Fiber & Fiber Products Committee (FiberCom)

Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2014

Meeting: Conference Call—November 3, 2014, 8:00 p.m. EST

Present: Stacy Heydt, Chair
Stacie Chavez
B-J Ellis
Ruth Fuqua
Chris Reachard

Absent: Dianna Jordan, Board Liaison
Kate Campbell
Launda Soper

1.0 Meeting Opening:

1.1 Meeting opened at 8:01 p.m. EST.

1.2 Approval of minutes from meeting held on October 6, 2014. Ruth made the motion to approve, Chris seconded, motion passed.

2.0 Old Business:

2.1 National Fleece Show Update: To be held June 26–28, 2015. Location to be announced once contracts have been signed.

2.1.1 Ideas to Enhance Participation of Fiber Art Seminars:

Chris will put together a brief list of ideas that he has been discussing.

2.1.2 Showcase the Work of Fiber Artisans:

A lively discussion and flow of ideas led to the decision to recommend a fashion show. A proposal will be put together in January. This will include US made products in two categories—home/cottage crafted items and professional level items. It was recommended that a home décor set be used (i.e., Wini's trade show booth) as a back drop/living room look. It was also recommended that Judge's Choice in the Fiber Arts Competition be shown in the fashion show. Rather than charging a fee to enter an item into the show which could prohibit fiber artists from entering (something we feel that it is important to encourage), there should be sponsorships.

Depending on the location of the show, it was recommended that local affiliates be encouraged to manage the show rather than hire expensive professional managers. Chris suggested that we contact the Suri Network as the fashion show they put on in August was very well done.

This topic was tabled until the January meeting when a location would be in place, however, an outline will be submitted to the board for approval to move forward.

2.1.3 Student Design Competition re: Fleece Show/Nationals:

Ruth said that everything was progressing nicely. There will be an e-blast on November 15, 2014, asking for yarn donations. Chris has collected at least 40 spin-off skein donations. Our Back 40 will be donating yarn and he will be receiving felt donations from various farms. When all is collected he will ship these items to Ruth. The deadline for materials is December 31, 2014. Ruth said there will be another e-blast requesting monetary donations at the time of membership renewals in January. A third "Adopt a Student" e-blast will be sent out in March to seek sponsors for students.

On December 1st the International Textile and Apparel Association (ITAA) will be sending an e-blast to professors which will gain attention and get additional student participation.

2.2 Project Updates:

2.2.1 Spin-Off Display Protocol for Superintendents:

Completed October 2014. Stacy e-mailed to Margie who said she would forward it on to the appropriate committee. Protocol for Superintendents Fiber Arts and Skeins (same document, tweaked slightly). Chris sent a similar protocol to the committee and the committee approved it. Stacy will e-mail this to Margie with a postscript that a photo of the recommended display will follow (Chris will get a photo at VAOBA).

2.2.2 Show Rules Changes for 2016—Stacy:

Spin-Off: On hold.

Fiber Arts: On hold based on other priorities.

2.2.3 Resource Directory/Web Page—Stacy, Stacie:

This includes review of 2005–06 Resource Directory and Fashion Brochure.

After a long and lively discussion, it was decided that a proposal/outline will be presented to the board with the following recommendations: the Resource Directory should be on the website rather than a print document; it should include a listing of processors, cooperatives, and fiber buyers. The question was raised if a listing should be a paid listing with an additional fee for a link to their website. It was also proposed that this listing be posted under the member only section and be available in a downloadable pdf free to AOA members as a benefit. It was also suggested that a fee should be charged for non-members to access this information. There was discussion as to adding information in a chart format for the services the mills provide such as de-hairing, rug yarn, etc.

It was also discussed that the terminology that is in the Resource Directory be updated and placed on the website for the public to view free of charge.

The Fiber to Fashion booklet was briefly discussed. It was decided to keep this a print document to be used as a handout to the general public. At the next meeting we will discuss which heading to keep, add to, remove, or update. The goal is to have an outline available to give the board after the December meeting.

2.2.4 Project to Create Revenue through Fiber/Product Sales—Katie, Stacie:

Tabled at this meeting based on other priorities.

2.2.5 USDA Fiber Project—Stacy:

A motion was passed (Chris made the motion, B-J seconded) to approve the questions for the processors and producers proposed by Stacy at this meeting. Stacy said she will forward these questions to Darby.

3.0 New Business: No new business.

4.0 Meeting Wrap:

4.1 Next Meeting:

To be held via conference call at 8:00 p.m. EST on December 1, 2014.

4.2 Adjournment:

Motion made by B-J and seconded by Chris at 9:03 p.m. EST.