

**New England Lace Group Annual Meeting  
June 20, 2020**

**Executive Board Attendance:** Carolyn Wetzel, President; Kate Moore, Vice President; Barbara Morrow, Treasurer/Membership; Gail MacLean, Newsletter Editor; Jill Hawkins, Member At Large & Webmaster; Bryce Wolf, Librarian

**Members and Guests:** Rosalie Bares, Carmen Bartholomew, Rita Bartholomew, Wini Blacklow, Eileen Collins, Maria-Anne D’Hooghe, Kathy Draves, Jayne Guitart, Judy Jeon-Chapman, Sheila Jillson, Linda Lane, Mary Mangan, Kara Quinteros, Sharon Sacco, Winann Steinmetz, Devon Thein, Lorraine Weiss

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom and was called to order by President, Carolyn Wetzel, at 11:02 AM.

Carolyn requested for someone to take the minutes. Jill Hawkins volunteered. Carolyn also informed everyone that for ease of taking the minutes, the meeting would be recorded.

Introductions were then made by all present. During the introductions it was mentioned that having future meetings via Zoom or some other virtual platform would be very beneficial for those who are unable to be physically present at meetings.

**1. Approval of minutes**

Carolyn asked everyone to review the minutes from the February 25, 2020 meeting. Minor corrections were made and Bryce Wolf moved to accept the minutes as corrected; the motion was seconded by Barbara Morrow and passed unanimously.

**2. Elections**

Carolyn asked the Nominating Committee representative (Sharon Sacco) to present the candidates for election this year. Candidates are Kate Moore for Vice President and Barbara Morrow for Treasurer/Membership. Both officers are currently serving in those positions and have agreed to serve another 2-year term.

Carolyn asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. Lorraine Weiss proposed the motion which was seconded by Kathy Draves and passed unanimously. Absentee ballots were counted and everyone who had not already voted was asked to vote for the slate of officers; there was one abstention and all others voted in favor. The newly-elected officers were duly congratulated.

**3. Officer reports**

**a) Programs (assuming we can meet in person) – Kate Moore**

- September: Lace-in and tag sale. Proceeds either to individual or donated to NELG
- October: Field trip to Berkshire Historical Society Museum in Pittsfield, MA. It was agreed that NELG should subsidize by \$10 for members.
- November: Diagonal half-stitch with Sharon Sacco
- December: Holiday party with gift exchange. Item could be purchased or handmade.

**b) Retreat – Jill Hawkins**

Retreat house is still closed. The initial payment of \$2,500 made for 2020 will be transferred to 2021. Teachers will be Susie Johnson, Holly Van Sciver and Jill Hawkins. Holly will be our vendor.

Since Allie Marguccio was unable to come this year, we might consider asking Allie if she is interested in doing a workshop for us at some point. Jill will reach out to her.

**c) Scholarship – Barbara Morrow**

No scholarships awarded this year due to the fact that retreat was cancelled.

**d) Treasurer – Barbara Morrow**

- We have \$4,292.44 in our checking account. It was noted that the \$2,500 that has already been paid to Rolling Ridge for deposit for retreat is an expense we will not have in 2021.
- Barbara noted that we have paid \$500 to AffiniPay for online payments, and suggested that we have a separate line item on the budget for this item. This year we had to pay the fees twice due to refunding payments for retreat cancellations.
- The budget for 2020-2021 will be reviewed at the September meeting.

**e) Newsletter – Gail MacLean**

- Gail reported that one third of the newsletters are sent hard copy through the mail, resulting in an expense of \$450 for the year for copies and postage
- Gail acknowledged that content is always forthcoming from the members; this is much appreciated.

**f) Website / Facebook – Jill Hawkins**

- Jill extended a thank you to Sharon for being back-up for website maintenance, with little training.
- Webpage and FaceBook updates are done on a regular basis.
- Jill would like to revamp the look of the website, but this will need to be planned and coordinated as it is a big project.

**g) Library – Bryce Wolf**

- There has been minimal activity over the last few months, although there are a few books that have been out on loan for a while. Members are asked to check their book shelves and return any books they no longer need.
- DVDs are often returned damaged; please report this when you return the DVD.
- Suggestions for new acquisitions are always welcome.

**h) Member at Large – Jill Hawkins**

Policy statement on demonstrating during Covid-19

- Jill presented a draft policy statement regarding demonstrating during Covid-19 for review and discussion:

**Policy statement regarding lacemaking demonstrations during COVID-19**

1. *In the unlikely circumstance that opportunities for lace making demonstrations will continue to be available during COVID-19, NELG will list these events on the website calendar and in the newsletter.*
  2. *NELG will not actively promote these events to the membership or the public.*
  3. *NELG will notify the event organizer that we will not be promoting participation.*
  4. *If an individual decides they would like to attend an event and demonstrate in public, they should contact the event organizer to make arrangements.*
  5. *Anyone who chooses to demonstrate in public does so at their own risk and NELG assumes no responsibility for their health and safety.*
- There will be a sentence added that the guidelines will remain in effect until further notice.
  - The statement will be added to the website on the Governance page, emailed to members and included in the next newsletter.

Big E participation

- As of now, the Big E is still taking place.
- Jill will reach out to the organizers of Creative Arts to see if they have plans to ensure the safety of all attendees.

**4. Proposed Inclusion and Equity Statement**

- Carolyn shared the draft of an Inclusion and Equity statement for NELG to add to the homepage of the website:  
*"NELG is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all people interested in joining our guild and for our guests, visitors, students, teachers, and vendors."*
- After a brief discussion, Bryce Wolf moved that we should accept the statement as written. This was seconded by Kate Moore and the motion passed unanimously.

**5. Working group for expanding social media presence and on general recruitment of new members**

- We had a lengthy discussion regarding these issues and agreed that it is something where we should probably pool resources with other guilds, since we are all facing the same situation.
- We discussed the merits of setting up an Instagram account for NELG. Posts to Instagram could be shared automatically with the Facebook page, and there is also an option to schedule in advance when posts would be added to the account. We agreed to start with NELG and then maybe explore linking with IOLI or other groups.
- There was protracted discussion on how to support beginner lace makers. While most people are willing to offer assistance to beginners, there are few dedicated teachers and locations for classes are difficult to find at a reasonable price. There is also a major issue on where beginners could go for help after they have learned the basics.
- Carolyn encouraged us to continue to think about how to make lace making more accessible to more people. If anyone has ideas please share these with Carolyn.

## **6. Announcements**

- Barbara Fay Verlag (a long-time German publisher of lace books) closed at the end of 2019, but has now been taken over by Brugse Boekhandel (<https://www.brugseboekhandel.be/>). Jill to send info to Gail for the newsletter.
- Carolyn shared information regarding the upcoming virtual IOLI convention – “UnCon 2020”. The convention will include a competition, virtual sales room, Annual General Meeting, Friday banquet, virtual teachers’ showcase and speakers (Pierre Fouché, Máire Treanor and Elena Kanagy-Loux). They are not sure yet what platform they will be using.

## **7. Adjournment**

Bryce Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Lorraine Weiss and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:23pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Jill Hawkins  
NELG Member at Large