

2012-05-06

The meeting of the Watercolor and Graphic Arts Society of Mobile was called to order at 3 p.m. by President Joanne Brandt. Joanne thanked Jennifer Smith, owner of Southern Art and Framing, for opening her shop for us on their day off so that we could meet there. Twenty-six members were present.

Joanne then thanked Mary Rodning for generously donating a gavel for our use which had once belonged to her father. Also, the engraved WGAS label will fit this gavel, and did not fit the one given us by Bill Morris. The larger one will be returned to Bill, with thanks.

Since the minutes had been sent out in an email just a few days before, Lynda asked if anyone wanted them read aloud. Ainsley McNeely moved that we accept the minutes as sent out. Denise Inge seconded; Passed by acclamation.

Denise then gave the Treasurer's report. The bank balance is \$3,430.67. The total CD balance is \$6,101.21. Lynda moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Jane Shaw seconded; Passed by acclamation. At the audit she had been found to be 13¢ off from the bank's official balance. She proposed that instead of looking for that amount, she would adjust our balance to match the bank. There was no objection.

OLD BUSINESS

Joanne thanked the many people who had worked so hard this year for WGAS: Those people who volunteered to help with all the minutiae that goes along with our exhibitions, served on committees to nominate officers and to audit our finances, the officers themselves, and others. Joanne stated that she was pleased to have such a dedicated group of people with whom to work.

Kathy Friedline gave updates on the upcoming exhibitions. The Members' Exhibition will be at Mobile Arts Council from June 4 - 29, 2012. Take-in will be Friday, June 1st, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Two items per member may be entered for \$20. This show will be judged, but not juried. Reception will be at the LoDa Art Walk on June 8th. Members will vote on the prospective members and on the Members' Choice award during the reception. Joanne reminded the membership that they must be at the reception to vote. The voting for the Members' Choice will be from 6 – 8 pm., cut-off of voting at 8 sharp. The MAC will close at 9 p.m. New Members will be announced after a letter has been sent to each candidate. Pick-up of work will be on June 30. Joanne asked for a committee of 3 to count ballots of new Members. Lynda, Denise, and Clare King volunteered.

Karen McGahagin gave information about the judge for the show, Carol Creel, of Baton Rouge, LA. Carol had traveled to Mobile in order to jury our Shared Expressions show last summer, but had not had to jury the show due to limited number of entries. Therefore, we have asked her back to judge this year's Members Exhibition. Members can consult her bio information online.

Kathy read a list of the awards for the exhibition:

Best of Show - \$500

Best Aqua Media - \$200

Best Graphic - \$200

Bea Q. Tucker Memorial Award (from Denise Inge and Lynda Touart) - \$150

Southern Art \$150 in merchandise -

AL Art Supply - \$100 in merchandise

Members' Choice - \$100

Honorable Mention (2) - \$50

Denise explained that she and Lynda had acquired artwork from the Bea Tucker estate with the understanding that the purchase "price" would be donated to a charity or non-profit organization, and the decision was made to combine the two so as to make it a bigger prize, and give it in Bea's name.

Kathy then moved on to the Fall Show at the USA Library. Take in will be November 1, from 10-1. Due to space considerations, this will be a juried show. Karen said that she had not yet arranged for a juror, but had a list of a number of people, and would welcome suggestions from the membership. Frances Ashcraft asked if the take-in could start earlier as she was not able to come at that time. Kathy said she would take that under consideration. Take-down will be December 20, 10-1. Joanne noted we could address the additional final details for this juried show in our fall meeting.

Kathy asked the membership where and when they would prefer to have the reception for the Library show. The available dates are November 2, 8, 9 or 15. If we have the reception on Thursday the 8th or 15th, then it will have to be downstairs in the reception room. If we have it on the 2nd or 9th (Friday) it could be upstairs in the gallery, but would conflict with Art Walks. After some discussion, Ainsley moved that we choose the 8th. Clare seconded; Passed by acclamation.

Joanne noted that discussions were underway for a show in May and/or June of 2013, at ESAC. We have submitted a proposal to the ESAC Exhibits Committee. No agreement has been reached at this time, but Joanne is hopeful.

Lynda mentioned the web page and the scrapbook, asking people to send her copies of any historical items they might have. We have 73 "likes" on FaceBook, and she reminded the members that anyone was welcome to post photos or comments there.

NEW BUSINESS

Joanne mentioned the possibility of an extra show in January or February. This year's "Hot Art for a Cold January" had limited participation, and we would like to know how to do better. There was concern by some that the lack of awards may have resulted in a lack of interest by the membership; and there is a possibility that we could use a small entry fee to cover some awards. It was also suggested that it might be interesting to have a theme for an extra members exhibit. Lynda read Fred Marchman's suggestions for extra WGAS exhibits:

1. "How about a show in which there is NO @#%!! time limit on when the work was done? In fact, maybe make it a group retro show where works must date back at least 20 years or more!?"
2. "A show in which digital methods are permitted or an all-digital art show?"

