CENTRAL OHIO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY – 2026 BYLAWS

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BL-2-2026

CENTRAL OHIO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY - 2026 BYLAWS

We, the members of the Central Ohio Watercolor Society, hereinafter referred to as the "Society", establish the name and the following bylaws of the Society.

ARTICLE I: Purpose

The purpose of the Society is to further interest in, and the status of, transparent watercolor both for the benefit of Society members and for the development of public interest in the medium.

ARTICLE II: Membership

SECTION A: Qualifications: Individuals who live in Ohio and are interested in furthering the use of transparent watercolor as a form of artistic expression and who demonstrate skills of high quality are eligible to apply for membership.

SECTION B:

1. Members in good standing are required to:

a. Pay membership dues in full by January 1 of each year,
b. Demonstrate enthusiasm for the purposes of the Society by participation in its affairs.

2. Members in good standing may:

a. Hold any elective office or committee assignment,
b. Submit information about potential members,
c. Bring guests to any program meeting of the Society,
d. Submit names of others in good standing for participation in the affairs and activities of the Society, and
e. Participate in exhibitions and other activities of the Society.

SECTION C: Residency: Members who have moved away from central Ohio may maintain membership in good standing by fulfilling the requirements stated in Section B above.

SECTION D: Nomination of Potential Members: Any member in good standing may recommend an artist to the chairperson of the membership committee by giving the name, mailing address, e-mail address**,** and telephone number of the potential member or honorary member.

SECTION E: Selection of New Members:

1. Any member may recommend an artist for membership to the chairperson of the membership committee as stated in Section D above. The recommender, or the membership chair if there is no recommender, will communicate to the potential new member the purposes and standards of the Society. See Addeudum A in ARTICLE VIII.

2. The membership committee shall be responsible for adhering to the purposes and standards of the Society.

3. The membership committee shall select new members by viewing three or more pieces of the applicant's work, and it may establish and apply other procedures appropriate to the purposes of the Society.

4. The selection of new members shall occur in September of each year soon after the application cutoff date, which is the first Sunday after Labor Day. No new member shall be selected at any other time. New members shall be approved by the membership committee and reported to the active board. A list of new members with their personal information (email address, etc.) will be provided to the president and treasurer of the Society.

5. Following acceptance into the Society, new members are encouraged to serve on a committee for two years.

BL-3-2026

CENTRAL OHIO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY - 2026 BYLAWS

SECTION F: Charter Members: Each member present at the first COWS meeting in 1964 shall be considered a charter member and be so recognized on the roster of members.

SECTION G: Honorary lifetime members: The active board may approve individuals for honorary lifetime membership, dues free, for their service to the Society or other meritorious reason.

SECTION H: Deceased members: Deceased members in good standing at the time of death shall be recognized in a special section of the roster.

SECTION I: Resignations: Resignations from the Society or from any office or committee shall be made in writing, by email, in direct conversation, or by phone call to the president.

ARTICLE III: Dues

SECTION A: Dues for membership for any calendar year, beginning January 1 and ending December 31, may be established at the annual meeting in October with the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting. Dues are payable by January 1.

SECTION B: Members who have not paid their dues by March 1 shall forfeit membership in the Society. The names of those whose dues are unpaid shall not be listed in the member roster. A person whose dues are not paid on time and who thus forfeits their membership can ask the board to review their situation. The board will decide whether to reinstate the person as a member, or even, in special circumstances, to waive dues altogether.

SECTION C: Any person forfeiting membership may apply for membership as in Article II, Section E.

BL-4-2026

CENTRAL OHIO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY - 2026 BYLAWS

ARTICLE IV: Organization

SECTION A: Structure:
1. The Society shall have a full board of directors and officers: president, first vice-president, second vice-president, monthly program coordinator, recording secretary and treasurer.

2. At the time of taking office, the president and first vice-president shall have been members of the Society for two (2) years.

