



THE LEAGUE CHANGES STRUCTURE

As many of you are aware, the Board of Directors and much of the membership has decided that some structural changes are in order so that we can better serve League members and the arts community. The current Board structure will be replaced by an Executive Committee of five members, plus a Secretary and a Treasurer.

These seven people will be the governing body of the Door County Art League. Under this body of seven will be committees and sub-committees, which will encompass all the aspects of running the League including exhibits, the gallery, membership, programs, public relations and the like. A complete list of bylaws changes is online.

ELECTION OF 2009 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- Executive Member 1, Exhibits.....Randy Rasmussen
- Executive Member 2, Programs; MembershipDianne Saron
- Executive Member 3, Public Relations; Honors & Awards.....JoAnne Rosenfeld
- Executive Member 4, GalleryMary Streu
- Executive Member 5, Development & Outreach; Nominations & Elections.....Cheryl Stidwell Parker
- SecretaryLee Vlaming
- TreasurerKeith Wickert
- Ex Officio & Past PresidentJeanne Whildin

Since there is only one person running for each position, the above members will be elected. You do not have to formally vote.

BALLOT TO APPROVE NEW BYLAWS

Because of the new Board restructure, the Door County Art League Bylaws will be revised; and the revisions must be approved by the Membership. If you have not yet seen the new Bylaws, they can be found on the website at www.doorcountyartleague.org.

I approve do not approve of the new DCAL Bylaws.

Please check one

If you approve of the Bylaw changes, you need not do anything. If you do not approve, you need to mail your ballot to Door County Art League, Bylaws Ballot, P.O. Box 405, Fish Creek, WI 54212.

FROM YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS-ELECT

Randy Rasmussen, Executive Member 1, Exhibits

As many of you know, I am in charge of exhibits. I am looking forward to the year and having many venues for the work of DCAL members. So far this year, the scheduled venues are our 23rd Annual Juried Exhibit and Master's Presentation at the Link Gallery in Fish Creek, June 11th through August 3rd, the Liberty Grove Historical Society, July 18th and 19th, and an end of summer show at the Link Gallery, September 2nd through 28th. Other opportunities for our members to exhibit are in the works, with more information to follow. I encourage all members to show their work and, if you have any questions, please feel

free to e-mail me at rasmussen@netnet.net or call me at 920-743-5597. Watch for upcoming events in the newsletter.

Rasmussen spent countless hours drawing and studying at Wichita State University in Kansas before pursuing a career in chiropractic medicine. After retiring, Rasmussen has pursued his art with unmitigated passion. He paints three times a week, almost entirely plein air, with a goal of delighting the eye. Although his primary media is watercolor, he has recently ventured into oil. Rasmussen lives in Sturgeon Bay with his wife Barbara.

Dianne Saron, Executive Member 2, Programs & Membership

I will continue to bring exciting programs to the members at our monthly meetings, along with other membership benefits, such as the directory and the newsletter. I can be reached at dlgsaron@yahoo.com or 920-868-1082. Saron moved to Door County in 2001 and was overwhelmed by the colorful landscape and

nature scenes; she consequently developed a love for working in pastels. She has since studied with many Door County artists and continues to hone her skills with pastels, complimenting the beauty surrounding her with vibrant images. Saron and her husband Gordon live in Egg Harbor.

JoAnne Rosenfeld, Executive Member 3, Public Relations, Honors & Awards

I plan to continue to promote the Door County Art League throughout the county and beyond via newspapers, radio (with Randy Rasmussen), and television website calendars, such as Fox 11 online. In addition, I will be honored to head the committee to choose our 2009 Door County Art League Master Artist. Please contact me at luvbostons@gmail.com or 920-559-7530.

Rosenfeld is a self-taught artist who copied comics out of the Sunday newspaper at age four. She works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastels, charcoal, pencil, and pen and ink. Rosenfeld was born and raised in Mississippi and lived in the Washington, DC, area for many years before moving to metro Chicago. She and her husband Jeff reside in Egg Harbor and in Lisle, Illinois.

