

I would like to nominate Marva Lee Goodman for a Lifetime Membership in the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild (CWSG).

Since her joining the CWSG, some twenty years ago, shortly after she learned to weave, Marva has been a central part of every major enterprise that the Guild has undertaken.

She has served the Guild in various capacities: demonstrating our crafts, especially cotton spinning; providing programs every year; and participating in Sheep to Shawl. These are the ordinary tasks that every member must contribute in order for the Guild to survive and prosper.

However, Marva's commitments go behind the ordinary. She volunteers or is recruited for a myriad of crucial tasks and she never says no – AND she comes through, even when fulfilling these obligations have meant hardships. That's a sign of true leadership, loyalty and reliability that make Marva Lee truly indispensable to our Guild.

Two major events will illustrate my point, although these are by no means exhaustive.

When the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild hosted HGA's Certificate of Excellence in Handweaving, Marva Lee was the registrar. I recruited her when I was appointed chair because I needed someone I could trust to do the work. The registrar is the most comprehensive of jobs on the committee and requires confidentiality, patience, promptness and diplomacy. The registrar is the only person who knows the applicants' names; Marva fielded their questions, directed them anonymously to the appropriate party and got back to the applicants with the answer. Marva received their work for the jurying (boxes and boxes of it), checked the contents to make sure that nothing was missing; repacked it all to bring it to the jurying site; displayed each participant's work individually for the jurors to examine, served as a scribe for the jurors' comments, and repacked the work during the day so the next applicant's work could be displayed. At the end of the jurying, she again displayed the work that was awarded a certificate so that the CWSG could benefit from the experience; afterwards, she repacked it and shipped it back to each participant. And offered a shoulder to those who didn't pass who, as one would expect, were terribly disappointed. Her involvement was over two years of tireless work.

When the CWSG hosted Southeast Fiber Forum, Marva was the co-chair of a committee of five. There were almost 1,000 attendees, it was held at Millsaps College and the committee organized classes, keynote speakers, meals, housing, fashion show, exhibits, vendors, and even a tour of the Mississippi Art Museum where HGA's Small Expression was hung; we did everything from

signage for directions on campus to matching classes to spaces, from minding the budget to registering people on site. That's a lot of work for such a small group, but no job was too small or too big for Marva. We were highly praised by the SFF Board for our well organized and successful conference – which also brought cash to the CWSG's treasury.

On a much, much smaller scale, but still important to the Guild, are the Roc Days that we host every 7 years. Marva has been active in every one of them, doing anything the Guild has asked, from providing food to making name tags, from arranging the facilities to demonstrating. She says that she has now retired from the Roc Day committee and that for the next one she will be only an advisory member – but I can bet that as an “advisory member” she will accomplish more than most committee members!

These are just the contributions to our Guild. She is also very active with her sewing guild and the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi and a worker bee – while providing leadership – for every organization with which she has been active/

Over the years, she has been an indefatigable promoter of the Handweavers Guild of America, more so than most HGA Representatives. She recognizes that HGA was instrumental in the formation of the CWSG and that local and national organizations must work together toward a common goal in order for our crafts to flourish. For her efforts, HGA in 2014 included Marva Lee in the list of “HGA Founders” (a play on words – not only those who founded the organization, but also those who were the foundation for the organization over the years) who were honored at the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Celebration.

These are just the most noteworthy examples, but there are many, many more contributions that she made over the years, never expecting to be acknowledged or for any sort of self-promotion.

I cannot imagine a more deserving member for a Lifetime Membership. The CWSG would have been – and still would be – a much less successful organization without her.

Respectfully submitted,



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