

**SHCG Annual Meeting Committee
Report for Annual Meeting
April 13, 2026**

Pam Granger-Gale and Nancy Graham , Co- Chairs

Purpose:

The Annual Meeting Committee is charged with organizing the Annual Meeting of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. The Committee works in conjunction with other committees, notably Membership, and through consultation with the Board and staff of the SHCG in planning for and carrying out the schedule for the Annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Committee members:

Co-Chairs: Pam Granger-Gale, Nancy Graham
Board Liaison : Robert Milnes
Staff Liaison : Janet Wiseman
Members : Nancy Graham, Pam Granger-Gale, Amy Pike, May Lyn Wake

Committee Meetings:

The Committee meets monthly between November and April.

Description of Activities:

The Annual Meeting is currently held in the auditorium of the Folk Art Center in Asheville.

The committee met monthly September - December 2025 via Zoom, now meeting every two weeks since January 2026 via Zoom.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

The caterers have been contacted to confirm delivery to the Annual Meeting - Joey's Bagels is ready to deliver breakfast items!! Atlanta Bread requested an approximate 2 week notice for the final order. Since the timing between the mailing of lunch orders to members and that deadline is tight, we discussed giving Atlanta Bread an estimated order if necessary. Pam is preparing committee member sign-up for non-catered items.

Membership Survey Questionnaire

Appropriate items will be applied to this year's meeting...

Our 2026 speaker, Sarah Wells Rolland, will address several topics of interest to members as an active craftsperson, loss of livelihood from the hurricane and subsequent rebuilding process.

Keynote speaker for our 2027 meeting will tentatively be a representative from the NC Center for Craft. We are currently coordinating with Robert Milnes and Amy Pike for a contact.

Robert identified 4 main problems encountered during the 2025 meeting:

1. Largest attendance in recent years (100+)

2. Traffic control during lunch set up
3. New members presentation used 6 tables for display
4. Inside dining due to weather.

We discussed an addition to the lunch order form if members NOT ordering are planning to bring their own lunches so we might have a more accurate idea of total attendees and how much space is needed at the lunch tables.

New member presentations will be cut back to 3 tables with 6 presenters and a maximum of 2-3 minutes each for their presentation.

Weather permitting we will have lunch tables set up outside prior to Saturday lunchtime, If not, we hope to have specific set-up volunteers handling tables and chairs prior to lunch, and hopefully keep the majority of members in their seats until we are ready for lunch.

New Digital Meeting Tool

Introduced and refined by Pam, members will be able to follow the meeting agenda on their devices (phone or tablet). This was introduced to the BOT at the Retreat Feb. 9 and was enthusiastically received. We plan to announce this tool in advance of the meeting in the newsletter and also have several tech assistants during the meeting to help members use it.

New Member Presentations

Nancy sent an email to all new members juried in 2025. We received 8 applicants, the following 6 will present their work at the meeting:

1. Denise Phillips - ceramic sculpture
2. Sharon R. Bass - jewelry
3. Aaron laquinto - wood
4. Wheeler Forge - metal
5. Judy Spark - fiber
6. James Young - clay

Our two alternates in case of any cancellation are Sharla Kaufman - clay and Mike McKinney - wood. Presenters will each have 2-3 minutes to discuss their work and ½ of an 8 foot table for display.

Pam has contacted Janet for assistance with timing of emails, meeting notification/posting (and the cookie contest) in Newsletter and FB Forum.

Tamela has generously volunteered to make the medium designation ribbons to be attached to members nametags. We will not need to purchase these. (Thank you Tamela!!)

Buncombe County Schools Arts Coordinator has been contacted for art teachers to pick up our leftovers from the Material Swap.

We have a new Zoom coordinator - Ellen, who works at Allanstand and manages the Zoom meetings for the shop.

The Annual Meeting Committee is extremely short-handed. Besides 2 co-chairs and our BOT Rep., our only 2 members will be absent for the meeting due to prior show/sale conflicts. We have 2 tech volunteers and 2 set-up/meeting volunteers. After posting our need for assistance in the Newsletter and FaceBook, we've added 4 additional volunteers - 2 tech, and 2 set-up. We are still in need of additional committee members.

Report submitted by:

Nancy Graham & Pam Granger-Gale, Co-Chairpersons