

Women's Caucus for Art
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Sunday, February 16, 2020
Hotel Essex, Chicago, IL

Board Members Present: *Margo Hobbs, Janice Nesser-Chu, Laura Morrison, Sandra Mueller, Rona Lesser, Linda Gilbert-Schneider, Noreen D. Dresser, Dellis Frank, Pattie Byron, Sandra Davis, Emily Getsay, Ulla Barr, and Laurie T. Hall*

Also Present: *Karin Luner (Director of Operations)*

Sunday, Feb 16, 2020

10:08am Welcome and Call to Order by Margo Hobbs, National Board President

Hobbs calls the meeting to order with the approval of the 2019 Summer Board Minutes
MSP (Motioned, Seconded and Passed)

Then, she thanks everyone for the successful conference and for being there, especially Janice Nesser-Chu for putting together the splendid LTA events, and Karin Luner for the year-round support and keeping WCA going. Nesser-Chu takes a moment to thank Brenda Oelbaum for the "In Memoriam" presentation, and Barbara Wolanin for the 40 Years of Lifetime Achievement Awards PowerPoint, which she updated for this event and was used in the catalog; and Karin Luner's work on the extended catalog.

Hobbs then addresses the leadership problems arising with Julia Marsh's sudden resignation. Hobbs emphasizes that Julia's decision was purely personal and assures the board that the decision had nothing to do with actions of the board or with WCA. Hobbs also states that her role as President will end with this meeting, but she will stay on as Past President. She then welcomes the three new directors, elected by the members at Chapters' Council, Pattie Byron, Sandra Davis, and Dellis Frank. All will serve a 3-year term. She states that they had a pre-meeting past Saturday, joined by Chicago Chapter Member Alice McQueen, to talk about leadership. Topics from how to recruit a VP for Development to who will take the role of 2nd VP, were discussed. Hobbs also announces that Sahiti Bonam will join the board as VP for Communications.

From this meeting arose a list of things to accomplish in the near future:

1. The need for a script, an elevator pitch, ideally for each position starting with the president and the president-elect, to have a blue print to approaching people on the outside as well as from within the organization, and getting this done within a month as Laura Morrison has already started on the outline.
2. Clarify the WCA Brand as a signifier for success for women in the arts as last night's awards ceremony was again the perfect proof; build a robust exhibition program both nationally and regionally, and provide professional development for members.
3. Define and leverage the relationship with CAA.

4. Each Executive Board Member ideally should have a backup person to lend support

10:29am

Hobbs opens the floor to discuss any leadership points the members want to address. Noreen D Dresser wants to see more leverage with CAA's Committee on Women in the Arts and TFAP. Nesser-Chu confirms that rebuilding the relationship with CAA is very important in getting better visibility of our events. Hobbs also sees no point in duplicating what CAA does so well in regards to panels and programs. Hobbs also states that Sandra Mueller had pointed out earlier that WCA was not made aware of all the free events at CAA, and that WCA should be more proactive in the future. Laura Morrison wants to know about the role of Rachel Buller as CAA Liaison, as she has never met her having been on the board for over 20 years. Hobbs agrees that Buller is not very visible but has connected with her via the quarterly updates for the CAA Affiliated Society report.

Dresser reflects on TFAP, CAA and the Committee on Women in the Arts. She proposes to just having the board meeting next February and then taking part of the CAA panels and focusing more on the Summer Board Meeting to plan the 2022 events. Mueller adds that WCA is also an NGO, which is unique to WCA, and suggests that a person who works on the UN Committee with Maureen Burns-Bowie to join the meeting in the summer. She also suggests to arriving a day earlier next February and having the board meeting before the events, as we seem to lose people. Nesser-Chu confirms that being an NGO is definitely an important feature, as well as having the caucuses. She agrees with Dresser that having a conference in the summer has been a real success in the past, like the Social Justice or the Eco-art Conference, which also brought together our local groups. Morrison also likes the concept doing smaller events around the regions. Davis points out the giant disconnect between the National conference and the local chapters, and would like to see more involvement of chapters as hosts. Byron points out that only four CAA members were at the Gala and that we definitely need more leverage for our events.

10:55am

Budget Report

Nesser gives financial overview in regards to what is in our bank accounts, what is on the Balance Sheet and how WCA is doing in general, then, gives account of where the affairs stand with the rest of the Sleigh Estate, which will not come through with any disbursement of funds or art work in the near future.

Dresser wants to see a six-line report of what National does for the membership as the Chapters need to understand the cost of running WCA. Luner interjects that WCA's financial documents are online and that we are legally covered, although the annual posting of the financial reports in *Artlines* ceased some time ago.

ACTION: To summarize WCA finances for the Membership (Nesser-Chu)

ACTION: To reach out to Chapter Presidents to talk about what National does

Nesser-Chu continues with the P&L and points out that the year will end on a loss, right now it looks like about \$7,000. Although not all the numbers are in, it usually takes until August to see the full picture. Basically, since 2015 WCA had only one year of profit. She ends her report with the budget projections for the LTA, Conference, and Exhibitions, which will most likely end being even or show a slight profit.

