

Board Meeting
VWS Board Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2020
Video Conference Call via [zoom.com](https://zoom.us)

Present: Jean Cannon (came to the meeting at 5), Tony Conner, Adrienne Fisher, Jeannette Fournier, Martin LaLonde, Angie Parlin, Judith Selin, Chris Sumner, Lauren Wooden

Agenda

4:04 Welcome/ Introductions

4:05 – 4:15 Approve Minutes from May meeting

Chris made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting; Angie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4:15 – 4:45 Directors' Reports*

* The written reports follow the completed agenda.

Angie made the motion to accept Mary Stuessy as book keeper of September 1, 2020. Lauren seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued regarding using snail/mail or exploring expediting the process, possibly through the website. We will take this up in the future.

4:45 – 5:15 VWS Policy – Tolerance/Hate/Race & Hires/Contractors Vetting

Tony will look into the VT Arts Council, NH Arts Council, etc. to see if there is a procedure already outlined. Develop a procedure for hiring/vetting contractors. Martin and Jeanette will research and present it to the Board before September.

5:15 – 5:30 Member Database Update

Vicki Herzberg's Signature membership data base will be merged with the new data base. The new data base also integrates membership payments, etc.using the Stripe gateway. It has been extremely efficient in creating different lists, new forms, etc. It can also integrate information from Entrythingy, Paypal, Mailchimp, etc. Judith asked if we should consider having a 'technical person' to maintain the website and keep it current? As of January 1, 2021, Tony will volunteer to be the webmaster, while evaluating what tasks and how long they will take. Google drive has folders that the Board members can access. For example, minutes have not been posted or updated on the website. We will continue to discuss this in September when we develop the budget for next year.

5:30 – 6:00 Fall Events – Exhibit and Member Meeting

Martin made a motion to have a date-to-be-decided online-Zoom meeting for our Fall Conference, including a business and a demonstration. Lauren seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

6:00 – 6:15 Officer/Director Recruitment

Five board member positions will need to be filled. Jean and Adrienne can serve another term if they choose. Tony will write a letter requesting and encouraging members to step forward to volunteer. The Board also will work at recruiting new people.

6:15 – 6:18 Open Discussion

Next meeting: September 13, 2020 at 5 pm.

6:19 Martin made a motion to adjourn at 6:19. Chris seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adrienne Fisher, Secretary

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Joey Bibeau

Attempting to schedule a date for the 2020 VWS fall meeting. Had trouble connecting with our contact at Middlebury (she is out on COVID-19 leave) Got in touch with the person filling for her. Tony- Does Saturday, 10/24 work for you? Two other dates are also still available, Sun, 10/18 and Sat, 11/14. It would be best to reserve ASAP. Agenda (other than business half) for the meeting to be determined. It's difficult to predict what the meeting might look like i.e. masks and distancing. Certainly, it will be based on how the pandemic plays out going into the fall.

Planning of the 2021 VWS Workshop in its early stage. I will begin reaching out to potential artists who would be interested in coming to Vermont. Looking to possibly move the workshop to another venue different from the last few years. I may look to push the workshop further into 2021 to have the best chance of putting the COVID-19 pandemic behind us.

EXHIBITION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jean Cannon

1. Summer show, "Into the Woods" at the Gruppe Gallery in Jericho opens July 25th. Thirty four paintings by 34 artists on display. Lisa Beach's piece was chosen for the postcard image and the postcards were designed by Jeanette. 250 were delivered to the gallery and each of the exhibiting artists got 15 to distribute. In lieu of an opening, it was decided to have "meet the artists" Saturdays and Sundays for the duration of the show. There are 10 Saturdays and Sundays and 4 artists have signed up for a slot. The artist's schedules will be posted on the gallery website.
2. The fall awards show at the Chaffee Art Center is scheduled to open September 11th. Deadline for entry is July 15th and as of this writing 7/11, 20 artists have submitted 35 pieces. So far we have a firm commitment for \$1300 in awards. Unfirm, but probable for another \$200. I have not heard from Holbein, who were very generous last fall with material awards.
3. In the Spring of 2021 we have a verbal commitment from the Highland Center for the Arts, but no dates and no contract. This show is supposed to be in conjunction with a workshop.
4. Fall of 2021 our awards show is scheduled for the Festival Gallery in Waitsfield. Opening reception is October 24th and the show will run until December 17th.
5. Jeanette has been in touch SBAC for 2022 for the Spring Show

