

Rug Braiders International

June 2, 2026 Executive Board Meeting

Minutes for Zoom Executive Board Meeting Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Attendees – Rissa Moore (President), Judy Fahnestock (Vice President), Sherry Chilcutt (Treasurer), Karen Levendusky (Secretary), Christine Manges (Education Chair, Past President), Marlene Breitenbach (Membership Co-Chair), Mary Ragno (Membership Co-Chair), Janice Lyle

Call to Order – Rissa called the meeting to order at 4:00pm EST.

2026-2027 Budget – The 26-27 budget prepared by Judy and Sherry was discussed. Karen requested \$170.00 be added to the Program Committee expenses to cover Judy's Zoom account. Sherry will add that and forward the one-page budget summary to Christine to be included in the agenda for the June meeting. The board unanimously approved the budget. The budget will be presented at the June meeting and voted on by membership at the September meeting.

Christine requested that committee chairs be informed of the status of their budget requests. Sherry will inform committee chairs that all requests have been approved.

Sherry added that the board can appropriate additional funds in the fall toward this year's goal of increasing teaching and demonstrating in the community.

Membership Committee – Rissa thanked Mary and Marlene for their service chairing the Membership Committee. They will be stepping down and had several points they wanted to bring to the board's attention.

Marlene commented that she maintains a spreadsheet of members and their information but did not receive information regarding braiders who joined on the conference registration form. Sherry suggested a link on the conference registration form that would bring them to the website membership registration page since Wufoo (conference registration) does not integrate with Wix (our website that includes membership registration). Christine noted a potential issue that non-members would pay for membership on the Wufoo conference registration form and then be prompted to pay again on the website member registration form. She suggested not collecting membership dues on the conference registration but informing non-members that they must join and providing a link from the Wufoo page to our website member registration page. This will ensure that all members have filled out all information when they register and it will be available to the Membership Committee.

Marlene and Mary expressed concern that there is no tracking of members who paid prorated dues after February 1. They stated there has been confusion of new members by the option to choose "renewing member" when they join. Christine will change the wording on the membership renewal page when the prorated dues go into effect. The choice of new

or renewing will be eliminated and it will state that the prorated membership dues are for membership only until December 31.

Rissa commented that our current bylaws could be simplified at some point and leave out the commitment for prorated dues which would allow for more flexibility. This will be an issue for the new membership committee to look at.

Karen reported that five members prepaid last year for 26-27 membership, either by paying for two years when they sent membership checks or they registered twice. Christine will register them for 26-27.

Christine commented that there are three ways to pay for membership: by credit card through Wix, with Paypal, and by check mailed to Karen. Karen will continue to notify Sherry and the Membership Committee as checks are received.

Marlene will be maintaining the Membership Committee's Excel spreadsheet of member information until a new chairperson is appointed. Christine will send Marlene the spreadsheet generated by Wix and send her all member registrations.

Rissa commented that Mary Hibbard has a list of potential Membership Committee members and will be reaching out to them. Mary and Marlene will send information to Mary Hibbard about skills that are needed for the committee. Janice said that she will be a member of the committee.

Other Business –

Rissa will create a Facebook post and letter to include in the newsletter explaining our two Facebook pages and how to post. Mary will create a Facebook post encouraging braiders to join the guild.

Judy reported that 60 votes have come in online already for the bylaw change. Sixty-seven are needed for a quorum. She will record votes at the meeting to cross check with online votes that are cast before the meeting.

Karen suggested that board meeting minutes be posted in the members only section on the website. She will ask Christine to add them.

Adjournment – Rissa adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm.

Submitted by Karen Levendusky
June 2, 2026