3. The full board of directors shall consist of the past presidents of the Society who have committed to actively participating in board affairs. Board members wishing to participate at board functions must communicate this to the president so a list of "active board" members can be established. This shall be referred to as the "active board." A list of the current active board shall be published in the roster.

SECTION B: Active Board of Directors:

1. The board of directors, henceforth referred to as the "active board" shall be responsible for directing the affairs of this Society, with the president acting as chairman.

2. The active board shall meet at least annually in an open session about which the membership has been notified and invited to attend.

SECTION C: Officers:
1. President: The president, as chief executive officer, shall be responsible for:
   a. the development of a current list of "active board" members by canvassing the full board for those who wish to be notified of active board meetings and to participate in board affairs,
   b. consulting with the active board as delineated in Article IV, Section B., and shall be guided by

the consensus of the active board,
c. appointing persons from the Society's membership to chair the committees as defined in Article IV, Section E,
d. calling meetings of the active board as needed,
e. responding to a call for a meeting from five or more members,
f. chairing all meetings of the membership,
g. carrying on the affairs of the Society in keeping with the provisions of the bylaws, and
h. reporting to the active board at the end of the year the accomplishments and activities of the year and for making recommendations for the following year.

The president shall serve as ex-officio on all active board and standing committees.

The president may, with the approval of the active board, appoint representatives from the Society to other arts and community groups and organizations.

2. First Vice-President:
a. Shall serve as chief executive officer at times of the president's brief absence,
b. Shall serve as chairperson of the annual fall show or find a substitute.
c. Shall work with the Exhibition Committee to organize the fall show.
d. Shall select a juror for the fall show with board approval and arrange for the juror to give a workshop in conjunction with the show.
e. May serve on ad-hoc committees, as assigned, and undertake other assignments at the request of the president with the approval of the active board.

3. Second Vice-President:
a. May serve temporarily as chief executive officer in the brief absence of the president and the first vice-president,
b. Shall serve as chairperson of the annual spring or summer show or find a substitute.
c. Shall work with the Exhibition Committee to organize the spring/summer show.
d. Shall select a juror for the spring/summer show with board approval and arrange for the juror to give a workshop in conjunction with the show.
d. May assume temporarily the other duties of the first vice-president, recording secretary, or corresponding secretary at the request of the president.

4. Recording Secretary:
a. Responsible for the preparation of the minutes of all meetings of the membership

and of the active board, as requested by the president.
b. May serve as secretary to standing committees as needed.

5. Monthly Program Coordinator:
a. Serves as chair of the Program Committee
b. Should keep the board informed of progress or difficulties in scheduling monthly programs.

6. Treasurer:
a. Shall serve as chief financial officer of the Society
b. Shall be responsible for
1) chairing the finance committee.
2) maintaining financial records.
3) dispersing funds with the approval of the president.
4) providing the board with monthly financial reports and a year-end summary.
5) maintaining the official roster of members, in coordination with the president.
6) preparing the official membership roster of active members in March, or as soon thereafter as possible.
7) collecting dues in keeping with provisions of Article III, Section A.
8) notifying members by email at the beginning of December that Society dues should be paid by the first of the year.
9) re-notifying by email at the beginning of January and the beginning of February those members whose dues are delinquent. Members who have not paid their dues by the first of March will be removed from the rolls as specified in Article III, Section B.
10) notifying delinquent members by email of forfeiture of membership as provided by Article III, Section C.
11) informing the president by email of the names of members who have forfeited membership.
12) submitting the Charitable Registration report to the Ohio Attorney General's Office annually.

13) submitting the on-line Form 990-N to the IRS annually.
14) submitting "Non-Profit – Certificate of Continued Existence" to the Ohio Secretary of State every five years (due in February of years ending in 4 or 9).

SECTION D: Elections:
1. Rights to hold office: The term for officers is one year, except for the treasurer who shall serve until relieved of such duties. An officer may be nominated for a second term in the same office. No member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

2. Nominating Process: The Nominating Committee may receive, at any time from any member, the names of members to be considered for elective office. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the annual business meeting in October, assuming the nominated candidate agrees to serve.

