



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

[LCAL Website](#)
[LCAL Facebook](#)

Sketches

Official Newsletter of
Your Lake County Art League

March 2026

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!



Watercolors



Acrylics



Oils



Photography

Inside This Issue

Event	Page
Upcoming Dates	2-6
Lake County Happenings	7
Event Recap	8
Plein Air	9
Scholarships for CLC artists	10
Member News	11-13
Art Notes, Ernest Schweit	14-15
Membership Information	16
About the LCAL	17
LCAL Digital Resources	18
Meetings/Board Members	19



Monday March 16

Zoom meeting/demo

Watch your email for the Zoom link

[Bob Burrige](#)

Acrylic

Monday April 20

- **In Person Meeting**

Randy Sweitzer, mixed media demo

Location: State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake

- **LCAL Officer Elections**

Wednesday May 13

Spring Membership show critique

See page 6.

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

Location: Lake Villa Library

Monday June 15

Demo and Picnic

Program and location to be announced

Monday, September 21

In Person Meeting

Location: State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake

Program to be determined

Monday October 19

In Person Meeting

Location: State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake

Program to be determined

November

Fall Membership show and critique

To be announced

LCL Member Meeting, March 16; Zoom

Pastels and Animal Art: A Discussion and Demonstration by Bob Burridge



Join the art league for a zoom demo on Mon., March 16 at 7 pm. A link will be emailed before the meeting and will also be available in our Facebook members group.

Keep an eye out for the email or click on the blue "Go to Link" button on the Facebook event for March, located on the right side once you click on the event.

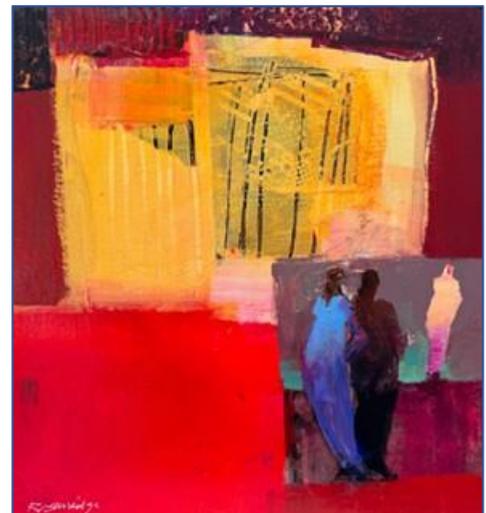
Our guest artist and demonstrator for the night will be well-known YouTube personality, Bob Burridge.

Do you have problems with incorporating figures in your paintings? Do you wonder how to paint figures? Bob will demonstrate his technique on painting his illusions of figures. He calls these figures his "carrot people."

Unlike watching his YouTube videos, you will be able to ask him questions and interact with him in person at our Zoom meeting.

Bob demonstrated for us last year via Zoom and participants enjoyed his acrylic flower demo so much that we thought we'd invite him back to share another fun session!

If you'd like to see more about Bob, please visit his [website](#). You can see his art workshops, aqua media, mixed media, watercolor, collage, oil, acrylic, paper, canvas, abstracts, etc. You can also visit his [YouTube channel](#).



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



Spring LCAL Membership Show; May/June

The theme of this year's LCAL Spring Membership Show will be: "**Art Tells a Story.**"

Location: Lake Villa Library

Drop off times and dates: Mon., May 4, 3-7 pm and Tues., May 5, 10 am-2 pm.

Critique: Wed., May 13, 6-8 pm.

Art Pick up: Mon., June 22, 3-7 pm and Tues., June 23, 10 am-2 pm

If you are interested in participating in the show, please contact Deb Edmunds, at edmundsdl@gmail.com

Main Street Art Gallery



- New Gouache Class / Fundamentals for Beginners & Dive Deeper into Gouache for advanced students with Maria Galvan Herrera
 - 3 classes For beginners April 19, May 3 & June 14, 10 am - 2:30 pm, Sundays; \$200.
 - Advanced class Sat. April 18, May 2, June 13, 1-4 pm; \$150.



- Gallery Opening / Art Opening for "Not Your Average Pet"
 - Applications for this exhibit are due by Mar. 13.

