



NEWS RELEASE

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League of NH Craftsmen Announces Three New Board Members

CONCORD, NH –The League of NH Craftsmen is pleased to announce three new members to its Board of Trustees: Alice Veenstra (Canterbury, NH), Deborah L. Coffin (New London, NH), and Jack Dokus (Franklin, NH).

Alice Veenstra will serve as treasurer of the Board for a two-year term. She is the Chief Community Development Officer at the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) in Concord, where she manages CDFFA's community development investment activities. CDFFA deploys \$50 million in community development financing resources through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), the state's Community Development Tax Credit program, two energy efficiency loan programs: the Enterprise Energy Fund – loans for businesses and non-profit organizations and the Municipal Energy Reduction Fund (MERF) – for municipalities looking to reduce their energy consumption. Prior to joining CDFFA, Ms. Veenstra spent 12 years in community development, grant administration, and finance with the Federal government. She served as director of headquarters operations at the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs in Washington, DC; program advisor for the Native American Initiatives for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury; and a budget examiner with the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

She earned her masters in public administration from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government and her bachelors degree in economics and business from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. Ms. Veenstra is a member of the Canterbury (NH) Planning Board and on the board of Directors of the Canterbury Housing Association that manages the Canterbury Spruces, an affordable housing development.

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League of NH Craftsmen Announce New Board Members /2

Deborah Coffin, a fiber artist and juried member of the League of NH Craftsmen, will serve a three-year term as a member at large. Deb has been spinning and dyeing her own yarn since she was first inspired by watching a craftsperson at an Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair. Spinning led Deb to explore other aspects of the fiber arts such as natural dyeing and weaving. She has studied dyeing with natural pigments and color with internationally known artist Michele Wipplinger of Earhues in Seattle, WA.

Deb was the education coordinator for the Enfield Shaker Museum, where she also taught classes in natural dyeing. She has served as president of the NH Guild of Spinners and Dyers, was a selectman for the Town of Springfield (NH), and currently sits on the board of Habitat for Humanity of the Kearsarge/Sunapee Area and on the national board of the Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health. Deb spent most of her working career in the mental health field specializing in addictions and has taught courses about the effects of divorce on children and step-family issues, stress management, and human sexuality. Most recently, she and Julia Philipson formed Moose Country Gourmet, purveyors of condiments found in stores in New Hampshire and Vermont.

Jack Dokus, a metalsmith and juried member of the League of NH Craftsmen, will serve as Chair of the Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair Committee. A metals artist since the early seventies, Jack is also a professional educator. His teaching experience ranges from private instruction to college courses, and his demonstrations and classes have brought a better understanding of metal working to many students.

He first started working with metal during his undergraduate study at Kean College in New Jersey, and continued to concentrate on it for his graduate work. Metals became the primary medium for his creative expression. He has exhibited his work in some of the major museums and galleries of his native New Jersey and throughout New England. Jack was successfully juried in the premier issue of the New England Handcraft Catalog, a documentation of New England's finest craftspeople.

"This is an exciting year for the League, with our upcoming move to a new headquarters and education center and a capital campaign to raise funds for our education programs," said League Executive Director Susie Lowe-Stockwell. "We are fortunate to have someone with Alice's community development and finance expertise, and to have Deb and Jack provide their valuable perspectives as craftspeople and business owners to help us during this period."

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League of NH Craftsmen Announce New Board Members /3

Continuing their service on the Board are: Beverly Wolf, president; Adele Sanborn, vice president; Cindy Suekawa, secretary; Polly Allen; Charles Bauer; Ingeborg Eddy; James Kennedy, Parker Potter, Joy Raskin, Trish Anderson Soule; Peter Van Winkle; and Jeff Wheeler. “We also want to thank Maria Del Rio, Jeff Lamy, Pamela Tarbell, and Ron Tornow, whose terms of service recently expired, for their hard work and support,” said Lowe-Stockwell.

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit, craft education organization. Its mission is to encourage, nurture, and promote the creation, use, and preservation of fine contemporary and traditional craft through the inspiration and education of artists and the broader community. The League represents the *signature of excellence* in fine craft, through the work of its juried members, and its rigorous standards for self expression, vision, and quality craftsmanship.



The League of NH Craftsmen is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.



For more information, call 603-224-3375 or visit www.nhcrafts.org.

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