Mary Streu, Executive Member 4, Gallery

The gallery committee needs a head count of people interested in participating in the Gallery of the Door County Art League this upcoming season. You will have a 4 ft. X 8 ft. space. It will cost \$100 for the season, and you will be required to work one day each month that the gallery is open. The season will run from mid-May through mid-October. To sign up to participate in the Gallery, contact Mary at

Streu@greenbaynet.com or 251-929-3844 or Marcia Nickols at mnickols@charter.net or 920-854-9369. Streu works in watercolor, acrylic, and watercolor pencil, drawing her inspiration from nature through her love of gardening and the outdoors. She majored in art at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Streu lives in Forestville and in Fairhope, Alabama, with her husband Glen.

Cheryl Stidwell Parker, Executive Member 5, Development, Outreach, Nominations & Elections

I look forward to working with the Door County Art League members in strengthening a connection with the community. For example, we are planning a series of summer art events for families in conjunction with the Door County Library system (see related article). Please contact me at cherstidwellpar@itol.com

or 920-421-1690. Parker is a retired art museum administrator and art educator. Primarily an oil and mixed media artist, her work is a response to life's mysteries and beauty of the ordinary. Parker resides in Baileys Harbor with her husband Steve Lavell, a classical guitarist and music instructor.

Jeanne Whildin, Ex Officio & Past President

As your Past President, I will continue to be on the Board in an advisory position. I can be reached at auntij@charter.net or 920-823-2532. Jeanne Whildin was Door County Art League President for many years. During her tenure, she

succeeded in growing the membership of the League and promoting the League's programs throughout the county. Whildin lives in Jacksonport, and her main media are wood carving and drawing.

Lee Vlaming, Secretary; Keith Wickert, Treasurer

Vlaming will be responsible for Board correspondence, meeting minutes, and other communications as needed for the League. Vlaming works in oil, watercolor, and pencil. She lives in Sturgeon Bay with her husband Ray. Wickert's responsibilities include check writing, bookkeeping, and financial reports, along with other typical Treasurer duties. He is a

photographer who lives in Sister Bay. Vlaming can be reached at myrna844@charter.net or 920-818-0122. Contact Wickert at kwickert@earthlink.net or 920-854-4390.



Treasurer Wickert thanking Marcia Nickols for her fine work in 2008.

MEMBER NEWS

The November/December 2008 "Piecework" magazine published an article by **Jane Delcarson** entitled "Zigzagging Rags into Shirred Rugs." Delcarson explained the technique and presented some of the more than 100 rag rugs made by her aunt Katharine Rattray.

Sally Berner had an oil painting of a mountain lion accepted into "Paint the Parks Top 100" and a painting of an elk accepted into "Paint the Parks Mini 50." She also had a painting of a Chocolate Lab accepted into the Society of Animal Artists 2008: Second Annual Small Works – Big Impressions Exhibit & Sale held at the Wildlife Experience in Parker, Colorado. After her three-person Artist's Registry Exhibit last summer, Berner's 24 X 36 painting of two Golden Retrievers on the beach, "Evening Stroll," was purchased by the AKC Museum of the Dog in



Queeny Park, just west of St. Louis, for their permanent collection. Sally was also honored to have her "Happy Thanksgiving," a painting of a truckload of white turkeys crammed into small cages on their way to slaughter, included in the permanent collection of the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau.

Carolyn Kenney-Carter's painting "Thinking Outside the Box," a watercolor of one of her cats, Kipling, was the featured artwork for the holiday card for the University of Wisconsin - Madison School of Veterinary Medicine for 2008. Kenney-Carter's work was also accepted for the "Watercolor Wisconsin 2008" show at the Racine Art Museum's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts from December 7, 2008, until April 25, 2009.

Cheri Martell had a solo exhibit of some of her oil paintings at Interior Motives Consignment Gallery in Bellevue, during the month of November, 2008. Martell, a Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Instructor for the Green Bay

metro area and the Northwest Region, and her adult students had their "Second Annual NWTC Instructor & Adult Students Fine Art Exhibit" at the Oconto Falls Community Memorial Library from December 1, 2008, until January 1, 2009.

