



LCAL.org | 501c3 | lakecountyartleague@gmail.com

[LCAL Website](#)
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Sketches

Official Newsletter of
Your Lake County Art League

January 2026

2025 LCAL Fall Membership Show, Volo Bog

1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners



1st, Clareese Ornstein
"Liam the Old Irish Goat"



2nd, Russell Kraly*
"Winter Bird"



3rd, Marina Rawlings
"Hedgegrow Cloudscape #1"

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What Is Our Mission?

In our 91st year, the LCAL continues to grow, change and strive to advance our mission.

What is our mission you ask? Let's start with the definition of "mission" in Webster's Dictionary:

"Mission": A specific task with which a person or a group is charged;

A pre established and often self-imposed objective or purpose.

LCAL's mission, according to our by-laws and constitution: "The purpose of this League is to create more interest in art in Lake County in the State of Illinois and to develop a higher appreciation of visual art. It shall do this through art exhibitions, festivals, demonstrations of art techniques, lectures, critiques and sharing of ideas, inspiration and encouragement between members."

How does the LCAL promote our mission? Throughout the history of the art league, depending on the circumstances, we have continued to promote these ideas and offer members various ways to promote our mission.

- We offer free shows/exhibitions twice a year at various venues.
- We conduct educational demonstrations through Zoom and in-person sessions.
- We provide opportunities to share ideas, to inspire and to encourage all levels of artists. For example:
 - Our plein air group met 14 times this year and will continue to meet during winter months at various venues so that artists can share, sketch or just socialize.
 - The two membership shows in the spring and the fall offer critiques of artists' work to help guide artists to new levels.

How does the LCAL accomplish our mission? We do it through participation from members in our shows, demonstrations, and mostly through volunteering. The LCAL would not be what it is today without the dedicated and devoted work of our members who have volunteered to help out in various board and director positions.

Last summer we participated in the Dandelion Wine Festival and the previous two years, in the Mundelein Market days promoting the art league.

Deb Edmunds

LCAL President

Questions? Contact Deb at Edmundsdl@gmail.com.



Monday January 19, 2026

Zoom meeting/demo

Watch your email for the Zoom link

[Kathleen Kalinowski](#)

Oil on Linen

Kathleen is an impressionist painter, and painter of landscapes in pastel and oil.

Monday February 16, 2026

Zoom meeting/demo

Watch your email for the Zoom link

[Bonnie Paruch](#)

Cafes and figures in the city

Monday March 16, 2026

Zoom meeting/demo

Watch your email for the Zoom link

[Bob Burridge](#)

Acrylic

Monday April 20, 2026

- **In Person Meeting**

Location: State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake

Program to be determined

- **LCAL Officer Elections**

Wednesday May 13, 2026

Spring Membership show critique

Watch for information to enter the show end of March or the beginning of April

Location of Show: Lake Villa Library

Monday June 15, 2026

Demo and Picnic

Program and location to be announced

Monday, September 21, 2026

In Person Meeting

Location: State Bank of Lakes, Grayslake

Program to be determined

Monday October 19, 2026

In Person Meeting

Location: State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake

Program to be determined

November, 2026

Fall Membership show and critique

To be announced

LCAL January Member Meeting and Demo / Zoom Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, 7 pm

Creating from a Plein Air Sketch

As most of you know, our January, February and March meetings will be done via Zoom.

For January we will have the pleasure of seeing a demonstration by the talented artist, **Kathleen Kalinowski**. Kathleen will be doing an oil painting using one of her plein air sketches as the subject. Please join the group from the comfort of your home. A Zoom link will be emailed to all of our members shortly before the presentation. Information is also available in our [LCAL Facebook group](#).



