

AMM Minutes 20231022

Chatham Artists Guild All-Members Meeting – 10/22/2023

Members Present:

Jim Aiken, Julio Alberdi, Beth Bale, Kristi Bergsten, Lani Chavez, Bridgette Comellas, Leslie Palmer, Cally Curtis, Timothy Dowdall, Morgan Dreese, Jane Eckenrode, Pam Freese, Minnie Gallman, Ellison Goodwin, Karen Greager, Forrest Greenslade, Carol Hewitt, Louise Hobbs, Lee Kazanas, Marsha Kitkowski, Selden Lamoureux, Jody Nash, Gretchen Niver, Steevie Parks, Vince Pitelka, Janet Place, Boots Quimby, Hamidou Sissoko, Amy Wandless, Greg Wandless, Linda Callahan Watkins, Bronwyn Watson, Karen West, Andrew Wilson, Laura Wimbish-Vanderbeck.

Welcome and Call to Order-Amy Wandless

Meeting was called to order at 2:22 pm.

Minutes: Steevie Parks (minutes from the April AMM were approved online last Spring).

Treasurer's Report: Selden Lamoureux

We started this year with approximately \$21,000 in our checking account and \$10,000 in our Money Market account (our "rainy day" fund). Our expenditures so far in 2023 are currently on target for this year's budget.

Our revenue to date is \$27,463.00, and 70 percent of this has come from membership dues and fees. 30 percent of this money has been collected from our fundraising efforts. Our 2023 brochure has been paid for and is in the process of being distributed. We are currently up to date with filing forms to both the NC Secretary of State and the IRS in order to maintain our Not for Profit status and have been compliant with our quarterly tax reports.

President's Report- Amy Wandless

Amy went over some of the guild's recent accomplishments in terms of fulfilling three major goals for 2023. We had significantly more member exhibits than in previous years (Frame and Print Shop, Smelt Gallery), significantly more professional workshops for guild members (glass making, mold-making, screen printing, PR and marketing), and we produced more brochures than in all previous years (7,500 vs 5,000 extra brochures). We also had more 'in-person' social events (June 16th at HAVOC Brewery and July 29th at Carolina Brewery). We also bought more Red Triangle Signs so that each Studio gets three signs vs. two.

Amy and Selden both pointed out the importance of having 'Non-Working' members for our financial health as an organization. Amy reminded us that we are not without compassion and that any working member who is unable to fulfill their hours due to financial or medical

hardship should contact a board member as soon as possible to let us know about the issue, and will not be penalized. At present Non-Working tour participants pay \$425.00 per year, while Working tour participants pay \$225.00 per year.

Amy further reported that if a member signs up as a working member, but does not work the required number of hours, they might find themselves ineligible for working status the following year and will have to pay the non-working members fee (unless they have been excused due to a reported hardship).

Amy re-iterated that several board members will be completing their terms in January, and that the Nominations Committee (a group from the Membership Committee) will need to be looking out for new board members before our January All Members Meeting.

Amy has also been working on reducing the number of long emails sent out to the membership with excellent results.

After researching several meeting places for our January AMM, we have decided to use the Chatham Grove Community Center. We will meet there in person on Saturday, January 21, 2024 from 2-4pm.

Committee Reports:

1. Finance-Selden Lamoureux

The Finance Committee was re-instated by former Guild President, Ric Harber. Annabelle Stein has been very influential in this process as well.

2. Exhibitions/Receptions: Boots Quimby

The drop off date for our upcoming Tour Preview Show at the Arts Center is Wednesday, November 1st. The reception will be held on November 10th. We are responsible to bring four bottles of wine, a cheese plate, and a fruit plate. Boots Quimby was approached by 79 Degrees West (in Chatham Park) to provide a series of ongoing art exhibitions for the public. Boots volunteered to coordinate these efforts. We will most likely rotate artists every three months. This process would start in March of 2024. The guild voted on whether or not to use this space and to have Boots coordinate our efforts there. Steevie motioned, and Lani Seconded. The vote was unanimously passed.

