****

**President’s Newsletter – December 31, 2021**

Happy New Year to everyone! This is a combined Fall and Winter newsletter, so it’s a little longer than usual. So grab yourself a warm cup of coffee or tea, and settle in for a good read!

The PPS held its **Annual General Members Meeting** at the Community Art Center on October 15, 2021. Our guest artist and PPS member Carol Kardon gave an engaging and informative presentation. Her demo focused on the three different stages of a painting: the initial design and sketch, the middle stage of a painting in which the major shapes are blocked in, and the final stage of nearing completion and resolving any outstanding problems.

**Vote to Approve Slate of Officers to the Executive Board**

According to the PPS By-Laws, we must hold an election every two years for the slate of officers that are on the Executive Board. Members voted at the meeting and the following positions were approved:

 President Blanche Levitt Torphy

 Vice President Denise Vitollo

 Treasurer Jack Lloyd

 Recording Secretary Kathleen Apfelbaum

**Membership** – Our membership chair Patricia Riley has worked hard on keeping track of our memberships and also sending out communications by email. In the past year, our membership has grown from 77 artists to 94 members. The majority are PA residents, with about 10 artists who live in NJ, DE, MD, Vermont and NC. I want to thank those members who have renewed their membership for 2022, and remind others that the annual dues of $45 are to be paid in January 2022. You can do this through our website on the JOIN US tab. You can make a donation to PPS through this link as well. You can also pay by check, made payable to “Philadelphia Pastel Society”, and mail it to Membership, Philadelphia Pastel Society, P.O. Box 741, Bryn Mawr, PA, 19010. Members who joined in the fall of 2021 do not need to renew until January 2023.

**Volunteers needed** – As our organization has grown, there are many jobs that need to be done in order to continue to offer workshops, demos and exhibition opportunities. We are reaching out to all of you to help keep the momentum going with this phenomenal art organization. Please consider serving on a committee or on our Board. Right now, all of the work is being done by the Board members, which leaves us less time to paint! Our immediate needs include a **co-chair for the Members Exhibition at Beaumont** that will open in April, a **marketing** person to help with designing and writing ads for upcoming events, a **Recording Secretary** and a **Treasurer**. The list of committees and descriptions of job responsibilities is attached. You can contact any one of the seven board members if you would like more information about a specific committee or board position.

**Summary of Programs and Exhibitions Offered in 2021** –

**The 2nd Annual** **Members Exhibition at the Wayne Art Center** – This show concluded on October 9th. There were 52 artists who exhibited 68 paintings, and the work was outstanding! The award winning paintings are still on view on the PPS website. I hope that everyone had a chance to visit the gallery to see this show. The Director of Exhibitions at the WAC, Pam McLean-Parker, had this to say about the show:

“Congratulations on your beautiful 2nd Annual Exhibition. We are so very pleased to have kicked off the fall with this wonderful show. It’s so much more than that, though, as you well know. This has been the first exhibition in the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Gallery since 2020, and has been the most wonderful way to return to exhibitions! The work is joyful and vibrant, and has been welcoming guests to the gallery for weeks now. We hear the most wonderful things from visitors about the exhibit. We’re truly delighted for the artists whose work has found collectors, and hope that you’ll be sure to congratulate them, and thank all your participating artists on our behalf. We hope to host another one of the Philadelphia Pastel Society’s future exhibitions.”

Fred Danziger was our judge of awards, and he presented eight awards at the opening reception. Six paintings sold, with a total value of $3550, providing the WAC with commissions of $1420. Al Richards, the exhibition chairperson, expressed his thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the exhibition.

**Plein Air Painting Meetups and Art Show and Party in the Park** – Kathy Apfelbaum and Pat Riley did an amazing job this year of planning a full schedule of plein air painting meetups. Mike Kerr hosted our group at his farm in Coatesville. PPS member Betsy Miraglia hosted a group at her home in Stone Harbor, and Kathy A. had ten artists at her home in Ocean City, NJ. The highlight of the plein air season was the visit to Kuerner Farm in Chadds Ford. We had a docent-led tour of the Kuerner home and heard about some stories of Andrew Wyeth. Other painting sites were at Willowbrook Farm in Malvern, Tyler Arboretum in Media, Valley Forge Flowers in Devon, Garret Williamson estate in Newtown Square, the Peace Valley Lavender Farm in Doylestown, and the Sugartown Strawberry Farm Stand in Malvern. To celebrate the plein air painting season, PPS hosted a picnic and art show in East Goshen Township Park on October 9th. Music was provided by The 29ers and also by PPS members Kathy A. and Marie Harris. We had 11 artists exhibit their paintings and everyone in attendance voted for their favorite artwork. We awarded four artists with People’s Choice awards. Approximately 40 people came to the outdoor exhibition. I encourage all of the members to come to this event in 2022, if possible. It’s a wonderful way to get to know your fellow artists and to see the wonderful paintings that they have created.

**Demos 0ffered in 2021 –**

 Stan Sperlak - online demo at our Jan 16th members meeting.

 Anne Whalon - plein air demo at our May meeting at the Community Arts Center (CAC).

 Carol Kardon – demo at October meeting at the CAC.

**Resources and News about online workshops and demos and exhibition opportunities** – Online workshops with Aline Ordman and Laura Pollack; online demos by Madeleine Kelly; online exhibitions by other pastel societies, information regarding 2022 IAPS convention in Albuquerque.

**Upcoming Events and Exhibitions for 2022**

* **Winter Members Meeting –** Saturday, January 8, 2022, 10 am – noon, Virtual meeting by Zoom**. Nancy King Mertz, PSA, IAPS-MC, EP**, will present a 1 and ½ hr demo of an urban landscape. She is a distinguished master pastelist from Rockford IL. We will be sending out the Zoom meeting link to everyone shortly.
* **Virtual demo by Jeri Greenberg, PSA, IAPS-MC** – Saturday, February 26, 10 am – 11:30 am by Zoom. Pre-registration required.
* **Members Exhibition (Non-juried) at Beaumont Retirement Community in Bryn Mawr –** April 10 – May 14, 2022.
* **Spring Members Meeting –** Thursday,April 28, 2022, 10:30 am to 12:30 at Community Arts Center in Wallingford, PA. **Anne Strutz**, **PSA, IAPS-MC,** will be the guest speaker.
* **Plein Air Meetups and Events** –
	+ Plein air artists will meet approximately twice a month from April – October 2022.
	+ End of season Plein Air Exhibition and Party in the Park – Saturday, October 15, 2022.
* **PPS National Juried Show at the Community Arts Center –** September 12th – October 17th, 2022.This will be our big debut! Liz Haywood-Sullivan is the juror of selection, and Dawn Emerson is the judge of awards. Dawn will also do an evening demo (September 12th) and a 3 day workshop (September 13 – 15, 2022).

Please put these dates into your calendars so that you don’t miss out on these wonderful opportunities. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our January 8th members meeting by Zoom, with Nancie King Mertz. Have a safe and healthy New Year!

Warm regards,

Blanche Levitt Torphy

Blanche Levitt Torphy

President, Philadelphia Pastel Society