

Auburn Old Town Gallery
218 Washington Street, Auburn, CA 95603
Membership Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2024

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by AOTG President, Connie McLennan

Approval of Minutes, Janis Quinn: The November 2023 Membership Meeting Minutes were approved as presented. Janis was not present and Diane Tharp took minutes for this meeting.

Vice President's Report, Louise McGowan Bezark: Louise was not present. Connie shared that Louise's goal as VP is to have open communications. She wanted to remind members that the combination lock on the barn doors need to be locked securely, with the numbers scrambled. Be sure to lock the back door to the hallway at all times and not leave the key in the change drawer.

Treasurer's Report, Kirsty Roberts: Kirsty reported that the total money in the gallery accounts equals \$36,724.55. January ended with a positive balance of \$2,837.19. The financial reports were sent to all members via email. The Treasurer's Report was approved, the motion made by Linda Whiteside and seconded by Cathy McAllister.

Committee Reports

Display Committee, Cathy McAllister: Scheduled moves will be continuing.

Susan Stoll shared Linda Miller's report on the February Heart Giveaway. This is the 6th year of this heart giveaway. Linda wanted to thank the following members who either made the clay hearts or painted them: Mary Cargile, Janis Quinn, Diane Tharp, Amy Conley, Judy Butler, and Kathy McAllister. Thanks to Diane Van de Carr who fired the clay hearts. There are 300 hearts to give away. Customers may choose a heart with any purchase during February while supplies last. We need volunteers to put the small gallery stickers on the backs of the hearts.

The February featured art wall is themed "The Art of Love". Artists are asked to have their artwork for the featured wall at the gallery by January 30th. Artists with artwork featured in January can pick up their pieces on the 30th.

Facilities, Linda Whiteside:

Linda has been trying to find more reasonable alternatives to some of the items we use for packaging. The current gold gallery labels are very expensive and Linda has been looking at gold return address labels to use for this purpose. These are much cheaper. The ones she just ordered are too small so they will be used for the hearts and other purposes. She will order larger labels that will have the name of the gallery, the website and the phone number. These labels end up costing only about 3 or 4 cents each.

Linda has also been researching bag costs. She was buying bags at Uline for \$854 and she found some on Amazon for \$526, which is a huge savings. She will be ordering black bags as all the sizes do not come in the burgundy color.

The gallery will no longer offer gift boxes except for jewelry boxes.

Our surveillance monitor stopped working. Louise donated a larger monitor and Doug Parks will install it. Thank you to Louise for this donation!

Pick up items being stored in the back closet ASAP as there is just not enough room for prolonged storage.

Publicity, Trisa Swerdlow: Trisa was not present. Kathy Triolo reported that she is taking over as Social Media Coordinator from Sandy Delehanty. Kathy also said there is a need for more members on the Social Media committee and to let her know if you have interest in the committee.

Please let Kathy know if you don't want images of your artwork on Social Media.

Meg Blacksmith is our Old Town Business Association Representative and presented the Old Town Beautification Plan. This includes \$30,000 towards 11 street lamps that need the lamps replaced. There is also a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act for \$200,000 for 2 small parks in Old Town. One park will be located in front of Alehouse totalling 1,000 square feet and the other will be in front of the post office totalling 500 feet. These parks will have benches and firepits. There will be a loss of 2 parking spaces. No information as to when construction will begin.

Darlene Riel shared that we still have an open position for the Chamber of Commerce Liaison. The next Chamber meeting is January 18th, 5:30 - 7:30 at Music and More Art Academy in Auburn. Any member may attend.

Darlene also said there are 34 members participating in the new gallery brochure which will be printed soon.

Events, Diane Tharp:

Diane reminded members that the Membership Agreement requires each member to work two 2 hour shifts for events. It is very important that everyone supports our events as they hugely benefit the gallery and is a great opportunity to promote your own artwork. Every member is asked to donate \$10 towards events which should cover all the events expenses for the year. There will be less spent on refreshments and more on musicians, which has been very well received. Diane will send out an email with the calendar when it is finalized and information about how to send the \$10. The major events will be the New Artists Reception, the Anniversary Reception, the Placer Artists Tour, and Old Town Christmases. There will also be Co-Ops in the summer and fall. The photographers can decide if they want a reception in April for Photography Month.

Our first event is the New Artists Reception on Sunday, January 28, from 2-5 pm. There will be refreshments and live music. Please come and support our new artists. This is a great way to get to know the new artists better and socialize with each other and customers.

Membership, Suzanne Hambleton:

Suzanne thanked the committee members for their contributions to this committee. There are currently 50 members in the gallery and space for two new 3D artists. 6 new artists were presenting their artwork for jurying tonight. Karen Dukes was introduced as our newest artist.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business:

Rent Increase: There was a \$75 rent increase. This is believed to be the second increase in the last 8 years.

Membership Agreement Revision: Shoshanna Bilunos, Janis Quinn, and Diane Tharp will be meeting to suggest revisions to the Membership Agreement regarding the resignation process. When completed and approved, all members will be asked to sign an updated agreement.

Jurying of New Artists:

Members were given time to review the artwork presented for jurying from 6 artists: Annette Elder (fused glass), Barbara Davies (oil painter), Charles Borgardt (ceramics), Kaz Huette (jeweler), Penelope St. Claire (ceramics), and Karen Dukes (glass and flow art on metal). After viewing the artwork there was discussion about each artist's works. The ballots will go out electronically on Tuesday and voting will close on Friday at noon. Applicants will be informed of the jurying results by Monday. Suzanne will communicate with Display about open spaces and who to bring in from either the waiting list or the new juried artists. There are currently 5 or 6 artists on the waiting list. The decision as to who to bring in is determined by the needs of the gallery and the diversity of the artwork.

The next jurying will be in May and September. Suzanne suggested changing the jurying month of January because it is very difficult organizing jurying right after the holidays.

Carpet Care: Jenn Norpchen said the new carpets are now a year and a half old. Spots do happen and they are easily cleaned with soap and water. Do not use strong solvents or chemicals.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Congratulations to Ann Ranlett, whose scratchboard art is featured in two issues of Artist Magazine! See our Facebook page for details!