

VWS Board Meeting Minutes July 11, 2015

Attendees, Martin Lalonde, Carlton Annis, Mark Nielsen, Adrienne Fiske, Pam Dexter and Diane Bell

Corrections to the minutes were called for:

A correction to the spelling of Peter Huntoon's name in the March minutes needs to be made. Minutes were approved pending this correction.

Treasurer's Report - Carlton Annis

Right now the budget is pro-rated to the quarter for which it is reported. There was some discussion as to whether this is an efficient way to do this. It was decided that an annual budget better meets our needs. Carlton will change the budget from a pro-rated one to an annual budget, but the entries for each activity will be kept together.

Mark would like to see a record of transfer or a comment reflected in the budget regarding our money market account. Since these monies make some interest, it makes sense to move it regularly into that money market account from the checking account.

Director of Hubs - Pam Dexter

Four hubs were represented at the Hub rally on May, 16th. Issues discussed included: How to stir up interest in a hub event; need to reinforce that all hub members can initiate activities; do local art events draw attention from hub activities, and more computer support is needed for new hub point persons to help them get started. Michelle LeBoeuf will be asked to add hub information into the "welcome" letter to new members.

The search is on to fill the open pp position in the Burlington/St. Albans hub. Martin, Adrienne and Charles will meet to brainstorm this issue.

The Director of Hubs position is open as of the first of the year. A couple of names were mentioned and they will be approached.

Director of Programs - Martin LaLonde

Those attending the Spring meeting agreed that it was probably our best to date. The 20th Annual Fall Meeting will happen on October 17, 2015 at the Middlebury Inn. Frank Eber is coming this summer to the Landgrove Inn. 16 of 18 slots have been filled.

Jeannie Mcguire, a well-known figure artist, is scheduled for 2016 at the Landgrove. In choosing future watercolorists, it's crucial they have national status as they bring their own students who help to fill the roster.

Director of Exhibitions - Charles Norris-Brown

July 31 is the deadline for entering the 2015 awards show in Meriden, NH at the Taylor Gallery at Kimball Union Academy. KU will print postcards for their distribution and ours. The awards have already been acquired for this show.

Preparations for the Spring 2016 show are on the table. Potential venues include Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester or the Chaffee in Rutland.

The Fall Awards Exhibition is scheduled for October 21 - November 16, 2016 at the AVA Gallery in Lebanon, NH.

Director of Memberships - Michelle LeBoeuf

Michelle was not present due to some family issues, but she sent Mark her report.

There are currently 175 current members, 65 lapsed for a total of 240. (27 members last paid in 2013.) Mark will send out lapsed and termination letters.

Our current membership booklet needs to be updated with a email flier to include the current board members, new members and any other changes since 2014.

Director of Volunteers - Adrienne Fiske

Adrienne recently stepped into this position. She will reach out to Michelle for a list of members' volunteer preferences to help her get started.

Adrienne feels we need a volunteer area on the website that will be useful to the co-directors as well as the membership.

A multi-generational event was suggested by Adrienne.

Co-directors of Communications - Lynn Pratt and Kate Jackson

An "I Can Paint" Facebook page has been created and an "I Can Paint" section has been added to the website. The VWS brochure has been printed as well and is now available for those who want it.

Education Fund

The VWS has received \$1,150. The funds have come from members and family related folks. Mark will hear about the grant request from the VT Arts Council by August 7th. An evaluation form for teachers is being created as well through the task force.

20th Anniversary:

Thoughts on how to commemorate our 20th year anniversary at the fall meeting included a mug offered to all the attendees at that meeting. The remainder would be sold to other members. 72 mugs will be ordered with the VWS logo and text on one side and the "I Can Paint" logo on the other. Just as an additional idea, Diane will look into bumper stickers or decals as well.

Housekeeping Matters:

The treasurer is active on Reserve Account:

Carlton notified the board that he has access to all VWS accounts including the reserve account through E-Banking. After some discussion the board agreed to let this situation stand as is.

There is no liability coverage for individual member's artworks:

Mark explained that he was wrong to state on various occasions in a number of venues that individual member's art works are covered under the VWS General Liability insurance policy. Our policy insures the organization, but not individuals against losses.

Typically a homeowner insurance policy would cover losses due to damage of an individual & property. VWS members should review their homeowner insurance policy to determine under what conditions their paintings might be covered in the event that they are damaged at a show.

Receipts form for bookkeeping:

Carlton reminded the board to use the all purpose receipt form he developed when submitting items to Betty for reimbursement.

Proposed By-Law / Policy Manual Discussion:

Carlton presented the idea of reorganizing our bylaws which now run 54 pages in length into a short (4 page) set of bylaws and a companion policy manual that would contain everything to date that was not retained in the bylaws. He presented a 4 page initial draft of the bylaws to illustrate how our bylaws could be greatly boiled down to the few essential elements without sacrificing the policies and procedures adopted to date by our organization. Generally this idea met with a favorable response from those board members in attendance and we agreed to move the idea forward. We agreed to proceed after consulting with members who had been deeply involved in crafting our current bylaws and connecting with those board members not in attendance of the meeting. The time table we discussed is to prepare the documents and the membership for a vote at our annual business meeting in 2016 and to proceed with minor revision to the current bylaws for the annual business meeting in 2015.

Annual Volunteer Show:

Adrienne Fisk presented the idea of rewarding volunteers with the a show of their work and the board settled on inviting all volunteers to bring a painting to the Fall Business meeting for display. Martin will check into the logistics of setting up the paintings in our demonstration room reserved for the afternoon activities.

Co-sharing for Burlington /St Albans Hub Point person:

Adrienne raised the question of co-sharing for hub point persons and is it a good way to share the load? The Board affirmed that it was.

Proposal from Eastview Retirement Community in Middlebury:

Mark read an invitation from Eastview Retirement community's Director of Programming, Heather Viens to come to Eastview for some painting on the grounds. We agreed that we would put the offer out to the hubs and see if there would be an individual who might step forward to track sign ups and provide a head count of artists to the facility. ERC will coordinate the logistics for lunch. Pam will contact the hub point people and Mark will get back to Heather.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm