



TIMBER
FRAMERS
GUILD

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

Brenda Baker



Janet Kane



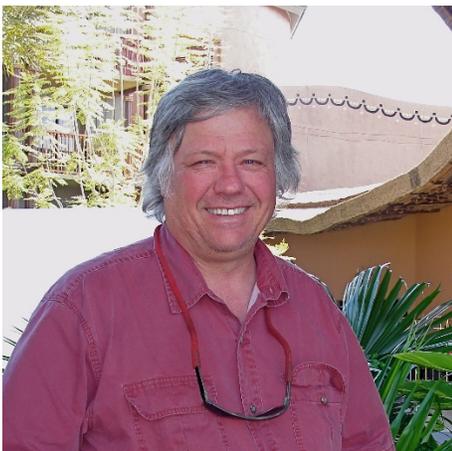
Sandy Bennett



Eric Morley



Tim Chauvin



Robert Savignac



Brenda Baker



Wikipedia's definition of a guild: "An association of artisans and craftsmen formed to maintain and control standards of their craft."

As I consider running for the TFG board again, I think of the Guild's purpose and mission. A guild is, by definition, an educational organization. The Timber Framers Guild has provided valuable educational opportunities and has been the authoritative and respected resource for timber framing information and knowledge for over 30 years.

When the Guild was formed in 1985, it created a timber framing community, and provided an opportunity to connect with others who wanted to preserve the craft by sharing knowledge and skills. Timber framing has been an important and significant part of my life. I worked every day with some of the most talented craftsmen, who took such pride in producing some of the most impressive structures. I also feel really fortunate to have been able to get to know homeowners who loved what we created for them. The Guild helped expand the knowledge of timber framing, and was an important element in growing our successful timber

frame business (Riverbend Timber Framing). I want to do whatever I can to assure that the Guild will be strong and vital for years to come.

After a few demanding years, the Guild is back on track and continues to offer quality educational events including community building projects, conferences, regional meetings, and business summits. The Guild's excellent publications are some members main link to the Guild, and we want to make sure all of these continue to grow and prosper.

The Guild needs a strong board to make sure that the Guild is planning for today and the future. The board's responsibility is to ensure that the organization is fulfilling its mission, is well managed, and maintains consistent financial accountability. Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to the members to make sure that happens. Having previously served as a Guild board member, as well as on the management team, has given me insight into what it takes to manage the Guild. I think we are better positioned now than ever to take the Guild to the next level and provide even more opportunities and services to both individual and business members. I look forward to the chance to continue to serve the Guild community, and get the chance to work with some of the best people I know! These are opportune times and I would like to be a part of helping make the Guild even stronger.

Brenda Baker, 517-403-6760

Sandy Bennett



It is again an honor to be nominated to run for the Guild board. For those who know me there is probably little I can say to change your mind, so I'll hope for the best. But for those who don't, I'll offer a little history and perhaps insight into what you might expect with this package.

First, a little history. Born and raised in Michigan, I wound up going to school at a place called General Motors Institute, now known as Kettering University. In my final year there, I roomed with a guy named Frank Baker, who became a lifelong friend, ski companion, motorcycle touring cohort, daydreaming participant, business partner, fishing enabler. After we moved away from the idea of a wine and cheese shop on the slopes of Jackson Hole, it was Frank, through a house built by his amazing

grandfather, who led me to timber framing in the late 1970's. With the exception of immediate family and my wonderful wife Sandra (yup Sandi), I can honestly say no person has had a greater influence on the direction of my life than Frank. I remember fondly the last time Frank and I went sailing on Lake Erie, (it was last week).

In much the same vein I can say without equivocation, no organization has had a more profound effect on my life than the Timber Framers Guild. From the very first Guild formative meeting, an awe inspiring gathering of incredible craftspeople, I have never missed an Eastern Guild Conference, and always come away with new enthusiasm and new friends. It was at that first conference that I had the fortune to meet one of the good people (among many) of the world named Doug Lukian. I had the honor to serve on a Guild board with Doug, who left us way too soon. Doug is one of many, far too many to name, some gone but most still kickin', wonderful people whom I have met over the years because of the Guild. Once I began attending the Western Conferences, I found a whole new batch of friends and inspirational work. I truly feel I could easily travel the country and never be far from a warm bed and a hot meal, all because of the Guild.

And so, it is my love and appreciation of the Guild that drives me to serve. In the past I have served on several Guild boards, and always felt I was richer (spiritually) for it. It is my considered opinion, that a person needs to bring three primary characteristics to have a positive influence on a board. First an opinion to share, second a voice (an opinion is of no use if it is not expressed), and third (and perhaps most important) an open mind. There is nothing more important than respectfully listening to, and considering, other points of view in an attempt and willingness to find consensus.