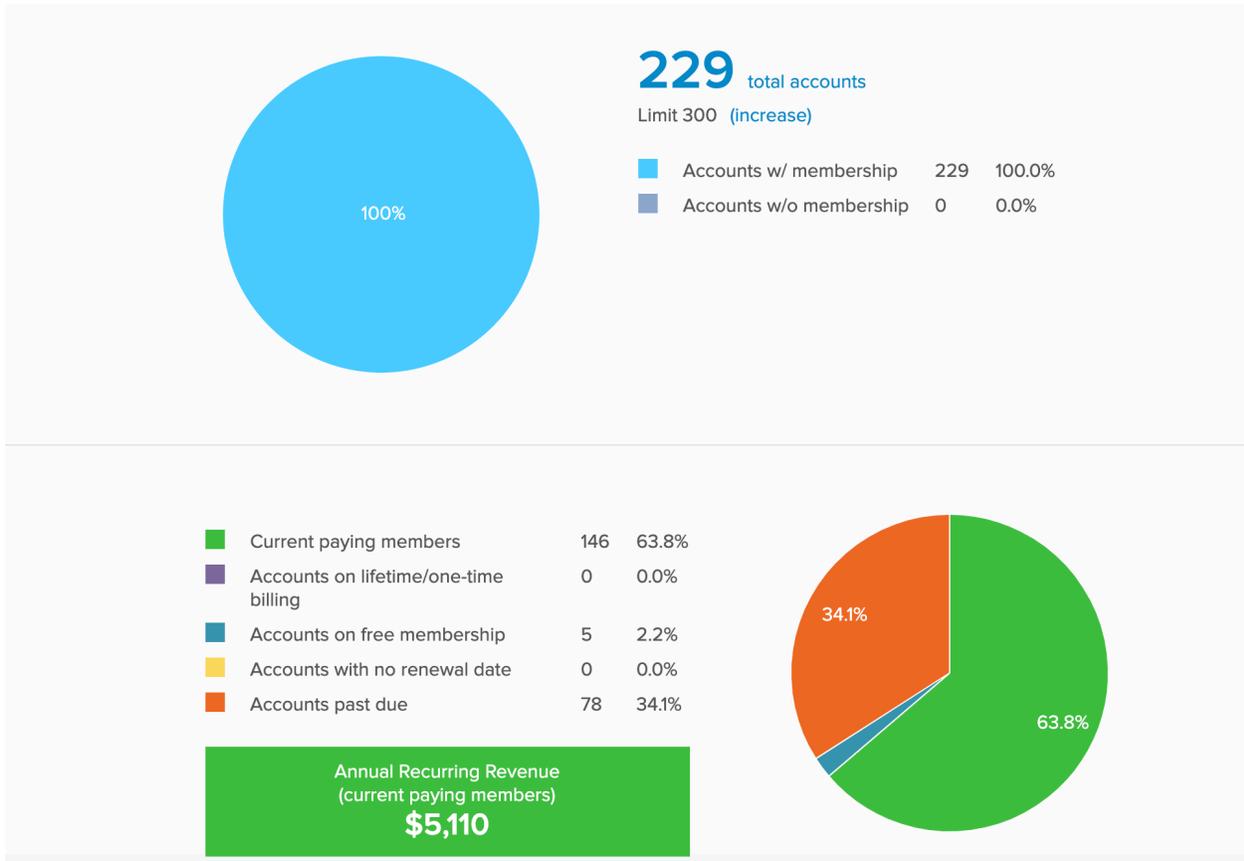
TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Sumner

Due to the pandemic, financial activity in the VWS accounts has been minimal over the past two months. For May and June we collected \$105 in dues and \$175 in fall show entries. Disbursements have been even less at a whopping \$217.95 spent in two months. Consequently, our financial status remains the same. We have over \$30,000 as available resources.

