

Auburn Old Town Gallery
218 Washington Street, Auburn, CA 95602
Membership Meeting
November 15, 2021

Call to Order: This Zoom meeting was called to order by Vice President, Patty Pieropan Dong at 7:00 pm. 19 members absent: Terry Accomando, Mary Lou Anderson, Don Antram, Jenny Benoit, Shoshana Bilunos, Jessi Brooks, Amy Conley, Cherie Danzer, Lana Federico, Sonja Hamilton, Barbara Hoffman, Sofya Kobayashi, Sandy Lindblad, Linda Miller, Doug Parks, KayLynn Sanderson, Keith/Meridee Smith, Jane Welles.

Approval of Minutes, Diane Tharp: The September 21, 2021 Membership Meeting Minutes were approved, the motion made by Linda Whiteside and seconded by Gia McNutt.

Treasurer's Report, Stacy Pedri: Stacy reported that the gallery made \$1,567.27 profit in October. There is \$21,873.92 in the gallery checking account and \$11,067.98 in the other account. There is also \$5,000 in cash in the safe. The year to date profit is \$4,308.19. The goal is to bring this profit total as close to \$0 as possible by the end of the year. There was discussion as to how to spend this profit plus the \$5,000 cash. Suggestions were:

- New laptop to support the POS system. Doug Parks will be asked to explore costs for this.
- New display and facilities items (such as lighting systems) to improve the look of the gallery. Susan Stoll and Jen Norpchen will explore this.
- Back up credit card processing such as Square for situations when the credit card reader malfunctions. The concern here is how to tie this to Artisan.
- New flooring. Many members expressed their preference that new flooring be a priority. Laminate, carpet, or carpet squares are possible flooring choices. Suggestions included replacing flooring section by section as budget allows or financing the flooring (using the profit and cash as a down payment). Jen will look into the cost of flooring.
- No rent due from members for December.
- Send any other suggestions for spending this money to Stacy Pedri.

The gallery's CPA is working on our taxes. Each member will be issued a K-1 form. Legally, these forms do not have to be distributed to members until March 15, but hopefully will be done before then.

Stacy reminded everyone to email her directly regarding any problems with sales, payments, or other financial issues, Stacy can take care of many of these without involving Sandi Sherwood, our bookkeeper.

There was a suggestion that the gallery have another sale for Christmas or at the end of the year. The board will discuss the possibility of another sale at the next board meeting.

The Financial Report was approved, the motion made by Janis Quinn and seconded by Jen Norpchen.

Events, Stacey Lamothe:

The Placer Arts Studios Tour at the gallery was very successful and attendance was excellent all three days. Thanks to Sonja Hamilton, Amy Connelly, and Jennie Benoit who gave demonstrations. Also, thanks to Darlene Riel who volunteered all day Saturday and Sunday and handled the raffle drawings. The raffles were a huge draw. This tour was deemed very worth the participation fee.

There are two upcoming events in Old Town, Classic Christmas on Dec. 11 and Dec. 18. The gallery will be participating in these events and Stacey will send out her sign up sheets for these events after Thanksgiving.

Publicity, Darlene Riel:

Darlene commended the Publicity Committee members who are doing an outstanding job with social media. The gallery's social media presence far exceeds that of other galleries in the area. Laura Bracken said there are 7 or more postings each week and engagements are very good. The Artist Spotlights are the most engaging of all the posts on social media. Laura encourages the members to "Like", comment, and share these posts, which will ultimately cause them to show up more in public feeds. Members need to "Like" the gallery Facebook page if they haven't done so yet. Laura would like to schedule a Zoom Facebook tutorial for interested gallery members.

Display, Susan Stoll:

There will be several members moving at the first of the year. Some of the artist moves will happen in fairly large clusters. *In an effort to assist the large groups of artists with the more complicated moves, the display committee will offer to take down their works and prepare walls the day before all the artists come in to hang their work.* Susan will be in touch with these members as the moving date approaches.

Susan is also putting together the new monthly themes for the Featured Art Wall for 2022. January will be featuring the new members. The members present at the meeting were supportive of having collaboration art works for the theme in May. This is a fun concept where artists join forces to create a joint piece of art. It is not too early to start planning your collaboration!

The Christmas trees are up and members are invited to make and place ornaments on the trees. Ornaments do not have to be solely the artist's medium. You may use any medium to create ornaments. They just have to be well made and represent our gallery's standards.

Facilities, Jen Norpchen:

The gallery currently has 2 sizes of white plastic bags. We want to use these up. We can put our gold gallery stickers on them and dress them up with ribbon. There is also a big box of red and gold ribbon that needs to be used. The members present seemed to be in favor of using up these supplies. When these have all been used, the gallery will go back to our standard red bags. Jen will order more wide gold ribbon.

Membership, Ardith Gray: There will be 5 artists jurying in January. More information about this will come later. We might be able to have an in-person meeting for this, but Zoom meetings will still be an option.

Old Business:

Online Shop: Laura Bracken explained that eliminating the green stickers on online items did not work. The calls to her when items sell are crucial and the calls were not being made. She will decide whether to go back to the green stickers or some other system for identifying online items.

Bylaws Committee: Shoshi Bilunos, Diane Tharp, and Stacy Pedri have been working on editing and revising the Bylaws and the Membership Agreement. The revisions involve language that is no longer relevant or is incorrect. Some language needed clarification. Proposed changes will be presented to the membership for feedback and approval. The process for revising may involve legal action and this will be researched.

Election of Officers and Committees: Diane Tharp explained the process for this year's election of Officers and Chairpersons. Members were invited to submit last minute nominations. There were no new nominations. The ballots include the Officers and Chairpersons constituting the board and also the Committee Members who need to be elected according to our Bylaws. The ballots will be emailed out following the meeting and can be returned to Diane by email, mail, or placed in Diane's file at the gallery by midnight, Monday, Nov. 22. Contact Diane if you have any problems or questions about the ballots.

Combination Lock: It was shared at the meeting that the combination lock on the gallery front door was frozen closed and wouldn't be able to be opened in the morning. Several members were going to look into removing the lock and Jen will purchase a better one from a locksmith.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm, the motion made by Jen Norpchen and seconded by Stacey Lamothe.

Minutes prepared by AOTG Secretary, Diane Tharp.