



2021 Board Members

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Northwest Blacksmith Association

To promote and preserve the Art and Craft of blacksmithing while building friendship and good will.

Minutes

Northwest Blacksmiths Association (NWBA)

Board Meeting

January 23, 2021, 2:00 PM via Zoom

By

John Huffstutter, Director, Recorder

President Kellen Bateham called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM.

Directors present (current as of this date, 2021):

- Kellen Bateham, President in 2020
- Morgan Kirk, Vice President in 2020
- Bhakti Sa, Secretary in 2020
- John Huffstutter
- Bart Turner
- Pele Risley-Warnock
- Andrew Windisch

Directors absent (current as of this date, 2021):

- John Karlik, Treasurer in 2020
- Silas Maddox

Other Association members and NWBA staff present:

- Patricia Dawson, Hot Iron News Editor
- E Clair Guy, Webmaster and Social Media Director
- Jim Garrett, Member
- Rashelle Hams, Member
- Jeff Wilson, Member
- Robert Johnson, Member

Minutes of the last meeting are posted on the NWBA forum. Pele moved and Morgan seconded their approval, and the Board voted unanimous approval.

Election Results and Officer Appointments:

Kellen reported that the 2020 Board Elections resulted in re-election of John Huffstutter, Bhakti Sa and Bart Turner and election of Andrew Windisch. The results of the election were accepted unanimously.

The Board unanimously voted to continue Board Officers Kellen Bateham as president, Morgan Kirk as Vice President, and Bhakti Sa as secretary. Andrew Windisch was nominated by Bhakti Sa as treasurer, and was unanimously approved.

2021 Officers for the NWBA are as follows:

- President: Kellen Bateham
- Vice President: Morgan Kirk
- Treasurer: Andrew Windisch
- Secretary: Bhakti Sa

Treasury Report:

Due to the absence of John Karlik, no treasury report was made, but Kellen and Bhakti are to take action as soon as possible to transfer treasury authorities and responsibilities from John Karlik to Andrew Windisch. A Zoom meeting was scheduled for this for Monday, 1/25/21 at 6:00 PM.

Secretary Report:

Bhakti Sa reported current membership stands at 332 members as of 12/31/20; 117 new including 28 virtual access passes.

There are 1067 master registry entries (current & past members) and Patricia has mailed 770 notices to past members encouraging them to renew their memberships. She reports a 70% return rate, mostly through PayPal with some checks being mailed.

Patricia reported working more than her usual budgeted hours on the project. She also encouraged additional submissions to the Hot Iron News, such as how-to articles and tips/tricks. She has also been sharing content with other blacksmithing publication editors.

For the Good of the Order:

No items presented.

Committee Reports:

Communications committee: Bhakti Sa plans a meeting soon, to address editorial issues, mailings, grant writing and support of Patricia's duties. A Communications committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 1/27/21, at 7:00 PM, with members of the digital committee also invited.

Digital committee: Clair Guy reported that her role(s) evolved through 2020; highlights of NWBA's accomplishments (due in no small part to her work) include initiation of six different digital engagement initiatives, resulting in over 40 live-streamed events

(compared to 15-18 events in a “normal” year). This represents a very concerted effort by lots of people, and a lot of learning in a short time. NWBA has added FaceBook and Instagram content, and numbers are growing on both; Clair will write up statistics for dissemination to members. Kellen lauded her efforts and emphasized that it earned revenue that NWBA would not otherwise have earned.

Clair also reports an increasing need for tech support for the website, due to its age and deteriorating functionality. She thanked Jeff Wilson for help in recovering and sustaining the current website’s content. She endorses a full rebuild (with some urgency) and offered to work with Pele and Morgan on finding someone to do that and guiding the effort.

Kellen pointed out that Clair’s role and level of effort have expanded beyond original plans, and as such he is trying to shift some effort to the committees as well as to plan out a month or so in advance; deadlines to announce events from now on will be the end of the month prior to the event.

Another kudo was

offered to Billy O for editing and posting NWBA event videos, which is now taking just about a month.

Kellen brought up the potential value of partnering with other organizations to help host online events related to metal arts. NWBA has an established skill set, marketing, and audience base to build on, and partners such as Southern Illinois University and Central Oregon Metal Arts Guild (COMAG) may wish to purchase group digital accesses and use NWBA’s infrastructure for online events. Kellen points out that we’re paying a premium for Zoom but have yet to hit the 100-person Zoom-room threshold.

Another discussion centered on the effort underway by the California Blacksmith Association (CBA) and Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America (ABANA) to formalize a three-level blacksmithing curriculum modeled along the lines of a European guild structure. Such a structure hasn’t caught on in North America and some question the need or value of it, but there may be future potential for sustaining Mentoring Center events and if the initiative takes hold, it would be good for NWBA to have been and be supportive. John Huffstutter proposed a Board Resolution in support. Bhakti moved to approve the resolution and was seconded by Pele; the resolution carried by voice vote, and reads:

“Because NWBA is committed to supporting the craft of blacksmithing and the expansion of educational opportunities within the national and international smithing communities, the NWBA board here resolves to commit effort toward supporting the adoption of a curriculum as developed and endorsed by ABANA and other leading blacksmithing organizations, this curriculum to serve as a structured means to validate the learning and skills obtained by smiths who seek professional development and formal validation of their efforts.”

Events and Programming Committee: Kellen in Silas' absence suggested that the Spring Conference could not take place given current COVID-19 prevention measures. Morgan moved to cancel it, Andrew seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to cancel the event. The Board hope for a robust in-person Swaptoberfest.

Discussion followed encouraging smaller regional events, provided that organizers conscientiously follow appropriate guidelines and consider possible legal and insurance liabilities.

Finance and Budget: Kellen in the absence of John Karlik brought up the renewal of the Mentoring Center and Storage Unit Lease at the Cowlitz Event Center. The Board unanimously approved that the treasurer pay the lease renewal for the year. Kellen mentioned that two recently received grants will help cover the expense. Related to the Mentoring Center, draft guidelines for COVID-19 procedures have been prepared and, subject to adding a procedure to take participants' temperatures on arrival at the event, were approved by the Board for implementation when the Mentoring Center reopens.

Kellen reported again that the Library has grown and there is a need for two glass-front locking library shelves; estimated cost is about \$800, and if anyone knows of them, please notify the Board as soon as possible.

Nominations/Elections: Jim Garrett – other than the recent election as noted above, nothing to report.

Estate Planning: Jim Garrett – the committee was approached by a couple of families about valuation; the committee is looking for information on official appraisals. There was discussion on how to handle member obituaries uniformly.

Old Business: none reported.

New Business: none reported.

Next Board Meeting: April 24, 2:00 PM. The Board meeting previously reported for October 16 at 11:00 AM will be rescheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned by Kellen at 4:39pm.