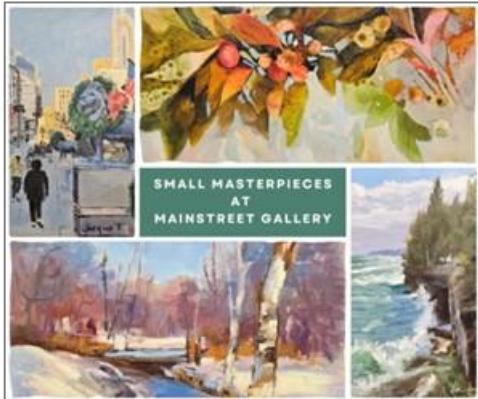
Kathleen Kalinowski

Kathleen Kalinowski is a lifelong resident of west Michigan. Her home and studio are harmoniously integrated into the natural surroundings. Being a contemporary impressionist painter, she is deeply captivated by the light, atmosphere, and colors of the landscape. Her passion for painting en plein air allows her to fully immerse herself in the beauty around her, capturing the spirit in her work.

Kathleen's work has earned numerous awards and has been featured in prestigious regional and national exhibitions, as well as in solo and gallery shows. Kathleen is actively involved in her local art community. Teaching and mentoring aspiring artists has in recent years, expanded her artistic exploration to include the landscapes and cultures of Ireland, Germany, Italy and France.

See more of Kathleen's work at her [website](#).





Small Masterpiece Show at Mainstreet Gallery

Now through Jan. 31 at Mainstreet Gallery, 16 E. Main St., Lake Zurich, IL.

We warmly invite you to explore our latest small paintings exhibit from local artists.

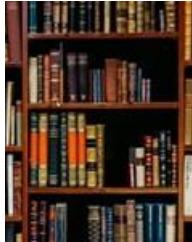
Mainstreet Art Center is dedicated to nurturing local artists and providing a platform for their incredible talents.

This exhibit features a diverse array of artwork; from landscapes to abstract expressions, showcasing the rich tapestry of our community's creativity.

Join us as we celebrate the talent of our featured artists and engage with the local art scene that inspires us all.

Questions? Contact Frankie Johnson at
artists@mainstreetartcenter.com

Library Lobby Art Display Opportunities



The Lake Villa Library is seeking local artists to show their artwork in the **Featured Artist Exhibit space**. Artists can exhibit their 2D works in the library lobby for 2-month time periods.

Group shows or solo art exhibits are welcome. If you would like to be considered for an exhibit, contact us at 847-356-7711.

Questions? Email to lakecoartleague@gmail.com.

We Are Looking for Places to Hang Our Art!

The art league is looking for other areas around Lake County where our members can display their art. If you know of a place that would allow our group to hang art, please email the LCAL at lakecoartleague@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS, April 2026

Each year the art league holds their elections at the April in-person meeting. To prepare for the election a member is asked to serve as nominating committee chair at the January executive board meeting. Several members will be needed to assist the chair with finding candidates to fill the open positions.

New officers start their term on July 1; each position serves one year. The president is the only position that can not serve more than two consecutive terms.

This year the positions of president, vice president, treasurer and corresponding secretary will need to be filled. Ali Albraki has agreed to be the nominating chair and will need several other members to assist him in finding those candidates.

Please contact him if you would like to assist him: nyika1940@gmail.com or 224-381-0321.

Our organization has survived for over 90 years and has seen many executive board members. Please consider the opportunity to volunteer to keep our organization strong by becoming a candidate for this year's election.

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

PRESIDENT: one-year term; can serve two consecutive terms

- Preside at all in-person meetings
- Secure the community room at the State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake in October for the following year
- Create monthly meetings as needed to meet with the executive board and directors. Present an agenda for the meetings and run the board meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order
- Perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may assign
- With the approval of the directors, recruit a member to take on a once-a-year job, project, or liaison with another organization
- Appoint a chair for the nominating committee once a year at the January board meeting
- Sign all documents that pertain to the taxes that are filed for LCAL organization



EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS, cont.

