



SKETCHES...

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF YOUR LAKE COUNTY ART LEAGUE

JUNE 2020

Since 1934

June 15 Meeting to Discuss Art League Pandemic Challenges

LCAL will go back to its usual schedule with a Monday June 15 virtual meeting. The COVID-19 threat caused April and May meetings and the Spring Membership Show to be cancelled, we stopped producing Sketches and Member News as there was too little to report, and Pandemic Distractions has been connecting our artistic souls after April 7. As we leave the 2019-2020 year we are looking at entering Level 3 of five steps to return to an uncertain culture that may still be quite different. It's time to plan for this progressive return to a "new normal."

We must also confirm Gail Gudgeon as our president-elect, something that would have been taken care of at the April and May meetings. This will be a general meeting with no presentation or demo, as we have much to talk about.

Some things are already clear. Virtual meetings will certainly be needed for the entire 2020-2021 year, and we may have one or two general meetings outside. Our October/November Fall Membership Show will need to be virtual, but that will be easy to do and the novelty will be fun. We can experiment with virtual one-man shows, but we might make a renewed effort to hang our art in public spaces. Our need for volunteers will change and probably diminish until we can again have live meetings.

Those new directions will need input from our members, and there are other challenges we need to rethink. Is there some way to continue to lend library books? Should we record our virtual meetings and demos for member use and maybe share them with the public? If our charter is to "create more interest in art ... and develop a higher appreciation of visual art" in Lake County, isn't that now more important than ever? How do best use social platforms like Facebook to continue our rich conversations about art? Should be training our members how to virtually demonstrate painting, drawing and photography?

Now We Will Have Virtual Meetings ...

Virtual meetings are suddenly everywhere, usually in the form of Zoom video conferencing. Most lap-top computers have a camera and microphone, and free Zoom software allows a presenter to speak and share file images with to a group of individuals on their computers or smart phones. With the addition of a \$75 "studio webcam" the presenter can become a demonstrator. This pandemic has made virtual meetings, including demonstrations, an immediate necessity, but this may also be a turning point in art. Ten years from now will we be having both live and virtual meetings?

We are very fortunate that two of our members, Phil Schorn and Jeff Harold, have been using Zoom to teach, and they have volunteered to coach us through our first virtual meetings. Phil will serve as the meeting "host" of the June 15 meeting using his own Zoom account. Phil, as the host, will start the meeting early, then e-mail an access key to everyone so they can immediately join the meeting. As the meeting continues he will actively manage the Zoom mechanics.

Phil and Jeff will help members learn how to connect with Zoom meetings by having a “Test” Zoom meeting on June 8, 7-8:00 pm. All LCAL members will be sent an e-mail notice that morning with a Zoom link, a meeting number and a password, and will be asked to connect with the “test” meeting that evening. They will be given Phil and Jeff’s smart phone numbers to call if they are unable to connect. Once they do connect, Phil and Jeff will make sure they are comfortable using their computer, smart phone or tablet for participating in upcoming virtual meetings, presentations and demos. For example, you may need to use your smart phone or tablet if you have an older computer that does not have a camera.

... And Maybe Some Outdoor Meetings

Certainly plein air and possibly an occasional meeting will be outdoors. Lake County Forest Preserve District preserves and Illinois Department of Natural Resources parks will be our default locations for now. Their pandemic policies are necessarily compliant, conservative and well publicized. The LCFPD preserves have been open and busy, but facilities have been closed, including bathrooms and picnic shelters.

IDNR parks are open and now under Level 3 “Recovery,” and all park activities are limited to groups of 10 or fewer with social distancing. Hopefully soon, under upcoming Level 4 “Revitalization,” that limit will be groups of 50 or fewer.

Our outside events must be done with extreme caution. Participants will maintain social distance and wear masks for brief conversations that are closer. We will have our own foot-pump soap and water washing station for hands and brushes if there is no running water. We will be careful not to exceed the limits on participants and facility permit requirements.

