



Policies for Local Chapters of the PMC Guild

Membership

To keep the national PMC Guild strong, we need to keep building our membership. If the local chapters are branches of a tree, the Guild is the trunk. We depend on membership dues to continue our magazine, web site, research, and support. We therefore request that each local chapter encourage membership in the international PMC Guild.

Naming the Chapters

All chapters have a geographically based name, typically the nearest major city. This is important because it helps people find the chapter. In certain cases, local tradition or terrain lead to a variation on this, such as the Pacific Northwest chapter. This name is always followed by the phrase, ... Chapter of the PMC Guild, which clarifies the relationship between the local organization and the international structure. In addition, chapters are welcome to adopt a nickname. Visit the Chapter pages of the Guild's website for examples.

Using the Web

One of the benefits of becoming an official chapter of the PMC Guild is that each chapter is given three pages in what is by far the most widely used site in the metal clay community. The Guild manages the site and pays a professional web manager to oversee these pages, and to update them as needed. Guidelines for this process can be found on the site, or by requesting help from the Liaison.

In addition, many chapters maintain their own site, which is linked to the Guild pages. In some cases, a local member has the programming skills needed to configure and host a site (lucky them). Other chapters have set up free discussion boards through Yahoo, Google, or other companies. These sites do not take the place of the chapter page on the Guild site, but allow for local control and spontaneity. The Liaison can help by sharing the experience of other chapters.

Growing and Shrinking

There is no "right" size for a chapter. In some cases physical space makes it difficult to accommodate more than a dozen or so people (for instance when meetings are held in a private home). In other cases, distances between people make it difficult to come to meetings. In those and similar cases, it makes sense for one chapter to give rise to another one. Typically this is done locally, but please consult the Liaison to facilitate the growth. It can also happen that enthusiasm shifts, people move away, and a chapter peters out. Please make the national Guild aware if this situation is developing so we can oversee the situation.

Relationship with the Art Clay Society

The PMC Guild and its chapters are supported by companies that make and sell that brand of metal clay. It would be unfair to that support to disguise the relationship between the chapters and the international PMC Guild. There is no suggestion that people who work with Art Clay or are members of the Art Clay Society would not be welcome in any activity or organization of the PMC Guild.