

**NELG Meeting Agenda: November 18, 2023**  
Held at Sturbridge Federated Church, Sturbridge, MA

Attendance: (Board) Rosalie Bares, Jill Hawkins, Bryce Wolf; (Members) Sr. Rhea Quintin, Mary Mangan, Winann Steinmetz, Carolyn Wetzel

The meeting was called to order 11:19 am

- I. We had a welcome and introductions, and the attendance sheet was passed around.
- II. Approval of the minutes from the [October meeting](#) was postponed to the January meeting because print copies were not available for review at the meeting.
- III. Officer and Committee Reports
  - A. President**
    1. Our Vice President, Clare Settle, and our treasurer, Barbara Morrow have agreed to continue in their current positions. Thank you to Clare and Barbara!
  - B. VP/Programs**
    1. November 18 - Today we will discuss and review “Demonstrations How To’s,” led by Rosalie Bares.
    2. December 16 - We will meet for lunch at the Historic Tap Room at Publick House, Sturbridge. A gift exchange is part of the holiday festivities. We were reminded to sign up by the deadline of Nov 20th.
    3. January 20 - “Lace from Europe” an informal presentation will be given by Jill Hawkins. (Zoom Meeting)
    4. February 17 - Discussion and sharing examples of different tape laces (e.g. Milasese, Idrija, Russian, Schneeberg, Hinojosa. (Zoom Meeting)
    5. March 16 - Making scissor fobs (Joshua Hyde Library, Sturbridge)
    6. April 20 - Learn how to tat with Carolyn Wetzel and Sharon Sacco (Joshua Hyde Library, Sturbridge)
    7. May 10-12 - retreat, meeting on Saturday the 11th
    8. June 15 - Annual Meeting
  - C. Library**
    1. Bryce has 27 boxes of books plus history stuff. At some point she will need to stop being the librarian because of limits on lifting weight.
    2. We need to find a way to get more books in circulation. Bryce brought up the question of why we keep a large library if it is not being used.
    3. Sharon is storing the Margaret Susans teaching collection. It would be great to scan and make content available to members, but there are copyright issues. We discussed ways we can use the material without breach of copyright; e.g., for use at free workshops, or for personal use.
    4. Factors for new librarians that were discussed: they need to have correct conditions for storing books (no mold, smoke, etc), secure storage, and having a rider for the library on their home insurance. A plan for how to distribute books among people who are storing them, and how to keep track of where they are (box number system did not work out), is also needed.
  - D. Treasurer/Membership**

1. Budget for 2023-2024 was reviewed and approved with some changes that will be sent to Barbara.
  - a) Change to Revenue: increase Membership dues to \$1800
  - b) Changes to Expenses: lower Programs to \$250; lower Library to \$350
  - c) Ask Barbara what line the cost of the Zoom account is part of and how much it costs. Jill suggested that it be included in the Website line because it is part of our digital presence.
  - d) There is a cost for the online library site that needs to be included somewhere, Jill suggested Website line because it is so closely linked with the main website.
  - e) Jill noted that the new \$25 registration fee for retreat covers the Affinipay fees, so that expense should be lower going forward.
2. There was some discussion about the fact that many small fees/costs are being paid for by Board members or others, and that these should be reported as donations so that we have a better picture of what things are really costing NELG to do. We can't rely on future people in those positions to make similar donations. We suggested that Brabara keep a separate log of these donation reports as they come in (who sent it, how much, what it was for). [Carolyn added post meeting: We need a reporting mechanism. Is there a form for that? Or just send Barbara an email?]

**E. Retreat** (May 9-12, 2024 at Mercy by the Sea, CT)

1. Bryce has started getting silent auction donations.
2. They are redoing the dining room at Mercy By the Sea.
3. Registration will open Jan 22nd. This is earlier than usual because the retreat is earlier than usual.
4. Prices will be higher.
5. Commemorative bobbins will have a pink dogwood design.
6. ATC cards can be requested from Clare. The theme is kaleidoscopes.

**F. Newsletter**

1. Gail (*in absentia*) thanked all who submitted to the last newsletter. The next issue goes out in February with submissions due on Jan. 29.

**G. Member-at-Large**

1. Jill said thank you to those who demonstrated at Dudley Farm Museum, Guilford CT, and Fiber Fest.
2. We discussed that the Fiber Festival is a huge event for us so we need more people to volunteer and to have a presence on both days. This year Sharon and Marjorie were there alone and were very busy all day. We also talked about the NELG banners, both the vinyl ones and the cloth ones made for the Ipswich exhibit.
3. Jill reminded us that we should report our volunteer hours on the NELG website or send her an email.

**H. Website** - no update, other than that Jill has started the process with Wild Apricot to downgrade our membership at next renewal. For a much lower cost, the only change will be a lower limit on the number of contacts we can maintain in the database.

**I. Scholarships** - no update

**IV. Announcements**

- A.** Winann & Jill told us about Maggie Hensel-Brown's Community Lace project. The deadline to send your completed leaf to Maggie in Australia is mid March. They suggested that we collect some to send together. If you make one, please send a photo of your leaf on your hand to IOLI and to the NELG newsletter and NELG webmaster.
  - B.** Mary Mangan asked about a past item of business, an OIDFA Ipswich lace cards group order. It did not appear that anyone in the group wanted to place a group order, but Mary wants to see if anything can be worked out to sell the cards at relevant museums. Carolyn will follow up with Mary and put her in contact with Linda Kay Benning about it.
  - C.** Mary Mangan gave us a book review for "The sewing girl's tale." It takes place in NYC in the 1700s and the plot revolves around the first rape trial. She visited the Concord Museum for a book talk on it, and offered to do a lace making demo there, maybe over the holiday break. Mary will let Jill know about it.
- V. Raffle** - Sr. Rhea won a Thanksgiving bag, with a candle and a holiday-themed dish towel embroidered by Rosalie.

Adjourned at 12:42 pm

**Program:** Discussion/review of "How Tos"/FAQs for demonstrating lacemaking to the public.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Wetzel