

## FEBRUARY, 2014, WAAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Sippel. He asked for officer reports.

Treasurer Ana Atwood stated our current balance is \$3,991.45. The expenses from Nov. 14, 2013 totaled \$1,743.06 and the income for the same period totaled \$1,057.19.

Secretary Sara Worthington referred members to the WAAL website for viewing the minutes.

Membership Chairman Chuck Zelms reported that we now have 159 paid members, a bit less than last year at this time.

Alan announced that we have several upcoming spring show opportunities. They include:

1. The Mill Run Show – March 12 to April 30, 2014. Michael Crapser has volunteered to chair the show. Two pieces are allowed to be shown.
2. High Road Gallery – April show titled “Our Home Town” is an open show for any interested artist
3. High Road Gallery – WAAL May show. Jim Glover is chairperson and is looking for a co-chair.
4. Motorist Mutual Show – May 9 to June 19, 2014. Chuck Zelms is chairing the show and would like a co-chair to volunteer.
5. Small Venue Shows - For information on local businesses willing to host a small show of individual artists please contact Ruth Ann Miller. There are available opportunities this summer.

Look for detailed information regarding the shows in upcoming WAAL newsletters.

### Announcements:

Carol Hershey reported that she is planning changes for the High Road Gallery for 2016. She is considering converting part of the gallery into studio spaces for artists and perhaps a co-op type gallery. She asked for interested persons to contact her for information.

Joyce Fisher announced that a new group has formed to help support the McConnell Arts Center (MAC) and is called “Pro MAC”. To join one needs to be willing to contribute 20 volunteer hours per year and \$20.00. Joyce also said she is giving a one day workshop at the MAC on March 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 4:30pm.

Alan asked for visitors to introduce themselves and he welcomed them to our meeting.

Following the business meeting were refreshments.

Kathy Crowley, Vice President and Program Chairperson, introduced our presenter for the evening, Joseph Anastasi. Kathy showed a video titled “Art and Soul, Intimate Portraits”, narrated by the artist

Joe Anastasi. Joe is a commercial artist who began his career in upstate New York with the Corning Glass Company. Throughout his career he has been a graphic designer, a childrens' book illustrator, a fundraiser and has owned his own design and marketing company in Central Ohio. He said he was born knowing how to draw. More recently he is recognized as a portrait artist concentrating on painting the homeless people of downtown Columbus, Ohio. He has a passion and talent for capturing the spirit and dignity of "lost souls" in his water based paintings. By volunteering with his church St. Agatha in Upper Arlington and for St. Vincent de Paul in Columbus he has become well acquainted with the homeless by feeding and clothing them for several years. Many of his homeless portrait paintings have sold and he donates 50% of the earnings to charity which in turn helps the homeless. He acknowledges he has a passion for painting the homeless people and believes he was called to convey their spirit through his art.

Joe shared stories of people he has painted. He said the homeless people he has known have all come from very dysfunctional families. Many of the homeless are addicts of alcohol or drugs. Military veterans make up a good percentage of the homeless as do people with mental illness. Some have low paying jobs, but cannot make enough money to care adequately for themselves or their families.

Recently Joe had a display of his paintings in the Undercroft of the St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Columbus. Sale of paintings from the show totaled about \$30,000.00. Currently he has a show at Our Lady of the Springs at Ohio Dominican College and at Hammond Harkins Gallery in Bexley.

It was obvious that the WAAL members were grateful for his moving talk and being able to see the portraits he brought for the presentation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Worthington

Recording Secretary