Bren Sibilsky recently entered the Manhattan Arts Juried Show entitled "Celebrate the Healing Power of Art 2008." Bren received 8th place in the world for the Winners of the Top 10 Awards. The show had 100 winners. The top 10 winners received the highest total scores by the jurors. Each entry was judged on several criteria, including how well the piece related to the theme, technical skill, originality, and innovation.

1ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR AT LEAGUE'S GALLERY



A group of League artists decided to get together in December and have a holiday bazaar at the gallery in Fish Creek. Doug and Barbara Henderson coordinated the event. Participating

artists included painters, photographers, sculptors, fabric artists, mixed media and jewelers.

The artists recommend a "Christmas in July" for the Gallery this summer to capture our summer visitors' imagination and encourage sales for the Art League Gallery.

Volunteers: ART NATURALLY — Summer art events for families

In an effort to expand our public outreach and profile in the communities of Door County, the Art League is teaming up with Door County Libraries in offering free family art activities throughout the summer months.

Become an art teacher for a day!

Artmaking sessions will last about one hour and will provide a group activity focusing on art, nature, and environment. Each participating library branch will have an estimated four to five events throughout the summer, with approximately 10-25 participants at each session. All events will be coordinated through Beth Lokken at the Sturgeon Bay Branch. Interested volunteers should contact Lokken at Blokken@co.door.wi.us or 920-746-7119, no later than March 1st. At least three or four League

members are needed for this program. Volunteers are also asked to contact League program coordinator Cheryl Stidwell Parker via email at cherstidwellpar@itol.com to notify her of their participation. Activities will include watercolor painting, handmade paper making, mono- and fish print making, and photo grams.

The library will reimburse the artist/facilitator for mileage and supply materials. Volunteers will need to be familiar with the materials and techniques and enjoy working with children and families in conducting art experiences that are fun and educational. Participating branch libraries include Forestville, Sturgeon Bay, Baileys Harbor, Sister Bay, and possibly Egg Harbor and Washington Island. Parker will be contacting volunteers to finalize details in late May.

NEWS YOU CAN USE.....

Pick-up for the Trattoria Dal Santo Winter Exhibit is Tuesday, April 28, 2009, noon – 2:00pm.

If you still have pieces in the Dal Santo Fall Juried Exhibit, you can pick them up at the same time. For more information, contact Randy Rasmussen at rasmussen@netnet.net or 920-743-5597.

The 23rd ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBIT & MASTER'S PRESENTATION will take place this year at the Link Gallery in Fish Creek.

Dates are Thursday, June 11th through Monday, August 3rd. More info soon.....

2009 General Meeting Information SAVE THE DATES!

Meetings are the fourth Monday of each month, April through October.

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| April 27 th | a critique |
| May 25 th | Potluck |
| June 22 nd | David Franke |
| July 27 th | Suzanne Rose |
| August 24 th | Cottage Row Framers |
| September 28 th | Julie Bresnahan |

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

You should have received a membership packet in the mail in December, with a letter bringing you up-to-date on League news and a membership form to return. In order to be included in the directory, your dues need to be

paid by March 31, 2009. If you did not receive your membership packet, you can find it at www.doorcountyartleague.org or contact Membership Chairperson Jeanne Whildin at auntij@charter.net or 920-823-2532.

FEBRUARY MEETING GAVE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON A UNIQUE FUNDRAISER

Members Doug and Barbara Henderson brought 5 inch square glass tiles to the February 23rd Potluck at the Gibraltar Fire Department meeting room in Fish Creek. After the meal and social hour, during which members caught up with each other after this long, cold, snowy winter, each attendee worked on a "piece" for a glass "quilt" that will be raffled off at the 23rd Annual Juried Exhibit and Master's Presentation opening reception on Sunday June 14th, at the Link Gallery. The Hendersons will assemble the "quilt" for hanging. The "quilt" will be unveiled at the opening of the Gallery of the Door

County Art League in mid-May and then moved to the Link Gallery for the opening of the Juried Exhibit, where it will be raffled off. Tickets will be available for sale at the DCAL gallery and, also, at the Link opening. The winner, if not in attendance when the "quilt" is raffled off, will have to pick it up at the Gallery of the Door County Art League during business hours. DCAL thanks Doug and Barbara profusely for generously offering their time and talent to help with this unique fundraiser.