Find more info about these events on our Main Street Art Gallery [website](#).

Questions? Contact artists@mainstreetartcenter.com.

Mainstreet Art Center, 20 E. Main, Lake Zurich, IL 847-550-0016

Creative Coffee: Sip, Swap or Shop

The Antioch Fine Arts League (AFAL) invites LCAL members to join their monthly Creative Coffee every 3rd Wed. of the month, 9:30-11:30 am.

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.

"Sip, Swap or Shop," will be featured. Bring your unused art supplies that you'd like to get rid of. They can be swapped or shopped (\$10 or less). Mark your item. Free art supplies are awesome!!

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



Library Lobby Art Display Opportunities

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

Group shows or solo art exhibits are welcome. Interested?, contact us at 847-356-7711.

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 us at lakecoartleague@gmail.com.

Recap of Demo at the LCAL February Member Meeting

Pastels and Animal Art: A Discussion and Demonstration



[John Plishka](#), a well-known local artist, presented a Zoom demo of his method of creating detailed animal-subject pastels.

He shared his knowledge about various ways to create life-like animals. Working on pastemat, he used soft pastels and pastel pencils to create the bark on a tree and showed the group how to create life like feathers and the beak on an owl.

Here is his finished owl pastel!



Additional Information:

[YouTube Interview with John](#)

[John Plishka Owl Demo](#)



Plein Air

Once we are again able to go outside to plein air, we will start our 2026 season with up to a dozen locations and meetings. If you have any suggestions about plein air locations or times, please contact Deb Edmunds, Plein Air Director at edmundsdl@gmail.com.

Socializing! Sketching! Or just Sharing! (S-SOS)

This plein air group meets at various locations when the weather turns colder. Meetings are also open to artists outside of our LCAL membership.

Each month, depending on availability, organizers and weather, we meet for coffee and participants 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 future announcements from LCAL in your email.

S-SOS Event in February

On the Sat. afternoon of Feb. 21, the LCAL gathered for another S-SOS meeting.

There was a wonderful turnout with over a dozen participants stopping in to share ideas, sketch, converse, show their work and have some enjoyable beverages at the new Starbucks on 120 and 45.

Thank you to Maureen Fisher Rivkin who helped organize and promote the event!

There were a number of non-members who joined the meeting and it was a lot of fun getting to know some talented artists from the Lake County area.

If you missed this one, there will be more in the near future, so watch your email or Facebook for an announcement of the next location, time and date.



Phoebe Boyd Scholarship and LCAL Scholarship Recipients

Each year, two \$500 scholarships are awarded to art students of the College of Lake County (CLC), to further their education.

- The Phoebe Boyd award is funded by the Boyd family in honor and remembrance of Phoebe Boyd, a longtime member of LCAL.
- The LCAL Scholarship is funded by our league.

These scholarships are awarded based on student art juried into the annual CLC Student Show, which generally takes place in April, and the student recipients are selected by our LCAL Scholarship Committee.

The Scholarship Selection Committee

This year the Selection Committee will be LCAL members, Jeff Harold, Sandy Saxton, and Tom Asma.

Awarding the Scholarships

The Scholarships will be awarded to the selected students at the opening reception of the show. We encourage all Art League members who are able, to attend the presentation.

We believe that you will enjoy the creative work of the students, and your presence will provide support for the mission of our league to promote the visual arts in Lake County.

Stay tuned!

The dates for the show will be included in April Sketches.

Questions? Please contact Val Brandner, Scholarship Director at isketchit@yahoo.com.

Clarese Ornstein: Seeking Joy in My Journey

- I will be the **featured artist at the Lake Villa Library** with 20 art pieces on display.
- I will have a demo on March 24, 2-3 pm for the public on creating Gelli plate prints.
- All are invited to my estate sale on March 20-21-22 9-5 pm at 864 Fox Chase Drive, Round Lake Beach. I will be moving to Trinity, FL in May.

