

Minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Virginia Watercolor Society

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2005, in the James Monroe Room of the Omni Hotel, Charlottesville, VA, by President Nina Ozbey (65 people were registered for the business meeting).

Minutes: The minutes of the 2004 annual meeting on May 15 in Arlington were read by Barbara Collins. They were approved as read.

State Treasurer's Report: Pat Lawson reported a balance at the end of 2004 of \$15,244.67 (and called attention to the comparison with 1990 which was \$5,151.88, believing this was due to the increase in membership). The present balance is \$18,149.56 The large expense of printing the catalog is yet to be deducted. Our present membership is 372 persons, down from 424 in 2004. Pat urged the VWS to make efforts to increase our membership. She cited the example of Williamsburg who wrote to previous members recommending membership and they did rejoin. The website has helped. Area reps could publicize activities of the Society in their local art groups. Increased membership will increase the size of the treasury. Pat described one expense we might consider abolishing - creating duplicate slides from the show to be sent for a \$10 fee to local organizations. We had only three requests last year which did not justify the cost of producing and mailing the slides. We do advertise this service on our Website and in the Waterlogue.

When considering a new treasurer and membership chairman, Pat advised continuity in these offices because of the savings in changing the box number and renewing mailing permit from place to place or year to year.

Presentation of 2005-2006 Candidates: David Cooper of Staunton, spokesman for the 2005 show, presented the nominations for next year's slate of officers: Sylvia Gibbs for President, Anita Walter Cooper for Vice-President, David Cooper will be director of the exhibition. There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was accepted by unanimous vote. David announced that Julie Drinkard Fox will be Secretary and other State officers will be asked to remain in their positions for next year's show. Directors at Large will be: W. Allen Berkshire, Gerrie Brown and Pat Fiore, all of Harrisonburg and Margaret Bucher of Waynesboro. Nina Ozbey will serve Ex-Officio.

Creasy-Johnson Fund Report: Nancy Newhard-Farrar pleaded with the membership to convince local arts centers and schools to apply for grants to teach watercolor techniques. The application form is on the VWS web-site. The money will go back into the VWS operating budget if not used. This past year Vera Dickerson did two hour-long workshops for high school students who responded enthusiastically. In Christiansburg Nadine Allen led a workshop which led to an exhibit involving 95 students. We now have a balance of \$13,649.82 in the Fund.

Co-Chairman's Report of the 2005 Exhibition: Margy Springett remarked that notes from Rachel Norment and Pat Lawson about former shows were invaluable guidelines. She thanked the Committee Chairpersons: Awards, Julia Kindred; Slides, Joy Cross; Registration, Pat Shutts and Alice Russell; Receiving and pickup, Edith Arbaugh and Joan Soderlund; Workshop/Juror, Patrice Reese; Graphics/Photos, Chris Rich; Prospectus, Peg Redd; Treasurer, Nick Barlow. She especially thanked Barbara Wachter who stepped in at the last minute for Nancy Campa, Hospitality Chair. She mentioned how grateful we were to Alice Russell and the Central Virginia Watercolor Guild for providing the Friday evening opening reception. Twenty artists enjoyed Carole Barnes' workshop at the Municipal Arts Center. 233 members entered 633 slides; 110 paintings were chosen for the show. \$9,394. in prize money was awarded to 21 artists.

Old Business: Pauline Lorfano passed around a copy of the VWS brochure that had been proposed at the 2004 Annual Meeting and produced by her committee: Helen Barsalou and Amanda Lee.

New Business: Waterlogue: The deadline for the next issue is June 15, 2005

Pat Fiore, President of SVWS in Harrisonburg made a motion **that VWS accept digital entries in future exhibits. To allow for a transition period the motion includes a "grandfathering" of slide acceptance for a period of time as well as the discretion of the Judge chosen for the Exhibits.** She explained that slide film was becoming difficult to find and reliable reproduction of art images on slides harder and harder to obtain in the Shenandoah Valley. Kodak has recently announced they will no longer make slide projectors so the diminished future of slide use by the public is going to result in more and more difficulty for artists to make slides and just about impossible **to view** them. Digital image making is a cheaper, instantaneous and more reliable reproduction of our art. Digital images can be viewed on computers, or laptops or projected with power point presentations. Brochures, prints, giclees, business cards and note cards can be made readily from digital images. Finding a source for digital developing is so easy, even most K-Mart stores can give you a digital CD of your art. Color accuracy is managed with calibrated computers which **all businesses**, universities and **any high quality** monitor will have. VMRC, a large art exhibition in Virginia, converted all their slide entries to digital this year and will ask for digital entries next year. Our own VWS webmaster, Karen Anderson Schwartz, has already been converting our slides to digital for the VWS web site for two years. She is willing to do that for those entries we might still receive next year in slides. Converting to digital will save money for VWS not only in publicity expenses but we could make available a CD of exhibits to all associate member organizations for the costs of shipping the cassette of slides to just one. Our membership includes some of the best watercolor artists in the country. Shouldn't we be one of the leaders of this transition? Digital will eventually be the **only** way to go. Why not now? **After a question and answer period, the motion passed by a clear majority.**

Closing: Nina announced that McGuffey would be open on Sunday, from 9 to 11 a.m. in addition to regular Sunday hours, 1-5 p.m. She explained that there is an elevator operating from the back parking lot.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. A demonstration by the juror, Carole Barnes, followed in the James Monroe Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara M. Collins,
Recording Secretary