3. Voting: Voting shall take place at the annual meeting in October of each year.

4. Resignation from office: Officers resigning shall do so according to Article II, Section 1.

5. Vacancy: When an officer resigns, the active board is responsible for obtaining a replacement to fill the unexpired term. The person serving as replacement shall be eligible for nomination for another full term to the same office.

SECTION E: Committees

1. Committee structure: The chairs of each committee shall be appointed by the president unless otherwise stated herein. The committee chairs shall be responsible for appointing members to serve on their committees in order to fulfil the mission of the committees, as described in these bylaws.

2. Annual committees: Annual committees are listed below. They shall meet as needed, beginning in January. Ad hoc or other committees may be established by the president or the active board as necessary.

a. **Exhibition Committee:** Duties include
   1) working with the president and vice-presidents to secure venues for the spring and fall shows, ideally two or more years in advance.
   2) maintaining a list of art venues in the central Ohio region, along with associated contact people, as a resource for the first and second vice-presidents and members of the Society.

b. **Membership Committee:** This committee shall consist of five (5) members, at least two of whom are members of the active board. This committee shall be responsible for:
   1) upholding, and making sure applicants are aware of, the purposes and standards of the Society.
   2) selection of new members as set forth in Article II, Section E.
   3) reporting the selected new members to the active board and providing a list of names and contact information to the president, treasurer and corresponding secretary.
   4) screening paintings submitted by members for exhibition in keeping with the purposes and standards of the Society.
   5) receiving and reviewing written letters of dispute regarding entry submissions per Article VI, Section B.
   6) attempting resolution of properly filed disputes per Article VI, Section B.
   7) recommending individuals to the active board for honorary lifetime membership.

c. **Public Relations Committee:** This committee shall be responsible for news releases to the media and for the announcement of the events of the Society to the public.

d. **Paint-out Committee:** This committee is responsible for planning, organizing, and implementing the annual German Village paint-out

e. **Finance Committee:** This committee shall consist of two members, the president and the current treasurer and shall prepare an annual budget and provide recommendations and guidance to the active board.

f. **Nominating Committee:** This committee shall function as defined in Article IV, Section D.

g. **Hospitality Committee:** This committee is responsible for planning and developing social events for the membership and for providing refreshments at the Society's gatherings.

h. **Program Committee:** This committee is responsible for reserving venues for the monthly meetings, and for scheduling speakers, art demonstrators, or other programs for those meetings.

i. **Grants Committee:** The Society has two available grants intended to further the pursuit of the

watercolor medium. They are the Individual Watercolor Grant and Art Educator Grant. Details including requirements are on the applications in Article VIII, Addenda B and C. The committee is charged with identifying applicants for these grants and participating in the selection process.

j. **Webmaster(s):** Responsible for maintaining and updating the website monthly.

Resignation from committees: Resignation from any committee appointment shall be according to Article II, Section I.

ARTICLE V: Communications

SECTION A: Meetings:

1. An annual meeting shall be held in October for the purpose of electing officers, amending these bylaws, receiving various reports, and enacting other business.

2. Members shall be informed of all programs and special meetings, as well as the annual meeting, by the corresponding secretary.

3. Business, as necessary, may be conducted at any special meeting, the notice of which shall contain a brief statement of business to be discussed. Such special meetings of the membership may be called by the active board or by a signed petition of ten (10) or more members. Any member may submit to the president prior to the mailing of the notices of the special meeting any business on which the membership present may vote, excluding election of officers or changes to these bylaws.

