



Gaston County Art Guild Newsletter
January 2018

Happy New Year!

The Board would like to wish all of the Guild members a very Happy New Year! The year of 2018 will be a year of changes and, with your help, one of success.

The sale of our building should be final sometime in the middle of January. We have not yet met with the new owners but we do not expect anything to change for at least 6 months. Their plan is to first start renovations on the 3rd floor, then move to the second floor.

The sale contract provides the Guild space, for three years, at the same rate that we are paying now. As we receive more information, our members will be updated.

Arts on Main News

Arts on Main will be **closed from December 24, 2017 through January 11, 2018. We will re-open on January 12th.** We have taken this block of time to close so that our resident artists will have time to spend with their family and friends during the holidays. We also will be using this time to maintain our building, paint the main gallery and set up our Square system.

This system will streamline the number of hours spent on tracking inventory and calculating sales commissions, etc. For the time being, we are asking that artists not bring any new inventory until the system is set up. We will notify you once it is up and running and look forward to seeing lots of new artwork.

Membership

The membership has grown from under 50 to nearly 180 in the past few years and we hope to advance those numbers significantly in 2018.

We house as many as 30 resident-artists in 23 studios, operate a gift shop and provide for teaching/learning in our class room space. Our small all-volunteer Board manages the financials and keeps all the volunteer elements running.

An immediate opportunity to serve will begin with a 2018 membership drive. Every member can be a part of this drive by inviting friends to join our membership group. **Only with significant numbers can we overcome the challenges GCAG is undertaking.**

The newsletter will soon have a new feature which will include opportunities to contribute as we will post for committee teams. The idea is to see that those who volunteer their time will have fewer responsibilities. If we spread the work around, no one will carry too heavy a load. To be successful, we will need more members to volunteer.

We would like to thank our members that renewed and the ones who became new members in December, 2017.

C. Christopher, Cornelia Crawford, Jackie Dunford, Mary Anna Jones, Jackie Laine, Meredith McCraw, J. Richard Martinez, Wanda and Willie Meekins, Doris Phillips and Todd Pierceall.

Our Next Gallery Show

Our next show in the gallery at Arts on Main will be our **High School Senior Show**. This show will run **January 17- February 22, 2018**. The reception date has been changed from February 4th to **February 3rd, from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**, due to the Super Bowl. Please save the date and come join us in celebrating the senior's fantastic artwork. **We still need donations to match the Grass Roots grant we received for this show. Please take a moment and donate to this worthy cause.**

Thank You

The Board would like to thank **Kim Shockley** for her support over the past two years. Kim was responsible for the gift shop bookkeeping, which means that at the end of the month she recorded all the sales slips, calculated the commissions and the payments and then mailed them with an accounting of what the artist sold.

We would also like to thank **Pat Williams** for stepping in and taking over this position.

We wish to thank all of the volunteers who helped support us in 2017. Without you we could not operate.

Guild Meeting

Our next Guild meeting will be **Tuesday, January 9th at 6 pm** at Arts on Main. After a brief business meeting, we'll have our very own **Lorene Lovell** as our presenter. Please make sure you join us. This will be a lot of fun! Save the date and don't be late!

Lorene will demonstrate her unique techniques with watercolor. She'll show us how to paint **trees from beginning to end**. Everyone who attends will learn how to bring depth into their painting. Lorene will use her paintings as examples of painting from light to dark and bringing the ethereal background to the realistic foreground. Throughout the demonstration, she will answer our questions. Come join us. This is sure to be a lot of fun!!

In addition to our regular Guild meeting on January 9th, we will be hosting a **special Guild meet and greet** to be held on **Sunday, January 21st**. This is to gather our members and celebrate our 54th anniversary as well as our achievements to date. Please save the date.

Watch for more information.