My vision for the Guild includes finding a solid financial foundation. We cannot run the Guild like a business as businesses can take far more risk than is appropriate for an organization such as the Guild. We need to be able to accurately predict financial means and find a way to stay within that boundary. Additionally, I have been dismayed at how difficult it has been over the years to assemble a slate to run for the Guild board. I would like to see a program put together to perhaps groom folks to that end. It is such an honor to be on the board, and so critically important to the future of the Guild, that I feel we are missing out on much of the talent that exists within our membership. If you are reading (still), you likely care enough to be a contributing board candidate and member, and I would love to help you get there. For the record, I don't feel the Guild board should be, or needs to be, a de facto work group. I will not be staff, but I will find a way to involve potential future board members as a preparatory

educational exercise, which I think is a director responsibility, so that we don't lose too many talented folks because they are just spread too thin to take on another job.

So, at nearly 72 years old, my interest in business is waning, and my desire to do more for others is motivating; for which I think the Guild provides a wonderful platform. I would be honored to once again serve as a board member, and will do my very best. But, once again, members are in the enviable position of not being able to make a bad choice. Although, it can be like pulling teeth, we have an outstanding slate, with the only bad choice to be an apathetic no vote.

AND the same is true for all Americans in November, please VOTE!

Sandy Bennett, Blue Ridge Timberwrights, 540-382-1102

Tim Chauvin



Let me start by telling you a bit about me personally. I grew up in New England, attended college in the Midwest, and finally settled in East Texas in the early 80's; when I moved here to work as an outdoor educator with the Houston schools. I had the good fortune of meeting Wynter, a fellow instructor, and we decided to marry and stay in the neighborhood. She became a college professor. I somewhat accidentally founded Red Suspenders Timber Frames in 1983, and have been running it ever since. We travelled to China twice in the early 2000's, to bring our two daughters home, and then moved back and lived there for a time. Our girls have recently moved off to adventures of their own, leaving us with some free time to fill with meaningful pursuits. In and among all that, I continued to write and play music. That about covers my 60 years on this planet.

I missed the very first Guild Conference at Hancock Shaker Village in 1984. Word of it hadn't filtered down to East Texas, so I had to settle for making it to the second event. What I found upon arriving in Marlboro, VT; was an amazing group of people who also happened to practice a trade I had recently found to be my personal career path. I've been a Guild member and enthusiast ever since, and anticipate being so into the foreseeable future.

In 1994, the Guild membership voted me on to the Board of Directors, and I served on the board for eight of the next ten years. It was an honor to do so, and I thank you for that opportunity. I'm now in a position to offer my services to you as a board member once again, and I am asking for your vote of confidence to do so.

For my entire time with the Guild, I have been most interested in its educational mission. I've been a supporter and contributor to Guild publications and conferences. I have also had the pleasure of leading six Guild Community Building Projects here in my adopted home of Texas. The first was in 1994, and the latest in 2014. Those projects allowed me to work more closely with other Guild members through project development; and the instructional teams which gave me exposure to their knowledge, enthusiasm, and friendships that I would not otherwise have known. Those projects have also given me an appreciation of what magic can happen when the Guild comes to town. Further, I've seen how that magic lingers after the Guild has left. One of my priorities while on the board, would be to continue and to enhance the Guild's mission of education through meaningful community building projects in the most diverse manner possible. I would also like to see us carry on the fine tradition of Guild publications.

For nearly four decades I have been a timber framer, and it has given me not only a living, but a home in both the literal and figurative senses. As my professional career draws to a close, I would like to take the experiences I have had in the trade, in the business, in the community, and in the world that it touches, to help move the Guild mission and message forward to enhance the communities in which we live. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Tim Chauvin, Red Suspenders Timber Frames, tchauvin@aol.com

Janet Kane



Somehow, we all found our way into the *recherché* world of timber frame construction. For me, it was a serendipitous day in the mid-nineties at the engineering office where I worked, when my boss threw a timber frame project on my desk. A large residence with kingpost trusses, it didn't come close to the steel, concrete, or even the wood engineering to which I was accustomed. No hardware, no grading. When I peppered the framer with questions on the joinery, he invited me to the shop to see how frames were cut. That was the end of my consulting engineer's office job. I headed to the land of timbers, chain morticers, slicks, and very large circular saws, and never looked back.

I was indeed a stranger in a strange land. Timber frame construction is unique, and although physics is physics regardless of materials, timber frame engineering requires a little more trust in a tree than codes would have, and a little more daring than engineering training prescribes. It took a while to develop a gut feeling for a well-designed frame that did its job with ease and with economy, all the while looking good and mighty. I was fortunate to have good working partnerships

with timber framer clients. They talked about preferred joinery, shop practices, and how the frame would be erected. I discussed my engineering concerns. I like to think that we both became better at our jobs.

