

Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild

September 7, 2024 General Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – President Rissa Moore called the meeting to order at 1:00pmEST. There were 35 attendees.
2. **Approve/Add to the Agenda** – No additions to the agenda. Motion to approve by Lucinda Harrison-Cox. Seconded by Christine Manges.
3. **Amend/Approve Minutes of Last Meeting** – No amendments to the minutes. Motion to approve by Peggyann Watts. Seconded by Pam Rowan.
4. **Treasurer's Report** – Sherry Chilcutt presented the Treasurer's Report (attached to the agenda). Sherry commented that membership is our main source of income. She also reported that St. Francis has returned our conference deposit.
5. **Vote on the Budget** – The 2024-2025 budget was prepared by Gail Stephens and Sherry Chilcutt and presented at the June 2024 General Meeting. The budget was voted on and was approved unanimously.
6. **Review of Current Officers** – Rissa Moore presented the current officers who are listed in the agenda.
7. **Old Business** – Christine Manges made a motion to form an exhibition committee to find exhibition locations and help cover the cost of shipping rugs. Pam Rowan seconded the motion and will be on the committee. The motion was voted on and passed. Email Rissa Moore at rissawise@gmail.com if you would like to be on the committee.
8. **Committees**
 - a. **Conference** – Sherry Chilcutt reported that we currently have no venue for our 2025 conference due to St. Francis closing. Several locations are being investigated. Sherry will be checking availability of the proposed locations and will need a local co-chair for the conference. Contact Sherry at sherrychilcutt@aol.com if you have any suggestions for conference locations.
 - b. **Education** – Christine Manges presented the current class schedule which is listed in the agenda and on the website. Additional classes will be planned. The education committee will be meeting Monday, September 9 at 7:00pmEST. Christine asked anyone interested in a class for teachers to contact her at ccmanges@gmail.com.
 - c. **Finance** – Rissa Moore presented the results of the internal audit performed by Janet Lyle and Lucinda Harrison-Cox. Our finances are in good order. The letter is attached to the agenda.
 - d. **Fundraising/Scholarship** – Kris McDermet reported that \$700 in scholarships were awarded for the 2024 conference in Wyoming, and the raffle rug brought in \$1500. Scholarships for the 2025 conference will be evaluated after the venue and cost details are determined.
 - e. **Media** – Christine Manges gave a tour of the website. Our Facebook and Instagram addresses are listed in the agenda. Pam Rowan encouraged everyone to add themselves to the braiders database

maintained by Dianne Tobias. The database allows braiders to find other braiders in their area. Email Dianne at rugbraidersdatabase@gmail.com.

f. Membership – Marlene Breitenbach and Mary Ragno reported that we currently have 160 members, 116 renewing members and 44 new members. They reported that we had 218 members at the end of June 2024. Stephanie Samuel spoke about the value of our Facebook page in attracting new members. She will post pictures of her progress in an upcoming class on another rug braiding Facebook page to help direct braiders to us.

g. Nominating – Mary Hibbard thanked the current officers for volunteering to serve.

h. Programs – Christine Manges presented the current schedule of Special Events and Demos which are listed in the agenda. Color planning and general rug planning were suggested as future demos. Contact Christine if you have an idea for a demo or are willing to do a demo. The Program Committee will meet on September 16 at 7:00pmEST.

9. Exhibit Opportunities – Exhibit opportunities are listed in the agenda. Pam Rowan asked in the chat if our guild brochure has been sent to wool vendors like Searsport. Kris McDermet talked about the Tighr rugmaking conference in 2027. Christine Manges discussed the upcoming Methuen braiding conference presented by Carol Broadbent. Carol's website is www.rugbraiding.wordpress.com.

10. Demo – Christine Manges gave a presentation on **Strip Management**.

11. Adjournment – President Rissa Moore adjourned the meeting at 2:41pmEST followed by show and tell.

Submitted by Karen Levendusky 9/8/2024