

**2017-03-12**

The general meeting of the Watercolor & Graphic Arts Society was called to order at 2:30 pm in the Charles Wood Japanese Garden House, President Phyllis Henson presiding. All Officers were present except Debbie Guy who was out of town. There were 11 Members in attendance.

Phyllis passed out packets she had prepared concerning the agenda, the Constitution, past and current Treasurer's report [attached], information sent by Conroy Hudlow about handling a Constitution and by-laws, and supplementary information.

Lynda Touart, Secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting in December, which were accepted as read.

The first item discussed was amending the Constitution regarding dues. Conroy had sent an email suggesting that the dues should not be specified in the by-laws. There was general agreement on this, but the discussion about how to change the current wording quickly dissolved into chaotic debate. Gail Bramer and Lynda both attempted versions of the new wording. Barbara Hall asked if we should consider senior citizen-type Memberships. Hunter Cobb, Second Vice-President, responded that age did not equate to neediness. Also the question would remain at what age to use that distinction. Phyllis added that the Constitution called for two types of Membership: Active and Honorary. Lynda added that the Honorary Memberships were rare, and she suggested that Jane Shaw would be a good choice for that.

Marcy Matherene moved that the dues be raised to \$30 for Membership for the upcoming year. Denise Inge, First Vice-President, seconded. Passed by acclamation. Then Nancy Barry moved that we amend the by-laws to say that the dues will be reviewed annually and can be raised as much as 25% without the vote of the general Membership. Barbara seconded. Passed by acclamation. The exact wording must still be determined.

The next item was the entry fee for the upcoming exhibition. Since this is not a Constitutional issue, we addressed it directly. The previous fee had been \$20 for one piece, and \$10 for a second. Lynda mentioned that one reason for the low second fee was to be sure we got enough entries for the ESAC. Hunter moved that we make it \$30 for the first and keep to \$10 for the second. Denise seconded. Passed by acclamation.

Denise then reported on the judge she had found for the show: Herb Willey, from Ocean Springs. She passed around a bio and other information on him, and everyone seemed satisfied with her choice. A couple of people suggested names for future judges.

The next item was a request from Mary Elizabeth Kimbrough, through email, that we find a more "out of the box" judge. Since Mary Elizabeth was not present, we were not sure what she meant. Hunter suggested that we table that issue until we had a better idea of her definition.

Next we discussed the awards for the upcoming exhibition. Phyllis pointed out that we had lost some \$300 on the last show, and that we needed to find more donors. Lynda supplied that the Ruth Bruckmann family had once more donated \$500 for the Best of Show award for the Spring show. We must add Ruth's photo and bio to the exhibit as in the past. Lynda asked who had those objects, and Hunter said he thought he did. He will check. Other possible donors were mentioned: AL Art Supply, Southern Art & Framing, and Page & Pallet. Denise will check on those. Also, we could ask various online services like Dick Blick, Joe's Cheap Art Stuff, and Amazon for an award. Phyllis will check on those.

Discussion turned to ways to get more Membership participation and ways to do more in the realm of education, which is a requirement of our non-profit status. Carolyn Greene asked about WGAS sponsoring workshops, as we used to do. Phyllis reminded us that the artist would expect pay up front and a certain number of participants would be required lest we lose money. Carolyn mentioned that if we opened these to all, rather than just our Members, we could expect better attendance. We will use the newsletter and/or email to ask for suggestions for artists for a workshop. A committee will be needed to do the legwork on this effort. Hunter moved that we form a workshop committee for further study. Denise seconded. Passed by acclamation. Hunter and Nancy were proposed to begin the effort. They did not decline.

The following brief discussion was about changing the rules for acquiring new Members. Lynda moved that we do not change those rules. Hunter seconded. Passed by acclamation.

Karen McGahagin noted that Joanne Brandt was invited to the Shadows-on-the-Teche Plein Air Competition this weekend. It is quite an honor.

Phyllis stated that it is time for a nominating committee for next year's officers. She will not be returning as President. Deborah Rae Hall (not present) took the lead in that last time, and she will be asked to do so again. We also need volunteers for the annual audit of the WGAS books. No one present offered to help with that.

Lynda moved that the meeting be adjourned. Phyllis seconded. No vote was needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Smith Touart, Secretary

#### Treasurer's Report

March 3, 2017

Balance as of March 3, 2017.....\$2749.30

#### Credits

Dues: \$110.00

Gifts: \$500.00 designated for Bruckmann award

Total: \$610.00

#### Expenditures:

none