



Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild General Meeting

**Agenda for Zoom Meeting:
Saturday, April 5, 2025, 1 pm EST**

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** -- Rissa Moore, President
2. **Approve/Add to: Agenda**
3. **Amend/Approve Minutes of Last Meeting** – attached
4. **VOTE: Guild Name & Bylaw Changes**

The Bylaw Changes are attached and have been presented at the last meeting and linked in the March and April newsletters. The online Ballot count will be presented, and a vote taken today.

5. **Committees:**

- a. **Conference Committee** : Co-Chairs: Donna Witmer, Sherry Chilcutt
Stella Niagara Center of Renewal in Lewiston, NY on April 24-27, 2025.

Conference registration is open! 34? braiders coming + 2 spouses.

Classes with spaces available: Pincushion Jar, Making Waves, Zigzag Chair Pad, Braiding with Denim, LO Butting (Triangle Butt), RO Butting, Beginning Rug Braiding Continuous Circle, Braided Heart, Rita's Star Basket II, Two Braid Tote.

Classes FILLED: Butting, LO Annie's Fanny

- b. **Education Committee** Chair: Christine Manges

1. Online classes currently open: Zigzag Chair pad, Linking Circles with Tetracuspids & Triangle, Oval Continuous Hit or Miss 5-Strand, and 6-Braid Spiral. Mary Hibbard is teaching a Beginner Oval Class at present.

2. The Education Committee needs to meet to do some long-term planning. A Chair-Pad-A-Month course has been proposed, and several teachers have volunteered. There has been a request for longterm schedules to be posted so that at least two years of classes are planned and posted on the website. We will work on this after the conference.

- c. **Exhibit Committee** Chair: Pam Rowan

Now that funds have been approved, we will meet in the next couple months to decide how to distribute the funds for shipping rugs to exhibit opportunities.

- a. **Rug Challenge:** "Braided Water"....Will be shown at the Spring Conference 2025. You don't have to be there to make a challenge rug!

- b. **State and County Fairs:** Check out your State and County websites for opportunities.

- c. **Sauder Village Rug Hooking Week**, Aug 12-16, 2025

- d. **Finance Committee** Chair: Donna Witmer

- e. **Fundraising/Scholarship Committee** Chair: Kris McDermet

7 scholarships were made available for the conference.

Scholarships for half the cost of beginner rug braiding classes were made available starting Feb 1; six of these have been used.

A major source of funding for the scholarships is the Tea Cup Auction, held every two years at our conferences. The Committee is collecting items for auction! Do you have braiding items (rugs, baskets, books, equipment) OR interesting other items (not related to braiding) that you would like to donate for the auction? Contact Kris McDermet at: kmcdernet1@gmail.com

Would you like to bid on items, but can't make the conference? Contact Karen Levendusky: klevendusky@gmail.com

f. **Media Committee** (website, social media)

Christine Manges; Lisa Kilgo

Our Facebook Address: www.facebook.com/groups/308491603694553 BUT this will be changing if the vote passes.

Our Instagram Address: #rugbraidingvf. Once we change our name, we'll get a new Instagram address! Judy Fahnestock is working on this for the guild.

The Media Committee will need A LOT of help after Lisa Kilgo and Christine Manges change the website's name and colors. We will need volunteers to check each page and make sure the links work and that it looks okay on the phone as well as computer screens. If you're willing to help with a page or two, let Christine know! ccmanges@gmail.com

Logo: The following Logo has been proposed, shown below in color (new color palette!) and in black and white. There has been a question raised as to whether we should have the ".org" in the logo or not: we didn't before. Thoughts?



g. **Membership Committee**

Co-Chairs: Marlene Breitenbach & Mary Ragno

Current members: 235

New membership list up on website; current as of March

h. **Nominating Committee**

Chair: Mary Hibbard

Nomination for Vice President

i. **Program Committee**

Chair: Christine Manges

Zoom Coord: Judy Fahnestock

Special Events: (Speakers get \$200 for their presentations)

5/31	Janet Fitzgerald on Barbara Fisher
6/28	Reducing Textile Waste with Cookie Washington

Demos at Guild Meetings: (Demonstrators get \$25 as a thank you).

5/3	LO vs RO Braiding: Pam Rowan & Christine Manges
6/7	

Outside Events of Interest:

• **Sauder Village Rug Hooking Week**, Aug 12-16, 2025, with an exhibit of braided rugs! Archbold, OH

• **October 10-12, 2025, New England Braids**, Methuen, Massachusetts,

www.rugbraiding.wordpress.com or contact Carol Broadbent at carolbraids@gmail.com

6. **Demo: Left-Handed Braiders: Teaching Them to Braid, Teaching Them to Lace, and How They Are Different!**

7. **Adjournment**, followed by **Show & Tell!**

Attachments:

- Minutes of Last Meeting;
- Proposed Bylaw Changes

Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild March 1, 2025 General Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – President Rissa Moore called the meeting to order at 1:03pmEST. There were 25 attendees.
2. **Approve/Add to the Agenda** – No additions to the agenda. Motion to approve by Maddy Fraioli. Seconded by Christine Manges. The agenda was approved.
3. **Amend/Approve Minutes of Last Meeting** – No amendments to the minutes. Motion to approve by Mary Hibbard. Seconded by Gail Stephens. The minutes were approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Sherry Chilcutt presented the Treasurer's Report.
5. **Guild Name Change and By-Law Update** – President Rissa Moore explained the voting procedure which is detailed in the agenda. Sherry Chilcutt added that we will need 70 members to cast votes. Christine Manges presented the by-law changes which are attached to the agenda.
6. **Committees**
 - a. **Conference** – Sherry Chilcutt reported that we have 31 braiders signed up for the conference. Call the conference center directly for extra nights before or after the conference. Janet O'Connell will be coordinating transportation. Another butting class will be opening up. Scholarships are still available for the conference.
 - b. **Education** – Christine Manges reported that another beginner class with Mary Hibbard will be starting soon. She asked for any requests for classes be submitted to her. Gail Stephens discussed the feedback surveys that will be sent to all class participants.
 - c. **Exhibit Committee** – The challenge for this conference is Braided Water. If you will not be attending the conference you can send a photo of your Braided Water piece to Christine Manges and she will print them and present them at the conference.
 - d. **Finance** – No report.
 - e. **Fundraising/Scholarship** – Christine Manges reported for Kris McDermet that the committee has started providing scholarships for half of the price of beginner classes and also scholarships for the conference. The Tea Cup auction will be held at the conference. More information coming soon.
 - f. **Media** – Christine Manges shared that she and Lisa Kilgo will be working on name and color changes to the website after the vote in April. Marjorie Corrow helped pick out our new colors of teal with mint and purple. Our old name will still link to our website. Judy Fahnestock will help set up Instagram after the name change.

g. Membership – Marlene Breitenbach reported that we are up to 218 members. Mary Ragno is asking new members who chose “other” as how they got referred to our group for more details.

h. Nominating –Mary Hibbard reported that she has a candidate for Vice President for 2025-2026. Judy Fahnestock has agreed to join the board as VP and will be formally introduced in April.

i. Programs- Christine Manges presented the current schedule of Special Events and Demos.

7. Demo - Christine Manges presented a demo on Braiding a Shamrock Trivet. The handout link is in on the website.

8. Adjournment – President Rissa Moore called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Maddy Fraioli and seconded by Christine Manges. The meeting was adjourned at 2:08pmEST followed by show and tell.

Submitted by Karen Levendusky 3/15/2025

Proposed Bylaw Changes

1. NAME CHANGE IN BYLAWS

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be Rug Braiders International, an independent and unaffiliated non-profit organization.

Justification: The name Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild misleads potential members into believing that the guild is limited to southeastern Pennsylvania residents, living near Valley Forge. Our current membership is international, and changing our name will better represent our guild’s membership.

2. TIMING OF MEMBERSHIP DUES IN BYLAWS

Article III – Membership and Dues

B. Dues:

The annual dues for Members shall be determined by the Board, due and payable July 1 each year.

Justification: Currently, the bylaws state membership dues are collected in September. Our fiscal year is July 1 – June 30, and membership dues for the year are collected at the start of the year. This September collection of dues is a holdover from when meetings were held in person.

3. SPECIFY THAT NON-MEMBERS MAY ATTEND GENERAL MEETINGS FOR A FEE

Article IV – Meetings

A. 2. Non-members may attend all meetings of the general membership for a fee.

Justification: Currently, the bylaws state that non-members may attend all general membership meetings. However, the guild pays for demonstrations of braid techniques at membership meetings, and we charge a nominal fee to guests who attend.

4. CHANGE “ZOOM” TO “VIRTUAL PLATFORM” IN TWO PLACES.

Article IV Meetings – A. General Information

1. Eliminate “such as Zoom”

2. Change “Zoom” to “virtual platform”.

Justification: In the future, we may not use Zoom. The guild may choose another virtual platform.

5. REMOVE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE AND WEBSITE POSTING IN BYLAWS

Article IV – Meetings

B. Executive Board Meetings

Eliminate “2. Executive Board meetings shall be announced via a yearly schedule and posted on the website”.

Justification: Executive Board Meetings over Zoom are called by the President or other officers to address issues as they arise. Often simple matters are handled via email discussion. Meetings are arranged on an “as-needed” basis.

6. CHANGE NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF “CHARITY COMMITTEE”

Article V - Officers and Governing Boards

3. f. Fundraising/Scholarship Committee

Responsible for coordinating all fundraising endeavors and for dispersing scholarships.

Justification: The name “Fundraising/Scholarship” more accurately reflects the work of this committee.

The Duties and Procedures Document will also be reviewed and updated in the near future by the Board and Committee Chairs