After some long delays due to the pandemic, Mary Stuessy and I were able to discuss the possibility of her taking on VWS as a new client. (Lauren Wooden had suggested I contact Mary after Betty advised that she was reducing her client load). Mary had some great ideas about how to digitize the check processing payment system so we could avoid some of the long delays we experience shuffling invoices and checks over snail mail. She also would use quickbooks online (versus the desktop version we currently use) so I could access financials directly, or look up expense questions without going through an intermediary. Mary would charge us a flat fee of \$150 per month (which includes the subscription to quickbooks online). This would be \$1,800 per year, and last year we spent \$2,100. Our budget for 2020 is \$2,000. I recommend that we change bookkeeping services effective 9/1/20 to Grasp Books.

Membership Report Lauren Wooden



Labels

Hub: Burlington/St. Albans	62
Hub: Central/Northeast Kingdom	33
Hub: Connecticut River	76
Hub: Westside	37

Discussion about switching from PayPal to Stripe for Membership dues on the website. It is all set up to accept Membership dues. Stripe accounts work better than several PayPal accounts,

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT
JUDITH SELIN

1. Newsletters continue to go out by the first of the month. As a Board we have successfully posted the "Why I Serve" column each month since January with only two more of us to go. I will write something for the August Newsletter and Angie will finish with September. Good job everyone and thank you. Hopefully these postings will help us fill the Board vacancies this Fall.
2. The Newsletter is sent using a service called **Constant Contact**. To date it renews automatically every year. The next billing cycle begins on 8-9-20 thru 8-9-2021. I called them to let them know we will no longer be using their service, so we have until 8-9-2020 to send any emails using Constant Contact. There is an option to archive all work that has been done through their site, including retention of the current mailing list, for \$5.00/month. I declined this service. The case number for the cancelation is #26851944.
3. I signed up for two webinars this week to acquaint myself with using Mailchimp, our new email platform. One is on basic orientation and the other on how to create a new Template. Before I try to create one, I'd like to know if a template has already been set up by Natasha?
4. We now have 500 VWS bumper stickers at our disposal. They're really nice and very visible. I have one on our car. The question is how do we want to distribute them? I outlined a few thoughts in an email earlier this month directed to the Board. Ideas included:
 - For starters we could have them at the Gruppe Gallery during the upcoming show?
 - We could mail them out to members, (but would need to include the mailing costs of doing so)?
 - We could keep them until the Fall meeting and hand them out then?
 - I could mail bundles to HUB leaders for their distribution needs?

Discussion: Martin Lalonde made a motion to snail/mail the bumper stickers and include information about the Fall show, future meetings, including the new brochure, and letter to encourage members to volunteer for Officers Board Members mailing to members, with some members divided into special categories. Chris seconded the motion. Laura will mail the labels, Martin will write the letter, Judith and Martin will mail it. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Judith will call Natasha about switching from Constant Contact to Mail Chimp concerning the next Newsletter. Tony will archive the data base that Constant Contact on our GoogleDrive.

DIRECTOR OF HUBS
Anne Parlin

It is obvious that Covid-19 has taken it's toll on activities that Hubs feel comfortable doing.

Burlington/St. Albans: Did manage to get a show up at All Souls in Shelburne just as the pandemic hit. As far as I know, it is still there. Terry Boyle has been busy with entries to other shows. He does say that they are planning a late-September plein air event.

Central/NE Kingdom: no word at all.

West Side: With the great cooperation of Tim and Maureen at the Landgrove Inn, a one day workshop with Ted Nuttal was arranged. The workshop was great, according to Barbara Ardell and Lynn Pratt. They set up tables, at appropriate social distance, with wide-open windows. Everyone brought their own lunch. Seven people signed up but the actual number turned out to be six. The report is that Ted Nuttal was an excellent teacher and spent much time with the group, answering the questions and demonstrating.

Connecticut River: Reported no activity, with most people painting on their own at home. Questions remain as to what comes next as the pandemic continues to be a concern.