

Central Ohio Watercolor Society Minutes

DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2017

TME: 6:30 PM

LOCATION: MCCONNELL ARTS CENTER

MONTHLY MEETING	First Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
PROGRAM	Annual Business Meeting
HANDOUTS	Meeting agenda
ATTENDEES	19 members
OFFICERS	President: Suzanne Accetta First Vice President: Sally Ford-Lyles Second Vice President: Jeff Stahler Treasurer: Sandra Gaunt Newsletter Editor and Corresponding Secretary: Jim Oberst Recording Secretary: Mitch Masters

Suzanne Accetta opened the meeting at 6:36 with reports from officers.

- First Vice President **Sally Ford-Lyles** brought everyone up to date on plans for the Fall Show, which will be from Nov. 19 to Dec. 18. Take-in is Thursday, Nov. 16, from 10 AM to noon at the German Village Meeting Haus. The opening reception will be Sunday, Nov. 19, from 2 to 4 PM. Sally requested that, if possible, people use Plexiglas rather than glass when framing their pictures, due to weight and safety concerns. The entry form for the Fall Show, which has additional details about submission, is available on the COWS website under “News & Events.”
- Second Vice President **Jeff Stahler** reported that the dates for next year’s Fall Show will be Nov. 18 to Dec. 15, with take-in on Nov. 15 or 16.
- Treasurer **Sandy Gaunt** reported that as of the end of September the Society had a checking account balance of \$11,200.53 and a savings account balance of \$8,020.55, giving a combined total of \$19,221.08.
- Corresponding Secretary **Jim Oberst** asked members to let him know (jim@jimoberst.com) if they have any items for the Newsletter, even if the items aren’t earth-shaking. He encourages members to toot their own horn a bit!
- Recording Secretary **Mitch Masters** asked whether there were any corrections or additions to the September minutes. None were offered.

Committee Reports

- **Bess Alexander** (Membership Committee) passed out new-member entry forms. The form will be on the web soon. (The form from last year, which is on the Society website under “Information/Membership” can be used in the interim.) If you know anyone who would like to join COWS, please have them contact Bess at bessalexanderart@yahoo.com, or phone her at 614-939-1149. Jurying will take place at the Westerville Public Library on October 28. Applicants should bring three original paintings matted with a white or off-white color but not framed.

Election of Officers

- **Suzanne Accetta**, acting as Chair of the Nomination Committee, presented a slate of candidates for Society officers. A motion to accept the complete slate was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. The officers for next year will be the following:
 - President – Suzanne Accetta
 - First Vice President – Jeff Stahler
 - Second Vice President – Marsha Cavanaugh
 - Treasurer – Sandy Gaunt
 - Corresponding Secretary – Jim Oberst
 - Recording Secretary – Mitch Masters

Announcements

- **Sandy Gaunt** reminded members that dues for the coming year can be paid now, and that they should be paid by January 2018 at the latest. Dues are \$30. You can give a check to her at the next meet or send one to her at
Sandy Gaunt
4795 Hayden Blvd
Columbus OH 43221
Sandy will also be at the Fall Show take-in, so you can pay your dues then if you wish.
- **Suzanne Accetta** said she has received a request from Pamela Braddy (pambraddy@odrc.state.oh.com, phone 614-877-4362 ex 2216) for a person to teach an introductory watercolor class to inmates at the Pickaway Correctional Institution in Orient OH. Pam would like the class to start as soon as possible and meet once a week, preferably in the afternoons, for six weeks. She has money for supplies and you would be paid. Pam says the inmates are highly motivated. The goal would be to have a watercolor show at the end of the class. If you would like to do this you can contact Pam directly, but Suzanne suggests that you contact her first or at least keep her informed, since there may be several people who are interested.
- **Sally Ford-Lyles** asked for volunteers to be present at the Fall Show during the Village Lights show in German Village on December 3. You can either demonstrate watercolor painting or help explain watercolor and our Society to visitors (and encourage them to go upstairs to see the show!). If you can help, please send her an email at salford@insight.rr.com.
- **Suzanne Accetta** reported that the 2018 Spring Show will be in the Westerville Arts Center in June. An earlier date is not possible there due to their commitments.
- **Suzanne Accetta** asked that members come up with new venues for shows. We may need to form an ad hoc committee for this task. One suggestion was the Schumacher Gallery at Capital University. Another was the Arts Castle in Delaware. **Sally Ford-Lyles** said that we will likely have an open show there in the spring. If you know of other potential venues, please send the information on to Suzanne.
- **Jim Oberst** asks that you let him know if you are not getting the Newsletter (jim@jimoberst.com). Also, he reminded people that he sends the Newsletter out in four batches, due to the limitations of his email service. Thus, if you want to send an announcement to the whole membership, rather than hitting "reply" to the Newsletter you should send the information to him and he will make sure it gets out to everyone. **Sandy Gaunt** reported that we have just over 100 paid-up members in COWS. Jim promised to send out list of names and email addresses of all the COWS members soon.

