

Every AAW member needs to see this. It will not likely show up on the web site and I am sure it will not be in the Journal. There will be more to this later, I am sure.

Dave Barriger

Mary Lacer's Termination

To my fellow AAW members, I am sorry to announce my resignation from the AAW board. Until recently, I have enjoyed my time on the board and I have tried to contribute to the AAW's continued success. While I only had six months remaining on my second term, I simply cannot continue to be a part of what was once a wonderful organization. I cannot continue to work with people that in my opinion do not have the best interest of the AAW membership in their hearts. There is an announcement on the AAW home page with our president's name attached that states:

"I am writing today to share some important news. Mary Lacer is stepping down as Executive Director of the American Association of Woodturners."

This is simply not true. It is a continuation of the despicable actions that cumulated in Mary's forced termination by our board. Mary has not "stepped down". I know this because I was present at the meeting when six board members choose to vote in favor of her termination. Mary was called to the meeting room, told her employment was terminated and escorted to her hotel room where she was forced to surrender all AAW property – a fine way to treat someone who has served our organization so well. Mary did not step down! The home page announcement is simply a lie.

Mary's termination was based upon (in my opinion) a list of false, twisted, distorted, and misrepresented accusations. Her fate was predetermined long before the Hartford symposium and she was never afforded the opportunity to confront her accusers. The entire situation was one of the most mean-spirited, inhumane actions that I have ever witnessed. I found myself shaking with anger and resigned on the spot. The people behind this action no doubt anticipated my resignation, along with the resignation of Bill Haskell. It took only a matter of hours to remove and replace our presence on the "Staff, Directors, and Volunteers" page of the AAW website. Replacements were prearranged for Bill Haskell and myself, and a new acting executive director was put into place immediately. Mary was offered a severance package in exchange for her signature on a lawyer-prepared document that would bind her to silence. In my opinion, the actions of many board members were at the least very unethical, if not downright illegal.

I won't list the long history of both Mary and Alan Lacer with the AAW. By I don't think that I'm over-stating it when I say that without their contributions, the AAW would not be near the organization that we now enjoy (if it existed at all). The AAW is the premier craft association in the world. We are the envy of many organizations and this is so, in great part, because of the efforts of Mary Lacer.

If you wish to "take back" your AAW from the hands of those now "in charge", I suggest that a recall be organized to remove those from the board that are responsible for this egregious, unwarranted, unjust action.

Malcolm Tibbetts

Former AAW Vice President

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