

2017-04-22

The general membership meeting of the Watercolor & Graphic Arts Society was called to order by President Phyllis Henson at 9 a.m. at the Charles Wood Japanese Garden House. All officers and 21 Members were present.

Phyllis thanked everyone for coming and remarked that she knew it was an unusual time, but that with Easter last weekend, and the MAA meeting tomorrow afternoon, there wasn't much choice.

Debbie Guy gave the Treasurer's report, accepted by acclamation:

Treasurer's Report
April 22, 2017

Balance as of April 22, 2017.....\$2247.65

Credits: none

Expenditures:

Rental for meeting room: \$50.00

Flowers for Denise Inge funeral: \$121.95

Reimbursement for printing copies: \$29.70

Change for spring show take in: \$300.00

Total: \$501.65

Lynda read the minutes of the March meeting. Marcy Matherne moved that they be accepted as read; Joanne Brandt seconded; passed by acclamation.

Hunter Cobb reported on the upcoming show. He has been in touch with the judge and with the ESAC, and believes all is squared away. He has some volunteers for the take-in, but could use more. Debbie will not be in town for the take-in, but will have all prepared for someone to take over. Conroy said he could do that. Satomi asked about getting her work to the ESAC since she would not be able to do so. Gail Bramer said she could take it as she was already taking work for someone else.

Phyllis said that there had not been enough response to the idea of a workshop to carry on. Joanne said arrangements would have to be mad far in advance. Phyllis added that many artists have an agent or other contact person. Karen McGahagin said that usually those signing up have to pay ¼ of the fee to hold a place, and if the artist comes from far away, their plane fare would also have to be paid. Debbie suggested that we start small with locals and see how it goes.

We then voted on the Constitutional amendment:

Annual dues shall be reviewed yearly at the annual meeting and may be raised up to 25% for the following year with a 2/3 vote of the members present. Any amount above the 25% will require prior notice to Members, and the vote will be taken at the next meeting. Two thirds (2/3) of the members present will carry the vote.

Conroy Hudlow moved that the amendment be accepted. Karen seconded, and motion carried.

Phyllis asked about a memorial award for Denise Inge. Debbie said that we should have it at this show, and suggested \$200.00. After discussion it was decided that the Members' Choice will be Denise's Memorial Award, and that it will come from member donations. If more than \$200.00 is raised, it will carry over to another year. Anyone wishing to make a donation for Denise can send a check to Debbie at the post office box, or bring it to the meeting or take-in.

Kathy Stabler will call Walmart about an award, but thinks it is too late for the May show. She will ask them about the fall show. She will also contact AL Art and Southern Art.

The question arose about other ways to pay dues and entry fees, perhaps a PayPal account. Lynda said she remembered talking with Patti Vickery about that, but isn't sure if an account was set up. Debbie said she will look into it.

We then addressed Conroy's suggestion that members be required to attend one meeting per year to be in the exhibitions. While it was generally agreed that Members SHOULD come to the meetings, several issues arose. Hunter said that such a rule might impact shows. Kathy said that there were often legitimate reasons for non-attendance. Joanne agreed with Hunter about the impact on the shows. Ainsley McNeely said that many young people were not interested in belonging to organizations and preferred to show their work online.

Kathy noted that we should be more anxious to get young people involved and make art fun. Nancy Barry pointed out that lots of things were done digitally elsewhere. She suggested digital entries where after the judge can still reject art that does not conform to the digital image. Karen emphasized that we need to involve younger people. Phyllis pointed out that it is up to us, the Members, to propose younger people too be Members.

Hunter moved that we have a committee look into digital entries. Joanne seconded. Passed. Hunter said he would lead the committee. Joanne proposed that perhaps we could have a separate show for digital or other media, but this met with some resistance.

Phyllis read the list of the new officers who were proposed by the nominating committee:

President - Clare King
1st Vice President - Mary Elizabeth Kimbrough
2nd Vice President - Hunter Cobb
Treasurer - Debbie Guy
Secretary - Lynda Touart

There being no nominations from the floor, Lynda moved that we adopt the slate as presented, Karen seconded, and the item passed by a show of hands.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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