



Quarterly Newsletter Summer July 2026



From NAWA SC Chapter President Meyriel Edge

The reception for our 'Spirited Aiken' exhibition at Aiken Center for the Arts is uppermost in my mind because it was a resounding success, even though, toward the end of the evening, the heavens opened and extra light was provided by spectacular lightning. Our Exhibition Team, including Exhibition Chair Flavia Lovatelli, Exhibit Lead Melinda Welker, and committee members Lillie Morris, Pamela Urban Moore, and Deidre Hayes, is to be congratulated. Thank you, Team!

It was good to see Susan Hammond and her husband again. Susan has served in numerous NAWA national roles, including President, Vice President and as Executive Director. She was instrumental in the founding of our Chapter in 2018. She has served as VP of NAWA SC and still serves on the NAWA National Board. Our Chapter knows we can still ask her any question, and, for that, we thank her.

Our thanks go to Dr Kimberly Fontanez for her thoughtful consideration of every piece that was juried in the Exhibit. She spent a month studying the online images but made her final choices at the gallery. It was not a simple task.

The day began with our Annual Meeting and Luncheon. More sisters and guests than ever before gathered for lunch at the Park Avenue Oyster Bar and Grill, just round the corner from the Aiken Center for the Arts. The camaraderie was evident during the lunch, as members freely conversed and learned more about members from across SC and the US.

Sadly, Rhian Swain was unable to give her marketing presentation because of ill health. She has promised to give the presentation by Zoom at a later date.

In the meantime, our chapter has been accomplishing some of the goals we set. Our Membership has increased, various exhibitions at exciting venues are in the pipeline for 2027 and 2028. We are instigating some 'cross pollination' with the three other chapters. It will be guided by Christie Devereaux, NAWA Vice President and Liaison to all State chapters..

I urge new members to go to New York for the Induction ceremony, if possible. It is an uplifting experience in a historical setting. I was so nervous about going, doubted my worth etc. Then, once there, I realized what I had achieved. I will remember it forever.

Finally, Eleanor Roosevelt said, 'Do one thing every day that scares you.'

Annual Meeting and Lunch

Photos by Selene Paschoal. See more photos at nawasc.org



Spirited Aiken Opening Reception and Awards

Photos by Selene Paschoal. See more photos at nawasc.org



Welcome New NAWA SC Members this Quarter:



Welcome to our newest NAWA SC members: June “Sam” Compton, Elgin, SC; Christina Rice, Evans, GA; and Nanette Langner, Aiken, SC. Christina and Nanette joined the recent Annual Meeting and Lunch and we look forward to meeting Sam at the next one. Nanette created the beautiful dessert cookies and brought one to each member and guest who attended the lunch. Thank you, Nanette, for this special treat. It is obvious to see Nanette’s artistry extends to her baking.

Spirited Aiken Exhibit Gallery Link

Thank you to all our members who participated in the *Spirited Aiken* exhibit. All 50 pieces of art can be viewed through the Show Submit gallery at: <https://showsubmit.com/gallery/nawasc-spirited-aiken>

Dr. Fontanez announced the awards during the evening reception. She stated, “The NAWA SC art was so elevated, it made judging the exhibit much more difficult.” As awards were presented, Dr. Fontanez spoke about each artwork, which gave insight to, not only the work, but her judging process.

Thank You for Sponsorships:

The Exhibition Committee would like acknowledge members who landed corporate and/or donated award sponsorships, including Sheila Grabarsky, Susan Hammond, Susan Irish, and Melinda Welker. Due to these sponsorships, monetary awards listed in the Prospectus were increased, and four additional awards were created.

Congratulations to the Spirited Aiken Artwork that Won Awards:

First Place 2D

At De Edge of Giving, Saundra Renee Smith

Acrylic, 10" x 8"



Second Place 2D

Rhythm and Blues, Deidre Hayes

Acrylic on Bristol paper, 22" x 28"



Third Place 2D

145 Oakcrest Lane, Staci Swider

Acrylic, collage papers on canvas with vintage quilt, textiles and hand stitching, 61" x 65"

First Place 3D Sculpture

NEKIA - The Spirit of Aiken, Bernice Mitchell Tate

Sculpture (Mixed Media), 74" x 36"



Best in Show

Essie, Marie Echols

Watercolor and collage on cradled panel,
24" x 18"



Best of Aiken

Run for the Roses, June Klement

Oil on linen, 12" x 12"



Best of Photography

Goucho Roundup, Sandy Dimke

Photography, 10" x 34"



Pushing the Boundaries:
The Wild Side of Art Award

What If?, Meyriel Edge

Oil on canvas, 48" x 30"



Honorable Mention

Lunar Forest, Lisa Anne Cullen

Watercolor, cut and torn watercolor paper, 19" x 25"



Honorable Mention

Enjoying the Spirits of Aiken in the Alley,
Joyce Erb

Oil on canvas, 12" x 9"

Member Highlights this Quarter

Congratulations to four NAWA SC members whose art won awards in NAWA's 137th Annual Exhibition:



Caroline M. Lupori Fund Memorial Medal of Honor Award

Floating Amongst the Debris, Jacqueline Lorieo

Ceramic figures, ceramic folds, sea fans,
16" x 16" x 1.75"

Anna Walinska Memorial Medal of Honor Award

Sadie, Marie Echols

Watercolor and collage, 17" x 21"





David and Leon Antar Memorial Award

Proteus, Pokey Park

Sculpture, bronze, 12" x 14.25" x 15"

The Matilde and Mark Memorial Award for
Drawing

Covid 19 Series Study 3, Linda Williams
McCune

Charcoal, ink, watercolor on paper, 16" x 16"



Member Solo Exhibit

Flavia Lovatelli, sustainable paper manipulation artist

Exhibit Title: *Everything That Remains: Paper, Willow, and Wonder*

Brookgreen Gardens, through July 26, 2026

Flavia, a sustainable paper manipulation artist, transforms recycled and found materials into intricate dimensional environments. Her installation exhibit presents immersive sculptural art.



Members - please share your good news! We want to promote your art achievements in our newsletters and social media. Please send your newsletter information to art.nawasc@gmail.com and put newsletter in the subject line. Send social media input to francieredwolf@gmail.com and put social media in the subject line.

Questions?

NAWA SC is proud to be a part of the National Association of Women Artists and further the national mission in our state of South Carolina - to promote awareness of, and interest in, visual art created by women in the U.S. Contact art.nawasc@gmail.com if you have comments or news to share. Please put “newsletter” in the subject line. To join the NAWASC Chapter become part of our active membership, visit <https://nawasc.org>.

How to Contact a NAWA SC Board Member:

If you are interested to serve on the NAWA SC board, or have any questions for the board, please contact a member of the NAWA SC Chapter board by e-mail at: art.nawasc@gmail.com. Please put the name of the department you wish to contact in the subject line of your email, such as Membership, Exhibitions, President, Social Media, Newsletter, Volunteerism, etc.

NAWA SC Board Members

President: Meyriel Edge (Summerville, SC)

Vice President: Vacant as of January 2026

Secretary: Susan Irish (Edisto Island, SC)

Treasurer: Marie Echols (Tignall, GA)

Membership: Deidre Hayes (Beech Island, SC)

Exhibit Chair: Flavia Lovatelli (Columbia, SC)

PR and Marketing Manager: Rhian Swain (Augusta, GA)

Website Manager: Emi Sisk (Mount Airy, NC)

Social Media Manager: Franci Klopotic (Augusta, GA)