After 20 +/- years in timber frame engineering, I have gotten to know many people in this specialized world. I spent those years in Vermont, where there's an old barn down nearly every local road, several covered bridges, and historic timber people in the hills. I joined the Traditional Timber Frame Research Advisory Group (TTRAG) to engage with historic timber framers who collectively know more about the development of American timber framing than anyone. They are orthopedic top guns, extending the lives of old structures, or giving them new ones with well-executed, in-kind repairs/replacements. Currently, I split my engineering time between building new timber frames and fixing old ones on the coast of Maine. This past August, I finally got to a Timber Framers Guild project: The Clearwater Farms Project in Ontario. I don't use a chisel on an average workday (OK, never), so it was thrilling to actually take part of the building process.

When I'm not working, I'm out playing in the dirt. Gardening has been a passion for all my life. A volunteer Master Gardener, I have designed and implemented numerous residential and municipal landscapes. Recently, I have turned my attention to working in free, urban gardens that provides organic food to local residents. As I approach the other end of my career, I find myself looking for young people among the familiar faces. It is heartening to see more millennials at TTRAG meetings, in the journal, and spearheading Guild activities. I believe that the Guild needs to foster the next group of timber framers who will continue and expand the craft of timber framing in North America. To that end, we need to train, educate, and cultivate an inclusive atmosphere in order to attract more people who like to work with their hands. Programs such as "Girls Build" are a great beginning to tap a much underutilized population. My hope is that the Guild expands the workshops for budding timber framers, and provides accessible and affordable educational opportunities for the practitioner.

Janet Kane, P.E., JK Structural Designs, 802-598-6582

Eric Morley



I've served for one year on the TFG Board, and would like to serve another three years. Why?

John L. Hennessy, former President of Stanford University and current Chairman of Alphabet, suggested people ask 3 questions before agreeing to serve on a board:

1. How important is the service, and institution being served?
2. Could I contribute in an impactful way, or could others easily provide the service?
3. Would the service opportunity contribute to my learning and growth?

So, I decided to answer the questions and let you decide.

1. 10 on a 1–10 scale.
2. Others have business and leadership experience similar to my own. The unique thing I have to

offer, is the photography and videography skills I've learned while working in our business. Somehow, some way, I want to help us get the word out, in a really big way, about how fabulous an industry timber framing is. What if we really and truly hit a home run? Permit yourself to dwell on that possibility for just a minute. I think we would all benefit. I think the craft would benefit. And I think other people's lives would be improved by knowing about what we do (think Generation Z). Someone needs to tell our story. I'd like to be part of that.

3. Yes.

I am a lifetime Timber Framers Guild member, am a licensed General Contractor and am a published photographer. I have three decades of experience in the wood industry, including 21 years as an owner of two timber frame companies. I would like to think that I inherited my love of wood from my grandfather's cousin, Mr. Clair Young, who was a carpenter. The story goes that Young was so strong he could sink his thumbs into a 2x4. I admit to trying (and failing) more than once...and rationalize that today's kiln-dried wood must be a lot harder than yesterday's freshly-sawn lumber.

Eric K. Morley, Carolina Timberworks, 828-266-9663

Robert Savignac



Now well into my fourth decade as a log builder, my defining scope of interests and pursuits have another common denominator besides working with massive wood: being passionately involved in the communities to which I belong. I have actively participated in numerous committees and boards from Historical Societies, Chambers of Commerce, the International Codes Council on the development of Log Building Standards (ICC400), the development of a Log Builder Apprenticeship Program, Log Builder Leadership Alliance, and of course the former Canadian Log Builders Association, which subsequently became the International Log Builders Association. I sat on different boards for the International Log Builders Association for numerous terms since the mid 80's, also acting for 5 years as CEO of the ILBA, and am currently president of the same. I should also mention I have been an on-again, off-again member of the TFG since the turn of this century, when I conceded that timbers are indeed derived from round logs...

I have owned and operated my own company, Arbor Vitae Log Craft, for 35+ years. I not only build structures, but manage projects, and passionately teaching the art and craft of log construction worldwide; from the jungles of Indonesia, throughout dozens of remote First Nation communities across Northern Canada and parts of the US, as well as in Central Europe, Australia, and the Middle East.

I live with my partner, Martine, in a quiet village just outside the spirited city of Montreal, Quebec, Canada; where I make my own maple syrup and host great BBQ's (join us sometime!). I look forward to serving you on the Board.

Robert (Log Bob) Savignac, Arbor Vitae Log Craft, 514-701-5647