

Board Election & Annual Meeting 2022

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota Board elections are June 2022.

We thank the Board members whose terms end on August 31, 2022:

- Linda Soranno, President in FY21, currently serving as Past President (nominee for re-election as Member at Large)
- Barb Daiker, Member at Large (nominee for re-election)
- Neal Goman, Member at Large (nominee for re-election)
- Melba Granlund, Member at Large, Sept 2016 - Aug 2022
- Keith Pierce, Member at Large, Sept 2020 - Aug 2022

Board members whose terms continue through the next fiscal year:

- Amanda Anderson, currently serving as President; Past President starting September
- Lisa Black, currently serving as President-elect; President starting September
- Matthew Schutz, Treasurer, 2nd term
- Deb Jensen, Secretary, 1st term
- Dawn Gillette-Kircher, Member at Large, 2nd term
- Barbara Heath, Member at Large, 2nd term
- Cass Markovich, Member at Large, 1st term
- Mary Mateer, Member at Large, 2nd term
- Joseph Rubin, Member at Large, 1st term
- Dawn Severson, Member at Large, 1st term
- Beth Varro, Member at Large, 2nd term

The List of Nominees for Board Election, to be presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting, is as follows:

Board officer Nominees, listed by position:

- President Elect, Orton Tofte

Board Officers, position description:

- Terms begin on September 1 at the start of the fiscal year.
 - The Executive Committee consists of the Board officers: President, President Elect, Past President, Treasurer, Secretary.
 - The President Elect serves 3 years: The first year as President Elect, the second year as President, the third as Past President.
 - Members may vote for one nominee per position.
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At Large Board nominees (in reverse alphabetical order):

- Linda Soranno, Member at Large (nominee for re-election)
- Neal Goman, Member at Large (nominee for re-election)
- Barb Daiker, Member at Large (nominee for re-election)

Board, At Large position description:

- At Large board members serve a term of 2 years.
- Terms begin on September 1, at the start of the fiscal year.
- Members may vote for up to 3 nominees.

Nominating Committee, candidates are presented as a Slate for approval:

- Slate of Nominees: Barb Daiker, Judy Larson, Dawn Schilling

Nominating Committee, position description:

- The slate of nominees represent the interests of membership on the Nominating Committee. The Committee solicits candidate nominations from the Weavers Guild membership and community at-large to fill open positions on the Board of Directors for election through the Annual Meeting. The Committee solicits volunteers for the Nominating Committee for confirmation through the Annual Meeting.

Board Nominee Profiles

Read up on your WGM Board nominees before the Annual Meeting vote opens. The nominees provided a bit of information about themselves, and what skills, interests, and experience they bring to the Board if elected.

Orton Tofte, nominee for President elect

Several years ago, knowing nothing, I attempted to weave a Navajo rug. I bought a bunch of books, built a loom, made tools, ordered materials from suppliers in the Southwest. Without a Grandmother to guide me, failure was inevitable. My daughter Solveig is a weaver who studied in Norway. She introduced me to band weaving after taking a class at the Weavers Guild. A rigid heddle loom soon followed and this past winter I assembled a small eight shaft floor loom. Along the way I wandered into the Guild and met my new grandmothers, Karin and Betsy.

I come to you after a lifetime of making things. After ten years teaching elementary school in a small town on the North Shore, we moved to the cities. I entered the printing trades in 1980 after training at Dunwoody. Starting in the letterpress department, I worked my way through the crafts

and ended up in production management. I was fortunate to work for large, growing companies. I have been involved in complex, multi-year expansion projects in my positions as plant manager, general manager and VP of operations. I also handled the national accounts of several non-profits including PETA and Bread for the World. I have also been a furniture designer and builder for 40 years.

I believe there is something redemptive in craft. Thanks to years of creative, dedicated leadership the Guild is in a unique position to offer a path to anyone seeking entry into the centuries-old traditions of weaving, spinning and dyeing. I offer excellent strategic planning skills, a respect for the gifts of others and a love of craft. I am honored to be considered for the position of President Elect.

Linda Soranno, nominee for Member at Large, re-election (previously served as President September 1, 2019-August 31, 2022)

For the past 3 years I have been a member of the Guild's Executive Committee as an incoming, current and past president. This experience has been truly rewarding and I would like to continue to serve the Guild as a board member.

I look forward to continuing the important work of the board including leading the Guild through its 2025 Strategic Plan, supporting our talented staff and serving our members. This organization is special to me. With each passing year I become more immersed in and passionate about this truly diverse and complex craft. I am equally interested in the technical side of weaving as the artistic. The infinite possibilities presented to a weaver is a wonderful puzzle to be explored.

In addition to bringing my passion to bear in support of the Guild's mission, I can contribute to the Board as a 34-year practicing lawyer (at General Mills) with extensive non-profit board experience including chairing the board of St. Thomas' Center for Ethical Cultures. My skills can support the Guild in managing the myriad of issues facing nonprofits today – including governance, strategic planning, fiscal discipline, and member engagement. In addition, I pride myself on my ability to bring people together to leverage a team's talents, passion and gifts in tackling opportunities. Over the years, I've worked in various environments faced with diverging stakeholder interests and have helped groups get aligned in the spirit of a common purpose. I would like to continue to deploy these skills in support of WGM's Mission and would consider it a privilege to continue to serve on the Board to further the Guild's legacy.

Neal Goman, nominee for Member at-large, re-election for 2nd term

I am a retired Electrical Engineer with an emphasis in computers. My recent task for the guild involved helping bring together the different email lists into a single umbrella group under

Groups.IO. I have been involved with spinning since around 1993 but exposed to weaving and fiber arts going back to my childhood. I had relatives that helped set up the HGA COE process and wrote books, traveled, and taught spinning and weaving. And whenever they would come through town they'd bring tools for me to play with like a lucet, temari balls, or kumihimo bobbins. I've been a member of the guild since the late 1990's and am always impressed with the kindness and creativity of our members.

Barb Daiker, nominee for Member at Large, re-election for 2nd term

I am a life-long crafty person. I've been sewing and knitting since I was a child, learning from my grandmothers. With an interest in yarn, I took my first spinning class in 2000. It was love at first sight. Armed with spindles and a Louet S1, I happily spun for many years. In 2011, my mother gave me a floor loom she had picked up secondhand following a class at the Weavers Guild. Taking a basic class at the guild was all it took! I keep building my skills, turning to the guild for learning, inspiration and comradery.

I am an extrovert, and enjoy sharing my passion. I find joy in volunteering and demonstrating at events where I can connect with the public and introduce them to spinning and weaving. Spinning and weaving are my outlet for artistic expression, but also my stress management and a source of pure joy. I want others to discover how these crafts may enhance their lives, too.

In my professional life, I am the administrator of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Minnesota. With a license in nursing, a master's degree in educational psychology, and a Ph.D. in organization and management, I interlace the idea of fiber into mentoring and coaching my team members. I have experience in serving on boards of directors, including serving as the president of three medical practice professional organizations. As a board member for the Weavers Guild, I have brought an understanding of learning strategies, strategic direction and a focus on alignment of operations. I would be honored to serve another term.
