

**SIERRA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 20, 2024, 9:45 a.m.
Maker's Paradise, 299 E. Plumb, Ste., 155, Reno

Call to Order: Ronnie Rector, President at 9:46 a.m.

Installation of 2024 Officers and recognition of outgoing chairs and returning and new committee chairs will be held at today's General Meeting.

In attendance, Board Members, Committee Members and Members at Large: Ronnie Rector, President, Cheryl Keaveny, Vice-President, Anette Rink, Treasurer, Vickie Behrens, Secretary, Nancy Podewils-Baba, Art Angels, Publicity and Outreach, Graciela Mancini, Challenges, Bess Inouye, Librarian, Sally Dupre, Membership, Linda Halicki, Newsletter Chair. Guest: New member Dianna Cordova

Minutes from the October 7, 2023, Board Meeting: Vickie Behrens, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes emailed with the agenda. Bess Inouye made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed; seconded by Anette Rink, none opposed.

Treasurer's Reports: Anette Rink, Treasurer

The October, November and December Treasurer's Reports were emailed with the agenda for the member's information.

Anette reported that 1099s were sent to those who have rendered services to SWS. A total of \$25,105 was paid out this year, which is an increase over the previous years' average of under \$20,000. She also reported a downturn in the overall budget due to the expenses paid to out in anticipation of the \$6,930 grant not yet received, as well as a downward trend due to Covid in 2020 and an overall increase in expenses. Additionally, the Art Angels donation from December in the amount of \$1,635 is not included in this report.

The Board discussed various ways to generate additional income to improve our budget. Discussions included:

- increasing membership fees
- adding exhibit fees for more than one painting entered and bin-art
- passing on a portion of "convenience" fees associated with one-line credit card transactions
- Art Angel workshop donation requests
- evaluating Artist's workshop costs and fees

Because workshops generate the most funds, there was lengthy discussion regarding discrepancies in the total workshop costs and workshop fees. Anette suggested that we review the enrollment break-even point and ways to calculate workshop fees to increase future budget gains. Cheryl Keaveny and Anette Rink agreed to meet to discuss this issue and will report at the next Board meeting.

Nancy Podewils-Baba made a motion to approve the Treasurer Reports as emailed; seconded by Sally Dupre, none opposed.

Meeting and Workshop Locations, Ronnie Rector, President

An email was sent to all SWS members on December 15, 2023, reporting following:

- A poll was taken at the December 2, 2023, Annual Holiday Party. Thirty-seven members voted: 13 had no preference; 14 voted to remain at the Reno Public Market; and 10 voted to return to the Temple. Meetings and workshops will continue at our current location for 2024.

Bylaws Changes: Fifty SWS members voted via email, and the majority approved two bylaws' changes:

- Article III, Section 3, Membership, Student Rate Membership Fee

- Article V, Section 2, Elected Officers, Board Member Term of Office Updated Bylaws were emailed to all members on December 15, 2023

Workshops and Demonstrations: Cheryl Keaveney, Vice President

The Board discussed the cost advantage of bringing in regional Artists vs. flying artists from across the country.

Since none of the 2024 workshops align with our exhibits this year, the Board discussed having the annual Winter exhibit at the May Museum as our judged exhibit. We should start looking for a "local" qualified judge and consider raising the exhibit entry fees at least for this one, to cover ribbons and the cost of the judge. This will be discussed further.

2024

- Iain Stewart, March 6–8, Demo: March 9, Registration is now open.
- Jeannie Vodden, May 8–10, Demo: May 11
- Lisa Jefferson, Member Artist, June 20-22
- Brenda Swenson, August 14– 6, Demo August 17. There is a lot of interest in this workshop. There have been 15 inquiries from out of the area. The Board agreed registration should be open to SWS members, one week before opening to the public.
- David R. Smith, October 16–18, Demo: October 19

All 2024 workshops are now listed on the website and Cheryl is collaborating with Julene to include more information about the artists and workshops.

2025

No bookings yet. Keiko Tanabe and Dongfeng Li are interested. Cheryl asked the Board's opinion about whether it would be too soon to book Keiko Tanabe after her workshop in Carson City in 2023. The Board agreed to book her for 2025, since it will be 2 years since her last workshop here and because she is a popular workshop artist.

Library: Bess Inouye, Librarian

57 DVDs and several books are out now. Some are late to be returned, Bess will address those individually. Graciela reported that the Library is donating extra books for door prizes.

Biographer: Vacant

Ronnie reported that Sherry Klingensmith is interested in this position and will review the biography books.

Membership: Sally DuPre

Sixty-five regular members and 3 student members to date, however it is still early, and additional registration is expected. Ronnie will email reminders to members who have not yet registered.

Newsletter: Linda Halicki

Linda asked the Board's opinion about the newsletter distribution. Is the preference to go online to access or download the newsletter, to continue to have Ronnie email an attachment of the newsletter to all members? The Board agreed that it is cumbersome to access the newsletter directly from our website using the current "Scribd" software. All are in favor of continuing the distribution of the newsletter by email attachment.