VICE PRESIDENT: one-year term

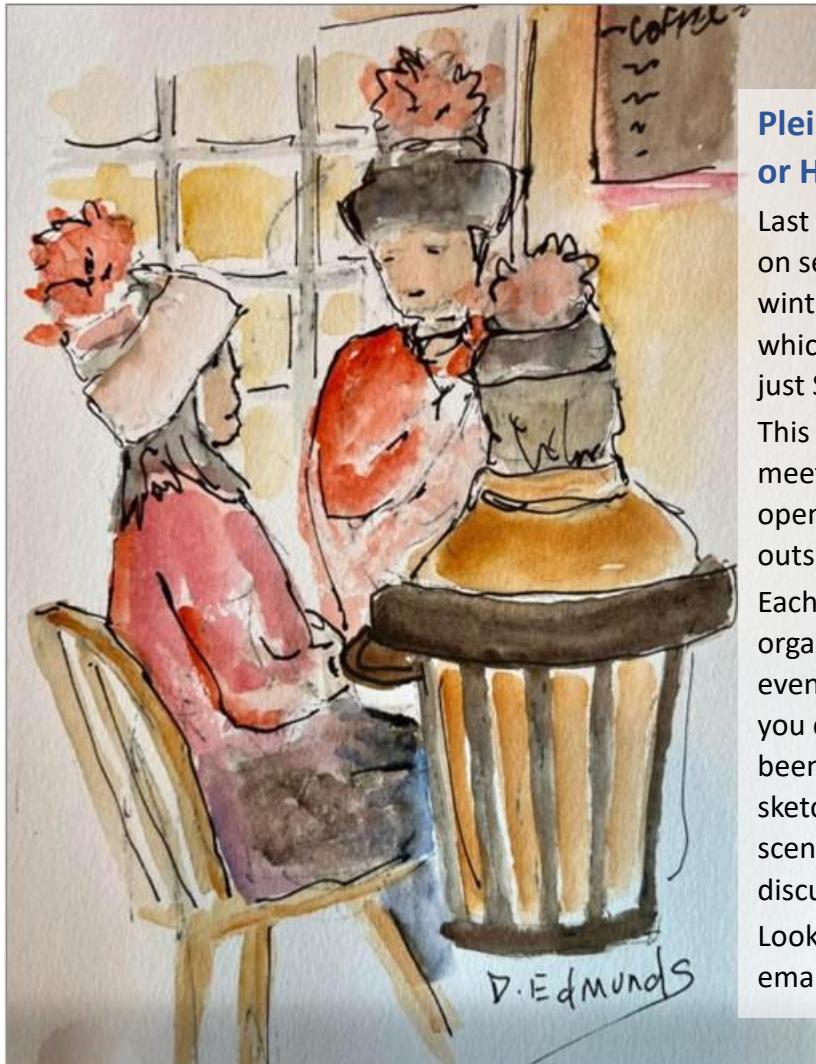
- In the absence of the president, preside at all meetings of the League and its Board of Directors meetings
- Perform all duties that regularly pertain to the office and perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may assign
- Attend Zoom board meetings that are scheduled, but attendance is not mandatory

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

- Send out monthly notices via email to distribute the Sketches publication
- Send out via email notices to collect information for Sketches
- Send out any special notices for shows or events
- Help edit “Sketches” for publication
- Attend Zoom board meetings that are scheduled, but attendance is not mandatory

TREASURER

- Deposit dues or other monies
- Reimburse any expenses incurred from members who purchased authorized items
- Issue payments to demonstrators
- File, in a timely manner, all necessary papers(s) with the State and/or Federal Government to maintain the Lake County Art League as a not-for-profit organization
- Create a monthly budget and spending report for the board
- Present a yearly budget report for the membership
- Maintain accurate books for the art league to audit once a year
- Monitor bank accounts
- Attend Zoom board meetings that are scheduled, but attendance is not mandatory



Plein Air Has Come to a Close..... or Has It?

Last year I managed to meet members on several occasions throughout the winter months with my S-SOS group, which stands for Socializing! Sketching Or just Sharing!

This year, our Plein air group will be meeting at some new locations and will open these meetings up to artists outside of our membership.

Each month, depending on availability, organizers and weather, we will create an event where we can meet for coffee and you can bring either something you've been working on to be critiqued, or sketching tools to capture the local scene. Or just bring yourself for fun discussions and socializing!

Look for announcements in your future emails from LCAL.

Questions? Contact Deb Edmunds, LCAL President and Plein Air Director, at Edmundsdl@gmail.com. Also visit Deb's Facebook pages: [personal](#) and [artist](#)

Artist "Sip, Swap, or Shop" every 3rd Wed. at the Antioch Fine Arts Gallery

All LCAL members welcome!

