

# Madison Bead Society

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## President Letter -- February 2016

Welcome 2016!

I hope the holidays and new year treated you well. After taking December and January off, I'm ready to get beady. If you missed November's meeting, there were forms for Christmas tree pins, a homemade Wig Jig to make small wire-twist trees (for earrings or pendants), bracelets in Christmas colors, and another tree pin. One member won the door prize – a tube of crescent shaped beads and project instructions.

At the board meeting, we discussed the survey results. I'm going to summarize them here but the full survey results will not be posted online. If you want to read the results, contact me or come to a meeting (I'll bring a copy to every meeting for this program year).

There is one question I wish I thought of when we were designing the survey so I'm going to ask it now: As a beader, do you consider yourself a crafter, hobbyist, or an artist? And how do you define those terms?

Now to the survey summary:

- 1) What day of the week would you prefer to meet: Mon. (60.71%), Tues. (7.14%), Wed. (25%), Thurs. (7.14%)
- 2) Meeting start time: 6:00 p.m. (20%), 6:30 p.m. (53.33%), 7:00 p.m. (26.67%)
- 3) Reasons for attending meetings: Workshops (83.87%), Time of meetings (6.45%), Learn new techniques (87.10%), Sharing ideas (61.29%), Lectures (41.94%), Meetings at or going to bead stores (38.71%), Beader camaraderie (70.97%)
- 4) Favorite part of being a MBS member: There were a lot of comments that echoed question 3 (learn something new, meeting people with common interest)
- 5) Would you come to open beading meetings: Yes (54.84%), No (45.16)
- 6) If you chose to not attend any particular meeting or meetings, are you willing to tell us why you did not come: Conflicts with the day or there is something else to do, not interested in the meeting topic, location
- 7) What meeting location works best for you: [*Note:* The board makes an effort to meet on both the east and west sides of Madison but it's not always easy to find meeting places.] Roughly, west side (16), anywhere as long as it's interesting (5), east side (7); some locations mentioned include Oakwood west, Sequoya Library, somewhere downtown, Meant to Bead, Madison Bead Company
- 8) Meeting location suggestions: [*Note:* Ideally, we want to find one place, free or low cost with decent parking, where we could hold all of our meetings.] A lot of "no

suggestions” but some suggested different library locations, community centers, and bead shops

- 9) Is there a topic/technique you wish to learn more about at a meeting: Kumihimo, bead quilling, bead stitching techniques, new stuff (products, techniques, etc), chainmaile, weaving, cold connections, embroidery, organization and storage, wirework, bead crochet, soutache, metalwork, cold connections, studio design and organization, display booths, supporting nonprofits through charitable beading
- 10) Do you think the Madison Bead Society should continue as an organization: Yes (92.86%), No (7.14%)

There were a couple comments that the society wasn't welcoming to new members. I can see that; I felt out of place when I joined in 1999 (I think it was 99, may have been 98 or 2000). Volunteering for the board scared me because I'm not a "joiner." I'm glad I did but I'm still scared that I'm not doing enough.

Thinking about writing the survey summary got me thinking about what kind of people join MBS and am I a hobbyist, crafter, or artist? I describe myself as a dabbler, do a little bit of a lot of different crafts, so I would consider myself a crafter. I think a hobbyist delves deeper into her chosen craft. And an artist is someone who comes up with new and inspiring creations that perhaps breaks rules but definitely takes a craft in new direction. What do you think? Let's start a conversation at an upcoming meeting.

Speaking of which, the February meeting is coming up – Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center on the north side (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/wpcrc/>). Please visit the MBS website for details.

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