



2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. For SWS, it has meant a temporary halt to our in-person monthly meetings, a pause to our newly created Plein Air outings, the cancellation of our two annual workshops, and the ability to gather together, to hug our friends and to make new ones. This is a short, but monumental list of the negative effects of our times.

On the other hand, we learned new things and we overcame the obstacles by just showing up. We gathered monthly via Zoom for our board and general meetings, which allowed members from outside of our immediate region to join us and contribute. We managed to hang 3 shows, even with restrictions. We had educational and inspiring artists' demos; and, we sold an impressive number of our members' artworks. We learned that the future will include more online teaching and may even nudge some of our own members to take the plunge into the new possibilities that are now commonplace. After all, the current mission of the Spokane Watercolor Society is education; plain and simple.

And with that, I look towards 2021 with anticipation and a smile on my face. Your board is working hard to bring you exciting programs. We are also continuing to mount professionally juried shows that will hopefully stretch our knowledge, abilities and experimentation as we move through all the possibilities that watercolor and its cousins in water based media provide us.

I want to thank and acknowledge a handful of people who have contributed so much to our society. First of all, the fabulous SWS Board members. You all make our monthly dedicated two hours fun and extremely productive. We laugh a lot; we brainstorm and then, we put in endless hours to modify, document, update, plan, and troubleshoot the business before us. And secondly, I would like to thank the SWS members who stepped up and helped with docent planning, hanging shows, and planning painting challenges. I would especially like to thank Karen Robinette for all her work on our advertising as well as Oral Carper who has taken on the 2021 National Juried Show as its chair.

In closing I would like to ask you, our wonderful members to contribute a little bit more if you can. To show up at our monthly online meetings, to volunteer, to paint, and to participate in our monthly challenges. For what we all do individually, will collectively add up to a vibrant, fun, and exciting society.

To borrow and modify a line from a somewhat famous baking show, now **PAINT!**