

January 22, 2014

I would like to say thanks to everyone who has worked so hard since I became president of the organization. I am amazed at how much has been accomplished in such a short time. Here is a roundup of happenings:

- Jennifer Carpenter workshop set and advertised in lots of places (Charlotte). Feb 28-Mar 2
- Chuck Hoover presentation on color set and advertised (Teri). Feb 16
- David Pearce workshop on photographing artwork scheduled for April (Charlotte and Nancy)
- A news release listing put together to help everyone keep track of how they advertise their events.
- Two new galleries added to our community gallery list (Blue Ridge Cancer Care and Pointe West Management). One gallery withdrew due to corporate changes (StellarOne). New schedule now set with several artists who have not exhibited in a while. Schedule will be posted on web shortly and emailed to scheduled artists.
- Meeting with Alice Ledford, our accountant, attended by Gerri, Jeanette and Bill Pulley. Bill put together a wonderful Excel spreadsheet for Jeanette to use and it is working well. Learned a lot from the accountant to help us go forward with an accurate financial accounting.
- Held our January board meeting in the Newport Recreation Center. Excellent meeting with lots accomplished. After touring this fascinating place we will hold our first workshop of the year there. Member Ava Howard was a great host to us that day!
- Our new secretary, Fred Jones, kicked off the year with excellent minutes, setting the standard we will follow from now on.
- Decided to stay on longer in the CAIO and to really utilize the space by activating the monitor, getting BRAA signage on the window, reorganizing the things stored there, placing a poster on the wall by the monitor and brochures right beside it instead of in the mass bin, placing an informational flip book on the table. Some discussion about the use of volunteers to sit in there, but nothing concrete set on that. I talked to Susan Mattingly, the manager, and she agreed to everything except our request to have a lower rent. Her rent is going up and she cannot lower ours. However, she will give us free space on The Lyric screen before the movies. This alone is worth hundreds of dollars a year. We just have to provide her with the slide to be done soon by Den Bento.
- Held our January luncheon with a wonderful Art Spot by Jennifer Carpenter and 16 attendees
- Changed the PO Box records to reflect the current people authorized to receive mail: Tom Barnhart, Jeanette Bowker and Gerri Young. Jeanette will check three times a week.
- The pass-along files for the president are mine now and I'll update over the next month or so.
- Some different versions of the artist statement used in community galleries will be posted on our web this week. I've noticed that several choices would probably be a good idea to accommodate the length of different artist statements.
- A printer-friendly version of the membership application is now posted on the web & is being used.
- Several new members have signed on.

My thanks to all of you who have jumped in to make so many things happen, so fast. You are a great group to work with and I simply couldn't do it without you. I'll try to keep up with these progress reports so you know what is happening in order to answer questions you may get from other members. A briefer version of this will be done for the February newsletter.

Your partner in art,

Gerri Young