Questions? Contact me at iteachkeec@me.com



Cassandra Anzelone

Wellness Through Arts Workshop

The Art Center Highland Park, 1957 Sheridan Rd, Highland Park, IL 60035

Join Art Impact Project at The Art Center Highland Park on the last Wednesday of every month for our wellness art programming. We complete a different project each month to help spark creativity, self-reflection and self-care. Registration is free and all supplies are provided. No experience is required. Register via The Art Center Highland Park's events calendar:

<https://theartcenterhp.org>.

Questions? Contact me at cassandra@artimpactproject.org





Ernest Schweit

Antioch Fine Arts Foundation Show

Maureen Fisher Rivkin and I showed work at the Antioch Fine Arts Foundation's show, "A Hint of Red--the Color of Love."

The closing reception drew a nice-sized crowd, and we had a great time talking with art lovers and fellow artists, who showed their work.

It was an honor to be showing my photography alongside such a talented group of local artists!

Patty VanHuis

- **Botanicals**

I found this call for entries on Instagram, and was accepted into this online show, "[Lightspace Time.](#)"

I had finished this marker, pen, and ink drawing of the flowers that grow by the pond in front of my house. The timing seemed right so I entered two pieces. This one was accepted as a special recognition award.

- **Day Lillies**

[Teravarna 11th Flower](#)

Instagram has been posting calls for entities and this one is an international online competition. "Flowers" was the call for entry on this one. My markers, pen, and ink piece was picked for inclusion in the show. It garnered a special recognition award.

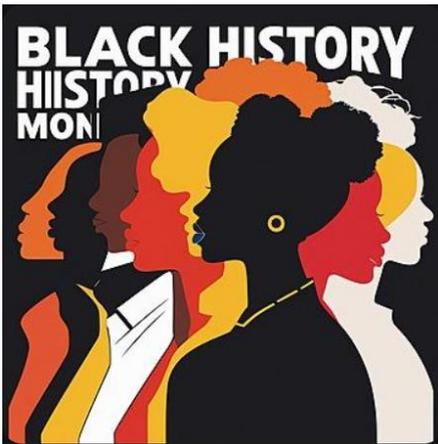


Echinacea, 12" x 18"



Day Lilies, 12" x 18"

Questions? Contact me at pattyvanhuis@gmail.com



Undercroft Gallery Celebrates Black History Month

By Ali Albakri

Each year the Undercroft Gallery assists Christ Episcopal Church with the Black History program which usually involves about two hours of soul food eating, reading traditional “Freedom Poetry,” art exhibits of Afro-American heroes, and me playing my African drum. This year, we expanded to a month-long experience rather than just a few hours of eating soul food.

Week #1 INTRODUCTION

Brother Joe, a benedictine monk, gave a brief history of how the Christ Episcopal Church and Waukegan was involved in the Underground Railroad.

Week #2 AWAKING

- “The experience” was awakened by new LCAL member, Mona Phiffer, an abstract artist who works in acrylic. She gave a “Spoken Word” presentation, which was truly a defining event.
- The show “Abstract To Reality” will be closing soon at the Undercroft gallery. Mary Neely, our own “local service hero,” also participated in the show, and sold two works.

Week #3 SALUTE

- As the current Sr. Vice Commander of Waukegan American Legion Post #281, I programed a ceremonial “Posting of the Colors” with a salute to “Home Grown Hero,” John Davis, a black leader in the service community of Lake County. He and his wife, Lavera have made landmark contributions to Christ Episcopal Church, American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. John’s story is: “,,although the body is buried, the spirit is born anew.
- Tyshun, a church member, read the poem by Maya Angelo “Still I Rise.” A traditional feast of soul food was prepared mostly by the ladies who were from African descent. Because it was the church’s Annual Meeting on that day, the congregation had an opportunity to participate.

Week #4 YASUKE

In Japanese history the African, Yasuke, became a Japanese warrior. To honor him, black students of the Bushido (lifestyle of the Samuri) Japanese Martial Arts performed sword kata with a bo staff (a stick) by one of our special students.

The mind, body, spirit and culture are ingredients for a successful artistic endeavor to commemorate the past, but more so, to point direction for future intercultural activities that bring other art forms to the community through activities generated by associations with the Undercroft Gallery.



