

Estero Art League
Annual Meeting
Monday, March 13 2023

President, David Morrison opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. He welcomed those who attended and introduced new members. The thirty- seven members who attended represented a quorum.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Sue Hensler reported that we have a balance of \$11,790 in the checking account, \$30,000 in a CD at BHM Bank earning 4.5 percent interest. We have an additional amount of \$1,002 in another account.

Online Payment: The online payment system for dues and classes is working well and we will continue to use this method of payment. It makes it easier for the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to keep track of finances.

Membership Dues: It was proposed that we consider changing our membership dues to one fee for members who come to the Open Paint days and a lower fee for those members who just join to be able to exhibit in COCO Gallery. In lieu of the fact that our yearly fee is very reasonable to begin with, the Board decided to remain with one membership fee.

COCO Gallery Exhibit: The Estero Art League will be exhibiting at COCO Gallery as the featured art organization for the month of April. Receiving will be on Wednesday, April 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Artists who wish to exhibit may register on the web site. You may sign up for three paintings. The number of paintings that will be hung will be determined after all exhibitors have registered. Artists who do not already exhibit at the gallery will need to bring inventory sheets, waiver, and a 1099 form. All instructions will be online. Paintings must adhere to gallery standards. Those paintings that are behind glass must use D-rings on the back for hanging. Screw eyes are acceptable for this exhibit for paintings without glass. All wire endings must be taped. David will be printing out the labels.

Library Exhibit: Pick-up for the Library exhibit is on Friday, March 24. Instructions for pick-up will be posted.

Library/EAL Joint Programs: Cherie Mulcahy and Sue Hensler have scheduled the first joint program with the library for May 2. The program will be painting and constructing a small origami style box with a lid. The library will be providing some supplies. There will be a practice run-through of this program here at the rec center with Karen Thompson on Monday, April 10 for anyone who would like to attend. We are hopeful of continuing to provide programs/demos at the library as not only a community service, but also as a way to increase our presence in the area. Our next program will be in August. We need volunteers and ideas for future programs and demos.

EAL Permanent Space: In the ongoing effort to move forward in establishing a permanent space for the Estero Art League, David Morrison, Cherie Mulcahy, Sue Hensler, and others, have met with Village of Estero Leaders to discuss the possibility of incorporating such a location into future plans. Recently, David and Cherie met with the head of the Estero Forever Foundation. This is a foundation that helps fund projects beneficial to the Village of Estero. Cherie believes it would be advantageous for us to have a larger media presence on Facebook and Instagram. She has been looking into the possibility of getting a Social Media Intern from FGCU to help set this up. Maggie Henry, a new member, has volunteered to help with this project.

Open Discussion:

Scholarship Program: The question was asked whether or not we were still awarding scholarships to Estero High School art students. The answer is that at this time we are not awarding scholarships due to the fact that two years ago there was no acknowledgement of the scholarships that were given. In the discussion that followed, some members felt that we should do more in the form of awards/scholarships for our own members rather than award scholarships to high school students. Some members felt that being involved in the community was an important part of our organization and that awarding scholarships was a part of who we are. Other members felt that we could incorporate both internal and external awards into our policy. It was recommended that we form a scholarship committee to continue the awarding of scholarships to Estero High School art students. One member noted that the scholarships used to be presented at an awards ceremony held at the high school. The art league also used to be involved in other community projects such as teaching art classes to young children and painting cards for nursing home patients.

Painting Critiques: Many members feel that critiques are a very important part of becoming better painters. They would like to have regularly scheduled times for critiques during our open paint sessions. In addition to this, it was suggested that we have special sessions for sharing techniques, exchanging information, imparting painting tips, etc.

Committees: Gloria Holman recommended that we make a list of projects we need to accomplish and ask for volunteers to chair those committees. These projects can only happen if members volunteer. The following is a list of some of those things mentioned:

TO DO

Social Media

Library Programs/demos

Scholarship

Sunshine/Cards

Inhouse Competitions/Awards

Critiques

Special Sessions/Information sharing

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Marth, Secretary