

*Bylaw change
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Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Virginia Watercolor Society

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, 2004, at the Arlington Hilton and Towers, Arlington, Virginia by Co-President Pauline Lorfano, also representing Co-Presidents Carolyn Gawarecki and Marie Shaughnessey. (Seventy-one people were registered for the business meeting.)

Minutes: The minutes of the 2003 annual meeting on September 13 in Newport News were read by Roberta Day. They were approved as read.

Co-Presidents Report: Pauline Lorfano presented the Co-Presidents report: The Slides Committee chair, Jean Gill, said 243 artists submitted 628 paintings. Jean's committee worked hard into the night to send the slides off to the juror who chose 103 paintings for the show. The Awards Committee did an outstanding job. Twenty-four different artists will get prizes. We have 57 listed donors and over \$10,000 was raised. Marilyn Milici and Jane Jordan ran the Workshop which had 30 participants and nine demo observers in the morning. The opening reception at the Ellipse Arts Center with delicious food was well attended. We worked with a succession of several art directors at the Ellipse Arts Center and all agreed Director Sarah Lissabet was excellent to work with. The Ellipse received, unpacked, and catalogued paintings, hung and labeled paintings in their beautiful exhibition space. The Exhibition looks wonderful and is comparable to the American Watercolor Show. The Ellipse sent out 1,000 invitations. Pickup of paintings is July 5, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., July 6, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Shipped paintings will go out July 12. There are seven new signature artists, 20 first time artists, and 401 members. The Creasy Johnson Fund had three applicants; two were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Marie Shaughnessey, Co-President and Exhibition Treasurer, gave the 2003 VWS Treasurer's Report for VWS State Treasurer Pat Lawson of Roanoke. The total amount on hand as of December 31, 2003 was \$26,423.97. This included a Balance on hand as of December 31, 2002 of \$9,765.10, Total Income in 2003 of \$12,741.00, Total Expenditures in 2003 of \$9,731.95, and \$13,649.82 in the Creasy-Johnson Education Fund.

Next Year's Show and Election of Next Year's Officers: Marcey Springett from Charlottesville announced that the 2005 show will be at the McGuffey Art Center in Charlottesville. Carol Barnes has been selected as the Judge and Juror. The Omni Hotel in Charlottesville has been booked and is within easy walking distance of the McGuffey Art Center. The show opening will be held May 6 and 7.

Marcey presented the nominations for next year's slate of officers: Nina Ozbey for President and Marcey Springett for Vice-President. They will also be Co-Chairs of the 2005 Exhibition. There were no nominations from the floor. Phyllis Greenway moved and Karen Schwartz seconded the motion to accept the slate. The motion passed. Marcey announced Barbara Collins will be Secretary and Nick Barlow will be Exhibition Treasurer. Exhibition Committee Chairs will be: Awards, Julia Kindred; Hospitality, Nancy Campa; Workshop/Judge, Patricia Reese; Publicity, Jim Weatherford; Slides, Joy Cross; Installation, Edith Arbaugh; Receive/Return, Joan Soderlund; Prospectus, Peg Redd; Photography/Graphics, Chris Rich; and Registration, Alice Runkle and Pat Shutts. Other State officers will be asked to remain in their positions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Future Exhibitions: Pauline said that Years 2006 and 2007 are still open but they are working to make Harrisonburg definite for 2006.

Website: Webmaster Karen Schwartz said last year's show was posted on the VWS website and all pieces, in addition to the awards paintings, can be seen. In order to post this year's exhibition, she will need the slides. There are 12-14 people in the Members Gallery on the website. People check the site to see what VWS is like. The more artists we show, the better to increase membership. Karen provided information on requirements for joining the Gallery, how Gallery artists are protected from advertisers and spyware, and how the website can be

linked to the artist's own website. These details can be found at the website. The VWS website is also a good way to get information to members about VWS business. For example, applications for the annual Exhibition will be on the web. Karen said she appreciates feedback.

Waterlogue: June 15 is the next deadline for the *Waterlogue*. Pauline said that Karen Schwartz was invaluable when we ran into trouble getting out the last newsletter which had important information on the current show. Karen put out 200 e-mails to reach people.

NEW BUSINESS:

Publication of Constitution and By-laws with Membership List: Pauline said that the Northern Virginia Executive Board did not have a copy of the VWS Constitution and By-laws when it started up and it could have used them. She recommended that the Constitution and By-laws be sent out with future membership lists so that each Exhibition Committee has a similar concept of its responsibilities. Marge Alderson moved and Carolyn Gawarecki seconded the motion that the Constitution and By-laws be published with the membership list. The motion was unanimously approved. Pauline also said that it eventually would be good to have an Exhibition operating manual. She also said she believes the Constitution and By-laws should be updated. Volunteers are needed for these activities.

