LAKE COUNTY ART LEAGUE Since 1934
LCAL.org | 501c3 | lakecoartleague@gmail.com

LCAL Website
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Sketches

Official Newsletter of
Your Lake County Art League

November 2026

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Mark Your Calendar!

Wed., Dec. 2

Fall Membership Show Critique
Jack Benny Center Waukegan
(see page 2)

Membership Dues Overdue!

(see page 3)

Did You Know?

You can use our LCAL website to:

- Include your own website or social media page!
- Promote a class that you teach!
- Promote an upcoming solo show!

(see details on page 16, “Digital Resources”)



Upcoming Events



Fall Membership Show Critique; Dec. 2

Each Fall the LCAL Fall Membership Show exhibits members' art at local locations. This year we have 28 artists participating at the Jack Benny Center in Waukegan. The theme for show includes places that we love, portraits of people and anything abstract.

All members are encouraged to attend and guests are welcome!

Location: Jack Benny Center Waukegan, 39 Jack Benny Dr., Waukegan, IL

Critique: Wed., Dec. 2, 6-8 pm; doors open at 5:30 pm.

- Our **critique artist, Susan Schneider**, will give her expert opinion of each art piece in the exhibit.
- Susan teaches painting and fine art classes, focusing on watercolor, oil, pastel, and mixed media. Her teaching philosophy emphasizes personalized attention, making her popular with both complete beginners and experienced creators. She also is a member artist with Dandelion Gallery artist alliance.
- Two art pieces by Susan are shown here..





Show Dates: Ongoing to Wed. Dec. 2, 2026

Art Pick up: At the critique (arrange for pickup if you cannot make the critique. No art can be removed before the critique).

Volunteers Needed for Hospitality Table!

We need volunteers to bring refreshment donations for the critique on Dec. 2.

- So far, only one person has signed up to bring food. Since our critique meetings are well-attended, we need 5 more volunteers to bring fruit, veggies, or a sweet or savory treat to share. Please arrive at the meeting 15 minutes early for set-up.
- Please let me know what you'll bring: Fran Isaac, 847-309-9752, fmisaac@aol.com. Thanks in advance!
- Many thanks to everyone who helped with the refreshment table at our Oct. meeting: Louise Villegas, Randy Sweitzer, Diane Philyaw, Debbie Kalinowski, and Deb Edmunds.

REMINDER!! Membership dues were due in Sept.! You can pay them and submit the Membership Renewal Form at the Critique. See next page for other ways to renew.

Upcoming Events, cont.

LCAL Membership Renewal and Dues are Overdue!

If you haven't renewed your LCAL membership yet for the year starting Sept. 2026, please complete a membership form and pay your yearly dues.

1. Membership Form Options

- Complete the online form at the LCAL website.
- Print out a pdf form from the website and mail the completed form to the address in #2. below, or bring it to the Dec. 2 critique (see previous page).
- If you are printing the form and paying by check or money order, you may bring them both to the Dec. 2 critique, or mail them together (see #2 below).

2. Payment Options (cash is not accepted)

- Mail a check or money order to **Lake County Art League; PO Box #5; Gurnee, IL 60031**.
  If you are completing a hard-copy of the membership form, include the completed form with your check or money order. (This payment option may take several weeks to process.)
- Pay by Zelle. You will need a Zelle account at your bank. In the payee title in Zelle, enter "LCALfinance1@gmail.com" to complete the transaction.

Questions or Concerns? Contact one of the following members:
Re. Forms and information: Julie Nykiel, Membership Director; julieannenykiel@gmail.com
Re. Zelle and payment: Mary Neely, Treasurer; mmbn@yahoo.com

Need Volunteers! Refreshments for Upcoming LCAL Member Meetings

We need more volunteers to sign up to bring refreshments for our Hospitality Table at the following upcoming meetings.