SECTION B: Distributed Communications:

1. The officers are responsible for the distribution of the following to all members:
   a. policy decisions of the active board of directors,
   b. proposed changes in the bylaws,
   c. results of the vote for the changes in the bylaws,
   d. updating the current bylaws of the Society on the website. www.centralohiowatercolorsociety.com, no later than April 1 of each year when changes have been made during the previous year. All the new members shall receive a copy of the bylaws at the time they become members in good standing,
   e. roster of members. The roster shall include a listing of all members in good standing only, the names of the officers, the full board of directors, the current and preceding year's active board members, honorary lifetime members, committee members, charter members, and deceased members.
   f. The annual financial statement.

2. A newsletter prepared by the corresponding secretary and/or the president may be emailed at the time the announcement of the next membership meeting is made.

3. The announcement of the annual meeting or special meetings of the membership shall be made at least ten (10) days before the meeting and shall include the following:
   a. Any formal action taken at the previous special meeting or annual meeting,

b. The agenda for the business section of the meeting and
c. The specifics of any issue on which a vote is to be taken.

ARTICLE VI: Exhibitions

SECTION A. Eligibility:

1. Only members in good standing may enter and exhibit in the Society's exhibitions.

2. Paintings submitted for exhibition must meet the following requirements:
   a. Only transparent watercolor may be used as the painting medium. "Transparent watercolor" is defined as paint so marked and advertised as "watercolor" by the manufacturer. Thus other water-based media, and any white paint, shall not be used. The paint may be applied directly as it comes from the tube or pan, or it may be diluted with water. No other material may be permanently added to the painting surface or mixed with the watercolor medium, except graphite pencil may be used for the initial structural drawing.

3. Support: The surface on which the watercolor is applied shall be paper, sized only by the manufacturer. No additional substance shall be applied to the support material nor any other support surface used.

4. Presentation: All paintings shall be presented as a flat surface, protected by glass or Plexiglas only; no glazing material shall be added to the surface of the painting. The painting shall be presented framed and wired for hanging.

5. Originality: Works for exhibition shall be composed by the artist submitting the entry. Paintings copied from photographs, other than your own, or made during a workshop or classroom situation are not eligible for entry.

6. Paintings must have been completed within three years prior to the exhibit (except for non-juried open exhibitions) and not previously been exhibited in a juried exhibition of the Society.

SECTION B. Disputes: The membership committee shall be responsible for ensuring that entries meet eligibility requirements as stated in Article II, Section E. Disputes over entry eligibility shall be presented in writing to the chairperson of the membership committee.

SECTION C. Storage and transport fee: Members may be assessed a fee as established by the active board for storing and transporting paintings for entry to exhibitions or not picked up from exhibitions.

ARTICLE VII: Changes to the bylaws

SECTION A. The bylaws should be reviewed at least every five years by an ad hoc committee

SECTION B. These bylaws shall be amended as follows:

1. An ad hoc committee may be formed by the active board to propose additions or corrections to these bylaws, and to evaluate changes to these bylaws that have been proposed by any member.

2. Discussion of proposed changes to the bylaws shall take place at the annual meeting, provided that the membership has been notified of the sections, including the wording, to be discussed at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

3. Notifications of changes recommended by the ad hoc committee, along with necessary clarifications, shall be emailed to all members. Email notification shall fulfill the purpose of this section.

4. Bylaws shall be amended if approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the annual meeting.

SECTION C: Duration: Changes to the bylaws shall become effective on January 1 of the year following approval by the membership and shall be incorporated into the next publication of the bylaws.

Approved: **May 11, 1983**
Revised: **November 13, 1985**
December 31, 1987
May 9, 1990
October 9, 1996
October 5, 2017
October 14, 2018
October 10, 2021
October 11, 2026

ARTICLE VIII: Addenda

Addendum A – New Member Form
Addendum B – Individual Watercolor Grant
Addendum C – Art Educator Grant
Addendum D – Statement of Nondiscrimination

BL-10-2026

Article VIII: Addenda

CENTRAL OHIO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY - 2026 BYLAWS

Addendum A

CENTRAL OHIO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY - NEW MEMBER ENTRY FORM

Please submit the following information by e-mail to (insert Membership Chair name and email)
or mail to (her/him) at (Membership Chair postal address)

Name: _____

Address: _____City: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Name of the COWS member recommending you, if applicable: _____

Portfolio: Three paintings should be submitted as digital JPEG images via the COWS website (www.centralohiowatercolorsociety.com). The image of each painting should include only the painting (no mat or frame). The only medium permitted is transparent watercolor on unaltered paper (see details below).

