

Timber Framers Guild
Board of Director's Meeting

April 27, 2011

Meeting opened at 7:05pm

In attendance:

Joel McCarty – Executive Director,

Lisa Sasser – President,

Chris Gunn – Vice-President,

John Mumaw - Clerk,

Clark Bremer,

Randy Churchill,

Adrian Jones,

Gabel Holder

Missing was John Miller, Collin Beggs

Agenda:

Approving minutes from 3/29/11

Financials

Membership

Conferences

Auction

Merchandise

Projects

The “WWYB” program

The minutes were approved with one minor modification.

Joel believes that the financials at this point are good. Joel pointed out that we have added a new column to the budget spreadsheet showing quarterly adjustments to the budget to reflect reality. This was a request from the board in December when the current budget was approved. Joel will continue to do this every quarter. He did mention that our accountants said that they have a client who does this every month (not that they are recommending that we do that).

Joel pointed out that every Friday he posts membership stats. So far this year membership has generally been growing. Randy asked about the recent drop in membership. Joel explained that it is due to the cyclical nature of membership renewals. Currently, every quarter a wave of memberships come up for renewal but because some people wait till their subscriptions expire before they renew we typically have a temporary drop until (hopefully) most of those members renew.

Joel asked for any other questions about the financials or membership. Randy said that the income from the Poland project certainly made our financial position much better and asked about the budget for the project. Joel said that the budget for the project has been posted on basecamp but if we needed him to he could send us copies. Joel said that today he had received the second check for the Poland project, which was about a week early.

Apprenticeship committee is very active. Roco is leaving the committee as he is overbooked since he is also leading the projects committee. The apprenticeship committee has been asked to provide a budget to the board for 2011 but they don't have it ready yet. Officially each apprentice gets \$2,000.00 a year in reimbursement. This comes from the apprenticeship funds that are sequestered from the rest of the budget. From that fund one apprentice is receiving significant support and we expect a couple of journeyworkers to also receive some support coming up.

Lisa said that it looked like there was activity in curriculum development. Joel said that the apprenticeship committee was struggling trying to decide how much to pay for curriculum development and who to pay it too but that they had made some progress on identifying authors. Joel said that Adam Riley had submitted a journeyworker application and that he would bring along an apprentice if and when he was approved.

The conference committee met last night and specifically talked about Fort Worden for which there are now 125 registrants. There are also 28 speakers, 22 in the trade show, seven staff and four board members so far. Five have registered for the crane workshop, seven for the grading workshop, four for square rule dovetail log building, only two for Japanese tools (which means it probably won't be happening), and five for Sketchup. The design workshop has been canceled both because of a lack of attendance and because the instructor had something come up. And finally eleven have registered for the teahouse tour. There have been some complaints about the room registration process. The Azumaya workshop now has seven registrants but so far only one registrant is a guild member. Joel said that he was concerned that registration so far has been low. No scholarship applications so far. We have had a few new presenters added to the program, including Charles and Judith Landau for the Veteran Voices seminar. SIPA will be authoring a defense of Adrian's article and might be presenting at both the western and eastern conferences.

David Blackwell will be programming the eastern conference. He has already started attending conference committee calls. Joel said that he hopes to have Glenn Dodge run the pre-conference workshop building something for the auction.

Joel asked if anyone else was planning on coming to the conference. He noted that room and board for the board members has already been arranged. Lisa will not be there but will be representing the guild at the ITES conference in Lincoln, England. Adrian, Randy, Chris, John Miller, John Mumaw, Clark, and Gabel said they were planning on coming.

We're hoping to sell some celebrity adds for Timber Framing #100. Lisa asked what a celebrity ad was and Joel replied that it would be something similar to congratulating Timber Framing on 100 issues. Ken Rower is considering the possibility of on-demand printing for the next Guild publication. Joel mentioned that Lisa, John Mumaw and Ken had samples of Handshouse's publication sent to them in on-demand form for evaluation.

Lisa asked about the progress of the advertising investigation as far as reconciling records going back to 2009. Joel replied that we had a clerk working on it. Lisa asked about progress or a completion date and Joel said that he would hope to have something for us at Fort Worden. Lisa asked if Ken was aware that this was being worked on. Joel said that he hadn't yet but that there was no reason that he couldn't make him aware.

