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# WGAS NEWSLETTER

May 2003

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## *New Officers for 2003/2004*

- President – **Jim Conlon**
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP – **Martha Ann Rowan**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – **Kate Seawell**
- Treasurer – **Bobbie Smith**
- Secretary – **Lynda Smith Touart**



## *From the President*

Joanne and I hosted an informal gathering of the new officers of the WGAS on the evening of April 17th to share ideas and develop a realistic agenda for the year. The discussion focused on the following topics:

1. **Non-profit Status.** It was unanimously agreed to apply for Tax Exempt Status -50 1 C)(3) with the IRS as soon as possible. The application process is neither quick nor easy; it requires a three-year probationary period before the IRS will grant a permanent tax exemption for a non-profit organization like ours. However, we can secure provisional acceptance and the associated benefits as soon as our application has been received and accepted. This means that the WGAS will be in a much better position to solicit donations of money and goods and services which should enhance the number and amount of cash and other awards for our exhibitions.
2. **An upgrading of the present WGAS website.** Rich Touart gave a brief presentation on this subject which included the initial cost of designing a site which would provide a substantial amount of information (text) and a limited amount of visual information (graphics). The yearly cost of maintaining the site would be only \$135.00. Designing the site and

selecting the appropriate visuals would cost considerably more. Upgrading the website should be viewed as an investment in the well being of the organization, particularly in conjunction with our pending tax exempt status. This matter has been deferred until the budget for 2003-04 has been determined.

3. **Developing a strategy for proposing an urban art gallery in downtown Mobile.** I suggested that we form a committee to investigate the possibility of proposing the establishment of a gallery for practicing artists in Mobile and the Greater Gulf Coast Area in the new RSA Tower Complex or some other prestigious downtown location. We need a small, but active "think tank" of members who will contribute their thoughts and some of their valuable time to this effort. The WGAS cannot implement an idea like this alone, but it could assume a leadership role working with The Allied Arts Council of Mobile and other organizations to plant the idea and foster its growth
4. **The Fall Show.** One of the most important items at this time is to find a suitable site for our annual Fall Exhibition. Martha Ann Rowan and I are now at work at this task and should have a location within the near future.

The WGAS will celebrate its fifty-fifth anniversary this year. It has made a significant difference in the artistic environment of the greater Mobile area, and will continue to do so with the genuine interest and participation of its members.

Jim Conlon



### ***Spring Show Winners***

- Best of Show: **Allan Butt**, *The Persian Rug*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Marsha Corner**, *Boys on Bike*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Carolyn Greene**, *Green Apples*
- John H. "Bubba" Jones Award: **John Cleverdon**, *1999 Nissan Maxima*
- Members' Choice/ Alabama Art Supply Merchandize Award: **Barbara Cline**, *Spring Quilt*

*(Barbara wants to thank the members for this award. She states that it means much more to her than the decision of any judge.)*



### ***Welcome New Members!***

The following individuals were chosen by committee on the basis of their work exhibited in the Spring Show at ESAC:

- Peg Udall
- Peggy Lawrence
- Loran Chavez
- Fran Neumann



### ***Meeting:***

The next general meeting of the Society has been set for May 15, at the University of South Alabama Visual Arts Building, room 115, at 7 p.m. All members *please* plan to come so we can address the very important matters as outlined in the President's remarks. This is your chance to make your opinions known.



### ***Member News:***

- **Correction!! Madeline Busby** is giving art lessons to children and adults in her home, *not* Missy. (*Mea culpa* – Lynda)
- **Mary Rodning** won a purchase award in the Singing River Art Association, 24th Annual Multi-

Media Exhibition in the Old Train Depot Art Gallery, Pascagoula, MS. Also accepted in the show were **Loran Chavez** and **Barbara Cline**.

- With regret we announce the resignation of **Weezie Bancroft Brabner Phillips**. She feels that she no longer does the kind of work that the Society stands for. We hope she will return one day.
- **Mary Anne Bettino Trovato** and Linda Perry Ledet are exhibiting *The Art of Motherhood* at the grand opening of Saint Ignatius Archives, Museum, and Library featuring their paintings of the Madonna and Child. Preview Night is Thursday, May 22, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, \$10.00 per person (deadline May 15), reception in Xavier Hall. Mail to:  
Saint Ignatius Archives & Museum  
3704 Springhill Ave.  
Mobile AL 36608
- **Allan Butt** and **Barbara Cline** were accepted into the Energen Art Competition hanging through May 9, at the Energen Plaza in Birmingham



### ***From the Secretary:***

As usual, *Membership lists* will be available at the next meeting. **Please** tell me if you need your listing changed or corrected. I especially want to get correct email addresses from those who have them so that we can contact you in this easy, cheap, and *quick* way.

(If you have email, and are not getting emails from me regarding meetings and such, I must not have your correct address!)

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649-7010 (but I'd rather you write or email!)