

Attending: Don Bennett, Sheila Franz, Christina Lesperance, Richard Lyons, Lorraine Manley, Eilis Mooney, Dean Moran, Linda Moran, Sharon Radtke, Linda Stech, Gary Walz, Donna Blatchly

Linda Stech presided over the meeting.

Gallery staffing – two current employees, Abby and Sarah will be returning to school in the fall, so we will need to hire additional staff for the open positions. We have started interviewing candidates. Linda asked that if members drop by the gallery, it would be a thoughtful gesture to offer a bathroom break to the worker.

Business vs. Art – in the past, before we had the gallery, there was much less business discussed at meetings. Linda Stech asked if members would prefer going back to the art focus of meetings, and just receive typed monthly updates from Gisela, and put the topic up for discussion. Gary Walz said that he missed seeing the art and sharing others' work. Linda Moran said that in the Essex Art League, they host a speaker once a month, and it's become a popular draw for attendance at the meetings. She said that Essex is known for their speakers, and MAG is known for the gallery. They also have small group critique sessions. Their business segment is limited to fifteen minutes. Richard Lyons suggested that we limit our business news to fifteen minutes, as well. Dean Moran spoke in favor of returning the monthly meetings back to the creative side. Sharon suggested that we strongly encourage members to share show & tell at our August meeting to get us back on track. Linda put the question to a vote; it was unanimous that we return the meetings to an art focus.

Volunteering – Linda showed the volunteers' timecards that will be kept in the cash-out area. To take advantage of the reduced (25%) commission rate, members are encouraged to serve four hours a month in a volunteer capacity. Hours worked over the minimum four may be banked for use in following months. This can be especially helpful for those who are planning extended vacations. Time cards need to be completed, signed and here at the center on the last day of each month. They will be signed off and used to determine the commission rate.

Richard Lyons wanted more information, since we have gallery staff now, we don't have the shift signups any longer. Linda explained that those shifts will occasionally become available during the holiday season, or on special occasions where we would expect greater than normal sales. But there are many other opportunities available, and gave examples of committee work:

- Events Committee - help with the monthly Featured Artist. Sharon explained this role.
- Events Committee – Coordinate and help with the Art Supply Sale in the fall Events Committee - help with the occasional special events; the hours can vary, can be as much as 8 hours to help with planning and execution
- Come as You Art held on September 15th, volunteers could either do an interactive demonstration of their art (4 hours), work at the kids' table (4 hours), or coordinate the event (8 hours).
- Senior Tea, once a month, volunteer to set up tea service, greet guests, and help clean up. An artist is needed to demonstrate their art for the seniors, as well.
- Barnes & Noble fundraiser held on November 17th. We are looking for a coordinator for the event, and also volunteers to demonstrate art, work at the gift wrapping table, etc.
- Exhibit Committee – Ellen is stepping down as chair of the committee, this is 4 hours per month, and involves signing up artists, scheduling volunteers. Site coordinators are needed to assist artists hanging their work (sites rotate art every two months).

- Workshop Committee needs hosts for workshops; includes assistance setting up chairs, refreshments, greeting participants, and tear down. Volunteers must contact coordinator to confirm dates; if someone signs up as host, but not scheduled, hours aren't met towards reduced commission.
- Workshop Committee needs help (2 hours per month) finding instructors
- Workshop Committee needs help distributing posters
- Homeschool Art Program will need hosts who enjoy working with kids
- Publicity Committee needs help (2 hours) researching online venues to place our ads
- MAG blog – general assistance
- Facebook postings – need a volunteer to do updates
- Montreal excursion – we need a coordinator - research getting a chartered bus and pricing for a day trip to the museum
- Marketing Committee – need someone to research bus tours, contact Bove's, wineries, etc. to include a gallery visit on the tour circuit. Currently, we have Cathy LaClair, Linda Brunelle, and Linda Moran on this committee. More are welcome
- Marketing Committee – looking for online advertising opportunities, radio advertising
- Scrapbook (8 hours credit)
- Gallery shifts during holiday season and special events
- Inventory of art supplies in the cabinets

Linda Stech will create a Google document to post current volunteer opportunities; needs will be specified, as well as potential hours earned. The jobs will be 'closed' as openings are filled. We can hook up potential volunteers with the right person to answer any questions. In an effort to fill the needs of the guild, volunteerism credited toward the 25% commission incentive program must be identified as a need in advance. Requests for credit from other tasks / duties preformed may be addressed with the President. There will be a host orientation training by Heidi Carlin on Wednesday, July 25th 5 – 7 pm. On a side note, members are reminded to cash their People's United Bank checks promptly after receipt. Uncashed checks will be voided after 60 days and members may incur a \$25 fee from their bank. The MAG will not be held responsible for this fee.