Art Angels: Nancy Podewils-Baba

- **Community Perspectives**

Nancy reported that she was notified that SWS was granted \$6,930 of the \$7,000 grant request. On October 23, approximately 40 people attended the encore of the “Let’s Hope” music at the Reno Little Theater where SWS paintings from the Community Perspectives Exhibit were displayed. SWS was given a letter of commendation from Senator Rosen for our work in the community, which can be posted at future exhibits.

- **Children’s Community Workshop**

The Winter workshop was on December 9 at Wilbur May Museum. Thirty-one children participated; several were from the Northern Nevada International Center. Thanks to instructors: Vickie Behrens, Graciela Mancini, Alicia Cobb, Laurel Sweigart and Mary Ann Quaglieri and helpers Bess Inouye, Sherry Klingensmith, Tracy Games and George Baba. \$38 was raised in donations and tips and \$45 for the art basket raffle. An original painting by Jack Shields, donated by Mary Ann Quaglieri, did not get any bids, however Mary Ann is willing to donate it to Art Angels for future raffles or at SWS meetings. A suggestion was made to donate the painting to a local Senior Center.

The Spring Workshop will be at the South Valley Library on May 5, 1 – 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed.

The Artown “Discover Watercolor” workshops are scheduled for July 19th, morning and afternoon sessions at Wilbur D. May Museum. Volunteers are needed.

- **Silent Auction**

The Art Angels Silent Auction was on December 2 – 9 at the Wilbur May Museum. Twenty-five paintings were donated by 20 SWS artists. Four paintings were donated by 2023 SWS guest workshop artist (Soon Warren, Lisa Jefferson, Julie Cohn and Sterling Edwards). Art Angels raised: \$780 silent auction, \$620 in raffle sales and \$213 for Judy Berland’s artwork. Thanks to Linda James, Cheryl Keaveney, Graciela Mancini, Gail Kramer, Laurel Sweigart, Linda Parisi, Wendy Marshall, Vickie Behrens, Linda Halicki, Bess Inouye, Mary Ann Quaglieri and George Baba who assisted with the Silent Auction and Raffle.

- **Classroom Visits**

Art Angels attended four classrooms this fall and served 76 children, all were fifth graders at Poulakidas Elementary. Eight classes are scheduled at 5 different schools this Spring. Volunteers are needed.

Publicity: Nancy Podewils-Baba

Nancy reported that she continues to announce SWS events at the Reno Arts Consortium each month, and send notices to KUNR, Reno News & Review, Double Scoop, and Reno Art News. Nancy will post the Artown Exhibit and the “Discover Watercolor” workshops in both the Artown “Little Book” and on the Artown website. She asked the Board to consider an image to use as well as a title for the Exhibit.

Social Media Publicity: Carolyn Runnels (absent)

No report

Exhibits: Sharon Reed (absent)

Ongoing and Future Exhibits:

Location	Duration	Title/Theme	Reg. Deadline	Take-In	Pick up	Reception	Chair(s)
Wilbur May	Nov. 22 - Jan. 20	<i>Art to Light up Your Life</i>	√	√	January 20/21	√	Reid and Diane Sewell Marjee Smith
McKinley East	Feb. 26 through April 12	Spring Reimagined	Feb. 19	February 19 th - 23rd 9am-4pm.	April 16 9 am – 3 pm	March 7 5 to 7 pm	Ronnie Rector Anette Rink
Downtown Reno Public Library, Reno 301 South Center Street	May 6 - June 21	TBD	April 28	Sunday May 5 11 - 1	Sunday June 23	May 19	Virginia McLaughlin
Reno Public Market - ARTOWN	July 1 - July 31	“Northern Nevada: Impressions in Watercolor”	June 23	Sunday June 30	August 1	July 20 2 – 5 pm	Nancy Podewils-Baba
Carson City Initiative Carson Community Center	Month of July to hang after July 4	“We are the Champions” Featuring Award winning SWS artwork	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Ronnie Rector
Wilbur May FALL EXHIBIT	Tentative Sept. 1 -29	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Chairperson Needed
Wilbur May WINTER EXHIBIT	Tentative Dec. 2024 – Jan. 2025	TBD Judged Exhibit	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Chairperson Needed

Winners of the Winter Exhibit, “Art to Light up your Life” People’s choice awards were:

- 1st - Michelle Hall's "Blue Moon"
- 2nd - Claudia Hutchins' "Cross-Eyed Tabby"
- 3rd - Kathryn Dudley's "Bienvenidos"

Challenges: Graciela Mancini

March 20 General Meeting Challenge:

At a member’s suggestion, the March theme is “Considering Positive and Negative spaces” in the painting. Ronnie mentioned that our upcoming workshop artist, Brenda Swenson, is a good artist to reference for this challenge. Graciela requested a volunteer to assist with challenges -- Vickie Curwen is no longer available. Thanks to new member, Dianna Cordova, who volunteered.

Announcements

Ronnie reported that Tina Mokuau is no longer our contact with Maker’s Paradise contact. She is replaced by Jim White.

Meeting Calendar, 2024: March 9, May 11, August 17, October 19, and December 7 will be the annual Holiday party.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 10:48 a.m. by Sally Dupre and seconded by Linda Halicki.

Approved: March 9, 2024, Board Meeting.