

GLPG ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 24, 2021

Meeting convened at 7:30 via Zoom

Absent : Roger Brower, Monique Jost, Wendi Tilden

Barb Hyman thanks all members and VPs for their help in getting through this difficult year. Accepting the constraints implemented by the Board to keep everyone safe has not always been easy and challenges still remain.

Results of a questionnaire put out to the membership and VPs regarding future Guild protocols were gathered. Barb Hyman reports that all members and VPs are now fully vaccinated. Many members feel comfortable opening the Guild to just ourselves, without masks and with increased numbers. Some individuals will consider still wearing masks for added personal protection. Some prefer no masks with low numbers and open windows while others prefer masks without constraint on numbers. Some like the sign up system because of the personal freedom to pick the most comfortable time slots. The new Board will meet in the coming weeks to review questionnaire results and update protocols. The three new Board members are Chris Iott, Liz Meyers, and Deb Cole. The Board would like to thank all those members who were willing to help run the Guild by putting their names forward to serve.

Major changes and a committee updates were submitted.

Long Term Planning – The LLC ‘Potter Power’ has been established and the goal of bringing solar power to the Guild has been realized. Panels on the roof are in place, hooked up and our electricity is now being generated at a reduced cost. We would like to acknowledge this milestone and thank Ted Rozeboom and James Clift for all their work in creating the LLC. We would also like to thank all those other Guild members who spent many hours planning and implementing this project.

Repairs to the kiln room and vicinity: The kiln room roof was repaired, new doors were installed and an outdoor wall repaired next to the outdoor kiln. There was also repair to the venting system on the electric kiln performed by Tim Candy and Chris Iott.

Grounds - Tim Candy headed up many property improvement projects. The parking lot has been enlarged and resurfaced with gravel. Trees that were shading the solar array have been taken down. Old brush has been removed and new flowers and shrubs have been planted.

Photography - Barb Sears reports that the photography committee worked on photos for the new website and for publicity. Thank you to Sophie Wang and Judith Fleishman for publicity shots of member work for last winter’s online sales and for our upcoming outdoor sale. In addition, a smaller graduated photography background has been purchased for

general member use. It measures 31 in. by 43 in. and is convenient to use for quick shoots of smaller pots.

Community Outreach – The Guild donated 4 boxes of pots to a UU church in Birmingham, MI., helping raise money for their outreach program. As is our tradition, we also donated a substantial number of bowls to ‘Empty Bowls’, the Greater Lansing Food Banks’ annual fundraiser, helping them raise a significant amount of money for food insecure individuals in our community. Keep on the lookout for this year’s date for ‘Empty Bowls’. Liz Meyers is already collecting contributions. Please place your bowls for donation in the clean room in the boxes provided.

Bisque Kiln – Anne Szilagyi reports 15 loads of ware were bisqued this year. The electric kiln was used exclusively. An attempt to use the catenary kiln was halted because of faulty burners. Chris Iott and others worked to repair the burners.

Reduction Kiln – Bill Guerin reports that the reduction kiln has been fired 8 times between July 2020 and May 2021. New people have stepped forward to learn the various tasks associated with the kiln. Repairs were made to the south wall and new burner port covers were made. Before the pandemic, bids obtained to rebuild the kiln ranged from \$17,500 to \$28,000. With escalating costs, new estimates will have to be obtained when we are ready to reconsider this step.

Chemicals – Pamela Timmons reports an upcoming shortage of Talc. She has therefore purchased an ample supply in preparation of this occurrence. Pamela also reports that the costs of Lithium and Cobalt are currently extremely high, emphasizing that we should be very careful in the use of these chemicals. In the future, it may be necessary to re-evaluate some of the glaze recipes if costs/availability of chemicals become a problem. We are also reminded to use gloves and respirators when working with chemicals, powdered and liquid, to protect from inhalation through our lungs and absorption through our skin.

Spray Booth and Equipment – A new tutorial on using the spray booth and equipment has been posted on the bulletin board in the entrance to the building. For those using the common Guild spray gun, please be sure to completely disassemble and then wash out all residual glaze after each use. Once the glaze hardens, it corrodes the inner works of the spray gun, making it difficult and perhaps impossible to be used easily by others.

Due to the fact that aerosols are the main issue in spreading COVID, mouth spraying will continue to be done either outside, or, in the clay room. There are two mouth spraying locations in the clay room with fans that vent to the outside: on top of the large pug mill using the grey wall fan just above it, or, the spray booth using the spray booth fan. The Board will re-evaluate this protocol as we move through the pandemic.

Clay – Thank you to Geoff and Lyn for keeping monthly tabs on our clay use. Geoff has informed all members and VPs on how much each individual owes for the FY June 2020 – May 2021. A new clay tally sheet has been placed on the closet door in the clay room.

Sale – Our upcoming outdoor sale will be June 12-13. Members and VPs who are in need of points may sign up for work hours, even if they are not selling pots. Margie Steincamp reports that the Guild Facebook page has already had over 800 ‘likes’. We are anticipating a large crowd.

The Guild cleaning schedule will be resuming soon. Anticipate an email from Charlie Seebeck with instructions about how to sign up.

Ted Rozeboom announced that member Joan Witter is becoming Emerita. Thank you Joan for all your time and expertise over the years in helping run the Guild. From serving as chair of the Education committee to serving on the Board, your presence has always been valued and will be very much missed. We hope that you will continue making pots and participating in studio activities.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting was seconded and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM
Next Board meeting: June 3 at 9:30 AM via Zoom