Joel asked if the on-demand printing that Lisa and John Mumaw had received for evaluation was of sufficient quality to be used for Guild publications. Lisa replied that it was a different type of publication that had to be judged on its own standards. She said that she didn't find it unacceptable in terms of quality. John Mumaw said that he found the quality good but that maybe he was less discerning. Joel said that he felt that this was the direction the Guild needed to go in to disseminate information.

Joel said that the project to re-design the web page had slowed somewhat. Lisa said that it probably wasn't a bad thing for it to have slowed since Drupal (the open source web development software the Guild is using) is in the process of being ported to version 7. She said that six or eight months from now Drupal will probably be a little more stable. Everyone seemed to agree that the current state of the web page was significantly improved over what it had been. Joel discussed the spam attack on the TF Guild. The outage was for about 25 hours. The attack was not aimed at the Guild but was more random in nature. We didn't lose any financial transactions but it did take awhile for us to restore things from backups.

So far we have no buyer for the Azumaya, but Joel said he was still working on a few people. Lisa asked whether there was an inducement for people to send auction items even though they might not be attending. Joel said that there was something in the conference pack but that there wasn't anything specific on the web site. He said that there would be by this time tomorrow and that he would mention it in the Friday e-mail blast. Joel said that he was investigating a business called Bidding for Good that handles on line auctions for non-profits.

TimberWolf tools decided that they didn't want to buy into the saw base business. Clark is working on a super sliding giant bevel. We will have that along with a calendar available at Leesburg. Adrian asked about Steve Chappell's squares. Joel said that he and Will had looked at the squares at Montebello but that Steve had told them those were prototypes and that the manufacturer still had to improve their accuracy before going into production. Joel said that he told Steve the Guild would be happy to sell them.

Joel said that Alicia was hard at work on the Poland project. The last of the airline reimbursement money will go out this week. We have five sponsors for the Poland project (Stihl, Hilti, Gransfors Bruks, a police riot gear company, and OSHATOES). None of them are giving us money but all are either donating, discounting, or lending us equipment. The riot gear company is supplying shin guards. Gransfors Bruks is selling heavily discounted axes to participants and shipping them directly to the site. Stihl is providing chain saws, while Hilti is providing power tools. OSHATOES is selling us slip-on steel toe equivalent protection. Lisa asked if Ed Levin was all set up to report on the event. Joel said that he was ready and that Ken was 200% on board. Joel said that they had recently changed Ed's accommodations since it didn't look like internet access was very good at the first spot. We are also shipping him a nice camera to use.

The New Hampshire covered bridge project will happen at the end of July. It has an approved budget and contract. Firetower is still working on the drawings but they will be done shortly. The timbers have been sized and are in the process of being cut.

The classroom event at VMI has collapsed partly because of the timber frame engineers that were going to participate will be in the Engineers Without Borders event in Laramie, Wyoming.

Joel mentioned that he has given up on the horse barn people and sent them to the Business Council. He said that he has already gotten quite a few calls about it. Joel hopes that this will turn into a large project for a company or group of companies and that they will invite the Guild to help with the raising. In fact the partner is asking the architect to require that the successful bidder engage the Guild in the raising process.

Randy asked about the regional meetings and whether we were trying to recruit new members at them. Joel said that we signed up four in Minneapolis. Clark said that he was pretty sure it was more like six. Randy said that was good and what he was hoping for. Joel said that we had two more regional conferences scheduled for this year and that he might like to talk to Randy about how best to go about recruiting members at them.

Joel said that even though we were out of time he would like to talk about the WWYB program and about possibly rebranding it the Re-membering program. We have raised \$2,100.00 so far and he would like to use it to fund digital membership for former members. Lisa said that she was satisfied that it has been successfully rebranded and should hopefully not raise any ire among existing members. Others agreed.

Lisa brought up the idea about giving a partial year electronic membership for non-member registration at conferences. Joel said that he would like to take this back to the conference and membership committees and let them consider it. Lisa pointed out that PTN has tried this with good results. Joel said that it should be really easy to measure the conversion rate and whether it was helping to retain members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted by John W. Mumaw