Year	Meeting	People Needed	Signed Up
2026	December	5	Tom Asma
2027	March	4	Diane Philyaw
	April	5	Marshall Philyaw
	May	3	Diane Philyaw
	June	3	Judy Williams

Questions? Want to volunteer?
Email me at fmisaac@aol.com,
or call me at 847-309-9752

Lake County Happenings

Lure of the Local 5: Love Letters

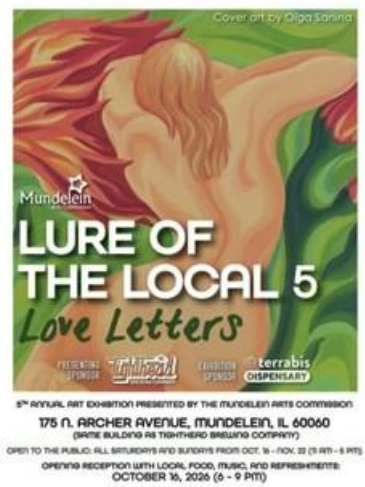
The Mundelein Arts Commission (MAC) presents its 5th annual "***Lure of the Local***" curated art exhibition, highlighting the creative practices of artists who live and work among us.

This year's theme, Love Letters, invites artists to explore what love means through their own creative lenses, celebrating what we love and the many ways we choose to honor it.

Location: 175 N. Archer Ave., Mundelein, near the Metra station and Tighthead Brewing Co.

Dates: Every Sat. and Sun., 11 am to 5 pm to Nov. 22. Free pop-up events such as live music, art classes, workshops, children's activities, and more.

Background: Established in 2022, this annual exhibit takes its name from Lucy Lippard's, "The Lure of the Local," which explores the profound ways in which people construct meaning through place, memory and identity.



Antioch Fine Arts Foundation (AFAF)

- **Newsletter:** The AFAF offers classes, shows and information about what is happening with local artists. You can find that information in their newsletter:
- **"Small Works" Invitational Exhibit:** Dec. and Jan. Find more information in their show prospectus.
- For more information about the AFAF, contact them at www.antiochfinearts.org.

Workshops at Mainstreet Art Center

Mainstreet Art Center offers workshops and art classes at their location, 20 E. Main St., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

Questions? For a list of their classes and 2027 workshops, see their website.
You can also call them at 847-550-0016 or contact Frankie Johnson at frankie847@aol.com.

Lake County Happenings, cont.

Artopia, an Indoor Art Fair

Hello Fellow Artists, from Terry Edwards of ONE FLIGHT UP artworks and Lorette Dodt of Lorette's Dragonfly Studio and Gallery!

Please join me in supporting and participating in Artopia – Indoor Art Fair, a brand-new holiday art event at the Woodstock Square Mall, just in time for holiday gift shopping!

As an artist, I'm always excited to see opportunities that bring artists together, encourage creativity, and allow us to share and sell our work. I'm pleased to pass along this invitation from Lorette Dodt, who has been working with the owner of the Woodstock Square Mall and the Art Association of McHenry County (AAMC) to make this exciting new event possible.

After coordinating the monthly art show at the Starline Factory, Lorette moved her studio to the Woodstock Square Mall and established an art association with a group of fellow artists. Through this collaboration, Artopia is becoming a reality!

Mission and Goal of Artopia: To provide a welcoming, safe, indoor space where artists can gather, display, and sell their work. The fair will celebrate all forms of fine art, including painting, photography, sculpture, clay, glass, metalwork, jewelry, fiber art, and performing arts. The goal is to create a celebration of the arts and establish Artopia as a regular event for artists and art lovers!

Inaugural Event is a Holiday Art Fair: Artists will be assigned a space in the mall to display and sell their artwork and are encouraged to demonstrate their techniques to visitors and shoppers.

Special Thank You: Every artist participating in this first Artopia will receive an annual membership to the Art Association of McHenry County (AAMC) at no additional cost.

EVENT DETAILS

Location: Woodstock Square Mall,

Dates and Times: Fri. and Sat., Dec. 4 and 5; 11:00 am–5 pm both days

Artist Reception: Fri., Dec. 4, 5–7 pm

Space Fee: $35 for both days. Artists must commit to participating both days.

(continued on next page)

Lake County Happenings, cont.

Artopia, an Indoor Art Fair, cont.

ARTIST PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

Display Space: Assigned spaces are about 12'–14' wide; depth depending on the location. Artists must use their own tables and/or display racks, and chairs (no sports chairs).

Electricity: Electrical service is very limited; battery-operated lighting is recommended.

Sales and Commission: Artists must be present during all show hours and are responsible for their own sales and packaging. There is no commission charged on artwork sold.

