

2015-08-18

The General Membership Meeting of the Watercolor & Graphic Arts Society of Mobile was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Monique McFarland. Twenty-one Members were present. Monique introduced the new Officers, 1st VP Janet Hinton and 2nd VP Marcy Matherne, to the group. Lynda moved that the emailed minutes be accepted, Karen McGahagin seconded, and the motion passed. Monique announced that Patti had reported that the audit had been done, but that she did not have it available for the Members at this time. She passed around the Treasurer's report that Patti Vickery had dropped off [attached].

Monique went over the times and dates for the Fall Exhibit at the Mobile Arts Council in September, as previously set out in the Newsletter. She asked for volunteers to help hang. Janet and Karen said they could help. At this exhibit we will need to forgo the awards ceremony and Members' Choice Award because of the chaos of the ArtWalk crowd. The award plaques will instead be hung after the judging is complete. Monique went over the Judging Guidelines and explained that when a Members' Choice is given, that is the only time a piece may have more than one award. She announced that the entry fee for this exhibit will be \$25 for one or two pieces, that there should be space enough for 30-40 pieces, depending on size, and that MAC is to receive 25% commission on any works that sell. Janet read the information she had on the judge, Misti Coleman Purvis [attached].

In addition to the reception, MAC would like us to participate in a Meet-the-Artists talk the following Saturday, September 19th, from 1 till 2:30 p.m. Any Members are welcome, especially the award winners in the exhibit. Gail Bramer said that the PleinAirSouth group will be doing that this Saturday. They will be showing the equipment they use and demonstrating their processes, etc. We discussed doing something similar. Charmaine Neylon volunteered to set up a demonstration. Karen remarked that would be an excellent thing to do because she had heard many people say that watercolor is "too hard". Lynda said that she could trot out the scrapbooks for the occasion. Janet said that we should have signage about the group, and Monique thought she could take care of that.

We next discussed the Spring Exhibit. Devlin Wilson, co-owner of Innova Arts, 505 St Louis St, has agreed to host it, but we don't yet have an exact date. This will be our Membership show, and nominations must be in 8 weeks before the show. Marcy said that she had spoken to Ashland Gallery about having our Fall 2016 Exhibit there but has not arranged an exact date so far. She asked for suggestions for additional venues. Karen said that Evonne Bilbo had suggested the Daphne Civic Center. Marcy said she will look into that also.

Gail remarked that some members had problems with judged-out work. Monique said that when we hire a judge, we are prepared to accept their subjective opinion. Lynda said that if anyone present had not been juried out at some time, there was something wrong. Janet said that she had seen student work of the upcoming judge, and that it encompassed multiple styles. It will probably be necessary for some work to be juried out due to space considerations at MAC, since we have the Skinny Gallery only this time. Monique understood the alternative would have been for them to cancel our Exhibition altogether.

Monique said that Gail and Lynda would be representing WGAS at the civic gathering at MAC this Thursday, a chance for us to discuss what we've got in the works and to discuss how Mobile Arts Council can work with us in the future. MAC is inviting the Mayor, Colby Cooper, and the City Council to join them, as well. Gail and Lynda asked for suggestions for topics to bring up. Fred Marchman alleged that the arts had lost their voice since the Press-Register laid-off so many people, and that we feel ignored. Especially hard was the loss of Thomas Harrison, the arts editor. Lynda informed the group that the "entertainment reporter" who had "replaced" Thomas, had that day been herself laid off. Lynda added that the switch to digital format was inevitable, but that the substance had been lost. Fred said that TV should do more for the visual arts since it is a visual medium. Gail asked what we could do to make our community more art-aware. Monique said that she had connections at Channel 10 and would approach them about doing a segment, perhaps once a month. It was also suggested that Lagniappe be approached about a once a month column since they have extensive music listings, but not much on the visual arts. John Nodar, as a person interested in the arts, was also mentioned as a possibility for gaining more TV exposure. Fred said that we could create a slide show of Members' work.

Monique read over the Member News section of the last newsletter. Joanne Brandt gave details on the PleinAirSouth group's current exhibition at MAC and their "Nocturnal Paint Out" tomorrow when they will paint in Cathedral Square from 6-8 p.m. Several of our members will be participating.

Mary Rodning said that the Sumi-e Society will hold an exhibition in MAC, Cathedral Square Gallery, and the CLA in October.

Fred mentioned the Church of the Redeemer Gallery and the shows they have there. He also stated that he will be in Bird Fest on October 3rd.

There being no further business, Monique adjourned the meeting at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

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