An application for membership may be submitted at any time, but the yearly deadline is in September on the first Sunday after Labor Day. The membership committee will evaluate applications soon after this date. It will make selections then and at no other time.

COWS bylaws concerning submission of painting: Only transparent watercolor may be used as the painting medium. "Transparent watercolor" is defined as paint so marked and advertised as "watercolor" by the manufacturer. Thus, all other water-based media and any white paint shall not be used. The paint may be applied directly as it comes from the tube or pan or diluted with water. No other material shall be permanently added to the painting surface or mixed with the watercolor medium, except that graphite pencil may be used for the initial drawing. The surface on which the watercolor is applied shall be paper, sized only by the manufacturer. No additional substance shall be applied to the support material nor any other support surface used. Paintings copied from photographs, other than your own, or made as a workshop or classroom paint-along, are not eligible.

COWS concerning purpose and membership: The purpose of the Society is to further interest in, and the status of, transparent watercolor both for the benefit of Society members and for the development of public interest in the medium. Individuals who live in Ohio and are interested in furthering the use of transparent watercolor as a form of artistic expression and who demonstrate skills of high quality are eligible to apply for membership.

The Central Ohio Watercolor Society was founded in 1964 and is the preeminent transparent watercolor society in central Ohio. Modern technology has produced many new "water media" products, referring to any medium that is water soluble, and there are many societies that present opportunities to exhibit work created with these products. However, the Central Ohio Watercolor Society remains committed to its original purpose to promote and preserve the unique character of transparent watercolor. We have over 100 members and most of the members are award-winning artists, many with regional and national reputations. More information can be found on our website.

The Society meets once a month, usually on the second Sunday of the month, 1 to 3 pm (see COWS website for location

and times). We have two juried shows a year with cash prizes, as well as many interesting programs during the year. You will meet many talented people who share your love of watercolor. We also have critiques and workshops that help in the quest to become a better artist. The dues are $30.00 a year.

BL-11-2026

CENTRAL OHIO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY - 2026 BYLAWS

Addendum B

INDIVIDUAL WATERCOLOR GRANT

Amount: $500
Deadline for submission: February 1 of each year

Who is eligible?

The applicant must be an Ohio resident, 16 years old or older, who has demonstrated an interest in painting in watercolor. The grant is **not** open to members of the Central Ohio Watercolor Society (COWS).

Application requirements

1) Portfolio

   • The applicant must submit digital images of 3 to 5 original water-media paintings, two of which should use transparent watercolor (because the Central Ohio Watercolor Society is dedicated to the use of transparent watercolor). The remaining painting(s) may use transparent watercolor, gouache, or acrylic paint. The paintings should be solely the work of the applicant, although they may have been done as part of a class or workshop.

2) Application letter and optional letter of support

   • Applicants must submit a statement that summarizes a specific watercolor goal (e.g., smoother washes, more varied mark making, better composition, improved color mixing, etc.) and how the anticipated use of grant funds would help to achieve this goal.

   • A letter of support from someone who knows the applicant is optional and can be submitted via the "Contact COWS" tab on the COWS homepage.

Selection of grant recipients

The material submitted by the applicant will be evaluated by the Grants Committee. The committee's decision will be communicated to the applicant by email before March 1.

Use of funds

Grants are made with the expectation that the money will be used to advance the applicant's skill in watercolor. For instance, funds may be used to buy supplies and equipment (such as paint, paper, brushes, instructional books, etc.), and/or to participate in watercolor classes or workshops. (Several classes offered by Society members can be found on the COWS homepage under "Classes," but grantees are not restricted to these.)