By-laws Amendment: Pauline stated that one problem the Exhibition Committee ran into was what to do about an artist who sold an accepted painting before the show. The prospectus states that paintings must be for sale at the 2004 exhibition. The Committee also raised other questions, such as what to do as happened in a show elsewhere, if an artist uses parts of a recognizable, published photo in the painting, and whether digital images are acceptable in our watercolor shows? Do we leave what to do up to the Exhibition Committee or do we put it in the By-laws?

Proposed amendment: Phyllis Greenway proposed the following By-law addendum to the Constitution: Exhibition Guidelines.

1. VWS requires adherence to the specific guidelines and conditions of entry stated in the prospectus.
 - a. After submission of entry no changes of stated price, image or no-show (availability) will be accepted.
 - b. After acceptance of artwork, and the artwork is withdrawn from exhibition, the artist will not be eligible for the following year's exhibition.

Discussion surrounding the proposed amendment addressed the following: There was general agreement that no-shows should be penalized for one year and not be allowed to enter the next year's show. Other organizations have the same one year punishment for no-shows. The person who sold the painting owes a commission. There may be the unintended consequence of penalizing an artist whose painting is damaged in transit and cannot be exhibited. It is okay to withdraw a slide before jurying, but once a painting is accepted it must be delivered even if it is not for sale. The Exhibition Committee received a lot of calls this year regarding exceptions to the rules. Artists need to read the prospectus carefully and recognize they have signed a commitment to VWS. As for using digital images in the creation and presentation of a painting, some thought this should be up to the juror, whereas others thought digital images were no more acceptable in a collage than magazine pictures. Also, collage materials should have been painted by the artist. The prospectus guidelines now say paintings should be 80% watercolor and no pastel can be used. Putting guidelines in the By-laws was mentioned but others felt specifics of the guidelines should be left up to each year's Exhibition Committee because it is difficult to anticipate every situation. The question of needing to publish this amendment before the vote was raised, but it was determined that a By-laws vote could be held at the present meeting.

Vote on the proposed By-Laws amendment: The amendment was brought to a vote in two parts. Marge Alderson moved and Marie Shaughnessy seconded the motion to add the amendment with Item a. to the By-laws and Betty Ganley moved and Helen Barsalou seconded the motion to add Item b. of the amendment to the By-laws. Both motions passed.

VWS Brochure Proposal: Pauline said that the 2004 Exhibition Committee proposed that VWS create an official VWS brochure. A professionally designed brochure would be very useful for soliciting contributions and doing publicity as well as responding to membership and other inquiries. The brochure should contain information on our history, annual juried exhibitions, goals, workshops, meetings, *Waterlogue* newsletter, website address, how to apply for grants, how to obtain membership, and our 501(3c) status. It should be small enough to be mailed in a number 10 envelope. Pauline has established a committee consisting of herself, Helen Barsalou, and Amanda Lee and will put an announcement in the *Waterlogue* asking members to submit their design ideas to the committee which will review submissions and decide upon an appropriate design by November. Once the design is decided, it will be sent to Walters Printing for publishing. Publishing costs from the state budget will be kept to a minimum. Jean Gill moved and Lassie Corbett seconded the motion to establish a committee to plan and produce a brochure. The motion passed.

Judy Perry Memorial Award: Pauline announced that Mr. Donald E. Perry of Virginia Beach wishes to establish an annual \$500 Judy Perry Memorial Award in memory of his late wife. Future VWS Executive Boards need to contact Mr. Perry.

Exhibition Painting Size: Margaret Huddy asked the membership to consider increasing the maximize size limit of paintings in the VWS show from 44" to 48" because this is a more suitable framing size for paintings on 29 " x 41" paper. Margaret Huddy moved and Carolyn Gawrecki seconded the motion that the maximum size should be 48" in either direction to include framing. It was then pointed out that some show venues might not have enough space to hang such large paintings. The motion was modified to add "unless venue prohibited it." The motion passed.

Expression of Thanks: Pauline expressed the thanks of the Co-Presidents to the many people who worked hard on the 25th VWS Exhibition to make it a success: Jean Gill and her slides committee, Marge Alderson, Gwen Bragg, and Lilly Manning for awards and door prizes, Amanda Lee for publicity and the reception, Betty Ganley for the breakfast and business meeting, Robert Dowler, Ted MacKechnie, and Mary Frances Schmidt for registration, Helen Barsalou and her banquet committee, Marilyn Milici and Jane Jordan for the workshop, Roberta Day for minute taking, and the many other Exhibition Committee members and helpers as well as Karen Schwartz, Lynn Hosegood, Pat Lawson, and Pam Ogden and the Area Representatives for all their help. She also gave thanks to all those who donated prizes and awards.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. for the Walk 'n Talk with Juror Cheng-Khee Chee at the Ellipse Gallery. Attendees were reminded they were on their own for the many possibilities for lunch and afternoon activities and that registration with cash bar at the banquet started at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Day
Recording Secretary