



[LCAL Website](#)  
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# Sketches

Official Newsletter of  
 Your Lake County Art League

May 2026

## Happy May!



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## Upcoming Dates to Remember

### Wednesday May 13

#### Spring Membership Show Critique

See details on page 3

Location: Lake Villa Library

### Monday June 22

#### Member Meeting and Social

Games and Art Challenge (see page 4)

Location: Bill's Pub, Third Lake

### 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



## It's Time For the Critique!

**Location:** Lake Villa Library, 140 N. Munn Rd., Lindenhurst, IL

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

**Exhibit:** May 6 to June 21

### Art Pick up:

Mon., June 22, 3-7 pm, and

Tues., June 23, 10 am-2 pm



Our critique artist will be professional illustrator, designer and courtroom sketch artist, Cheryl Cook. Cheryl started her career as a storybook creator for Ogilvy and Mather, a marketing agency.

After working in marketing, she started her own freelance career creating illustrated picture books, and designing logos and products. She worked as a design illustrator for Hallmark creating greeting cards and has also done courtroom sketches for important trials like R. Kelly's, and so much more!

Cheryl moved to Chicago and began drawing for the Chicago Tribune and Channel 2 as their courtroom sketch artist. She also teaches art for up to 100 students in various classes.

Find out more information about Cheryl or "Cookie" at her [website](#).



## LCAL June Member Meeting/Social! – Monday, June 22, 6-8 pm

LCAL's June meeting will be a social at Bill's Pub North, 18945 W. Washington St., Third Lake, on Monday June 22 from 6-8 pm.

The art league will provide the food.

**Members will be responsible for their own beverages.**

### RSVP by June 12

We have reserved a party room for our group, so you will need to RSVP if you plan on attending.

- **RSVP by email** to Debbie Kalinowski, [artbydebbiek@gmail.com](mailto:artbydebbiek@gmail.com), and be sure to include in the email **Subject Line "I will be attending the social at Bill's Pub."**

### Activities

Join in on some fun!

- Mary Neely will host **"art trivia."** She will break us up into teams and the team with the highest score will win. Each winning-team member will receive a prize!
- There will be an **"art challenge"** that you will have a month to complete.
  - We will provide members with 3 photos to work off of: a landscape, a still life, and figures of people. You will choose one subject from the three photos.
  - You can then create your interpretation of the photo in any media and in any size.
  - You will bring your completed piece (make sure your art is dry!) to the social event at Bills Pub.
  - All those who attend the social will cast their vote for the best artwork.
  - The artwork with the most votes will win an award of excellence!

## Cassandra Anzelone

### Emotional Wellness Through Creative Expression

April 29 to Nov 24

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

Free sessions are also offered at Gorton Center in Lake Forest  
and at the LGBTQ+ Center in Grayslake.

**Questions?** Contact Cassandra at  
[cassandra@artimpactproject.org](mailto:cassandra@artimpactproject.org)

**ART IMPACT PROJECT**

**LET'S MAKE ART** ★ AGE 11+

★ FREE! Enroll directly through our pARTner's website!

- No experience necessary!
- Supplies provided!
- Bring a friend or come alone, you're pART of the community!

**LGBTQ+ CENTER LAKE COUNTY**  
Teens - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 6:00 PM  
Adults - 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 11:00 AM  
[www.lgbtqlc.com](http://www.lgbtqlc.com)

**The Art Center Highland Park**  
NEW day and time!  
Last Wednesday, 10:30 AM - Noon  
[www.theartcenterhp.org](http://www.theartcenterhp.org)

**GORTON CENTER**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
[www.gortoncenter.org](http://www.gortoncenter.org)

## 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 what you are working on and wish to "show and tell" (optional). Coffee and treats are provided by AFAL but donations are gratefully accepted. Bring your unused art supplies that you'd like to get rid of; to be swapped or shopped (\$10 or less). Mark your item.

**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](mailto:lakecoartleague@gmail.com).

## LCAL Executive Board Elections

Every April the art league presents a slate of new officers for the upcoming year starting on July 1st. This year, our President will be Sandra Saxon; Vice-President, Deb Edmunds; Recording Secretary, Jack Littlefield; Corresponding Secretary, Ali Albakri; and Treasurer, Mary Neely.

We thank Clarese Ornstein and Elizabeth Engle for their service to the art league. And congratulations to the new slate of board members!

## Guest Speaker, Randy Sweitzer



Randy, an art teacher from Grayslake High School and new LCAL member, lectured on the technique he learned from CF Payne. He guided us through each step of the process in creating very interesting multimedia art pieces.

Thanks to Mary Neely for providing these photos.



The meeting was well-attended and everyone enjoyed the lecture and the spread of snacks and refreshments at the break. A big thank you to all who brought snacks and beverages, and to all who assisted with the setup and breakdown of the meeting.

