

## **AOTG Membership Meeting Minutes**

Monday, May 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

### **Call to Order**

President Connie called the meeting to order at 6:36pm

Sonja took signature sign up sheet around, please be sure to sign.

Please remember to make shift calls. There are numerous changes throughout the month and it's important that the morning staff CALL those working shifts the day as a reminder! Likewise the happy calls are equally important as this helps our artist's manage their space. Also, please make all efforts to take the name of customers making significant purchases. It's nice for the artists to have this information.

Please also remember to set the alarm! Several instances lately where alarms were not set This may be from artists coming in after hours to work their inventory and neglecting to set it when they leave. This cause problems for the next day morning shift artists.

Customer service. Please be sure to pay attention to the customers coming in. Also with regard to the ceiling fans, please turn them up in this heat.

Old town business association is reminding us we are not allowed to put notes on people's cars when they are occupying a space. It's not our job or responsibility to inform people where they can and cannot park. If the artists park on the side it's fine, but put the notice that is available here in the gallery on your dash. We are asked to not park in front of other businesses if we are here for a shift.

With regard to survey. She hopes members found the information interesting. The results were emailed to all members earlier this week. We will address the survey over time, please read it! Several members expressed they do not recall it being sent to them so Connie offered to send again, via email.

### **Approval of Minutes** from March Membership Meeting

Any objections to March Membership meeting? No comments. Minutes stand approve

### **Treasurer's Report** – Kirsty Roberts

We are on the upside this month. \$1682.02 month of April 2024.

### **President's Remarks** – Connie McLennan

Recognition of 29-year founding member Cherie Danzer . Resignations typically come and go without a lot of fanfare – but our last founding member is leaving and we wish to recognize her wholeheartedly. Her contribution has been amazing over the last 29 years. We salute you, we will miss you and thank you. Congratulations on such a long run

Cherrie spoke and wishes us every big sale we can make in our life. There's been great people here and she loves us all. Have a great year. It will be difficult and hard, but she wishes us all well.

## **Vice-President's Report – Louise Bezark**

Louise has reminder cards that she uses here when working a shift. It's an inspiration card and puts her in the right frame of mind for her shift.

## **Secretary's Report – Janis Quinn**

Janis led discussion regarding a meeting held that morning with our CPA, Jennifer Starbucks. This meeting was the result of Jennifer having received numerous phone calls from our members both complaining and questioning the issuance of K-1 statements for tax reporting purposes, and canceling her services to us as a result.

Kirsty, Connie, Sandi Sherwood (bookkeeper) and Janis met with her on May 20, 2024. The meeting was very successful and the issue of K-1 statements easily resolved with a change to our filing status. (which Jennifer has wanted and suggested we change for years). We had been filing as an s-Corp, which, among other nuances, is structured to pass through profits and losses to its members, as well as issuing K-1 statements at year-end to all members. Under her guidance we will complete the form to change our filing status to a c-Corp with no pass thru structure AND the issuance of 1099's rather than K-1. We will also correct our structure and by-laws to accurately reflect we are a for profit entity, as opposed to a not for profit entity as they currently read. To recap: AOTG is an LLC with a filing status of a c-Corp and a for profit entity. Our by-laws will be updated, the form will be submitted to the Government for the filing change and Sandi Sherwood is more than happy to prepare our 1099's at year end. Jennifer will continue as our CPA and will manage our end of year tax filing.

Kirsty helped field questions. The membership was and is asked to please send any questions or concerns to the board. These changes will be made as soon as paperwork is updated/completed.

## **Reports from Committee Chairpersons**

- **Membership – Suzanne Hambleton**

We are jurying tonight – we hope you all had a chance to see the art. Introduced Suzanne Himmler, our new jeweler. Happy to have you Suzanne and love your work!

Our next and last jurying will be in September 2024 with an August deadline to submit application and work. Also to comment, we are not currently accepting or jurying any work that utilizes AI technology.

- **Publicity – Lorna Miser**

Provided quick explanation of Instagram, which was beneficial to all. Her discussion focused on which name an artist wishes to use on Instagram – business name vs. personal name. It is important publicity has the right 'handle' to use when promoting your art.

With regard to making comments on posts:

Adding the www does nothing on comments

A hashtag # is different from an @ symbol. Hashtag is the "genre" or google search. Words you use when hunting for something. Vague, general. Hashtag # is just a vague use and does nothing specific.

What we want to use is the @ symbol. This is how we tag one another. The @ symbol is what alerts the artist that someone has made a comment on our work. So if you are posting something you always want to preface the artists name with the @

Example, take a picture of a piece of art in the gallery –,go to Instagram, make a comment and then follow with the @artist name. The artist will then receive a notice of the posting and that comment will then be seen by our followers and all the artists followers, doubling/tripling the amount of people that will be following their work.

If you haven't already done so, send your instagram handle to Kathy T. Gia will also add this information to our membership roster.

You do have to go into Instagram and adjust your settings to specify WHO can tag you. You have to manage the settings to allow this to happen.

- **Special Events** – Diane Tharp

We had the co-op event last Thursday. The music, food, vendors, people were dynamite. Thanks to team that helped that evening. Having Patty outside organizing a kids event attracts a lot of attention and Diane is tasked with thinking what else we can do outside that will bring people in to the gallery. She hopes we continue to support the co-ops, as they are very fun. Next co-op is in September.

Next event is the Art Walk, the first in several years. Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Three of our artists will be featured in June. These include Sandy, Therese and Patty. There will be music outside and other things going on downtown. Diane is inviting all of us to come to the gallery and promote our art. The next art walk will be in August.

Reminder to artists that we are all obligated to help in these events. Last event will be during Christmas

- **Display** – Cathy McAllister

Cathy is doing a great job! Bar stools look wonderful. Thank you Cathy. Cathy reported we currently have five openings in the gallery and hopefully some of the art this evening will be juried in.

- **Facilities** – Linda Whiteside

No report, Linda not present

### **Old Business**

- Membership & Bylaws agreement update. Reviewed under Secretary Report.

## **New Business**

- Suzanne passed around notepaper for people to use in making notes as they preview the work on display. Voting will take place online starting tomorrow morning. Close of vote will be Friday morning.
- A five-minute break was called to review work.
- Before proceeding Suzanne introduced Kaz, a jeweler that joined us recently. Welcome Kaz!!
- Before discussion of potential work Suzanne reminded us to view the art as a whole, not based on your own individual preferences. Comment at the quality of the work and not individual taste or what you might purchase. Also remember that if work is very similar to current artists – we don't want to discount them and cast a no vote as we are also building a waiting list for membership to AOTG.
- Open discussion regarding work. Comments are not documented, as this is discussion only.
- Link for vote will be sent from the Membership email account tomorrow, Tuesday, morning.

## **Announcements**

Doug announced KVIE, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Doug is hopeful we will have 12 artists participate as for every 6 artists participating we receive a 30-minute live highlight. He reports here are 8 artists currently working their way through the application process. If we cannot increase to 12 KVIE will select the 6 that will be displayed as part of AOTG.

Applications are on the KVIE website and are due May 31<sup>st</sup>, with artwork drop off on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Doug offered to take your art for you as long as you drop it off at the gallery on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sonja and Louise both shared success stories from previous participation.

Connie adjourned meeting at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janis Quinn

Secretary