A New Look at an Old Place/"Fresh Eyes" Brings the New to the Familiar

A layer of fresh snow covered the ground as I trudged along the shore of the frozen lake; the sound of snow crunching beneath my shoes hung in the February air. Rocks along the shoreline lay partially obscured beneath nature's white blanket; reeds and grasses nearby—green in summer, but now amber—swayed in the raw winds of winter.

The oak and hickory trees—once heavy with colorful leaves in autumn—now sat naked, eerily beautiful in their simplicity. Nearby, wooden piers jut out onto the frozen lake. Today, no fishermen braved the harsh winds; two coyotes made their way, tentatively, across the ice not too far in the distance.

In name only, this place is not unfamiliar territory; I've worked here for years. But today I look upon all that I've come to love about it with "fresh eyes."

What is "fresh eyes"?

For my practice, seeing with "fresh eyes" means that I take a visual and emotional break from a particular location—even something as grand as the mountains in Arizona or a frozen lake in Illinois—in hopes of seeing it in a different light upon returning.

I say visual and emotional because both are needed to fuel the work. I need to be excited (the emotional part) to see (the visual part) in a different way.

If one isn't there, the other isn't either. And the work turns out stale and familiar. Why? Because I feel stale and familiar about the world I'm immersed in.

It's that simple.

Woodland has a new look

It had been 2 1/2 months since my last visit to this place, Independence Grove, a 1,110-acre nature reserve with lakes, winding trails and woodlands northwest of Chicago. That time away—and a blanket of freshly fallen snow—were more than enough to develop a set of "fresh eyes" that saw a different landscape.

The trees seemed ripe with sharp new detail. A river ran beneath a wood and steel bridge with graceful ripples that I hadn't noticed on previous visits, and with a crisp sound that went undetected earlier. The wooden piers pushing out from the shore took on a stronger presence when surrounded by the lake's frozen surface.

(cont. next page)



Cold weather changes plan

I had set the intention of hiking along the shore, but high winds and temps in the teens convinced me that the idea was ill-founded. So, I settled on short hikes of 15 or 20 minutes, followed by trips back to the car to warm up.

On each trip out, compositions seemed to jump out of the landscape. A single tree along the frozen lake became “Solo.” A wooden pier plunging through white and across the lake of solid ice became “Winter Walk.”

Stacked one after another, the short trips morphed into two hours. In the process, warm fingers became nearly frozen inside wool gloves, and dry toes dampened as ice soaked my boots. Toes began to curl in the cold, and cheeks started to burn from windchill.

Distracted by the elements, the new landscape I had seen through “fresh eyes,” was melting. Snow still blanketed the woodlands, and the ice remained fastened tightly on the lake.

“Fresh eyes,” it seems, come with an expiration date.



“Solo”
Digital photograph

[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



Welcome LCAL NEW MEMBER!

Mikka Jacobson- Watercolor, acrylic, pencil, textile, gouache
mikkasarthouse@gmail.com

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 Deb Edmunds at edmundsdl@gmail.com

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

- **Corresponding Secretary:** Do you have computer emailing skills and have several hours a month to help send out information to the membership? The person in this executive board position notifies membership of upcoming events and monthly newsletter distribution. **Contact** Deb Edmunds, president, at edmundsdl@gmail.com to inquire about this position.
- **Workshops and Shows:** The Workshops leader helps 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:** These volunteers 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 19.

Questions about open positions: Contact Clarese Ornstein at socoro@comcast.net) or a board member.

Member of the Month!

Would you like to be featured as a LCAL Member of the Month? Just send us a bio, a photo of you (headshot is preferred), and any contact info you'd like to share (website, Facebook page, email, etc.) Send to: lakecoartleague@gmail.com

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.

Are You a Facebook User?



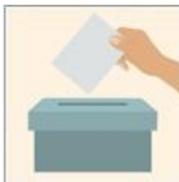
Check out the [LCAL Facebook Group](#)! This group is only for current LCAL members. You are not required to join or use the group, but we encourage you to do so.

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 deneseamanley@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	ernestschweit@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Programs	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Maureen Fisher Rivken	mfisherrivkin@gmail.com
	Ernie Schweit	ernestschweit@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
	Maureen Fisher Rivken	mfisherrivkin@gmail.com
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."