## Excellence Awards

Randy assisted in picking three Excellence Awards from the many artworks that members brought in to be judged.



Les Scott



Rober Shule



Mary Neely



## 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](mailto: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.

## Lakes Regional Watercolor Guild Invitation to Plein Air

### Wednesdays, 9 am to Noon

For meetup directions, contact Susan Clancy Kelly (847-219-0882) or Sam Frank (847-533-1484)

- May 13; [Half Day Forest Preserve](#), 24255 N Hwy 21, Vernon Hills, IL.
- May 20; [Lost Valley Visitors Center](#), MCCD Glacial Park Conservation Area, Rt. 31, Ringwood, IL
- May 27; [Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve](#) Beach (Lake County FP), 117 N Sheridan Rd, Lake Forest, IL.
- June 3; [Waukegan Municipal Beach](#), 201 E Sea Horse Dr, Waukegan.
- June 10; Barn & Garden, Marengo. Private venue: address will be provided to members
- June 17; [Daniel Wright Forest Preserve](#), 24830 St. Mary's Road, Mettawa, IL
- June 24; [White River Park](#), 6503 Sheridan Springs Road, Lake Geneva, WI
- July 1; [The Deerfield Historic Village](#), 517 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, IL
- July 8; [Lakewood Forest Preserve](#), W. IL Route 176, Wauconda, IL
- July 15; Carol Sackschewsky's garden, Antioch, IL. Private venue: email LCAL for address.
- July 22; Arlene Doran's garden, Mundelein; IL. Private venue: email LCAL for address.
- July 29; Laurie Cross's garden, McCullom Lake Beach, IL. Private venue: email LCAL for address.

LCAL email is [lakecoartleague@gmail.com](mailto:lakecoartleague@gmail.com)

## Scholarships for CLC Student Artists; Awarded April 16, 2026

### Student Scholarship Winners!

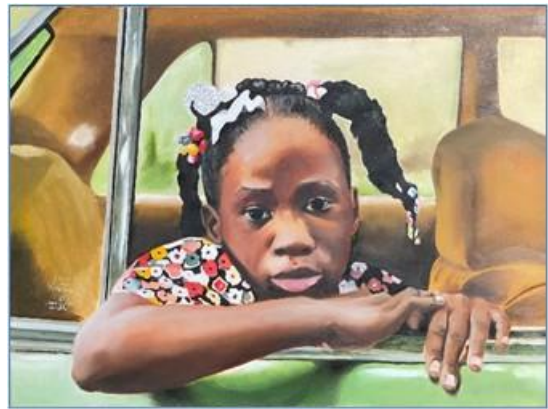
The Phoebe Boyd and LCAL annual, \$500 education scholarships were awarded on Thurs., April 16, 2026, to two College of Lake County (CLC) art students at the **45th Annual CLC Student Art Competition** reception.

The **Phoebe Boyd \$500 Scholarship** was awarded to **Jessica Lawson** of Gurnee.



“1 Yearn for Freedom”  
Charcoal

The **LCAL \$500 Scholarship** was awarded to **Rocky Jones**, of Wadsworth.



“Last Tag”  
Oil

Jessica and Rocky also received a free membership to the LCAL for the 2026/2027 year.

### Thank You’s!

- To our 2026 LCAL Scholarship Selection Committee, Jeff Harold, Sandy Saxton, and Tom Asma, for your great selections!
- CLC thanked LCAL on a plaque at the CLC show:  
“The Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art is Grateful to the Lake County Art League for continuing its tradition of providing scholarships to artists from CLC. We appreciate this partnership and the award of two \$500 scholarships, one of which is provided by the Phoebe Boyd Memorial Fund.”

#### Scholarship Information

Each year, these scholarships are awarded based on student art juried into the student show. Student recipients are selected by our LCAL Scholarship Committee.

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

**Questions?** Contact Val Brandner, Scholarship Director at [isketchit@yahoo.com](mailto:isketchit@yahoo.com).

## Clarese Ornstein

- Reminder; I will be moving to Trinity, FL in May. You can contact me at [iteachkeec@me.com](mailto:iteachkeec@me.com)

## Mary Neely

I will have a **Solo Exhibit, "Across Time,"** at the Waukegan History Museum, May 16 to Jun 13.

**Location:** The Waukegan History Museum at The Carnegie. 1 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085.

There is no admission charge to the museum if you attend my reception on May 16th, 3 - 6 pm.

Free parking is available. There is a handicapped drop-off to the museum on Sheridan Road, north of the stairway entrance, but only room for a couple of cars there.

Hope to see you!

