

Auburn Old Town Gallery
218 Washington Street, Auburn, CA 95603
Membership Meeting
March 19, 2024

Call to Order: President Connie McLennan called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. 36 members attending. Members absent: Jaime Baxter, Darlene Becker, Meg Black-Smith, Amy Conley, Sandy Delehanty, Sandy Lindblad, Gia McNutt, Rob Bor, Sierra Mohr, Janice and Kelly Quinn, Ron Runtenelli, Susan Stoll, David Rosenberry.

Approval of January Membership Meeting Minutes: The January 15, 2024 Membership Meeting Minutes were approved.

President's Report, Connie McLennan: Connie stressed the importance of all members, including new members, getting actively involved in the workings of the gallery. This is very important for continuity and the recent turnover of members. The board is working on setting protocol for members entering and leaving the gallery, and plans for succession of board and committee members. Clear, simple directions will make the transition easier for members taking on new duties. The goal is having documents that list the responsibilities and duties of each committee or board assignment.

Every member received a Member Survey. It is very helpful to get feedback from all our members. So far, communication and opportunities for member socializing have been indicated as areas of need. There was discussion about having a Members Only Facebook Page for sharing info, artwork, links, etc. It was pointed out that there is an existing Facebook page for this purpose started years ago and administered by Susan Stoll and Ann Ranlett. This page will be updated and invites will be sent to all current members.

Janet Nicholson came into the gallery with information about the Placer Artists Tour in November, inviting galleries to join and buy an ad in the guide. She also asked for donations of greeting cards that will be used for raffles and other promotional activities. Contact Janet or Diane Tharp if you would like to donate cards.

Vice President's Report, Louise Bezark: Louise shared that the gallery safe is no longer being used and will be auctioned off to the highest bidder at the end of the meeting. Proceeds go to gallery expenses.

Treasurer's Report, Kirsty Roberts: Kirsty reported that there is \$10,987.19 in the money market account and \$23,966.20 in the checking account. February had a positive balance of \$388.27. The Treasurer's Report was approved, the motion made by Stacy Pedri and seconded by Stacey Lamothe.

Secretary's Report, Janis Quinn: Diane Tharp was taking minutes for Janis at this meeting. There was no report.

Reports from Committee Chairpersons:

Display, Cathy McAllister: Cathy explained that the high-backed chairs by the desk need to be replaced. They are large and heavy and obstruct the Featured Art display. She presented 3 chair choices to be voted on at the meeting. Cathy also presented a sign up sheet for those members wanting to move to a full space and another sign up sheet for those members wanting to display artwork in the spaces over doorways between suites. The Featured Wall for April will be featuring the gallery photographers.

Facilities, Linda Whiteside: Linda advised that cleaning supplies are in the closet and all office supplies are in the hall cabinet. When supplies come in the mail please don't put them in Linda's file. Open the boxes and let Linda know what came in. She can let members know where to put the new supplies. Doug Parks reprogrammed the thermostat which will save on energy being used during closed hours. Thanks also to Doug for installing the new monitor donated by Louise Bezark. The laptop is still not set up.

Events, Diane Tharp: The next event will be the Old Town Co-Op on May 16, from 5-8 pm. The theme is the 175th Gold Rush Anniversary Celebration. Diane would like to have members come to demo outside or inside the gallery for this event. This helps catch participants' attention and bring them into the gallery.

Eric Cheng has shared information about the Auburn Fam Fest which is a Food, Art, and Music event scheduled for Sunday, June 9, from 2-6 pm at Preserve Park in Auburn. Proceeds from this event will support the Auburn Arts Commission, DeWitt Theater Restoration, and Placer High School Foundation. The gallery can have a booth for no charge and participating artists are asked to make a 10% donation for any sales they have at this event. Artists can keep any sales they make and there will be no percentage given to the gallery. This event can just promote the gallery and the artists showing there. Diane will send out more information when it comes out and ask our artists if there is interest in supporting this event.

Membership, Suzanne Hambleton: Suzanne explained that there were 2 current members jurying in new mediums of art at the meeting tonight. Only those artists present will be voting. The next jurying will be at the Membership Meeting in May. We have a jeweler from our waiting list replacing Darlene Becker. Suzanne encouraged members to invite their artist friends to apply for membership in the gallery. Suzanne is also looking for a mentee with the intention of that artist taking over the position of Membership Chair next year.

Publicity: There is currently no one serving as Publicity Chairperson. Gini Crepps has agreed to serve as an interim chair collecting individual reports and providing a liaison to the board. Darlene Riel explained how the Publicity Committee has been streamlined, reconfigured and delegated and the Chair mainly collects reports from each of the members and manages the Publicity budget and signups for events. This job has become simpler and more manageable and she encouraged members to not be intimidated by this position. There will need to be an election on March 26 to fill this position.

Meg Black-Smith is serving as Old Town Business Association Liaison and sent a report from the last meeting. The Old Town plazas are still in planning and Old Town Christmases will still be their biggest events. The Canyons Endurance Run will be happening April 26-27 and they are expecting 8,000 - 10,000 visitors coming to Auburn for this event. Darlene offered to sign up the gallery for any advertisements associated with this event. We might be able to be included in their brochures. It was suggested that it might be beneficial to have artists demonstrate in the gallery during these dates as there will probably be increased traffic in Old Town. Diane will pursue this as the event gets closer.

Darlene also talked about having postcards for the gallery made with a QR code linking to the gallery website. These could be distributed around town. The cover of the post card would have the image of the gallery painting made by Sonja Hamilton and Diane Tharp for the PAST tour last year.

Old Business:

Publicity Director: This discussion occurred during the Publicity Report.

KVIE: Please let Doug Parks know if you are planning on entering art in the KVIE auction. If we have 12 participants the gallery will be given an hour of auction time during this event!

Membership Agreement: The board is working on revisions and updates to the Membership Agreement and will present those changes at the next membership meeting.

Signage Update: There needs to be "No Photos of Artwork" signs posted in the gallery. The old signs have disappeared. New signs will be posted.

New Business:

Safe Auction: Sonja Hamilton was the top bidder of the silent auction and won the safe.

Revision of Bylaws: Our Bylaws need some revision because they currently name our gallery as a Not for Profit LLC. Our gallery is a "For Profit LLC". This has not affected our tax returns but needs to be corrected in the Bylaws. We need some legal advice about this change. Please let Connie know if you know any professional who might advise us.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm. The motion made by Patty Pieropan Dong and seconded by Stacey Lamothe.

Minutes submitted by Diane Tharp.