BL-12-2026

Mentoring program available

Members of the Society may volunteer for short- or long-term mentoring of grant recipients. Mentoring is optional both for the Society member and the grantee, but, if the grantee so desires, the Chair of the Grants

Committee will seek Society members who would like to do this. The details of the arrangement, should one be formed, would be up to the Society member and the grant recipient.

Attendance at COWS meetings

Recipients are also encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of the Society, which usually involve a watercolor artist demonstrating their approach to painting.

Follow-up for grant recipients

Grant recipients are expected to show one or more paintings that they have produced during the year following the grant. The painting(s) can be shown at a regular COWS meeting or at the reception that accompanies one of the Society's member-only shows.

Questions?

Please submit questions about this grant via the "Contact COWS" tab on the Society homepage.

Online application: [insert URL]

BL-13-2026

CENTRAL OHIO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY - 2026 BYLAWS

Addendum C

ART EDUCATOR GRANT

Amount: $500
Deadline for submission: February 1 of each year

Who is eligible?

The grant recipient must be an active art educator teaching in Ohio working at the K through 12 level. This grant is open to members of the Central Ohio Watercolor Society (COWS).

Application requirements

1) Portfolio

   • The applicant must submit digital images of 3 to 5 original transparent watercolor paintings. (The Central Ohio Watercolor Society is dedicated to the use of transparent watercolor.) The paintings should have been done solely by the applicant, although they may have been done as part of a class or workshop.

2) Application letter and optional letter of support

   • A statement from the applicant is required. It should include the applicant's goals as regards teaching watercolor, and it should provide information about the anticipated use of grant funds to achieve these goals. Note that increasing the applicant's proficiency in watercolor is an acceptable goal, given that it should make teaching watercolor more effective. Taking classes or workshops is also acceptable, both because the applicant would gain skill and because the applicant will be exposed to another person's approach to teaching art.

   • If the applicant has a particular class or workshop in mind, it should be mentioned.

   • A letter of support from someone who knows the applicant is optional and can be submitted via the "Contact COWS" tab on the COWS homepage.

Selection of grant recipients

The material submitted by the applicant will be evaluated by the Grants Committee. The committee's decision will be communicated to the applicant by email before March 1.

Use of grant funds

Grants are made with the expectation that the money will be used to advance the applicant's effectiveness as a watercolor instructor. For instance, funds may be used to buy supplies and equipment (such as paint, paper, brushes, instructional books, etc.) for the applicant and/or for the applicant's students. Funds may also be used

to participate in watercolor classes or workshops. (Several classes offered by Society members can be found on the COWS homepage under "Classes," but grantees are not restricted to these.)

BL-14-2026

Mentoring program available

Members of the Society may volunteer for short- or long-term mentoring of grant recipients. Mentoring is optional both for the Society member and the grantee, but, if the grantee so desires, the Chair of the Grants Committee will seek Society members who would like to do this. The details of the arrangement, should one be formed, would be up to the Society member and the grant recipient.

Attendance at COWS meetings

Recipients are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of the Society, which usually involve a watercolor artist demonstrating their approach to painting.

Follow-up for Grant recipients

At the end of the grant period, grantees are expected to come to a COWS meeting and give a short (e.g., 5-minute) report about their experience with this grant, and, if appropriate, suggestions for improving the grant.

Questions?

Please submit questions about this grant via the "Contact COWS" tab on the Society homepage.

Online application: [insert URL]

BL-15-2026

Addendum D - Statement of Nondiscrimination

The Central Ohio Watercolor Society does not and shall not discriminate based on race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender identity, age, national origin (ancestry), ethnicity, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or identity, or military status in any of its activities or operations. The Central Ohio Watercolor Society is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all its members, staff, volunteers and the community at large, and every member of this Society is expected to uphold this policy.

BL-16-2026