

**VWS Board Meeting(Draft)
September 19, 2015**

Attendees: Mark Nielsen, Pam Dexter, Charles Norris-Brown, Carlton Annis, Michelle LeBoeuf, Martin LaLonde, Kate Jackson, Diane Bell, Adrienne Fisher. Absent: Rob O'Brien, Adrienne Fisk, Lynn Pratt

Treasurer's Report - Carlton Annis

Carlton would like to invite our bookkeeper and her husband to the annual meeting. It was agreed.

We believe that the VWS is entitled to be refunded our federal taxes for 2011 and 2012 because we received our "not for profit" status notice after those filings which was effective as of 2011. Carlton has filed with the IRS for that refund. We are current with our filings with the IRS.

The State of Vermont asserts that we presently owe in excess of \$400 in penalties and late fees. Carlton has filed with the state to abate these penalties.

Per our by-laws, only the board can approve the budget. Carlton will present the budget to the members at the annual meeting in October. Mark will ask the membership to ratify all the acts all of the board of directors prior to concluding the business meeting.

The treasurer's tasks are becoming more complex so it might be difficult to find someone to serve as treasurer when Carlton steps down. We can look outside the VWS to find a competent person. Carlton thinks we should send out a note to the Vermont Society of CPAs in order to land someone who would like to do some community service.

The treasurer's report was accepted for audit.

Director of Hubs - Pam Dexter

Middlebury group at East View is having a plein air event on Friday, October 2nd as a tribute to the late Larry Coffin. The event was posted on the last newsletter. Free food will be offered, then "show and tell" will happen about 4 pm.

The new point person for the Burlington, St Albans hub is Bob Chamberlain. Thanks to Martin and Charles for helping to recruit Bob. He has a plein air event planned for 9/18 at Shelburne Farms.

A welcome letter has been composed for all new members. It's a two- page letter along with a hub letter that is emailed after the membership check is deposited. Michele is using a new form and the process seems to be working well. These forms are all on the website.

Pam thanked Michelle for sending out a current hub list to all point persons.

A search for a new director of hubs is ongoing. A description of the position will be included in the October annual meeting program.

White River Junction had an event recently. They went over their budget by \$35. Pam made a motion to cover this amount. It was seconded by Carlton and approved by the board.

The hubs should use the "general request for payment" form in the member's corner. Every hub has \$300 per year plus \$10 per member.

Director of Exhibitions - Charles Norris-Brown

Rob O'Brien is stepping down as co-director.

The awards show in Meriden has 30 paintings displayed in the Taylor Gallery. Only 41 paintings were submitted. The reception was sparsely attended. Only two award winners came to the reception. The rest of the awards were mailed out to the recipients. Given the lack of attendance, Rob proposes that we have only one juried award show a year offering signature status. Let the hubs organize other shows throughout the year. There will be more board discussion about this once the board has received a more detailed proposal for this idea.

April 16th to May, 2016 exhibit will happen at the Chaffee. Rob will assist in developing a checklist of tasks for each show.

Next fall 2016, the awards show will take place at the Ava Gallery in Lebanon, NH

Director of Programs - Martin LaLonde

2016 Jeannie McGuire workshop at the Landgrove Inn will be marketed in the Snippets soon.

2017 workshop is still open.

Director of Membership - Michelle LeBoeuf

Current members total 198. There are 46 lapsed members and 26 terminal members totaling 270.

New members this year total 15 with 6 members expressed having some volunteer interest.

Director of Communications - Kate Jackson

Kate is pleased that people are now sending their pictures as jpegs and entering their text into the email with no formatting.

The director will reach out to members asking for their profile. It was suggested that Snippets feature new signature member profiles.

The by-laws have been updated on the website and the "I Can Paint" program has been added as well. A link to the "I Can Paint" program on Facebook should be put on the website. Kate will ask Don to do that.

Co-Director of Volunteers- Adrienne Fisher

Adrienne will build a list of this year's volunteers so they can be honored at the annual meeting. She will deliver this to Mark by October 1.

Miscellaneous

Discussion about hubs' request for money. Out of eight, there have been only two requests this year. Carlton will talk (at the annual meeting) about the pre-pay policy to encourage more hub events. Not all the hubs use their \$300 each year. There is some wiggle room for hubs to go over their budget by 10%. If there are surplus funds at the end of the year, it was decided that those funds go into the "I Can Paint" program.

Carlton said people shouldn't have to put out their own money. If members put a plan and expenses together for an event or project, then the organizer, or the model or the venue should be paid directly by VWS.

There should be an option for prepayment and this should be included in the Snippets soon. This was agreed upon by the board.

VWS Education Fund.

Claudia Carl is buying kits for the program at this time. The cost of a kit is working out to be approximately \$30. We are budgeting \$4500 and 150 kits for 2016. This year we have commitments for 53 students. We have money to put together 85 kits this year. We will spend all the monies that are raised each year.

Carlton suggested that we acquire a list of foundations and apply to them for monies. Public monies are harder to get. Remind donors that donations are a charitable deduction.

Annual meeting.

Rob O'Brien will do the demonstration.

The ratification of the budget and all the other acts of the board will be at the end of the budget meeting.

Martin would like to announce the 2016 workshop (Jeannie McGuire, June 27) after lunch just before the demonstration.

Annual meeting will be at the Middlebury Inn. Some raffle items have been secured.

Two people should be at the welcome table.

A separate invitation will be sent out to the membership.

Martin will order a special 20th anniversary cake.

Name tags will be available.

A rolling screen show will be running.

Coffee Mugs will be delivered soon. 72 mugs in full color plus shipping totaled \$229.26. This expense will be put toward the fall meeting expenses.

Draft budget.

Martin felt the income for week-long workshops is too high. It should be dropped to \$9000.

We currently budget on 200 members. Carlton would like to add 10 more people at \$35--\$7350.

Hub Budget.

The hub budget was based on a July 1, drop dead date. Member dues should be paid by then. It was agreed that we have a budget that will be presented at the annual meeting.

Bylaws.

Mark has confidence that all the amendments that have been proposed, during the last few years, are now reflected in the bylaws draft that will be brought to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting.

Diane will be responsible for updating the official copy of the bylaws and getting them onto the website.

The wording for each change was finalized during the board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.