

Minutes of the Meeting

The General Meeting, held in the Board Room of the Mobile Museum of Art, was called to order at 3 p.m. Twenty members were present.

Secretary Lynda Touart had re-emailed the minutes of the last meeting to the members a few days before, so President Joanne Brandt asked if they could be approved without being read. Ainsley McNeely so moved, Phyllis Cleaver seconded, and the motion passed. Patti Vickery gave the Treasurer's report: Currently we have \$2,218.95 in the checking account, and \$2,949 and \$3154.00 in CDs. Joanne remarked that the lower balance was due to fewer prize donations and fewer entry fees. She hope that the situation will improve when next year's dues come in, starting next month. Penny Lewis moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, Ainsley seconded, and the motion passed.

Second Vice President Kathy Friedline went over the information for the upcoming show at the ESAC:

Take-in: Tuesday, April 30, 9 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Entry fee: \$20 for up to 2 pieces

Judge: Pat Regan of Pensacola

Pick-up of juried-out pieces: Next day (Wednesday May 1st) during the normal business hours, 10 – 4 (ESAC will have a sign-out list.)

Reception Friday, May 3, 6-8, during First Friday Artwalk

Voting for Members' Choice 6-7 p.m.

Voting for Prospective Members 6-8 p.m. (announced *after* they have been notified)

Presentation of Awards 7:15 p.m. The usual awards will be given, including one from AL Art and from Southern Art & Framing. Kathy asked if anyone who had connections to the Lyon's Share Gallery in Fairhope (where the show will be) would be willing to call and ask them for an award. Derald said that he had work there, but that he didn't want to call them. Kathy said she would cold-call them.

Take-down : Tuesday, July 2, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Joanne requested volunteers for the take-in. Jo Patton had volunteered by email. Phyllis Cleaver also offered to help. We will pick a committee to count the ballots from among people attending the reception who have not nominated anyone for membership. Joanne remarked that the ESAC had glowing praise for our last two shows there. They want us alternating with the biennial AWS show there. During May and June they have quite a number of wedding receptions booked and want "good art" on the walls.

Shared Expressions:

Delivery to MMA, Tuesday June 18, 9-10 a.m.

Location and time for Off-site jurying: TBA

Entry Fee: \$10 for up to 2 pieces

Reception: Sunday, July 14, 1 p.m.

Show hangs from July 12 to September 1, 2013

Joanne explained that the MMA have restricted our take-in for Shared Expressions to only 1 hour (Tuesday, June 18, 9-10 a.m.) and that we are required to handle the take-in from members ourselves, off-site. Joanne pointed out that we would like to get the take-in and jurying done on the day before the MMA take-in, in a location we could leave locked overnight. We would like to reserve a room at the MMA (such as this room in

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which we are holding the meeting) to cut down on handling of the artwork. But if that is not an option we will need to find another location. Some suggestions were the Garden Center, a room at USA library, or a room at Moorer or West Regional library. In any case there could be a problem of excessive handling of the work. Joanne & Karen McGahagin said that they had vehicles which could handle lots of artwork, using blankets and such for transport.

Other MMA restrictions are that we are limited to 30 pieces and none can be over 48 x 48", framed. However this year they did not limit participants to entering in only one group (MAA, WGAS, Sumi-e, etc.) as has been the case in the past. Otherwise the rules will be the same as always for WGAS. Sandra Krause suggested that we make an exception to this show since it is not one of our "regular" exhibitions. She suggested that we be allowed to enter work already shown in WGAS shows. Someone also proposed that we be able to go back 4 years rather than two. The idea was that we would be able to show our very best work. Karen remarked that the MAA's rule is no more than 3 years old. Joanne stated that she had reservations about altering the rules, but that we had done that for extra, non-juried shows. Ainsley said that we could have special rules for the Shared Expressions shows in particular. Derald asked if it would get confusing. Ernie said that it was the responsibility of each artist to read the prospectus for every show and be sure the rules were being followed. Sandra moved that a change be made to only the Shared Expressions 2013 prospectus that allows works previously entered in WGAS shows to be entered. Kathy seconded. Motion passed. All other WGAS rules will still apply.

Joanne said that we still need to find a juror for the Shared Expressions show. Even though awards will not be given, we will have to have only 30 pieces to suit the MMA requirement. She further suggested that although we usually do not want to have anyone locally, on this occasion we might be able to find someone who does not know the local artists to any degree. She gave as an example Bob Sain, the director of Space 301. But that would be up to the show committee. Kathy facetiously suggested Allan Butt be the juror. Ainsley suggested Ben Shamback or Jason Guynes, but as they are both Members, they are too local.

