

2014-04-27

The General Meeting of the Watercolor & Graphic Arts Society of Mobile was called to order at 3:05 pm by President Karen McGahagin, in the Auditorium of the Mobile Museum of Art. Originally planned for the Board Room, the venue was changed to accommodate a greater number of members. 1st VP Mary Rodning, 2nd VP Evonne Bilbo, Treasurer Patti Vickery, and Secretary Lynda Smith Touart were present, and a total of 25 members.

Karen began by reading an inspirational quote from Winston Churchill:

“In order to be happy you need to find a task that requires perfection, is impossible to achieve, and spend the rest of your life trying to achieve it.”

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with since they had been sent out in email. The Membership voted to accept them on that basis.

Patti gave the Treasurer’s report. [Attached] Sandra Krause moved it be accepted, and Penny Lewis seconded. Passed.

The next order of business was the election of the Officers for 2014-2015, beginning June 1st. Marcy Matherene, Sandra Krause, and Carolyn Greene comprised the nominating committee. As chair, Marcy reported on their proposed slate:

President: Monique McFarland

1st VP: Ainsley McNeely

2nd VP: Gail Bramer

Secretary: Lynda Smith Touart

Treasurer: Patti Vickery

Karen asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, Ernie Kirkland moved that the slate be accepted. It was seconded, and passed by acclamation. Karen asked Monique to stand and be introduced. Monique expressed delight in her new responsibilities, and stated that she would need and welcome help from everyone. Karen replied that she would especially have help from “two old veterans”, referring to Lynda and Patti who jokingly protested.

Karen then announced the names of the Auditing Committee, to whom Patti will turn over her books shortly:

Corky Goldman

Ernie Kirkland

Kathy Friedline

Another piece of old business was the proposed change to the Constitution. It currently states:

“Timeliness: Entries must have been executed within the past two years and not exhibited in WGAS shows before.”

At the last meeting a proposal was made to change the rules of exhibition to include work that is either 3 or 4 years old instead. Due notice having been given, this was the occasion for the vote. After some brief discussion, Jo Patton moved that we keep the article as is. Lynda seconded. Passed by voice vote.

The next Item was the ongoing every-other-month exhibition at Portier Place. We needed someone to be in charge of these events. The participating artists only need to hang their work. There is no commission and the reception is provided by Debbie Clolinger, the manager. The obligation of the WGAS coordinator would ‘only’ be to get people to sign up, give them a time to hang their work, and coordinate details with Debbie. Lynda emphasized that both she and Ainsley had sold work there, and that if there was ample publicity about the reception, especially to those known to be collectors, the sales could be worthwhile. Deborah Hall volunteered to be responsible for that. Lynda will send her more information about that. The Membership was impressed that a new Member would volunteer right away.

At that point Karen introduced the new Members, asking each to stand:

Deborah Rae Hall
Janet Hinton
Philippe Oszuscik
Barbara Rettig
Karen Spaulding

We returned to the subject of venues for our exhibitions. Karen said she thought that we should show in as many different locations as reasonable, since in that way more and different people would see our work. She then proposed Ashland Gallery. This met with general approval. Lynda will find out whom to contact there.

Evonne suggested that the Daphne Civic Center would also be a good location. She will look into that.

As for the ESAC, Joanne Brandt reported that when we last showed there, Director Kate Fisher was exuberant in her praise and invited us to show every other year, alternating with the American Watercolor Society. Fisher also stated that since they often booked weddings and the like in the summer, an attractive watercolor show made for a good background. Therefore our next exhibit would be in 2015. Karen and Kathy Friedline have both recently talked to Fisher to confirm the 2015 Spring exhibition, and feel that she has been evasive, hinting vaguely that perhaps the Alabama Watercolor Society would be there instead. The ESAC Board must approve the exhibition schedule for 2014. Both Karen and Kathy have been told that they would be contacted, but have not been. Kathy emphasized that she will call again to follow up.

In New Business we addressed the question of making a donation to the MMA for their upcoming 50th Anniversary. Mary Rodning spoke about the many innovations and improvements that had taken place since the arrival of the "new" Director, Deborah Velders, and about those intended for the future. The official date for the anniversary is November 1st. Velders plans to put wooden floors in the exhibit halls, to purchase high-end projectors, to create new staff offices, to improve the library, to make exhibits more educational, and to be more welcoming in general. Joanne Brandt took this opportunity to remind us that the MMA is having a book sale on May 8th for their unwanted books. Monique added that after the current exhibitions close, the renovations will start. Everyone seemed pleased to donate, so the question then was how much and in what manner to contribute. Several methods were proposed. Marcy asked how much WGAS could afford to donate. Joanne suggested that we use funds from a CD when one comes due. Patti said that would be in May or June.

Sandra Krause moved that we set up a matching account, up to \$1000⁰⁰, to ask our members to donate, and to donate a matching amount from the Society. Conroy Hudlow suggested that this be amended to the Society giving \$1000⁰⁰ in total and making up the difference not contributed by individual Members. After discussion Sandra amended her motion to the Society giving \$1000⁰⁰ to the fund, taken from a CD, and to ask Members to also donate. Their monies would then be added to the total. The Members would write their checks to WGAS, indicating that it was for the MMA fund, and WGAS will pay the total. (As WGAS is a non-profit organization, this will be a tax deduction for those who donate.) Marcy seconded, and the motion passed.

Patti asked what the time limit for such donations should be. Joanne moved that the cut-off be June 30th. Frances Ashcraft seconded, and that motion also passed. We will send out a notice about the donations.

Karen reminded us that she had set an exhibit at the West Regional Library for October, but has no specific dates as yet. It will be up to Monique.

As we adjourned, Karen received a gift and a round of applause for her tenure as President.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Smith Touart,
Secretary WGAS