

Dear fellow potters,

Your Board of Directors are looking for volunteers to come create with us as we work on our 4 Project Priorities. This has had me reflect on my being a Guild volunteer and the benefits of being involved in the direction of an organization I value.

In the 70's I was a member of the New Hampshire Potters' Guild and loved the community and its range of potting experience. Relative beginners like me, older masters like Gerry Williams, probably my primary mentor and founder of Studio Potter magazine, and Otto and Vivika Heino. The NH Potters' Guild had monthly meetings in members studios. I loved this format of meeting in working studios but didn't do much volunteering.

In the 90's I lived and potted in Bluffton, SC. I got involved with the South Carolina Crafts Guild and after wondering how it was organized and made decisions, volunteered to be on its' Board of Directors. I was the on the SCCG Jurying Committee and its representative on the SC Art Commission. It was here that I learned that inside every complaint was a solution. And that the right to express that complaint was earned by being involved in creating solutions.

I joined the VCPG in 2014. After participating for awhile I had ideas... I got curious about how the organization was managed. I started to go to board meetings. I wasn't a board member, so I couldn't vote, but by attending the meetings I was invited to express my opinions. Our monthly board meetings are open to members. If you're curious... come join us.

When the Board was reorganized in 2016, I wanted to have a voice in how the 'new' guild was organized and functioned. I volunteered to be the Treasurer. 2 years ago I became vice-president. I've loved being a part of the team that keeps the lights on.

During the holidays my older son, Eben, recommended a branding/ marketing podcast to me. I asked him to bottom-line the context of the conversations. He said the context is, "People like us do things like this." I invite you to come play with us and "Do things like This!"

Wyn Matthews