Plein Air Will Change Little, However

LCAL plein air activity changed a bit last year. Winter and early spring sessions were dropped because they require excessive set up, scheduling is now shared, and our Facebook presence is being expanded. The goal is still the same as when this was started in 2006: have an ongoing and exciting experience that gives the art league visibility in the community and helps all artists – not just our members – experiment with spontaneous expression. As before, each session concludes with discussion of what worked and what didn’t, but discussions like that will now be difficult.

We have learned from experience that cabin fever rushes a lot of artists into plein air opportunities, so we must initially limit participation to members-only until we are certain we will not have too many artists.

Using our virus-driven circumstances to our advantage, plein air sessions can be any day of the week and we can give only a 3-day advance notice. Now we can easily schedule around other events and we can guarantee nice weather.

Membership Dues are Due

Membership dues are to be paid at or before our September general meeting. They are \$20 for a full-time student (12 hours minimum), \$35 for an individual and \$45 for a family. Make checks payable to the Lake County Art League. The attached Membership Form is an effective and convenient way to update our records of your contact information and volunteer interests.

2020-21 Membership Form

Our Membership Form needed updating to show how our unique circumstances have forced changes in its “interests list.” This is kind of a bullet list which gives new members an introduction to the unique rhythms of our organization.

Last year the list below tried to make it clear that volunteers will only be “helping with” the listed efforts. We are not asking them to take on responsibilities, but merely asking them to help directors and elected officers

who have those responsibilities. Now items 1-4 and 15 can be eliminated and items 5-7 become more important as we move to virtual meetings. A new interest is added: help with Zoom hosting. We have a couple if experts, but there are probably a handful of members who would want to learn more Zoom skills for their own growth as artists.

1. meeting membership desk
2. meeting library setup
3. meeting audio/visual aids
4. meeting refreshments prep and cleanup
5. spring/fall membership shows
6. help with art workshops
7. help with tours
8. help with plein air sessions
9. help with social media
10. help with website
11. help with newsletter
12. help with member news
13. help with display of member art
14. help with legacy art preservation
15. help with meeting setup and cleanup
16. help with Zoom hosting

2020-21 schedule

The LCAL schedule for general meetings – generally with a presentation, demonstration or critique – is the third Thursday of every month “from the September general meeting to the following September general meeting” per our constitution. The schedule for the coming 2020-21 year, with virtual meetings under a new president, is:

- September 21
- October 19
- November 16 (Fall Membership Show critique)
- December (none, holiday break)
- January 18
- February 16
- March 16
- April 19
- May 17 (Spring Membership Show critique)
- June 21
- July (none, summer break)
- August (none, summer break)

The Lake County Art League year runs from September through June. In the past we have met on the third Monday of these months, 7-9:00 pm. Meetings in September, October, January, February, March, April and June include presentations and are held at State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake. November and May meetings are the closing critiques for our popular fall and spring membership shows, and these are held at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts theatre in Waukegan. Finally, we take a holiday break in December



Elected Officers

President	Oliver Merriam	omerriam@yahoo.com
Vice President	Mary Neely	mmbn@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net

Activity Directors

Programs	Roberta Bragg	freouwebbe@msn.com
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Linda Rodriguez	linda_rodriguez931@comcast.net
On-The-Wall	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Publicity	Ali Albakri	lcamagazine@yahoo.com
Membership	Leslie Nauta	nautateam@comcast.net
	Betty Perri	bettyaperri@gmail.com
Hospitality	Fran Issac	fmisaac@aol.com
	Sunny Parenteau	parenteousunny@gmail.com
Workshops	(vacant)	
Librarian	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Visual Recording	vacant	
Art Festivals	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Historian	vacant	
Tours	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com

Connection to the Art Community

Social Media	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Legacy Art	Thom Kapheim	kapart1@sbcglobal.net
Plein Air	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com