Next the proposed changes to the By-Laws were discussed. Ainsley said that item #3 was confusing as written, "*Photographs or other reference resources may be used only with appropriate authorization, or if demonstrated that the source is not copyrighted and/or in the public domain.*" because that made it unclear whether work "*in the public domain*" was allowed or not allowed.

Lynda suggested it be changed to read: "*Photographs or other reference resources may be used only with appropriate authorization, or if demonstrated that the source is in the public domain and is not copyrighted.*"

Ainsley further suggested that #2 outlawing "*Computer (digitally generated) work*" add the additional words "*in part or in whole*"

Lynda moved that WGAS accept the proposed changes as amended. Ernie seconded. Motion passed.

Before we proceeded to New Business, Sandra asked if we got a response from the sanctioned Member since at the last meeting the time for a response had not expired. Joanne answered that we had received no response, to our letter, and, as stated in the letter, no response would be understood to be an acceptance of the proposed sanctions. Therefore, the individual is no longer a member of WGAS, the member's name had been removed from our website, and the prize given for that work had been rescinded. She went on to say that she hopes that we could now put that unpleasant business behind us, and go forward with integrity.

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In New Business, we discussed the show at MAC in 2014, Kathy stated that we will be in the Skinny Gallery, but that quite a number of works could be shown there. The question was raised, but not decided, whether it should be a juried show or not. Joanne said that we will also have to be thinking of a venue for a spring show in 2014. Ainsley said that we might think about broadening where we show. Exhibits used to be held, for example, in hospitals, and she submitted that there should be good security and doctors with money. These questions will be settled later.

The next question was whether we should continue to show biennially at the USA library. The show there last time was poorly supported. Lynda said that we could not be sure if we would continue to be invited since Dr. Wood was very ill and might not continue to bring in exhibitions. Input from members will be needed to decide this if it becomes an issue. Joanne noted that we need good member participation in our shows, since the entry fees are used to support the current level of awards, and the anticipated participation in shows should be a consideration when deciding on future venues.

The Auditing Committee - consisting of Phyllis Cleaver and Jean King - made its report. No problems were found. Karen moved to accept the report. Penny seconded. Motion passed. Joanne noted that filing of E-card with the IRS for continuing our non-profit status was coming up for the 2012-2013 year (should be filed within June-October 2013). Patti said that she had taken care of it for last year (filed in October 2012). Also it is time to pay dues for 2013-2014 on June 1st.

Announcements:

1. Kathy Friedline pronounced that Joanne had been an exceptional President and has done a great job. She presented her with an orchid (which she had set on the center of the table for the meeting without telling Joanne it was for her) and a card signed by all. After enthusiastic applause, Joanne thanked the membership and stated that she had the best Board ever, and the best organization to work with, and that it had been a pleasure, but that she was ready to retire.
2. Karen stated that WGAS had won most of the awards in the recent MAA show. Lynda said that she had asked Yuko Jordan (MAA president) for a list of winners so it could be put in the next Newsletter.
3. Sandra mentioned that she and Denise Inge will be participating in the 11th Annual St. Francis Episcopal Church Festival of Arts and Crafts on Dauphin Island coming up on April 20, and encouraged everyone to come.
4. First Vice President Karen McGahagin reminded everyone about the upcoming Colors of the Coast exhibition at Cathedral Square Gallery. She has mailed out prospectuses. Take-in is June 8, and the BOS will be \$1000. Lynda added that if Karen could send her a digital file, she would send it out to all WGAS Members.
5. Sandra and Phyllis said that CSG is having an open house on April 28th, 2-4 pm., to recruit new members.
6. Ainsley informed us that she has been talking to the MMA about setting up open painting sessions on Thursday nights in one of their under-used rooms, and that they seemed receptive to the idea. Ainsley took signatures from members that would be interested in participating in the painting sessions.

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The report of the Nominating Committee (Carolyn Green, Anne Festorazzi, and Marcy Matherene) was given by Carolyn:

President: Karen McGahagin

First VP: Mary Rodning

2nd VP: Evonne Bilbo

Treasurer: Patti Vickery

Secretary: Lynda Touart

Joanne asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, Sandra moved that we accept the Committee's recommendations. Kathy seconded (with some glee) and the motion passed. Karen stated that Kathy has been trying for 6 months to talk her into being President. Joanne instructed us to "go forth" and handed the gavel to Karen. Karen struck it once on the table and declared the meeting adjourned at 4:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Smith Touart,
Secretary, WGAS