

Michigan Silversmith's Guild
General Membership Meeting
Sunday, September 16, 2007

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Larry Newhouse at 3:25 PM. Larry was running the meeting in the absence of Annette Berenholz and Idelle Hammond-Sass (Pres. And VP).

After expressing appreciation to EMU for hosting the annual meeting, everyone introduced themselves. An agenda for the meeting and Last year's minutes were distributed and read. Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. Approved.

VICE- PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Idelle was absent, no report presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Larry reported : beginning balance: \$10,112.02. Total income: \$1,065.00, total expenses: \$2,276.08. Ending balance for fiscal year: \$8,900.94.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Newsletter: Christine Bossler reported that she is always looking for writers to submit articles for the newsletter. Larry mentioned that you might be able to get a free copy of a book in return for writing a review of the book for our newsletter. Over the past year, the newsletter has been made available on-line in full color. New this year: The deadline date for articles will be published in the previous newsletter and on the web site.

Web Site: Christine Bossler reported on the web site. Farida Holler had been responsible for updating the web site, but she has moved out of town and has resigned from this position.

The web site has had 9,940 unique users over the past year and 59,963 total hits.

Christine reminded us that members can update their own information on line. Also, each member is permitted to upload up to 10 images of their work to be displayed on line with a link to their own web site. Not many members have taken advantage of this opportunity.

2. Show Committee: Bill Fitzpatrick reported. 47 MSG members and 19 high school students were represented at the 2007 Jewelry+ Objects show. A financial report was made: The show ended up with a net loss of \$569.13. A brief discussion followed about whether or not the show should make a profit. It was mentioned that we increased our contribution to the monetary awards because of our substantial balance in our treasury. Bill and Kathy are looking for a replacement for the next show which will be in spring 2009.

3. Membership Report: by Marilyn Southern. Marilyn has designed a membership card for all members. This is a good way for new members to be acknowledged. Her goal for the upcoming year is to find sponsors willing to provide a small discount to our members. This would be an added incentive for our members to shop at their store.
4. Old Business: none
5. New Business: Christine reported that the Board has been discussing the need to update the by-laws of the organization. There have been no revisions since 1988. Revisions would include changing the election process. A motion to establish a by-law revision committee was made, seconded and accepted. The committee will report back in a year. Even though Larry made a valiant effort to fill the committee, no one stepped forward.

Marilyn reported that she has designed a volunteer form to be passed out to all members. This will provide a written record of volunteers willing to help when needed. Discussion about the need for better communication between Board members and the membership at large.

Larry stated that next year (2008) will be the 60th anniversary of MSG and that some sort of celebration would be in order. Phil Carrizzi mentioned that a lecture series might be nice. Everyone agreed that something should be done – we need to establish a committee for this.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Nominations were taken from the floor and voted on by show of hands. Results: President: Christine Bossler
Vice President: Tiffany Massey
Treasurer: Annette Berenholz
Secretary: Jennifer Thomson

Board Members at large: Idelle Hammond-Sass, Richard Locke, Skip Hunter, Cheryl Brooks, Bill & Kathy Fitzpatrick, Pavlina Goodman, Larry Newhouse, Juanita Bitonti, Laurie Heady, Steve Tracy and Marilyn Southern.

The next meeting of the Board will be Oct. 21 at 1 PM at the home of Larry Newhouse, 4081 Clark Rd., Ann Arbor.

7. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.