

VWS Board Meeting  
January 9th 2016  
1pm -3:00pm

**Attendees:**

Kate Jackson, Charles Norris-Brown, Lynn Pratt, Mark LaLonde, Diane Bell, Michelle LeBoeuf, Adrienne Fisk, Tony Conner . Missing: Carlton Annis, Victoria Jefferies and Caitlin Glaser

The minutes from the strategic planning meeting in November were approved.

**Treasurers Report** - Emailed ahead of meeting

The draft of the financial statement has been received as of January 30.

The VWS has approximately 25,000 in the bank.

3,600 in educational fund

1,500 operating account

20,000 in money market drawing interest.

\$4290 was budgeted to hub activities in 2015. \$2000 was spent. \$2890 can be moved into the education fund if needed after Mark speaks with Carlton. Carlton's draft was accepted by all.

**Directors Reports:**

**• Director of Hubs -**

Pam Dexter, former director, has been coordinating with Caitlin with a hand-off of directors' responsibilities.

**• Co-director of Exhibitions - Charles Norris Brown**

Everything is in order from 2015 shows

Rob has stepped down as Co-Director of Exhibitions, and Victoria Jefferies is on board now -- doing great as I will soon show. Charles will be the other co-director until the end of this year, depending on new work load.

**2016 Shows**

The Fall Awards AVA show is still on for October 21, to November 12, 2016. We will apparently get two galleries there and are not required to submit to a theme. It looks like it has the billings for a really great venue for the VWS. Thank you Rob for working that out.

The big news right now is the spring show and what is going on with the Chaffee Gallery in Rutland. We had asked Chaffee for a show April 15, to May 20. I was abroad for two months and Rob was able to follow up with contacts with Chaffee. Because of some reorganizing they have been doing (apparently limiting their gallery use to just one location), they asked Rob if our show could be moved from February 19, to March 26. Rob responded November 24, that we could not do that. The big issue with Chaffee has been what Rob and I see as a lack of communication between them and us. Rob had called them a number of times; I emailed them with no response from the organizer; and in the last email exchange we stated clearly that we could not change our dates and would they reconsider. There was no response. Charles has this email exchange on file. Both Rob and Charles felt that this was becoming a fiasco, and it was decided we look elsewhere. Rob had contact with a gallery in St. Johnsbury, but they could not host our Spring show on the dates we requested. Luckily our new co-director, Victoria contacted the SVAC (Southern Vermont Arts Council) in Manchester, VT (website <http://www.svac.org/>). SVAC can accommodate our Spring show on the dates we suggested, but said that they needed to both have this confirmed by us, as well as this board of directors. Note: Shortly after this board meeting, SVAC was confirmed for our original dates from April 15 to May 20, 2016.

**Director of Programs - Martin LaLonde**

The Spring Meeting is scheduled for May 21, in Killington. No demonstrator has been chosen nor has an activity as yet. I will ask for suggestions via email. One idea is to have Lynn Pratt lead a sample exercise that a VWS teacher/member would use with a group of students in the "I Can Paint" program. We could supply the palettes and some paint left over from our last activity. This would be a kind of teacher - training. A demonstration by Annelein Beukenkamp or another VWS member might be a possibility as well. Let me know your thoughts on these or other suggestions.

June 2016 Jeanne McGuire Workshop: We currently only have three individuals who have signed up, however the Landgrove Inn has recently sent out its workshop list for the year. Hopefully this will generate some more takers. Claudia Carl says not to panic, but I have to admit I'm concerned. Part of the problem may be the fact that the Landgrove Inn has two other portrait painters scheduled for next summer. I'll accept any ideas to get this workshop filled.

2016 Fall Meeting: This meeting is scheduled for October 22 at the Middlebury Inn.

2017 VWS Workshop: I have reached out to a few artists but have not been successful. Charles Reid is available in June or September of 2017, but he charges \$6000 for a week which is a bit more than other possible artists. We will have to discuss whether he has enough draw to justify the fee. Mary Whyte is not available in 2017, is available in 2018. I was going to ask Fealing Lin, but I found out she is already booked for 2016, and John Salminen is coming back to the Landgrove Inn independently in 2017. I am open to suggestions and I will continue the search.

**• Director of Membership - Michelle LeBoeuf**

Membership totals 221 pd dues 2015; 122 have paid through 2016. We have several students among these so the welcome has to be updated before it goes out. Michelle is working with Caitlin on this. She will send out the excel sheet quarterly rather than monthly. Tony suggested a link to go onto the website. If it is secured. That would save Michelle from having to send out the data quarterly.

Mark would like to consider an online directory rather than a printed directory.

Under the membership log-in we could have that directory as a PDF. Name, email, address, telephone, and hub info. This could be compiled on an excel sheet turned into a PDF.

The current membership list may not be up to date on the website. Michelle will check with Don Dalton to make that happen.

Don Dalton and Diane Bell will make sure the updates to the bylaws are completed and put on the website.

**• Co-director of Communications- Lynn Pratt**

The newsletter publication has become much easier since people are following the format requirements.

Mark asked that they scan down through and make sure there are no out of date articles there.

Adrienne asked that they delete Adrienne Fisher's info as she has passed away.

Mark noticed that board positions have to be corrected as well. Don will do the same for the website via Mark's request.

Mark also asked that the request for a new webmaster be reworded to keep it fresh..

Mark requested that a link to the Facebook page be added to the "I can paint" page on the website

**• Director of Volunteers - Adrienne Fisk**

There is a volunteer who would like to assist Martin with the spring meeting to liven it up. Adrienne will let Martin know who that is.

Several students have joined the society, but Adrienne should hold off contacting them regarding any volunteerism because they are young, and they may not be serious. They have received an initial welcome letter.

**Report from Task Force Committee on VWS Education Fund.**

A teacher from Springfield Riverside Middle School was contacted by a member from another organization who had some extra monies-- maybe \$300.

“All For One” organization interacts with Springfield schools and has requested 20 kits. Mark is writing back to clarify all this. Sounds like a positive interaction.

South Burlington has requested kits and a program for 22 kids.

Ann Christopher has been contacted about giving us another grant for 2016.

Claudia will do the buying again.

A local reporter will do a story on Mark’s classes next week that we can then use to support the program

The phone conference adjourned at 3:00.