MAG Blog – for the guild has been started by Linda Moran, more information will be sent. Send your blog information to Linda Moran.

Featured Artist program - Since it's been difficult to line up four artists each month; it was agreed to reduce the number to just two artists per month, beginning in August. The suggestion was made to begin the process months in advance to allow time for preparation, such as ensuring enough art is available for sale, and to prepare the artist bio. The scheduled list of Featured Artists will start in January 2019. When members' names are drawn, they will be offered a choice between a couple different months put forth by the Events Committee.

Champlain Valley Fair – A 30' x 30' space was negotiated for the 20' x 20' price. If 18 artists signed up, the cost would be \$100 each for the ten day event. So far, only twelve have signed up so we are keeping the registration time open a bit longer. Participating artists will be asked to stay for one of the five hour shifts at the booth. It may be opened to volunteers as well, to get their hours in. No commission is taken at the event.

Plein Air – there will be a second opportunity to create art at Claire Payne's farm on September 29th. Linda showed the painting that she was able to complete in the two hours. Members will be notified via email when the workshop opens for signups.

Open Studio – It was approved by members in attendance to participate in the VCC Fall Open Studio, October 13 & 14 – We are looking for artists to demonstrate their work and will need volunteers to help with the cash-out counter. Several members present offered to show their work.

Board update – the board met with Mary Harwood who will create a marketing plan for MAG. We are working on developing our ‘brand’ to increase name recognition of the guild. The mural was a good first step in this direction continuing our mission to share and support the arts. The executive director position will be advertised soon; this person will do grant writing, large scale fundraising, and along with other duties, seek sponsorships.

Show & Tell, general discussion

Gary passed a steampunk style pen, and explained how he created it.

Linda Moran provided further information about the speaker program at the Essex Art League, and listed some of their past speakers. Their speakers are given a \$75 honorarium for their time (usually about an hour and fifteen minutes), and if the speaker has traveled a distance, are also given \$25 towards their transportation expense. It was asked if presenting could count as towards the volunteering commitment. If our members wish to do this, we will welcome it, but it will not be counted towards their volunteer time. MAG cannot pay for speakers at this time.

She also mentioned that there will be a special juried show at the Gruppe Gallery in April/May called the ‘Art of the 6th Extinction’ which represents a climate change theme. Selected works will be featured in a catalog, and the exhibit may have a tour through the state. Both 2-D and 3-D work can be submitted, the frame size is limited to 16” x 20” and there is a weight limit on 3-D pieces. Linda will send further information.

There was discussion regarding exhibit venues; should the MAG continue to exhibit at venues for free? It has been suggested that the venues make a donation to the guild in exchange for artists decorating their spaces. The artists can sell their work for profit, but with the exception of BioTek, venues have not reciprocated in any way for their loan of art.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lesperance

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, July 25th – Volunteer Hosts training 5 - 7
– Photographers Anonymous 6 – 7:30

Thursday, July 26th – Senior Tea 1:30 – 3

Thursday, July 26th - FREE- How to Create a Business Plan

Saturday, July 28 – Drawing workshop, 10 am - 4

Monday, August 6th – Live Model (drawing) 6:15 - 8

Thursday, August 9th – Pet Diffuser beading workshop, 6:30 - 8:30

Saturday, August 11th – Acrylic painting workshop, 10 AM -4

* Wednesday, August 15 – **Note Date Change** – MAG monthly meeting, 6 – 8

Thursday, August 16 – MAG Meetup 5:30 - 8
– Alcohol Ink workshop, 6 - 8