

**AOTG Membership Meeting
Monday, Sept.15, 2025, 6:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Louise called the Meeting to order at 6:30 pm

A reminder was given that everyone please sign in on the sign in sheet.

Approval of Minutes May Membership Meeting – Emailed on May 22, 2025

Linda motioned to approve the minutes, Diane seconded. All in favor AYE. None opposed

Treasurer's Report – Kirsty Roberts

Money Market Account \$10,988.84

LLC Checking 14,077.62

Petty Cash 200.00

Total for Bank Accounts \$25,266.46

Diane motioned to approve the treasurers report, Louise seconded.

All in favor AYE. None opposed

Secretary's Report – Janis Quinn

- Janis reminded members that there are copies of ALL board and membership meeting minutes located in the under counter binder and on the website in member section
- Also reminded members to please make copies of the forms we use daily (balance sheet, customer information sheets) as we do not currently have someone that handles this specific task for us. We know there is ample time during the day for this task and appreciate everyone please taking a few minutes to contribute in this way. Next year we will have someone assigned as our 'copy person.'

VP Report – Louise Bezark

Louise provided a warm welcome to our new members, who will be introduced during the Membership Report

Louise briefly shared her history of joining the gallery and how she eventually became more involved and feeling more comfortable. She feels over the past few years we have made great strides in taking care of operational business and is encouraging others to not be afraid to consider stepping up to become a board member in 2026. More discussion on this topic will follow

Reports from Committees

Display – Stacey Lamothe

- Thank you to Darien Hamilton and Pam Kinzie for joining the display committee. They will each make a valuable contribution to the team.
- Reminder to send your requests to Stacey if you would like to change something about your space. There is a great team in place to make things happen, and she thanks you for your patience as all changes take much thought and coordination to put in place.

Facilities – Linda Whiteside

- Will be ordering a new mat for behind the counter as the one we currently have is falling apart and becoming a tripping hazard.
- We also are in the process of purchasing a new printer, which will likely be one that uses an Ecotank. She will be hoping for help when we receive the new printer for setup.

- Unless you are here early in the morning, you might not have noticed how dirty/foggy the windows are. She has ordered a new squeegee for use in cleaning the windows. Pay attention to the inside windows and window sills. We are not responsible for the outside. Also please be sure to clean your space well and thoroughly when you are relocating and don't forget about the baseboards!

Membership – Gia McNutt Shukair

- A separate roster has been created that carries our members addresses. This is filed in the member section of our website. Thank you Carol Black Addyman for putting this together for our use
- Former member Cathy McAllister has expressed her interest in returning to the gallery. Cathy meets the required qualifications to do so: within one year of having left, and left in good standing. Membership was asked to raise their hand if they are in favor of her return, which resulted in a resounding cheer with raised hands and applause. No one voiced any concern or comment.
- Jurying – we have 12 artists that have offered to act as a juror on September 22nd. They will jury the work of 8 candidates and 2 existing members jurying in a new medium
- Gia introduced and welcomed new members:
Michelle Magnus Brown
Pam Kinzie
Marsha Toms
Michael Maloney
- She then addressed how we manage the waiting list, as there was some recent confusion. When we conduct a jury, we ask the jurors to not worry whether or not we have space, but to focus on the art itself. If we cannot invite them to join at that time, they will be put on a wait list, and as things evolve/change in the gallery they will be invited in. Membership works closely with the Display team on this as the goal is to fill empty spaces as soon as possible. We therefore, as was the recent case, have someone join the gallery even though we haven't held a formal jurying process for many months. That's the beauty of the 'wait list'.

Publicity – Lorna Miser

- **KVIE art auction** – 6 artists are participating/Doug is handling the MC role. Saturday, October 4th Channel 6 at 5pm. Sonja shared that you can access the site now to learn of the lineup of our artists and see the paintings and/or bid online.
- **Mary Lou Anderson** – Spoke about the artist biography binder. The layout is important and Mary Lou is offering to format your bio for you. Just do not send it in a PDF format. Everyone is invited to add their bio for inclusion in the binder which sits on the calendar.
- **Kimber** – everyone applauded the fantastic job she does on social media for us. Kimber always invites us to send her things for posting. She reported that we average about 3000 visitors to our website. Asking again for artists to tag the gallery whenever you are posting something about your work. Described to us how we all benefit when we get in the habit of tagging the gallery. If you are not able to create a post (perhaps you don't have a social media account) just send pictures to Kimber and she will create a reel for you. Reminded us how to tag - @auburnoldtowngallery. Following the @ start typing the gallery name and it will locate you. FB wants @auburn.... Instagram wants @oldtown.... Had previously offered help with FB and posting. Social media for artists is on FB where Kimber will be adding content to help us learn the tricks of posting. She may also be offering a class for us
- Meg presented on Auburn Old Town Business Association, and the meetings she attended in both August and September meetings have been held. They meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at Pour Choice. Many topics were addressed including events

occurring in Old Town, Lighting issues, Maintenance concerns. One topic of interest is there is consideration given to converting the former USPO building into a museum. That could be a very positive addition to Old Town. Please contact Meg if you'd like to learn more content of their meetings