For more info check page 10.

Annual Members Exhibition at Robert T. Wright Gallery of Art, CLC

The Robert T. Wright Gallery of Art at the College of Lake County (CLC) will host the Annual Members Exhibition with the title "**Home is Where the Cells Are**" from **Jan. 19 to Feb. 18**.

This exhibition will showcase diverse fine art created by regional artists, providing a great opportunity for art enthusiasts to explore and appreciate the work of talented artists.

Opening Reception: Jan. 23, 5-7:30 pm.

Gallery Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 am-9 pm; Fri. 8 am-6 pm; Sat. 9 am-3 pm; Sun. closed.

Marina Rawlings

"Small Works" – Antioch Fine Arts Foundation (AFAF) Invitational Exhibit

Dec. 10 – Jan. 25 at 896 Main St, Antioch, IL.

I am exhibiting 6 paintings (shown below) as part of the "Small Works" show hosted by the Antioch Art Center.

Gallery hours: Wed.-Sun.

Questions? Contact Marina at thorny.wallflower.art@gmail.com



"Autumn Colors", oil "Nostalgia", oil



"Comfort", oil



"Reflections", oil



"Little Creature", oil



"Wetlands", oil

Sandra Saxton

Sip, Swap or Shop

The Antioch Fine Arts League (AFAL) is extending a special invitation to members of LCAL to join their monthly Creative Coffee on **Wed., Jan. 21 (9:30 am-11:30 am)**, **continuing the 3rd Wed. of every month.**

Please bring anything you are working on and wish to "show and tell" (optional). Coffee and treats are provided by AFAL but donations are gratefully accepted.

The special highlight, "Sip, Swap or Shop," will be featured. Bring in your unused art supplies that you'd like to get rid of. They can be swapped or shopped (nothing more than \$10 please). Please mark your item. Free art supplies are awesome!!

Location: Antioch Fine Arts Gallery, 896 Main Street, Antioch, IL.



Exhibits

I am showing my artwork at College of Lake County, David Adler Art Center, Volo Bog, North Shore Art League.

I am also showing at the Antioch Fine Arts Gallery's monthly invitational, [People's Choice, "A Hint of Red- the Color of Love."](#)

Dates: Jan. 28 – Feb. 22.

Reception (everyone is invited): Feb. 22, 2-5 pm.

Voting: Finishes at 3 pm with winners announced.

Questions? Contact me at saxton.songbirdstudio@gmail.com.

Clarese Ornstein

I will be **exhibiting** my art at the following locations:

- The 2026 Annual Artist Member show at the Adler Art Center, Jan. 9-Feb. 14.
- The Member Exhibit at the Wright Gallery, College of Lake County, Jan. 23-Feb. 18.

I will have my **art for sale** at:

- The Antioch Fine Arts Gallery through Jan. 31.
- The Volo Bog silent auction for its Winter Art show, Jan. 21-Feb. 28.

I have been invited to be the **featured artist** at the Lake Villa Library for March and April, where I will give a demo on painted paper collages, Mar. 24, 2-3 pm.

Questions? Contact me at socoro@comcast.net

Tiffani Williams

Exhibit, “While It Lasts: An Intersection of Art and Nature” at Lemon Street Gallery



Basking, soft pastel

This juried exhibition has accepted my artwork, “Basking,” which is a soft-pastel floral painting that captures the fleeting glow of sunset as it filters through blossoms. It reflects themes of impermanence, fragility, and quiet transformation—core ideas at the heart of the exhibition. “While It Lasts” explores the intersection of art and nature, inviting viewers to consider time, change, and the beauty found in moments that cannot be held. Juried by Jillian Talarczyk, the exhibition features works by local artists, with select pieces paired with floral arrangements created by area florists.

I’m especially excited to be part of this exhibition because “Basking” was created to honor a moment that exists only briefly—the way light softens, warms, and disappears. This show celebrates that exact tension between beauty and transience.

Location: [Lemon Street Gallery](#), 4601 Sheridan Rd., Kenosha, WI.

Opening Reception: Jan 10. It features a free drop-in art activity from 11 am-4 pm, followed by an evening reception from 6 to 9 pm with live music, food, and drink.