Setup: Thur., Dec. 3, 5–7 pm and Fri., Dec. 4, 8–10 am. **Take-Down:** Sat., Dec. 5, 5–6 pm.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Performing Artists: Musicians, storytellers, and poets can apply and participate at no cost. They will be assigned performance times and may sell CDs of their work during the show.

Junior Artists: High school artists are invited to apply for the Junior Art Booth at no cost. Artwork will be juried and up to two pieces accepted per artist. Complete the registration form (see below) and work with the AAMC Junior Art Chairman for additional details.

INSURANCE AND LIABILITY

All artists must sign a Hold Harmless form. Artists are responsible for insuring their own artwork.

READY TO JOIN US?

Complete the registration form. Artists will be selected on a first-come basis for each artistic medium. All styles of quality fine art are welcome! After submitting your application, you will receive a letter from Lorette Dodt regarding your assigned space for the Art Fair.

SHARE!

I encourage you to share this invitation with other artists, art groups, and performing artists. The more creative talent we bring together, the more exciting this event will be for our community! I hope you'll consider joining us for this wonderful new opportunity to showcase our work, connect with fellow artists, and help make the first Artopia Holiday Indoor Art Fair a success!

I look forward to seeing you there!

Questions? Contact Lorette Dodt at Lorette@lorettesdragonfly.com; or text/cell: 847-682-9345.

Or contact me, Terry Edwards at Terryedwardsart@gmail.com, text/cell 815-814-5177.

Lake County Happenings, cont.

Cassandra Anzelone

Emotional Wellness Through Creative Expression

Now 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



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 excepted. 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**.**

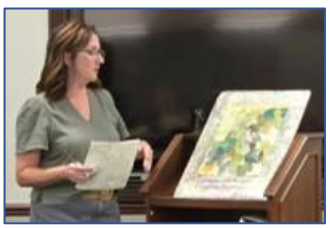
We Are Looking for Places to Hang Our Art!

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.

Maureen Holcomb, Featured Artist and Demo at LCAL Oct. Member Meeting

For our October meeting at the State Bank of the Lakes, Watercolor artist, Maureen Holcomb demonstrated her method of how she paints grapes and creates greens for leaf colors.







Excellence Award Winners

Two excellence awards were awarded at the meeting. Mary Neely for her photography and Val Brandner for an oil piece.





LCAL Plein Air Group and S-SOS






Photographs by Deb Edmunds and Maureen Fisher Rivkin



Adler Art Center Plein Air

The outdoor plein air season ended with a calm beautiful day at the Adler Art Center on the morning of Oct 24th. A group of 14 artists met to paint this historic building and grounds in Libertyville.

Each plein air session that is scheduled gives artists about 3 hours to find a subject, set-up and paint. The last 15-30 minutes, the group gathers to critique the art of those who want to participate.

Join: If you are interested in joining our plein air group in 2027, watch your email for our announcements, or join our group on the LCAL Plein Air Facebook page.

With the weather turning colder, our plein air group as well as anyone in LCAL, can join us at our S-SOS (Sketching-Sharing or Socializing) events (see below).

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

Throughout the winter and early spring, we meet at a coffee shop or restaurant in Lake County to socialize, share or sketch at a local restaurant or coffee shop.

Past meetings have been a lot of fun! Bring your latest piece of art and connect with other artists. Announcements will be sent to your email and posted in our groups on Facebook.

All sessions are open to members and non-members.

Questions about or suggestions for plein air or S-SOS?
Contact Deb Edmunds, Plein Air Director, edmundsdl@gmail.com.

Connections From the Top: Sandra Saxton, LCAL President



As we approach the end of the year, I want to look back and celebrate everything we have accomplished together.

It has been an incredible year of creativity, connection and artistic growth.

I enjoy chatting with each of you at our casual critiques, seasonal exhibitions and workshops. Please continue to give me input about your thoughts and ideas!!

Also, a BIG THANK YOU to all of our volunteers, including board members who have helped throughout the year!

By representing LCAL at various locations around Lake County, we will continue to grow. By exhibiting at various locations, we will draw new members who can share their artistic interests and knowledge.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we are already planning fresh, new opportunities to challenge our skills, show our art, and expand our reach within Lake County.

I wish you all a joyful, restful holiday season filled with peace, inspiration and plenty of time to create!!