11:28am Membership Report

Morrison starts her report with that she is having problems with Mailchimp in that she cannot modify the lists as often she likes in the free version. Luner suggests using Vertical Response for the lapsed member reminders. Morrison agrees to give this a try.

Morrison continues that this year she changed the format of the Chapters' Council Meeting, and posed the query "What do you want from National?" and received a great list of requests, which she will compile and send out to the chapters for commenting and adding to the list, and asking them to name their top three. She will have the report ready for the Summer Board Meeting. She realizes that some questions will be already taken off the list as she just needs to point to what is already there. She also welcomes Laurie Talbott Hall as Midwest Regional Chair. Discussion veers into how Members-at-large (MAL) are basically left out of the discussion, which brings Morrison to the conclusion that MALs need to be included by the Regional Chairs. She will also try to get a Northeast Regional Chair in place.

ACTION: Member-at-large engagement, Morrison will divide MALs by Region. (Morrison)
(setting May 1st deadline for Chapter engagement)

11:35am Exhibition Report

Discussion on Regional Exhibitions, Dresser suggests to use WCA as sponsor of chapter exhibitions, as being a 501c3. She wants to establish a very inclusive Exhibition Committee with heavy focus on PR. The envisioned committee will put together full PR packages and sees WCA as a clearing house of information; using more University Galleries thereby saving on rental costs; focusing on building a roster of jurors and art historian; and ends by handing out flyers and her proposal. Nesser-Chu raises objections that this is not a proper proposal but more of a workflow, and the board needs to amend the submitted board reports.

ACTION: Dresser needs to submit to Admin the workflow/report with name change (Dresser)

Hobbs asks Dresser to continue with the discussion, she will take on voting in the board reports later and amended, after lunch. Mueller wants Dresser to be very clear about financial engagements with the chapters since their exhibitions are their bread & butter. Morrison would like to see some of the money going back to the chapters if the show is regional. Dresser reassures that this discussion has already happened at the committee level.

ACTION: Dresser will flesh out exhibitions for summer board meeting (Dresser)

Nesser-Chu will set up folder for anyone to submit any conference or LTA photos (with captions and credits)

11:58am Lunch

12:35am Old Business continued

Motion to accept all board reports submitted, including late reports by Segall, Getsay, Schwetman, and Frank, as well as the amended exhibition workflow by Dresser.

MSP (Motioned, Seconded and Passed)

ACTION: Adding the chapter a board member belongs to on the board page (Luner)

PROPOSALS

1

Form a Steering Committee to lead the national WCA Board until a new President and President-elect are installed.

Hobbs introduces the proposal and calls for discussion. Mueller suggests a timeframe but Hobbs does not want to propose a timeframe. Morrison points out that the support is already in place as she is not leaving and neither is Janice. Hobbs calls for motion, the board approves.

Board motions, seconds and adopts Proposal 1

2

Cancel the 2021 NYC Conference and Lifetime Achievement Awards. Instead, organize a two-day WCA Leadership Summit and Board Meeting in New York City in February of 2021 in order to prepare for the 2022 WCA's 50th Anniversary Conference and Lifetime Achievement Awards in Chicago.

Hobbs suggests to hold the Winter board meeting in Feb, book rooms at the Manhattan/Central Park Hotel, focus on CAA panels and relationships, and work closely with the NY Chapter to plan some events. The budget will be \$1,500 for meeting rooms and catering. Hobbs opens the floor for discussion.

Nesser-Chu wants the board to focus on getting the Chicago Chapter very early on board of the planning stage. Dresser wants the board to not focus on any conference activities. Hobbs steers the board back to the proposal at hand and not to focus on the 50th. Dresser wants to see a joint award ceremony with the CAA Committee on Women in the Arts as she does not want to skip a year. Hobbs wants a clarification if the board now wants to amend the proposal to include working on this event. Mueller reminds the board that this is a great commitment in raising again \$30,000. Nesser-Chu states that she has given great thought about skipping a year but she sees that not doing the 2021 awards is the wiser choice given the difficulties. Davis and Frank support skipping the awards and really focus on the 50th Anniversary.

Motion is made to amend the proposal and hold the awards in 2021 as Dresser suggested

**12 Nays 1 Yea
Proposal stands as written**

Morrison states that she will get back to Chicago more frequently and engage with the chapter. Laurie T Hall also promises to engage more with the chapters in her region.

1:14pm Move to accept Proposal # 2 as presented

11 Yeas
2 Abstain

Vote on Executive Committee as listed in Agenda

Frank moves, Gilbert-Schneider seconds

MSP

1:16pm **Item from Parking Lot**

Time and Scheduling of Summer Board Meeting

Date: June 4–6

12 Yeas, 1 Nay

Discussion on where to hold the meeting ensues. Pros and Cons of DC, Chicago and Detroit.

Gilbert-Schneider moves to have meeting in Detroit Metro Area

Byron seconds

MSP

1:33pm Board thanks Margo Hobbs for her term as president, and Karin Luner for her work as admin.

1:36pm **Meeting Adjourned**

(Minutes written and recorded by Karin Luner, Director of Operations)

ALL ACTION ITEMS

ACTION: To summarize WCA finances for the Membership (Nesser-Chu)

ACTION: To reach out to Chapter Presidents to talk about what National does

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