Closing Reception: Feb. 21, including interactive art projects, a DJ, and a live art auction.

Proceeds from the receptions will support Lemon Street Gallery’s classroom renovation efforts.

Podcast, “ArtIsZen”; Explores the Healing Power of Art

My new Spotify podcast, “ArtIsZen,” is dedicated to the emotional, mental, and everyday well-being benefits of art. Each episode invites listeners to slow down, breathe a little deeper, and rediscover how creativity can calm the mind, lift the spirit, and reconnect us to ourselves.

[Listen on Spotify](#)

View my work at my [website](#).

Questions? Contact Tiffani at twillpaints@gmail.com.





Books That Inspire From Hesse, Oliver and Bresson

Being one who reads multiple books at once, my reading table is often stacked high with options. That makes picking difficult. I find myself drawn to the books that most influence my creative practice: writing and photography.

So, in the hope of pointing out potential sources of inspiration for others, here's a look at what I've been reading lately. As always, comments and restacking are appreciated.

“Siddhartha”

Herman Hesse’s classic tale about the spiritual journey of a Hindu prince who leaves home in ancient India seeking enlightenment and the Buddah. With his companion, Siddhartha renounces all his personal possessions, meditates heavily, and fasts in hopes of finding meaning in his life. The book is hard to put down. It’s a good reminder of my own personal and artistic journey, the sacrifices and the growth that happened along the way.

Hesse’s writing style, sprinkled with introspection and symbolism, is surprisingly easy to digest: sparse verbiage with no excess; direct sentences with a syntax that carries a pleasing, poetic rhythm.

“American Primitive”

A book of poetry by **Mary Oliver** features some of my favorite of her works, including “Tecumseh,” a vividly written story of the legendary Shawnee chief who rallied Native American nations against American expansionism in the early 1800’s before his death in the Battle of Thames in 1813.

I love Oliver’s style: not a word is wasted, yet her work can somehow come off as lyrical. She whittles down Tecumseh’s complex tale to just 38 lines, including my favorite, which shows she can be slightly acerbic, too. And it still resonates, doesn’t it?

“Where are the Shawnee now?
Do you know? Or would you have to
Write to Washington, and even then,
Whatever they said,
Would you believe it? Sometimes.”



Mary Oliver

Her take on the natural world in other poems in this volume come with a heavy dose of obvious reverence, Oliver is a constant source of inspiration.

(continued on next page)



"The Mind's Eye/ Writings On Photography and Photographers"

A series of thought provoking and reflective essays and meditations by the great **Henri Cartier-Bresson** about photography and the photographers who populated his world.

I can't say I totally agree with everything I've read so far, but his writing makes me think about the craft in a different light, which is always a good thing.

Some of what he says hits home, including this take on color photography.

"It is true that color reproductions of pictures and documents have already achieved a certain fidelity to the original; but when the color proceeds to take on real life, it's another matter."

In other words, color can get in the way of texture, shape, form and the relationship of one object in the frame to another; often times, these elements are the vehicles for the photographer's message. Today's editing programs make manipulating of color—saturating, grading and masking — easier to do than ever and, consequently, color is oftentimes overdone.

No matter if you are a parallel reader, or if you tackle one book after finishing another, these three books, I suspect, will inspire.

[Ernest J. Schweit](#) is a long-time member of LCAL, and is a writer and award-winning landscape photographer.

Read his [blog](#).

Questions or Suggestions? Contact me at
ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net

We Are Always Looking for New Members!

Tell your family and friends about LCAL! Invite them to attend one of our member meetings and demos. Refer them to our [website](#) for meeting information, upcoming events, and more!

Questions? Contact Membership Director, Louise Villegas at lou999@comcast.net.

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Volunteers Needed and Appreciated!

Keep the LCAL healthy and the art community growing for another 90 years!

Our league benefits tremendously from the skills and talents of *all* members. Please

seriously consider helping our board in any of the league's positions (listed on page 16).

Find the description of volunteer positions in our by-laws at [our website](#) under "about."

