



The Messy Palette—

The room was jam-packed and along with the wafting fragrances of some great things to eat there was a definite buzz in the air as SWS members met for the annual Business meeting on November 16th.

It is exciting to welcome new members as artists in Spokane and the surrounding area learn about SWS and what we have going on. We're glad to have you join us!

We are thrilled about the opportunities to experiment with new techniques and try new skills that are coming in the programs planned for next year. The 2020 schedule of workshops and meeting programs planned for next year is very robust. We hope that you will mark your calendar and make sure to set aside time to take advantage of these opportunities. (The 2020 program calendar is linked in the email and posted on the website.)

SWS members also have opportunity to participate in three shows scheduled for 2020: the Open Juried Show to be hung at Barristers Winery, a July exhibit at Spokane Art School and the fall member show. Details for the Open Juried show and workshop are linked in the newsletter email and information about the other events will be forthcoming.

Keep the paint flowing and we'll see you in December.

—Kim Gardell, SWS President

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

November Business Meeting Update



SWS officers and Board members were first on the agenda at the annual SWS November meeting reporting on administrative details and society activities:

- President Kim Gardell reported on the scope of activity by the Board in 2019 as they worked diligently to get ahead in planning workshops/ programs and scheduling shows. They accomplished 2 year's work in 2019 so that plans are now being made for 2021 and beyond. Additionally they are working to encourage and implement greater involvement of SWS members in the administration, scheduling and action items that make up SWS activities.
- VP Diana Postlewait reported we had 74 members on the roster with 15 new members joining so far in 2019. Average meeting attendance was 23, with some meetings "unofficially" as high as 40. Help us out by remembering to sign in!
- Secretary Kelly Knouff-Burk recapped the year's programs and beginning with a paper trial exercise in Jan and finishing with Sumie artist Ann Haseman in Oct. Along the way, Spokane artist Stan Miller led a fix-it demo and other SWS members Becky Gromlich, Marilyn Sarber, Amalia Fisch, Pat Tremaine and Mark Bessermin shared information gained at workshops, plein air supplies and perspective tips and tricks. An active group of SWS painters have been painting in locations in and around Spokane.
- Treasurer Gay Witherspoon reported that SWS finances are in good order with a net increase in 2019 (to date) of approximately \$525.
- Board member Amalia Fisch reported on the Ron Stocke workshop and Member show held in April and the premier Signature show and Juried member show in the fall. The fall member show was juried; a first for a member show, and juror Jessica Bryant also presented a one-day workshop.
- Board member Gail Johannes, who is SWS webmistress, spoke about SWS's media presence and encouraged members to take advantage of the information available on Facebook and the website. She also announced that beginning now SWS members have the option to have an artist page that features their work, bio and artist statement. Instructions for how to submit artist information is on the website.

- Board member Diane Conkright reported on the monthly challenges that are a feature of SWS regular meetings. In addition to a theme for each month, a technical skill will also be encouraged. A door prize drawing is held each month for SWS members who participate in the challenges.

Continuing through the meeting agenda, the Treasurer presented a 2020 Proposed budget, a motion was made and seconded; there was no question or discussion and the budget passed unanimously. The following slate of Board members: Diane Postlewait, (2019-2021 unexpired term) Pat Tremaine and Gay Witherspoon (2020-2022 term), was elected, also unanimously, with 29 ballots cast.



Special recognition was given to retiring Board member, **Diane Conkright** who has served for more than 20 years on the SWS board and as SWS secretary. She has been active as a docent at SWS exhibitions at the MAC, frequently filling multiple time slots that were not covered. Though no longer holding a Board position she says, "Whatever you need me to help with, I will." Her philosophy of participation as a member in our organization is an example for us all.

Following the voting on the previous action items volunteer opportunities were outlined and SWS members moved about the room to sign up for areas in which they wished to participate. The number who committed to help out in the various options that were presented was very gratifying.

There are still slots to be filled and we will continue to post opportunities. Notably, we are looking for a person/persons willing to take photographs at various SWS events. Contact us at swsmembermail@gmail.com if you would like to help in this way.

The jam-packed meeting agenda wrapped up with presentation of the 2020 programs, workshops and show opportunities for the coming year. Gail Johannes outlined the 2020 program schedule with a how-to for entering shows coming in January and subsequent programs designed to assist members in improving drawing and painting skills with Karen Kaiser and Lisa Hill respectively.

Karen Robinette, chairperson for the Open Juried show presented information about the show scheduled for April. She stressed the JANUARY 27th deadline for entries and encouraged members to have their pieces ready by our JANUARY 18th meeting where we have tutorials scheduled to help members with their show entries. Amalia Fisch, workshop chair for the Dale Laitinen workshop reported that SWS members are eligible for discounted registration now through DECEMBER 31st. *Beginning in January the workshop will be open to the general public and the discount will no longer be available.* The prospectus and workshop registration are linked to the newsletter email. Make sure to download and print this valuable info.

Amalia also presented information about an alternative finish show scheduled in July at the Spokane Art School gallery. The alternative finish methods will be presented as the February 2020 meeting program. The plan is to hang SWS member's paintings that are cold wax finished and mounted on cradleboards as a watercolor "quilt." The goal is to hang 96 8"x8" paintings; plein air paintings also alternatively finished will fill the exhibit if we don't have enough 8x8 entries. Members who wish to participate need to sign up to purchase the cradleboards @\$10 each. Members may submit multiple paintings. More details and sign-up information will be forthcoming in a separate email.

The meeting was adjourned. SWS members departed bursting with excitement about painting opportunities, heads spinning from all the information presented, and looking forward to gathering again in December and throughout the coming year.

2019-2020 CALENDAR

DECEMBER

7 – SAT: 10am-1pm –SWS meeting at SAS*

Program: **Holiday Card demo**- Becky Gromlich - See the supply list and photo reference linked to the newsletter email.

(Note: TWO challenges for this meeting, we postponed the one from November, bring both, two door prizes will be drawn.

NOV Challenge: "DARING"

Skill: 30-minute time limit

DEC Challenge: "GIFTS"

Skill: wet-in-wet

JANUARY

18 – SAT: 10am-1pm –SWS meeting at SAS*

Program: **Showing Your Work Tutorials**- Interpreting a Prospectus, Finishing your work for a show, Photographing your Work, Using CaFE and other Calls for Artists online, Shipping options.

27 – MON: Deadline for 2020 Open Juried Show Entries

(Please note that the CaFE entry deadline is MOUNTAIN Time)

FEBRUARY

15 – SAT: 10am-1pm –SWS meeting at SAS*

Program: **Alternative Finishes Demo Part 1**- SWS will provide all paper materials i.e. cradleboard, all materials to finish paintings, adhere, wax, and hang. Cost per 8x8" cradleboard plus materials (except paint!) \$10 each – purchase as many as you like for upcoming July Art Show. Watch for sign-up information coming in a separate email.

CHECK OUT THE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR PLEIN AIR EVENTS, THEY WILL NO LONGER BE REGULARLY SCHEDULED ON THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

*Spokane Art Supply