%20CONFERENCES.pdf>

Linda Davis, President

**Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds
Annual General Meeting
June 3, 7:30AM
Willamette University, Salem, Oregon
(consult Conference Schedule for Room)
AGENDA**

Call to order

Roll call; request by President to dispense with Bylaws Requirement

Determination by Secretary on Quorum

Approval of the minutes of the 2010 AGM

Reports of Officers:

Treasurer's Report

Report by President on Surveys

Reports of Committees:

Education

Membership

Election of Officers for 2011-2013

Vote on Proposed Changes to Bylaws and/or Standing Rules

Adjournment by 8:45 a.m.-

Any ANWG member guild or ANWG Executive Board member may place an item on the proposed agenda by providing the ANWG Secretary with notification, specifying the item to be considered. The ANWG Secretary must receive this written notification at least forty (40) days in advance of the Annual Membership Meeting.

If you have already registered for the conference and indicated you will attend the AGM breakfast meeting on June 3, 2011, you do not need to need to send in an AGM registration, but you will need to register at the door.

REGISTRATION FOR AGM ONLY

To register: email registration to Janice Griffiths, jmgriffiths@shaw.ca and type ANWG AGM Registration in the subject line, and in the body of the e-mail provide the name of your guild and the person who will be your voting delegate at the AGM.

If you are assigning your vote as a proxy to another person please provide the name of your Guild and the name of the Guild that will be voting on your behalf and the name of the person who will be voting. Make sure that you sign the enclosed proxy form and give it to the individual who will be voting on your behalf.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ANWG
BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES**

To be voted on June 3, 2011 Annual General Meeting

[Bracketed] language is proposed for removal and underlined language is proposed for addition.

Related to the requirement in Article IV, Sections 3 & 5 for guilds to designate proxies to vote at the annual general meeting; and Section 4 related to the requirement of a roll call of delegates:

Article IV: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

3. Registration: Each member guild [must] may register for the Annual Membership Meeting with the ANWG Secretary, [either] in advance, upon arrival at the Meeting or by submitting a proxy form at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the Meeting.

4. Quorum: A majority of the delegates registered for an Annual Membership Meeting shall constitute a quorum for that Meeting. For purposes of a quorum, the filing of a proxy form by a member guild shall constitute the presence of a registered delegate. At the beginning of the Meeting, the ANWG Secretary shall [call the roll of delegates in order to determine if a quorum is present] determine and announce whether a quorum is present based on registration of delegates.

5. ANWG member guilds [shall] may vote on any properly made motion put before them, either in person, by the member guild's designated delegate, or by proxy.

- a. Any delegate attending a Meeting may request a secret ballot.
- b. There shall be no voting by mail, e-mail or telephone.

Discussion: The recent survey indicates that members would like to see the proxy provisions be optional. Article IV subsections 3 & 5 would accomplish this. Section 4 dispenses with a mandatory roll call at the AGM which is both time-consuming and unnecessary with the registration process that is adequate for the Secretary to determine a quorum.

PROXY FORM

In order to remain in good standing, guilds are required to have a representative or alternate attend the meeting or have a proxy on file for the meeting. If the Guild Representative or alternate from the same guild will be attending, please use the registration form. **Use this form only if appointing a proxy from another ANWG member guild.**

ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST WEAVERS' GUILDS

DATE _____

I/We the undersigned *as a Member Guild* of the Association of Northwest Weavers Guilds do hereby **appoint**

Name of the Person who you are giving your vote to

Name of the Guild your person belongs to (if you know it)

To act as proxy for:

Name of YOUR Guild *(Print in very large letters as this will be your voting card also.)*

My/Our proxy will have the powers I/we would possess if personally present, and to attend, vote and to act on my/our behalf at the AGM of the on May 2009

Signature of Guild President or Rep

PLEASE NOTE: Emailing is the preferred method of receiving these forms.

Please complete and return this form to be received by the secretary by May 24, 2011

Send completed form to: Janice Griffiths
ANWG Secretary
174 Cornell Way
PORT MOODY, BC V3H 3W2 CANADA

Or, scan and email this completed form to: jmgriffiths@shaw.ca