

**Auburn Old Town Gallery
Membership Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2023**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by co-President Sandy Lindblad at 6:38pm

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 16, 2023 membership meeting were approved. Motion was made by Suzanne Hamblen and seconded by Jane Wells.

Vice President Report – Sonja Hamilton

To date nothing has been presented to report to either of the Vice Presidents.

Treasurer’s Report – Stacy Pedri

Stacy had emailed treasurers report prior to the meeting. Current balance in our three accounts total \$32,832.46. January sales down \$2498.93 from previous year; February sales down \$3383.91 from previous year for a total of \$5852.84 YTD. Our current YTD profit is \$595.97. Stacy reminded everyone that we need to keep expenses down in order to stay afloat without having to increase rents and/or commission to gallery.

Sonja Hamilton motioned report be approved, Gin Crepps seconded. All in favor AYE. No one opposed.

Display – Susan Stoll and Linda Miller

Susan reported that many moves of artist’s space have been made and offered thanks to those for coordinating. Drew attention to the new print rack that Darlene is utilizing and suggests artists go to this model when replacing their current racks. Price is lower than the plastic bins currently being used and is more solid with its wood frame.

She encouraged those artists currently in a ½ space to let display know if they want to be on a waiting list for a full space. Also encouraged members to email display with any needs so they can be responsive.

Mentioned space above door between suites will be available to artists on a rotating basis.

Facilities – Barbra Paitich

Apologized to members for running out of labels recently. Also reminded us of black folder where we should be entering items when we are running low. Folder is kept by the staff binder. Barbra also asked if you accept/unpack a delivery during a shift to please let her know by text what has been received and where you placed the items.

Publicity – Darlene Riel

Gini let members know Publicity is working on MailChimp program for February. Connie offered that social media is working very hard and also are in need for someone to represent AOTG at the Old Town Business Association Meetings.

Special Events – Diane Tharp

Thank you to those members that have paid their \$10 donation towards event snacks. First event will be held May 5th – Old Town Cinco de Mayo. She has reserved the spot in front of our doors and is asking if any artists would like to display art that would carry the Mexican theme. She is willing to put up a booth with lights and bring some of her Day of the Dead work. Please let her know if interested – she will be sending an email with more detail.

The Co-ops are starting soon, will check dates and send ideas. Also shared that the Old Town Antique Fair is scheduled for May 21st 8:00am – 3:00pm

Membership – Suzanne Hambleton

Suzanne introduced and welcomed new members in attendance. Lorna, Trisa and Sierra. Each offered a brief introduction of themselves and their work.

We will be jurying 3 artists this meeting. This is in response to our “special call to 2D artists” and will be permanent positions in the gallery. The next opportunity to jury for both 2D and 3D artists will be in May. Online voting will begin Tuesday morning.

New Business

Artists being juried this evening include:

Kathy Triolo – photographer

Darlene Reis – pastel artist

Stacy Pedri – mandala art

A 5-minute break was offered to review the artist’s displays with a brief question/answer period following. Suzanne reminded members that we are looking for high quality, consistent style art. We individually may not LOVE the work, but please look at it through the eyes of the public.

Online link to vote will be emailed Tuesday morning with a deadline to place votes.

Shoshi complimented Suzanne on the work of the membership committee and asked Suzanne to please introduce the committee members.

Chamber Representative – Connie McLennan

Connie reported on having attended the February Auburn Chamber Mixer and how beneficial it is for the AOTG and individual artists to attend. You can go as either a member or a guest and have the opportunity to promote your business.

Four major events held each year and lots of additional mini events each month. Mixers are held the 3rd Thursday of each month. Would like members to go with her and also wants to up our raffle prize as we can. Email Connie if interested. She also suggested we visit the Chamber website to learn more.

Sales on Tuesday

Carol shared that if you are in the gallery and someone comes by really needing to make a purchase on Tuesday it can be accommodated. However! You MUST go through the close of day transaction following the sale. If it is a credit card sale there is no need to count cash, but if cash is involved you MUST count it. If needing any assistance please reach out to Stacy. And, if Stacy remote closes for you the Wednesday morning shift will see the cash register drawer is OPEN.

Continued discussion regarding opening on Tuesday's was again brought up. Carol said the Board would look at it. The problem is not having enough members to fill the additional shifts.

Old Business – Carol Bellamy

Website has some new looks going on. Thank you Ann.

Supplies – Stacy walked members through the cost of individual items, ie., boxes, bags, etc., and gave us a real look at what it is costing the gallery to wrap items. When you factor in the item being sold, the commission going to artist, the credit card expense (4%), the cost of the materials, the cost of shipping the materials to gallery, you can really see how our profit gets eaten away quite quickly. With profits low we need to be consciously aware of what we are doing with wrapping items. Please consider this carefully.

Facilities is sourcing suppliers for best price of items.

A member asked if we couldn't have a better hook to hold the plastic bags. So often they all fall to the floor when trying to remove one for use.

Announcements – Carol Bellamy

Possible shoplifting has been reported by anonymous member. Please watch cameras and circulate through the back rooms when customers are shopping. There was discussion of what to do when you see something happening. Cathy McAllister suggested one idea is to say, "can I put that up on the counter for you while you continue browsing?"

It is a very stressful situation and no one should put himself or herself in any danger with a potential shoplifter. **Be observant BEFORE it happens!**

Thanks to those that offered to cover shifts during the snowstorms. Reminder! Please do NOT piggyback on emails when requesting coverage but instead start your own email. This will eliminate things getting lost and information being diluted. Carol reminded members where to go to access the current email list to begin your own email.

Reminded members of AOTG password: MeMb2Xy

Judy offered thanks for keeping her night light board stocked!

MANY announcements regarding upcoming tours, shows, activities were shared among group.

Gini motioned meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Gia. All those in favor AYE, no one opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Janis Quinn, Secretary

