

Standards Committee Meeting- June 21, 2023

In Attendance: Willy Gibboney (Co-Chair), Michael Baldree, Jessie Gustafson, Don Parker, Anna Lawrence.

Staff: Shannon Lee- Hutson, Sonia Ostendorf

Absent: Candice Westberg, Chuck Roehrich, Gayle Wendt

Recorder: Anna Lawrence

Guests: Diana Haddy, Marcia Knee

Willy Gibboney began the meeting by reviewing Meeting Etiquette- All Speakers and committee members will be given 3 minutes to share our original thoughts on the matters before us. You will want to limit your participation to speaking two times on any given subject. You can expect to be told to end your thoughts either by himself or the timekeeper at the 3-minute mark. We hope that you will limit your comments to the topic at hand and that those comments are original and not restate what other people have said. Willy has noticed that some members speak frequently on each subject and that some people don't say anything. Willy hoped that the frequent speakers will yield to the others to give them time for input. Willy also asked that he be treated respectfully by the committee and that the committee treats each other respectfully by not side talking, by not making any overt gestures and be present for the meeting and contributing.

Introductions: Diana Haddy and Marcia Knee attended, and both are members. They attended this meeting expressing an interest in the issues around tie dying.

Announcements: Michelle Malinowski plans to attend the July meeting. Diana Haddy and Marcia Knee are attending their first meeting to join the Standards Committee members. Marcia Knee left soon after for an emergency.

Pressing Member Concerns: none.

Agenda: Review/Amend/Approve: A motion was made to approve the agenda. Anna/Don 5-0-0.

Approve minutes of May 17th, 2023 meeting: A motion was made to approve June's minutes: Mike/Don 4-0-01 (Jessie)

New Business:

Membership Update: Sonia Ostendorf gave a membership update regarding Holiday Market orientations and screenings in August or late July. She would like to add more screenings, making them happen every other week when the Saturday Market screenings are not happening, starting July 26, August 9 and 23, Sept. 13 and 27, and October 11 and 25th. Only two screeners will be needed on each date. Shannon will

send out a notice for the committee screeners to sign up on the above dates.

2023 Work Plan: Willy Gibboney guided the committee to discuss for the Members Handbook re: Standards changes for Knitting/Crocheting; Tie Dying and Face Painting.

Knitting:

Discussion ensued about labels for knitted items and what should be on the labels. The first point of discussion was whether there should be an indication re: whether the item is Hand Knit or Machine Knit, as the differences are remarkable. Jessie added that the public needs to be informed of knitting methodology.

Anna added that she found four Guidelines that are mentioned by the Federal Trade Commission regarding labeling knit items are:

1. Fiber Content, 2. Country of Origin, 3. Content percentage of the fiber(s) used in item and, 4. Care of the knitted item.
5. Jessie would like to add if the item is hand knitted or machine knitted.
6. Include any added value to the label about the item: hand dyed, hand spun, locally sourced wool, angora, etc.

Don made the point that a label should be required on each item, not simply a sign in the booth. Michael asked what exactly is supposed to be on the labels. Since there are no requirements re: knitting we are starting at the beginning. Specifically, Willy suggests that the labels on knit items for Saturday Market should include machine or hand knit, care of item, type of yarn. Committee needs to vote on each item to approve or not for addition to the Handbook.

Don thinks we need to work on the procedure for the manual. Shannon pointed out that at the market right now we have machine knitters and hand knitters selling their goods because they are all hand made. Jessie mentioned that the time to make an item by machine is an hour and by hand takes much longer...the process should be reflected in the pricing of each item.

Don points out knitting by hand or machine vs crocheting needs to be two separate categories since two different tools to produce the items. Listing these two processes is the quandary for the Handbook. Suggestions need to be made about an inclusive heading for these Fiber Arts when considering knitting and crocheting.

Michael spoke to a concern of his that we are trying to market the new members product, with regards to why we are asking for labels targeting specific people. Those people that don't understand crafting knit items or for those that do. Anna talked briefly about remembering the new knitter, the beginner and new member as we craft these requirements. Where are they buying their yarn, do they know what its content is if the yarn is purchased at MECC or St. Vinnie's. It comes down to the learning curve for new members. Shannon contributed that a paper label can be safety pinned to the product with all the required information.

Willy wrote with Don in mind this category statement for the handbook...

Knitted Products can either be hand knitted or machine/loom knitted. Knitted products must have a care of product label. It is recommended that the label includes hand/machine knit, value added (dyed, hand spun) additions and care instructions. We are debating whether to require fiber content especially for new members who may not know what their products fiber content.

Don mentioned that SM is an incubator for new businesses, an entry level market. We need to bear in mind the newest members.

A motion was made to table this discussion until the July meeting giving the committee members time to wordsmith this paragraph description for the Handbook. Anna/Mike 5-0-0

Crochet: Mention was made that we tweak the knitting description to work for the crochet description. To be decided in the July meeting after our committee wordsmiths the knitting description.

Face Painting:

The discussion was centered on the use of commercial stencils on original artwork. The stencils would be a tool for helping with small elements of the original artist's design. For example, a stencil would be used to help make scales on a dragon. The dragon would be original art. Discussion also included prosthetic pieces like eyebrows, etc.

It was agreed that we should invite face painters to our July meeting to get firsthand information about their art. The committee needs to know more about face painting before crafting the paragraph for the Handbook.

The Motion: Further discussion was tabled until the July meeting. Ask face painters to come to the July meeting... Don/Mike 5-0-0

Tie Dye:

It needs its own heading in The Handbook instead of being included in the Clothing paragraph. Anna made the point that the tie dye standards include commercial garments that are dyed must be of generic design without details, adornments or distinguishing features such as, but not limited to: cuffs, collars, pleats, tucks, ruffles or tiers. She questioned when these standards were implemented as many tie dyers are selling collared, button down, men's shirts. Anna feels that the committee should update the standards to include items that do have these features.

Is the buyer seeing the generic dress or the tie dye?

Don thinks we need to have tie dying under its own heading in the Handbook.

Willy:

Tie Dye: Tie dye includes all commercially purchased base products that have been dyed

by hand using, but not limited to, the following processes: tie dye, batik, Eco-printing, and mono-chromatic hand dying or similar techniques. The clothing or cloth must be generic in nature and must be void of any logos or identifying trademarks.

A motion was made to table this discussion to give time for wordsmithing before the July meeting. Willy/Anna 5-0-0

Old Business: Amending new artisans' application form to include photos/screenshots/videos of work in progress of the items to be screened.

The new member being screened, if asked, must have proof of being the original artist.

Proof includes:

1. The process photos of the artist creating the original art., or
2. Have a video on their phone or an electronic device with the artist creating the art. The members also need to have the electronic tablet in their booth as the representation of their original art.
3. If the above 2 cannot be met, then there will be a required studio/home visit.
4. Motion: to accept amendment to the membership application...
5. Don/Anna4-0-1

The suggestion was made that if new members don't tell us the truth and we find out they are selling an imported product, they should be kicked out of SM.

Where will this amendment be included in the membership handbook/ application form? To be determined by General Manager.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Mike/ Anna 5-0-0