

Yakima Valley Artists Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2023

5:45 p.m. – Social Time

6:00 p.m. – Welcome. Jack welcomed new members and guests. First-time attending were members, Jo-Anne Carlson and Kate Green. Guest was Marjorie Conzatti.

Presentation: Autumn Britt, “Print Making.”

Kathy introduced member Autumn Britt, a former public school teacher with over 20 years of teaching

experience. She is currently the Exhibits and Educational Programming Manager at the Central Washington

State Fair.

6:45 p.m. – Business Meeting. Meldra thanked Judy Wells for providing a wide variety of Christmas cookies.

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

Board members present: Meldra Driscoll, president; Kate Bowditch, Kathy Birdwell, treasurer; vice president; Mary Jepsen, secretary; board members Jack Cannon and Kris Knight.

Treasury Report: The beginning balance for November was \$1,756.99. Income for the month included dues of \$7.00. Expenses were \$124.48. Ending balance was \$1,639.51. Kathy added that a letter would be handed out during the meeting regarding the upcoming dues to be collected in January for the 2024 year. Doug Lewis moved and Jeremiah Britt seconded a motion to pay a bill of \$158.42 for GoDaddy to Mike Mullen. The motion passed.

Secretary Report: Mary reported that all monthly general meeting minutes are available on the YVAA website within 7-10 days of the last meeting. She sent around a sign-up sheet for the refreshments for meetings in 2024, the evening’s attendance sheet, and surveys to be completed and handed in at the end of the meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Membership & Hospitality Committee: Mary reported that the membership booklet will be available to members in January when they’ve paid their 2024 dues. The booklet will be available through a QR code, email, on the YVAA website or in paper form, the last option for those who do not access computers.

Fresh Air Committee: Kate stated she would send out a list of items to bring to a plein air event. She requested the names of those who would be interested in joining the plein air events starting in January. She may be contacted through her email:

Live Shows Committee: Doug Lewis reported that several venues had been determined for the collaboration show between Yakima Coffeehouse Poets and YVAA in 2025; the current Larson Gallery and Mighty Tieton. Doug has talked to the Larson Gallery Board president, Mitzi Casey, and has been assured that he will be able to work with the Board or a new director as the event develops. After further planning with the YVAA board, Doug will begin releasing several poems at a time, possibly once or twice a month, to allow artists to begin planning illustration of a selected poem.

Doug also discussed the possibility of a barbed wire show as an opportunity to use up the barbed wire collected by Cowiche Canyon Conservancy. Further discussion will be held on this possible event.

Virtual Shows: Meldra announced that the next virtual show, "A Piece of Work," would be open to the public on Dec. 19.

Social Media Committee: AnaLi Gresham reported that the YVAA Instagram page continues to grow. The Facebook page, entitled, Followers of Yakima Valley Artists Association, now has 212 members followers. YVAA members are invited to post their creative work on this page. Those who are "followers" may only post comments.

Presentation Committee: Kris announced that Grace Clark will provide a program on Zentangle drawing at the January meeting and Carol Huls will discuss in February how she pulls creativity and inspiration out of her high school students. Grace asked that members bring Micron pens, if they have them, to the January meeting.

By-Laws Committee: Mary indicated that there was no further action taken on the by-laws until the organization decides on whether to become a nonprofit.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Changing Meeting Dates: After discussion, Jack Cannon moved, and Sheila Phelps seconded a motion to continue to hold YVAA general meetings on the second Monday of the month. The motion passed.

Alternate Plan for Meetings in Bad Weather: Meldra explained that in the past, Zoom meetings have been set up during January and February to allow YVAA members to meet each month in spite of bad weather. Sheila Phelps made the motion to have the board determine the Friday before the scheduled general meetings, in January and February, if travel would be difficult on the meeting date, and, if so, to contact members that day along with sending a Zoom invitation. Catherine Reed second the motion. The motion passed. Meldra reminded members that any presentations re-scheduled as Zoom meetings would not have presentations.

Collecting Photos for the Historian: Meldra explained the need to collect photos from YVAA events and activities to be provided to Kate Bowditch, who is the group's historian. Kate will convert all the materials to a digital set-up to be placed on the YVAA website.

Surveys: Mary asked that surveys be turned in at the end of the meeting, or they may be scanned, attached to an email and sent to Mary at [jepsenm@charter.net](mailto:jepsenm@charter.net). Completed surveys may also be sent to her via: P.O. Box 8077, Yakima, 98908.

501c3: Meldra announced that the board had begun looking into the possibility of turning YVAA into a nonprofit, though the matter is still in discussion phase.

Mother's Day Show: After discussing the possible date in May 2024, Meldra requested a show of hands for those interested in participating in a Mother's Day Show. The matter will be discussed further.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Classroom Space: Darcie Roberts announced she had been told by the management at Meadowbrook Mall that space was available to rent to anyone wishing to provide art classes in the space. The large room also contains a sink for watercolor painting classes. Those interested may contact Meldra at [Meldra.driscoll@gmail.com](mailto:Meldra.driscoll@gmail.com).

Kate's Second Place Entry: Doug reported he had attended the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy's 2023 Nature's Storyteller's Writing Contest at the Wesley United Methodist Church on Dec.7<sup>th</sup>. He stated that Kate Bowditch had read her piece, "Mourning Tree," which had placed second in the contest. Doug stated that both her piece and her reading of it were very enjoyable.

Larson Gallery Christmas Fundraiser: The Christmas ornaments made by YVAA members will be returned to the Larson Gallery Dec. 16 to be sold as a fundraiser for the gallery. The ornaments have been on display at the Yakima Valley Museum since Dec. 5.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Without further business, Meldra adjourned the meeting.

Report submitted by:  
Mary S. Jepsen, Secretary