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| President’s Newsletter – October 4, 2019Spring rolled into Summer so quickly, and now Fall is here. We’ve had some beautiful weather to inspire us to take our pastels outdoors and create paintings of our beautiful surroundings. So much has happened over the last four months. Mary Rinderle Smith and I attended the International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS) in Albuquerque in June, and made valuable connections with members of other pastel societies. The week was filled with presentations, demos and workshops, as well as some fun events. Our application for membership to IAPS was accepted, and we are now listed on the IAPS website. Members of the PPS can participate in IAPS exhibitions and events.I had the opportunity to visit the Pastel Society of America 47th Annual Exhibition “Enduring Brilliance” at the National Arts Club on September 20th with a group of PPS board members. The selection of paintings was exceptional, and included works by PPS members Wendy McClatchy and Cathy Grygiel. We listened to an enlightening gallery talk by Richard McKinley, PSA Master Pastelist, PSA Hall of Fame Honoree, and President of IAPS. As he toured the gallery, he pointed out paintings whose qualities exhibited the theme of light and spaciousness. He’s an inspirational speaker and teacher, and I felt fortunate to spend some time with him.**Organizational Development Update**Since the PPS was formed in April, the Board has been extremely busy establishing the infrastructure of our organization.With the help of PPS Treasurer Jack Lloyd, we established the name of the Philadelphia Pastel Society and registered with the state as an unincorporated association. We obtained a tax ID and opened a bank account. Our application for 501(c)(3) status was approved, and we have obtained a liability insurance policy. PPS has a Bryn Mawr PO box which is rented for a nominal fee for the year.PPS By-Laws were drafted by PPS Vice President Ann Guidera-Matey and were approved by the Board. This document provides guidelines for how PPS business is conducted, defines the roles of the Board members and artist members, and outlines the PPS purpose and mission statement. They were approved at the General Members meeting on October 5th.Membership Chair Pat Riley has been organizing a database of PPS members, and sends out communications to the membership as needed. PPS member Oona Hodges and Board members Kathy Apfelbaum and Ann Guidera-Matey researched different venues for our general members meetings. The Board voted to have our meetings at the Community Arts Center in Wallingford, based on budget, location and schedule flexibility.**Website**Mary Rinderle Smith has been working very hard to set up our website. Please check it out at [www.PhiladelphiaPastelSociety.org](http://www.PhiladelphiaPastelSociety.org). Our intention is to have a gallery page with images of artwork by our members. Artists will also be able to sign up for workshops and pay their dues on-line. This will also be an important site for announcing our schedule of meetings and events.**Social media**Kathy Apfelbaum and I have set up a Facebook page for the PPS, as well as a PPS group page. The main page will be a valuable resource of upcoming events and art exhibitions, as well as featuring artworks by some of our members. The PPS group page can serve as an artists’ forum to share ideas and photos of their pastel paintings, as well as announcements for individual shows and accomplishments. We have plans to create an Instagram account as well.**Upcoming Events**Ann has lined up a schedule of guest speakers and demos at our general members meetings through next year at the Community Arts Center. Please refer to our website for information about each of these artists.Doug Tweddale, Saturday, October 5, 2019.Val Rossman, Saturday, Jan 11, 2020.Carol Kardon, Saturday, May 9, 2020.Pat Riley coordinated plein air events this summer at Exton County Park, the Willows Park Preserve in Radnor, Narbrook Park in Narberth, John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, and Stoneleigh in Villanova. Our next plein air will be Monday, Oct 7th, at the John James Audubon Center. Attending these events are a wonderful way to meet other pastel artists, share ideas and plein air painting tips, and paint together in a beautiful setting.**Workshop**PPS is hosting our first workshop at the Community Arts Center with Doug Tweddale this fall. It will be a two-day workshop on November 5th and 6th, 2019. Workshop Chair Mary Rinderle Smith is looking for volunteers to help with this event.**Exhibition Opportunities*** PPS Members Show at Salus University in Elkins Park, May 2020 – This will be a non- juried exhibition open to the first 25 artists who sign up and will run for 6 weeks.
* Juried PPS Members Exhibition at the Wayne Art Center – This will be our first large juried show that will open in Sep 2020 and will run for approximately four weeks. Our plan is to have all entries submitted on-line. We will have to obtain sponsors to fund this show, due to the expenses for the gallery rental, jurors and awards.
* PPS Members Show at Beaumont Retirement Community, Bryn Mawr, Spring 2021 – This will be a non-juried show open to all PPS members.
* PPS Members Show at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, Sep 2021 – This is a beautiful gallery space with lots of natural light. Our plan is to have a juror of awards for this exhibition.

The success of these exhibitions is dependent on the volunteer support and the leadership of exhibition chairpersons. Board members will be reaching out to PPS members to help with these shows.I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we have been building the Philadelphia Pastel Society and getting all of the working pieces in place. I hope that you share my enthusiasm and that of the Board in the opportunities offered by PPS to advance the public image of the soft pastel medium, and to bring pastel artists together to share the love of the medium and foster a sense of community.Warm regards,Blanche Levitt TorphyPresident, Philadelphia Pastel Society  |

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