

**Tavern Spinners and Weavers Guild
Meeting Minutes - August 18, 2024**



Show and Tell

Call to order, Welcome New Members Carol Roberts and Teresa Young

Attendance: Carol, Teresa, Melinda, Jan, Kathy, George, Elizabeth, Becky, Sandi, Luanne, Susan C and visitor Dennis

July Minutes - Becky moved / Luanne seconded and minutes were unanimously accepted

Reports

Treasurer – Income for July was \$603.38 and expenses were \$213.16. Sandi has volunteered to take over being the treasurer; she will coordinate with Kathleen on the turnover. More information can be found in the treasurer’s book in the Yellow Cat Studio.

Foundation – Becky advised that strategic planning has started for the foundation. Corinne is hoping to retire at the end of December and currently has an assistant working with her. Corinne has also started documenting all the tasks she has been doing to help her replacement(s). Café still working to keep prices down, but food costs are escalating. Corinne will not be renewing the liquor license as it was cumbersome and not many alcoholic beverages were being purchased. We will revert to using event licenses when needed.

Studio/Yarn Status - Jan (5/2, 3/2 thrums, need warps, recap of sales) – Jan presented a basket of 5/2, mostly mercerized threads which members can have (donation please) to use for personal projects or simply take them home and do a project for TSWG for sale in the store (no cost here). Please keep weaving and winding warps for studio projects. Also, please use the threaded bobbins in the studio when you can. Ask about them if you don’t know about them. There is a good warping board for sale for \$20.

Recap of towel sales in 2024 vs. 2023:

2024:Jan 24	Feb 18	Mar 46	Apr 62	May 43	Jun 78	Jul 79	Aug 54(to date)
2023: 16	30	26	37	19	63	53	77 (rest of year: 265)

In Dec 2023 we sold 108 towels, and 612 total for the year. We certainly have a following and notoriety!! However, we only have 11 towels left in the store now, and the studio looms are just starting new warps. We need to move into “production” mode for the next several months (and start working on Christmas towels also) if we are going to be able to meet demand. We need members to weave in the studio and also at home; concentrate on simple warps and structures that can be woven fast. Members can take studio yarn home to complete projects for sale by the guild in the store. Also, we will set up Harriet with a standard plain weave warp and start “tying on” new warps with the same pattern when one is finished. Then we need to continue in Jan/Feb/Mar to build up inventory so we’re not crunched next summer again.

Melinda moved / Becky seconded that we raise our dishtowel price to \$30.00 immediately and this motion was unanimously accepted. Still a bargain !

School Sponsorship – We will continue to sponsor Heather Cockrell, Northumberland Middle School art teacher, this year and Melinda will send her an email to find out her needs for her class.

Social Media - Kathy reminded us that we can find new pictures monthly on our website, www.tavernspinweave.org and she has added a new link in the resources, “Ultimate Guide to the History of Loom Weaving”.

MAFA (Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association) - Sandi advised that the next conference will be in summer 2025. They will announce the conference classes in September. They will be hosting a video on Sep.24 at 7PM, “How String Changed the World”. Mark your calendars and Kathy will check with Corinne so we can all watch it together in the TMB (Tavern Meeting Building).

Equipment – Loom “Bob” (8 shaft Baby Mac) is looking for a home, no charge, but he has issues. Contact Jan if you are interested.

Book of the Month Report – Luanne bought a book on Amazon, “Plain Weave” and has donated the book to the guild. Take a look, it is in the studio on the table. George will present a book next month.

Old Business

MAFA Grant – Jan getting close to having it ready for submission.

Boys & Girls Club — We have had no response from them about starting a weaving program, so we will not be establishing a relationship.

Beginning Weaving Class — Recap - The class instructors commented that the students were great. Class resulted in several new members to the guild, and about \$1,000.00 in income after instructor fees, for the guild. This will help cover the volunteer hours, materials and work related to putting on the class. Props to the Rescue Squad members who helped move the looms — we gifted them lots of cookies.

New Business

Group Weaving Project — Review – Sandi challenged the group several months back to all weave a similar project and compare our results. She chose the Huck-a-back Blocks patterns at the bottom of page 82 in Davison’s Green Book. These are easy structures to weave, so we encourage everyone to try this challenge. We will show off our results at the October Show and Tell (and then have some lovely towels to put up for sale in the store). We will have copies of the pattern in the studio, and Sandi will try to distribute a PDF of it.

4th Grade Visit, Friday, Nov 15, all day – There will be 10-12 kids in 8 groups between 9AM – 2PM; four groups in the morning and the other four in the afternoon. Jan will reach out to determine the standards the teachers are looking for so we can prepare properly. Kathy advised she will volunteer to be there for the kids. A couple more volunteers are needed.

Class on Spinning — After our September 25 meeting, Susan, Heather and Kathleen will present information about spinning to our guild. Kathy will check with Corinne to be sure the TMB is not booked for another activity on that day.

Lessons Learned/Tidbits – Reminder that all sales are final in the Tavern Store. If one of our customers has an issue with a product, we will do our best to fix/repair the cloth.
When weaving for TSWG, don't end a weft thread in the middle of your project that you are working on. Only end a weft thread on the edge of your project.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05PM.

Minutes submitted by

Melinda K. Floom, Secretary