

2014 Virginia Watercolor Society Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 3, 2014

President Gwen Bragg called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, Lynchburg, Virginia with welcoming remarks on the occasion of the 35 Annual Virginia Watercolor Society's Juried Exhibition. The minutes from the 2013 Annual Meeting were approved.

State Treasurer, Lynn Hosegood was introduced and she read highlights from the Treasurer's report, covering April 1, 2013 – April 20, 2014. Treasurer's report was approved.

Karen Schwartz, Membership Chair, presented her report: to date the 2014 membership total is 358 members, down from 380 at the end of last year. In 2013, 83 members did not renew their membership. Six of the new members were accepted in exhibitions. Karen's efforts in updating the VWS website and Membership information were recognized.

David Eakin and Cindy Vener, co-chairs of the 35th VWS juried exhibition presented their report. It has been 18 years since the VWS show has been hosted in Lynchburg. A committee of 14 members was instrumental in making the exhibition a success. 207 artists entered this year's exhibition with 509 images. Ninety images were selected for the exhibition and the work was partially displayed on 20 new temporary walls that were donated for this exhibition. The Best in Show Award was increased to \$1500 this year. Gwen discussed how some proposed changes in the By-laws will allow the Board to make changes by electronic vote (for example, voting to change the Best in Show Award amount), instead of waiting until the Annual Meeting. Over \$14,000.00 in awards and door prizes will be presented on Saturday night. The workshop was a great success with 20 artists. The exhibition runs to June 28th.

Cindy Vener discussed the events on Saturday: Gallery talk by Nicholas Simmons at 11:00 a.m. and Limo Tour at 1:15 of the Alan Pearson Cancer Center, the Maier Museum and the Art Box. This evening, reception starts at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm. Award presentations after dinner.

Nancy Stark read the report about the Creasy Johnson Fund (see attached). Gwen reminded the group to encourage people to apply for these funds by contacting Susan Stuller at 2930 Barrow Place, Midlothian, VA 23113.

Old Business:

Lynn Hosegood put together proposed amendments to the VWS By-Laws and Constitution, in order to clean up policy and history; membership changes and a provision for artists who may move out of state.

Karen Schwartz talked about the change in VWS Membership renewals (this was a response to a question about life membership and that the artist must now have continuous membership to be a signature member). New members can enroll in November and get credit for the new year starting in January. Renewing members cannot do this. The idea is to keep the artist current in memberships. A motion was put forward to approve changes to the VWS By-laws and Constitution and was voted on and approved.

Lynn Hosegood discussed the initiative to develop a procedures manual as a guideline for facilities that host the Annual Exhibition. The manual will include job descriptions for the exhibition committee and this will be an addendum to the By-Laws. The proposed addendum was voted on and accepted.

Jon Moneymaker discussed the Facebook page set up for the VWS. The current page does exist however it is tied to Jon's personal Facebook account. Jon is talking with Karen Schwartz about surrendering his account. The worst case scenario is having to shut down the existing Facebook page and open a new one under Karen Schwartz's direction. Karen stated that emails are being used more frequently to contact members and she encouraged members to make sure that their emails will accept messages from the address: @Virginiawatercolorsociety.org Another account will be added for the exhibition Chair.

New Business:

Gwen introduced Brenda Hounshell, chair of the 36th Annual Exhibition in Harrisonburg. The juror and workshop presenter is Mark Mehaffey (a colleague and friend of this year's juror, Nicholas Simmons). The dates of the exhibition are May 15-June 26, 2015. Workshop dates are May 11-May 15, 2015. Early February is designated time for receipt of entries. The exhibition will be at the JMU gallery "Duke Hall" site. The schedule for next year's event will be released shortly. The workshop will not be on the JMU campus, but will be held locally in Harrisonburg.

Gwen met informally with the Board on Friday, May 2 and discussed a few items: She questioned the members regarding moving to an electronic newsletter and the general consensus was very positive. (The catalog will still be printed). A possibility of receiving dues by a Paypal account is going to be investigated.

As a way to recruit new members, Gwen has been tasked with developing a new brochure to explain VWS. She will do so and send to all area VWS representatives. Among other things, this effort will help dispel the myth that one has to be “invited to join VWS”.

Please send Gwen names of instructors who teach adult continuing education, community colleges, or other facilities in the community.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ted Batt
Exhibitions Curator, Academy of Fine Arts