**Questions?** Contact me at [mmbn@yahoo.com](mailto:mmbn@yahoo.com)



The poster features a portrait of Mary Neely on the left. The main text reads: "Mary Neely: Across Time" followed by "May 16 – June 13, 2026". Below the portrait, it lists the location: "The Waukegan History Museum at The Carnegie, 1 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085". To the right of the poster, a green box contains the text: "For over thirty years, Mary has been creating innovative abstract photographs and lovely nature studies. This exhibit will feature a broad spectrum of her photography from each past decade, as well as new artworks. Take this rare opportunity to see many years of Mary's work."

## Ali Albakri

Gallery exhibit, FLOWERS and THEIR FRIENDS, May 23 from 1-3 pm. Ongoing to July 25.

Undercroft Gallery, 410 Grand, Waukegan, IL

**Questions?** Contact Ali at [nyika1940@gmail.com](mailto:nyika1940@gmail.com)



### Return to Tucson – First Sunrise in 16 Months Soothes an Aching Soul

Contrails from two passing airliners moved slowly against a light blue sky streaked with feathery white clouds. Hidden in the Tucson darkness, the rim of the Catalina Mountains, in silhouette, cut like a saw across the horizon, rising from a desert faintly detailed with dark gold brush. Tufts of light green grasses lie hidden in the blackness.

The sky grew slightly brighter, as the contrails passed and details hiding in shadows of the towering granite cliffs slowly revealed themselves. To the south, the sun painted a patch of light over the uppermost peak, spreading down its face, as if guided by an unseen painter.

“It took but a few moments of mindful presence to see the beauty and contradiction of this place; the parched golden grasses scratch out a desert existence next to rich green shrubs. So profuse, they almost cover a nearby hillside already dotted with cinder black desert ironwood.”

I thought briefly of photographing this moment — my first Tucson sunrise in 16 months — but decided instead to simply watch the textures, colors and shapes reveal themselves. My eyes ached too long for this moment. There would be time for photography tomorrow.

As the light spread, details in the mountain peaks grew brighter; the clock ticked along. Finally, the sun crested over the mountain, sending streaks of bright yellow across the landscape. Right on cue, a lone quail appeared on the fence, marching towards the morning light. Piano cactus, barrel cactus, agave, cholla...they all greeted the light with sharp yellow prongs, lemon yellow fruit and pimpled skin. They seemed overjoyed by the thought of the day's coming heat.

It took but a few moments of mindful presence to see the beauty and contradiction of this place; the parched golden grasses scratch out a desert existence next to rich green shrubs. So profuse, they almost cover a nearby hillside already dotted with cinder black desert ironwood.



"Desert Morning "



### The next day

Early spring mornings here can be cloudless and cool, but not so much this year. Towering white clouds amble east from the Catalinas to the Rincon, Santa Rita, Tucson and Tortolita mountains that ring this city.

Back in the flatlands of Illinois, it's easy to idealize these days, simple to imagine sunrises of lemon yellow, tangerine orange and azure blue, to hear the strange animal sounds of the desert as the light brightens, or as it fades at the end of the day. There are no limits to the imagination. Sometimes those dreams are tempered by what nature really has in store.



"Stoic Mountain"

What remains, though, is the sense of awe, the feeling of connection to the beauty of the landscape dominated by mountains so vast that they seem to follow alongside as you drive the roadways, or loom over the stores where you shop. They are constant reminders of a permanence unavailable to humans. We must accept the fact that our world is the opposite, possibly changing in a heartbeat.

The mountains though, remain stoically the same...not speaking, just being there. Solid, silent, never changing, they wait for the next sunrise, and then the next and the next and....

[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](mailto:ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net)



## Welcome LCAL NEW MEMBERS!

- **Jessica Lawson**; Charcoal; Phoebe Boyd scholarship winner (see page 8)
- **Rocky Jones**, Oil; LCAL scholarship winner (see page 8)

## 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](mailto: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 15).

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

- **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](mailto:fmisaac@aol.com)).
- **Other open LCAL board positions:** see the note at the bottom of page 15.

**Questions about open positions:** Contact Clarese Ornstein at [socoro@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com) or Louise Villegas at [lou999@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lakecoartleague@gmail.com).

## LCAL Meetings, Board Members and Directors

### The Lake County Art League Year:

Meets Sept. through June, generally 7-9pm;  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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	<a href="mailto:edmundsdl@gmail.com">edmundsdl@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Clarese Ornstein	<a href="mailto:socoro@comcast.net">socoro@comcast.net</a>
Recording Secretary	Jack Littlefield	<a href="mailto:thelittlefields@gmail.com">thelittlefields@gmail.com</a>
Corresponding Secretary (temporary)	Mary Neely	<a href="mailto:mmbn@yahoo.com">mmbn@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	<a href="mailto:betharoo30@aol.com">betharoo30@aol.com</a>

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

[lakecoartleague@gmail.com](mailto:lakecoartleague@gmail.com)

### \* Open Positions

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

**Membership (after June 30, 2026), Workshops, Publicity, Art Festivals, and Tours**

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