Warmest wishes,
Sandra Saxton, LCAL President

I am always available for your questions and concerns, so feel free to contact me with ideas that will advance our mission of bringing art to Lake County (cell phone 1-630-209-3544; email Saxton.songbirdstudio@gmail.com).

Member News

Oliver Steven Merriam

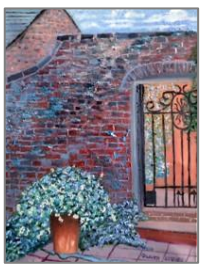
I submitted art to "Lure of the Locals" Exhibition that shows art by local artists (see page 4).

Located at 175 N. Archer Ave., Mundelein.

Questions? Contact me at omerriam@yahoo.com



"Norway"



"Flowerpot & Gate"



"House by French Canal"



"Rainy Day Revelry"

Erin Galbraith

The Dole, Crystal Lake, IL

This event was the Dole's 4th Fridays Oct. exhibition. Although the reception was in Oct., artwork will be on display until the beginning of Dec (exact dates unknown). It features photography and mixed art.

My pastel painting, "Idaho; May," sold.

The 4th Fridays are juried shows that happen monthly except Nov. through Dec.

Questions? Contact me at galbraith@gmail.com



"Idaho; May"
Pastel; 16"x15"

Deb Edmunds

Equinox Expressions Art Show

Success!

On Nov 1, 2026, a reception was held at the nature center at Volo Bog State Natural Area where the art was hung. To my surprise all three of my pieces sold!

Questions? Contact me at edmundsdl@gmail.com.





Member News, cont.

Ernest Schweit

Ernest and Maureen Continue Lure of the Local Residency

I and my wife, Maureen Fisher Rivkin (aka Maureen Ivy Fisher), both LCAL members, are among 17 artists working and showing our art at our residency at **Lure of the Local/Love Letters** in Mundelein.

We are showing our work and conducting demos and workshops in Studio 1, Archer Business Center.

- Maureen is hosting a series of one-on-one workshops on needle felting and showing finished pieces of her fiber art in the studio.
- I am producing a series of slide shows around the "Love Letters" theme and demonstrating my approach to photo editing.

You are welcome to view my photography on my website and read my blog.

Residency dates: Ongoing through Feb. 22, 2027

Location: 175 N. Archer Ave. Business Center, Mundelein

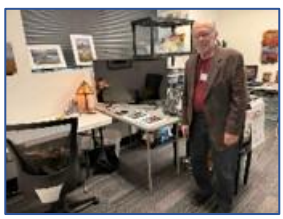
Questions? Contact me at ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net



Maureen teaching



2 video displays



Ernest in the studio



Maureen in the studio

Fran Isaac

I have been in Rocky Mountain National Park and Estes Park, taking way too many pictures! I'd like to share these with you.

Questions? Contact me at fmisaac@aol.com.

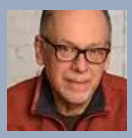












The Commitment to Creativity; Forget the Cat and Get On With It!

I remembered the other day this passage from an essay about creativity by the great American poet Mary Oliver.

> "The most regretful people on earth are those who felt
> the call to creative work, who felt their own creative power
> restive and uprising, and gave to it neither power nor time."



Mary Oliver

She wrote those words in "Of Power and Time," which I discovered in the collection of her work entitled "Upstream." I love both titles, because, in true Oliver-esque fashion, they gracefully, yet succinctly unmask her main point.

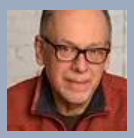
"Upstream" conjures up the notion of how the creation of any art – be it a poem, an essay, or a photograph – can feel like swimming upstream against a swift current, not necessarily a river, but upstream against everyday things like barking dogs, water boiling for tea, bills to be paid, even the calling of another half-finished project begging for an ending.

"Of Power and Time" zeroes in on two elements so important to any creative endeavor: 1) the power to get that idea from the brain to the page, or the brain to the canvas, or the brain to the photograph; and 2) the time to do so.

After reading the essay, I wrote the following in my commonplace book—a notebook where I collect basic knowledge, quotes, and ideas for reflection later.