- **Darlene** – Anniversary spotlight was something we have done previously and she inquired if we would like to continue that practice. She pointed out that she changes the interview questions routinely and will continue this if everyone would like. Answer was YES and a round of applause

Special Events – Diane Tharp/Livia Kerr

- If the alarm goes off accidentally, the instructions are on the back of the card next to the pin pad as well as pasted in the cupboard under the printer.
- In the event that you cannot set the alarm, please do not just leave in someone's folder. If the alarm is NOT set, please call a Board Member for support. Do not leave it unarmed with a note in someone's folder.
- Beginning of year we all donated \$15 that would be used for appetizers/drinks for our events. There is a current balance of \$500 in this fund, money not spent because some of our events were cancelled or the musicians did not play. She would like to roll the money over to next year
- Anniversary reception was a wonderful event. 4 artists demo's, we have music, food and a very large turnout with lots of sales.
- We have learned the co-ops are not a worthwhile event for us. Suggestion is to close the Gallery at our normal time. If someone wants to keep the gallery open you may, but not required. There is just not enough foot traffic coming in

Upcoming events

- New event for us, Auburn Wine Ale & Food Festival. October 11, 12-5pm. 600 tickets are sold and 25 venues. El Agave & Drooling Dogs Brewing Company will have stations in our back room serving people. There will be a musician and we can have artists doing demonstrations of their work. Information will be sent. This event takes place in Downtown and Old Town – a shuttle will be transferring people. Really important for as many artists that can join do come in. Engage those patrons circulating through the gallery. Always, remember to help the person who is on shift during these events as there are times when that person could use some assistance. Diane will be sending information to us as the date gets closer
- Trick or Treat – October 31st – just hand out candy – can dress if you like. Members are asked to donate candy, so please drop off a bag of candy next time you come to the gallery.
- Placer Artists Tour November 7 – 9 and 14-16. We will have musicians and refreshments. Gallery paid \$300 to be part of the tour which translates to each of our artists are 'on the tour.' Feel free to come in, promote your art, be with your display and enjoy participating in the tour

Old Business

Meeting Attendance – thank you to those artists attending tonight that haven't been here for a while. Your input is invaluable to us, please keep coming.

New Business

- **2026 Ballot/November Vote**
Covered the process and the next steps of creating a slate of officers for 2026. Nominating committee will begin calls in October
- **Lease – Louise** will be sending an email to everyone with the specifics of what our lease will look like when it comes due in December. She has asked our LL for pricing on

a 2-year vs 5-year renewal. While information will be made available to all of our artists, it is within the Board's authority to renew the lease and does not require a Membership vote to do so. Louise is also working with our LL to understand what our remediation requirements are should we leave the gallery. We know there are things in the back room that would need changing. There will be some work done to ensure we understand these things and get a dollar figure estimated to do the work

- **Extra Shifts**

Janis – Brought up the topic of working extra shifts and explained that the board is interested in their feelings. As our number of artists have increased the number of extra shifts will decrease, but the reality is that this is always changing. The members did express they aren't happy with working two/three per year and want members that do not volunteer as much time as others to be the ones assigned. This is not something that we can 'assign' people based on what we feel their contribution is – we cannot judge who works harder or more hours than someone else. We all own AOTG equally. Janis let them know the Board will discuss further and look at options that would result in fewer extra shifts, ie., perhaps closing one day per week; eliminating the 12-4 shift on a few days each week. We all agree there is a lot of cross-over which isn't necessary on non-busy days of the week.

- **Diane** – Her experience with the Gallery and being on the Board have given her insight to the number of hours that the President, Secretary and Treasurer spend many many hours doing their jobs. Thoughts, why aren't we paying these positions mileage, paying a stipend, eliminating their requirement to work any shifts at all. This would be a reward for their time and incentivize members to consider joining the board. Lana suggested perhaps they have a rent reduction for their space. This will be a continued discussion

- **ADA Compliance Inspection - Livia** works for an attorney who is an ADA specialist, who has agreed to complete a free inspection of the Gallery – a CASp inspection which stands for Certified Access Specialist, a state certified Compliance Officer. There was much discussion about this with many offering opinions of what this would mean and how we would move forward should we find there any non-compliant ADA issues. More information about this will be forthcoming, but to note: This was to be offered as a non-formal, non-reported, no cost walk through of our space. A date has not been set and unsure if he will come in when we are open or closed.

Questions from the floor:

Judy questioned why the PG&E bill has increased, with Louise explaining the LL has added a new duct and airway to force our air from the existing unit to circulate throughout the entire gallery. Unsure if the cooler in the backroom would have to be removed should we leave the gallery, but will ask the question to the LL

Feature Wall – Gini needs us to share photos of what we are putting on the Feature Wall. She has very little response to her requests for these photos and she is weary of trying to chase them down or try to come in and take pictures herself. PLEASE send to aotgpress@gmail.com

Newsletter goes to our gallery email list, not currently to the artists. Believes there are 2500-2800 customers in our email list. Always collect city/state from customers when they fill out the information sheet as this is key to how we collect and send the Newsletters etc.,

Need a core person who is technical and is willing to learn/understand and be the Gallery expert on Artisan.

Stacey motioned that we adjourn the meeting, Patti seconded.
All those in favor AYE

The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Janis Quinn, Secretary