On the whole, the membership seemed pleased with the idea of a retro show. Suzanne suggested we call it "Then and Now" and exhibit one old and one new work. Phyllis Cleaver suggested "Vintage". Les Thompson asked about the rules regarding exhibiting a work more than once in WGAS shows in that case. There was much

discussion as it is a different situation from our usual show rules. Kaye Hoffman suggested a committee be formed to come up with ideas for “extra” or theme shows. Denise said that Fred should be on it. Lynda suggested Suzanne since her idea was so popular. Suzanne declined. Joanne said she would contact some members to establish a committee to look into an additional show venue/theme.

The next topic was procedures for nominating new members. There has been some confusion this year, as we received several letters of “self-nomination” from prospective members, so it was time to address this issue. Joanne pointed out that the By-laws specify that at least 2 current Members should write letters of nomination, not for the prospective member to ask to join. That way the current Members would nominate and fully support an artist of whom they thought highly. Even though this is clearly spelled out in the Constitution, it was suggested that reminders of the procedure be sent out for next year. Lynda noted that in addition to that, our Constitution is on the WGAS web page, www.wgasmobile.org, and available to anyone.

Lynda pointed out that several prospective members had not yet sent résumés. It was suggested that those sponsoring the new members may want to prod them to get that done. They may also want to remind the prospective members that their résumés will be displayed during the audition show. WGAS will also send reminders to the potential members. Karen remarked that she had taken great pains to send in the best résumé she could because she was so honored to be nominated. Jane Shaw remarked that she, and many others, had not been accepted the first time. Members were reminded to attend the reception to carefully review both the submitted artwork and the prospective member’s resume’ prior to voting for acceptance into WGAS.

Jane mentioned that she would like to see several of our members join the American Watercolor Society, or at least the Alabama Watercolor Society. There was discussion about the difficulties of such an undertaking. Marie Nickerson said that after joining as a supporting member, an artist had to be selected into 3 AWS exhibitions within a certain length of time to be declared a member. Kay Hoffman said that Lee had been accepted twice. Marie added that Jo Patton had been selected once.

Reporting for the Auditing Committee, Patti Vickery said they had gone over the books, and had recommendations. Bill McCracken did not make a recommendation but had investigated alternative options to our CDs which are currently earning virtually no interest. He had sent a page of information to the membership. Also, the committee (Patti, Bill, & Suzanne) created a form for detailing cash deposits, and one for receipts, to help with future audits. Karen moved that we accept the report and recommendations of the committee. Ainsley seconded, and it passed by acclamation.

Joanne reminded us that the fiscal year ends May 31st, and after that we have 5 months to file our E-card. Also, the next year’s dues are owed on June 1st. The dues for 2012-13 will come payable on the same day as the take-in for our next show. Denise and Kathy noted that dues may be paid during take-in for the show as well.

Ainsley brought up a distressing question. She reported, without mentioning names, that a local artist had been accused of exhibiting artwork which is not their original work. She wanted to know what the Society would do in such a case. Joanne noted that the Exhibition Rules are quite clear on the acceptability of such work. It must be original and done “under [one’s] own hand”, and that it would be removed from an exhibition when discovered. Ainsley and other Members stated that they did not think that was a sufficient penalty. Clare noted that the first step would be to verify the charge by contacting the original artist. This would have to be carefully done, as it is such a serious charge. It would be difficult to set up a rule to cover all cases. Ainsley, Conroy Hudlow, Kaye, and Clare will form a committee to consider the problem and how to handle it, hopefully presenting at our fall meeting recommendations for language that could be included in the By-laws.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynda and Joanne, respectively, reminded everyone to sign the roll and the birthday card for Jane.

Karen gave people the information about the CSG upcoming *Colors of the Coast* exhibit, and passed out brochures. Someone asked why the CSG and the WGAS exhibitions were scheduled on the same day. Karen said that it was just coincidence; the two organizations are not connected in any official way. Kathy remarked that was a beneficial turn of events because the take-in days were the same, and the venues were only a few blocks apart.

Ainsley announced the Miniature Society meeting will be at 6 p.m. next Tuesday, at the Moorer branch of the Mobile Public Library, and everyone is welcome.

Joanne announced that there are a few openings at CSG if anyone would care to apply, and produced a sample application.

Carolyn Greene, chair of the Nominating Committee (with Marcy Matherne & Anne Festorazzi), announced the current officers had agreed to serve another year, and that was the proposed slate. As there were no nominations from the floor, Jane moved that the slate be accepted. Ainsley seconded, and it passed by acclamation.

Jane Shaw rose to make a few remarks. She spoke of the difficulty of finding places to exhibit years ago, and of hanging work in a bank once when she discovered some bills stuck to herself. She also remarked that through all the years that she has been a member of the organization, she has seen many changes, but that, "it's better now!"

At that we adjourned for cake and coffee, and other goodies to celebrate Jane's 90th birthday.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Smith Touart, Secretary
Watercolor & Graphic Arts Society of Mobile