> Distractions are many. "Think of this whenever the urge to create competes with almost anything else."
>
> Distractions are many. In my world, "almost anything else," is the time and distraction that is part of the afore-mentioned words of wisdom from Oliver.
>
> My distractions can include time with family, be it any of my three kids, my lovely and talented wife, keeping up with the weeds in the garden or feeding Amelia, our overly loud and lately aggressive cat.
>
> Every day can feel like a negotiation, a push-pull between writing or exploring the landscape with my camera and almost everything else. How much time do I give to writing today vs., say, shopping, or watching our favorite show on any of the too-many streaming services that come into our house.
>
> Sometimes it gets so bad, the push-pull in my head gives way to a headache.

(continued on next page)



The Commitment to Creativity; Forget the Cat and Get On With It! Cont.

Find a quiet space

That's when I turn to my "go to" approach to dealing with the quandary: a 10-minute guided meditation, an essential element of any mindfulness practice. Mediating slows the mind and helps focus. It's great when life – specially my creative life – gets out of control.

After 10 or 15 minutes of meditating, the path forward seems clear.

Mindfulness teaches that the troubling issues – those things that bring on suffering – often stem from attachment to things you can't control; let go of things you can't control and suffering falls away.



Let go of that water boiling on the stove, it'll keep for a few more minutes.
Forget about the cat bellowing for breakfast, she, too, can wait.
Focus, instead on finishing that thought for your next essay,
which happens to deadline tomorrow.

Hit the gym

Daily exercise is another way to deal with that upstream feeling of creating art. Studies have shown that even moderate exercise increases blood flow to the brain, reduces stress and increases cognitive ability. I'm in the gym most every morning for at least an hour; it's a major pillar of my creative practice and, frankly, my sanity, right alongside writing, photography and mindfulness.

After exercise, I'm relaxed and focused, ready to take on whatever's on the schedule.

It's like Oliver says;

> "Of this there can be no question – creative work requires a loyalty as complete as the loyalty of water to the force of gravity."

So, get some exercise, forget the cat, and press on!

Ernest J. Schweit is a long-time member of LCAL, and is a writer and award-winning landscape photographer. He works in the Midwest, the Southwest, and northern California.
Read his blog.
Questions or Suggestions? Contact me at
ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net

Membership Information



Welcome LCAL RETURNING MEMBERS!

- **Carol Awe;** watercolors
- **Bobbi Swisher;** oils

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 Julie Nykeil at julieannenykeil@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 the last page). Find the description of volunteer positions in our by-laws at our website under "about."

Questions about open positions? Contact Julie Nykeil at julieannenykeil@gmail.com 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

PLEASE NOTE: LCAL can not print and "snail mail" any forms or prospectuses. Forms and prospectuses for shows can be emailed but it's up to members to print their own forms. Thank you for your cooperation!

LCAL Digital Resources

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

Utilize Your LCAL Website: Advertise Your Shows!

Do you have **your own website** or social media page that you'd like to include on our website?

Do you **teach a class** that you would like to promote on our website?

Do you have an **upcoming solo show** that you would like to advertise on our website?

If so, please send Deb Edmunds, LCAL Website Manager, your information and she will be happy to add your information to the LCAL website!

Contact Deb at edmundsdl@gmail.com.

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

Enjoy Our Digital Library

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. *(Links are updated as we become aware of 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

Thousands from about 30 countries subscribe to our LCAL YouTube channel!

LCAL Mission, Meetings, Board Members, Directors

Lake County Art League (LCAL) Mission

Our purpose is to create more interest in art in Lake County, IL, and to develop a higher appreciation of visual art.
We will do this through art exhibitions, festivals, demonstrations of art techniques, lectures, critiques and sharing of ideas, inspiration and encouragement between members.

The Lake County Art League Year:

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

Jan., Feb., sometimes March	Virtual
Sep., 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	Sandra Saxton	saxton.songbirdstudio@gmail.com
Vice President	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary	Maureen Fisher Rivkin	mfisherrivkin@gmail.com
Treasurer	Mary Neely	mmbn@yahoo.com

Directors *	Name	email
Historian	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Hospitality	Fran Isaac	fmisaac@aol.com
Membership	Julie Nykeil	julieannenykeil@gmail.com
On the Wall	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Ernest Schweit	ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Programs	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Maureen Fisher Rivkin	mfisherrivkin@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	Randy Schweitzer	Schweitzer.randy@gmail.com
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 Rivkin	mfisherrivkin@gmail.com
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Publicity	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com

* Open Positions

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

Art Festivals, and Tours

Find descriptions of volunteer positions in our by-laws at our website under "about."