3. Tour-Brochure Distribution- Jeff Clark

4,250 extra tour brochures were brought to the Pittsboro Gallery of Art for distribution. The rest of the copies were given to individual guild members to disseminate separately.

4. **Signs**-Nancy Ann Moore and Timothy Dowdall

Tour participants can pick up their Red Triangle Signs on November 1st at the Arts Center when they bring in their pieces for the Tour Preview Show.

5. **Membership**: Forrest Greenslade, Vidabeth Benson, Anna Julian

Forrest and Vidabeth have completed all of the New Member Interviews for 2023. Vince puts these interviews on our website with the help of Martha Danek. Forrest pointed out that Vidabeth has been on the Studio Tour for all 31 consecutive years that it has been in existence.

6. **Education**: Louise Hobbs

Louise reported that there have been nine educational workshops for guild members so far this year, due to consensus that these workshops are vital to our members. Janice Reives, Gretchen Niver and Janet Place presented a glass making workshop, Louise Hobbs and Jane Eckenrode presented a flexible mold-making workshop, Vidabeth Benson presented three separate screen printing workshops, and Leslie Palmer presented a series of four social media workshops. All nine educational workshops were very well-received by the members that attended.

This year our Student Art Show will include students from all twenty Chatham County Public Schools, as well as one Charter School (is this right, Louise?). There will be a reception for the students on Thursday, December 7th, and this will be catered by The Sycamore Restaurant. Six Emerging Artists will be showing their work in this show. The education committee members involved with the Student Exhibition are, Louise Hobbs, Cally Curtis, Kathy Flood, Darcy Szeremi, and Bridgett Comellas.

Bridgett Comellas, Cally Curtis and other guild members will be running a booth for Children's Art Activities at the Pittsboro Street Fair on October 28th.

7. **Website**: Vince Pitelka

We renewed our contract with Chris Tomatillo.

8. **Jury**: Vince Pitelka

So far nine people applied for membership in 2023. The last date to apply will be October 31st, 2023. The new members will be notified of their status by Mid-November.

9. **Smelt Gallery:** Leslie Palmer and Karen West

There have been seven guild exhibits at Smelt so far, in 2023, with an average of a new show every two months. Approximately two paintings per show have been sold. The October exhibit was extended. The opening for the Death Faire exhibit (which is a joint effort between The Plant and The Guild, will take place on November 6th. So far, 59 Artists have signed up for the All Members Show at Smelt. The Death Faire exhibit will remain up until November 22nd. The opening for the All Members Show will be on November 26th. The member's voted on whether or not to use the Event Stage at the Plant for a fundraiser or a similar event, such as a party for our sponsors. Janet Place motioned and Greg Wandless seconded. The vote was passed by a majority of the members.

10. **Public Relations:** Janet Place and Donna Stubbs

Janet talked about the new Artist Marketing Tool Kit, that Leslie Palmer designed and Karen Greager edited. Committee members have been busy sending calendar notices and press releases to local press organizations, buying ads in local papers, and helping members to put our logo on their websites.

Pam has finished her last newsletter. We will need another guild member to take over this important position in January of 2024.

11. **Brochure:** Minnie Gallman

The brochures are done and our designer has been paid.

12. **Fundraising:** Jim Aiken and Diane Swan

Diane has added many new sponsors, and Jim has been working on two grants.

13. **Operations:** Andrew Wilson

All operations are running smoothly at this time.

14. **Unfinished Business:** Amy Wandless

New Business:

We had already discussed and voted on using the space at 79 Degrees West in Chatham Park. Boots Quimby will head up this initiative.

Proposed Schedule For Next AMM

We will be voting in new Board Members at the next AMM. The meeting will be held at the Chatham Grove Community Center on January 21st, 2024 between 2 and 4 pm. This building is located off Andrews Store Road.

The meeting was adjourned around 4pm.

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Steevie Jane Parks, Board Secretary.