Consideration of Revisions to the Society Bylaws

Suzanne Accetta led a general discussion of the issues and concerns raised by the Ad Hoc Committee on Revision of the Society Bylaws and of the survey the Committee sent out last month to the membership on these issues. The survey was returned by about a quarter of the membership. Some points were clarified (and voted on) and others remain for future discussion by the Committee and then by the membership.

- On the question of whether COWS should remain committed to transparent watercolor only, the vote was heavily in favor of keeping the intent of the bylaws as they currently stand concerning this issue. In other words, only paint marketed by its manufacturer as “watercolor” is acceptable, and white paint (even if marketed by the manufacturer as watercolor paint) is not to be used. Some newer media (e.g., iridescent, metallic), if marketed as watercolor, are acceptable.
- The question of whether watercolor pencil or watercolor stick is acceptable was not specifically voted on, but the sense of those present seemed to be that these are acceptable if they are used in a transparent manner (i.e., used with water and not, for instance, like colored pencil or oil pastel). The Committee needs to consider this question further.
- On the question of painting surface (support), the vote was strongly in favor of leaving the bylaws as they are. However, if the paper is affixed to a substrate, as in watercolor board, this is acceptable because the surface remains unaltered watercolor paper. Use of other surfaces (e.g., Yupo) is not allowed.
- There was a good deal of discussion as to whether rice paper (handmade or manufactured) or handmade paper in general (with or without inclusions) is acceptable. The sense of the participants was that we should follow what appears to be the intent of the current the bylaws in this regard, i.e., only sized, manufactured paper marketed as watercolor paper is to be used. If this is the intent, it needs to be spelled out clearly in the bylaws.
- On the question of how recently pictures must have been painted in order to be submitted to a COWS show, the majority was in favor of making the limit three years.
- On the question of whether to create a new category of associate membership, those present were largely (but not unanimously) in favor of exploring the option. A number of questions would need to be resolved (e.g.: Could an associate member exhibit in a COWS show? All shows? Could an associate member be an officer in the Society? Should they pay dues?) before deciding whether this is a step we should take. Consequently, the Ad Hoc Committee will need to create bylaws to cover this new category of membership before a final decision can be made. Suzanne noted that, as far as she could tell, we are the only watercolor society in the United States that does not have an associate category.
- On the question of whether we should allow residents of all counties in Ohio to apply for membership to COWS, the vote was unanimously in favor.
- On the question of how long officers should serve, the vote was strongly in favor of keeping the bylaws as they are.
- The question of the originality of paintings submitted by members to COWS shows engendered a great deal of discussion. The issue was not resolved, although there was general recognition that only the artist can answer the question of how original a work is. Basically, there is no way to police this, nor did anyone want to take on the job of deciding whether a particular painting is or is not “original.” Nevertheless, even if we leave it up to the artist to decide, some guiding language needs to be included in the bylaws so they can make an informed decision. Several suggested wordings were made but none was immediately deemed acceptable. Therefore, if you have specific language to suggest regarding originality, please email it to Suzanne as soon as possible so that the Ad Hoc Committee can consider it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM. The next meeting will take place on November 2 at the McConnell Art Center at 6:30 PM.

Mitch Masters

Recording Secretary