- **Corresponding Secretary:** We are looking for an addition to the executive board. Do you have computer emailing skills and have several hours a month to help send out information to the membership? This position would take someone who can notify the membership of upcoming events and monthly newsletter distribution. **Contact** Deb Edmunds, president, at edmundsdl@gmail.com to inquire about this position.
- **Workshops and Shows:** We need a leader to take over Workshops and volunteers to help with organizing, checking in art, refreshment set-up and clean-up, runners to help bring art to critique artists, and hanging art (sometimes).
- **Hospitality Support:** We need volunteers to bring refreshments and snacks to our in-person member meetings. Contact hospitality director, Fran Isaacs, to sign up for 2026 meetings (fmisaac@aol.com).
- **Other open LCAL board positions:** see the note at the bottom of page 16.

Questions about workshops, shows, and open LCAL board positions: Contact Clarese Ornstein at socoro@comcast.net). Or, contact a board member, directly.

Are You a Facebook User?



Check out the [LCAL Facebook Group](#)! This group is only for current LCAL members. You are not required to join or use the group, but we encourage you to do so.

Advantages of Joining Our Group: It is a hub for communications where you can get the most recent news and information about LCAL, our events, shows, and anything else that pertains to the LCAL.

To join, search for “Lake County Art League Members Group” in Facebook, or click on the link above, and request to join.

Questions? Contact one of our FB Group administrators:

Deb Edmunds at edmundsdl@gmail.com or Louise Villegas at lou999@comcast.net



Online Suggestion Box

If you have any suggestions, feedback, ideas, etc., that you would like to share with the LCAL board, please use our COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS online form.

We hope you will share with us! The regular suggestion box will still be available at our in-person member meetings.

Enjoy Our Digital Library

Digital Library's Current Categories:

Oil Painting
Watercolors
Acrylics

Documentaries / Art-related Galleries and Museums
Websites to Explore
Netflix Art Shows
Hulu Art Shows
Amazon Prime Art Videos

Our library is accessible on the LCAL website. It covers many different art topics organized under 9 different categories.

Many references link to video presentations accessed from various streaming services. (*NOTE: links are updated as we become aware of any changes.*)

We encourage you to **contribute to our library** by sending us links to your favorite art shows and websites. That way, it will become a true reflection of the LCAL, and it will accomplish our mission to promote art in Lake County.

Questions? Contact Denese Manley at denesemanley@gmail.com



YouTube

We have thousands of subscribers from about 30 countries to our [LCAL YouTube](#) channel!



LCAL Website: Advertise Your Shows!

Anyone who will have an upcoming solo show and would like to advertise on our website, please email lakecoartleague@gmail.com.

LCAL Meetings, Board Members and Directors

The Lake County Art League Year:

Meets Sept. through June, generally 7-9pm;
3rd Mon., as follows:

Jan., Feb., sometimes March	Virtual
Sept., Oct., Jan. through June	Presentations, usually a demonstration
May, Nov.	Closing critiques for membership shows
Dec.	Holiday break

Be on the Lookout! If you see a new way to bring fine art to Lake County, or to improve the advantages of membership. Please share by contacting a member listed on this page.

Elected Officers	Name	email
President	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Vice President	Clarese Ornstein	socoro@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary (temporary)	Mary Neely	mmbn@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com

Directors *	Name	email
Historian	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Hospitality	Fran Isaac	fmisaac@aol.com
Membership	Louise Villegas	lou999@comcast.net
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
On the Wall	Clarese Ornstein	socoro@comcast.net
	Ernest Schweit	ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
	Fran Isaac	fmisaac@aol.com
Programs	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Maureen Fisher Rivken	mfisherivkin@gmail.com
	Ernie Schweit	ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Newsletters	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
	Jody Bennett	jorbenn1@yahoo.com
Workshops	Clarese Ornstein	socoro@comcast.net
Virtual Library	Denese Manley	denesemanley@gmail.com
Connection to the Greater Art Community		
Social Media	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
	Louise Villegas	lou999@comcast.net
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Plein Air	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com

lakecoartleague@gmail.com

* Open Positions

The following positions are currently open to any member who would like to volunteer:

Corresponding Secretary, Workshops, Publicity, Art Festivals, and Tours

Find descriptions of volunteer positions in our by-laws at [our website](#) under "about."