TRATTORIA DAL SANTO OPPORTUNITY

As you can see from the previous article, the Juried Exhibit is moving to the Link Gallery this year. DCAL thanks Mike and Tami Dal Santo for their generous use of Trattoria Dal Santo as the gallery space for the Sprummer Show, the Juried Exhibit, and the Winter Exhibit. The Dal

Santos are offering interested members the opportunity to display Door County themed works in their restaurant/gallery on a semi-permanent basis. You will deal with Dal Santo directly. If interested, please contact Randy Rasmussen for additional information.

INTERVIEW WITH WATERCOLORIST TONY COUCH



Randall Rasmussen

Tony Couch received a BA degree in Art from the University of Tampa, then did further work at Pratt Institute in New York while an artist for Associated Press. His book,

“WATERCOLOR: You Can Do It!” is

the textbook in several college art departments. He now conducts 5-day watercolor painting seminars in the U.S. and abroad. His website is www.tonymcouch.com.

1. *Mr. Couch, when and how did you develop your love of art? Grade school, high school?*

I had always liked to draw, ever since I can remember. I almost flunked the 4th grade, I remember, because I spent too much time drawing cartoons and not enough studying. By high school I had decided I would be a famous comic strip cartoonist like Al Capp (Lil’ Abner) or Milt Caniff (Terry & the Pirates and Steve Canyon), and drew caricatures of the senior class for the high school year book.

Not knowing how to become a “famous cartoonist” but knowing I needed more training, I entered the only art school I could afford, which was the U of Tampa (FL) to major in art. I graduated 4 years later but learned little useful about art.

As it turned out, the Korean War had started the summer before and upon graduation, being a single male, I had a choice of joining one of the services or being drafted – so I joined the Navy.

In the Navy I was a cartoonist for a base paper, did a few sports cartoons for the San Diego Union, a comic strip for NAVY TIMES, and went to flight school. I was released from active duty about 5 years later with a “GI Bill,” which would pay for any school I wanted to attend. Still pursuing

my dream of being a famous cartoonist without knowing how to go about it, I thought the answer was more schooling and I picked Pratt Institute in New York.

The first thing I found out is this GI Bill I had only paid for tuition and books – not room or board. So to make it work I enrolled in the night school and worked during the day as a cartoonist and illustrator – first for Associated Press, then as a freelancer. The next thing I learned is there was no cartoonist school at Pratt. So I enrolled in the closest thing to it: Illustration.

Eventually in the Illustration course we students attended one semester each in several mediums as an introduction to them so that we might select one in which to work. One was watercolor, which I had never seen before, and which was being taught by one Edgar A. Whitney, who during the day was an art director at McCann Erickson Ad Agency in Manhattan.

I was immediately taken to the medium and the instructor, who made design (also new to me) come to life while he demonstrated watercolor.

At the same time I was learning something else new on the street during the day: Being an artist is a good way to starve to death, and I was qualified to apply as a pilot at an airline since I had learned to fly in the Navy. Since flying promised a more financially secure arrangement, I chucked the books and went to work for an airline.

However, I always remembered that watercolor and the instructor, so after a few years I broke out my painting equipment again and tried my hand at it. It was a disaster and I knew I needed help. So I looked up my old instructor Ed Whitney, who by now had resigned at McCann Erickson and was touring the country teaching watercolor workshops. I joined the first workshop I could get to and could see this was something I could do while flying for the airline.

So I went back to Ed's workshops at least once a year for several years, painting steadily in between. Eventually I also did a few workshops and upon retiring from the airline did the workshops full-time.



2. *As your art skills were developing, what artist influenced you? How is their influence reflected in your current work?*

The first artists to influence me were cartoonists Al Capp and Milt Caniff (remember in the beginning I was going to be a cartoonist), then besides Ed Whitney there was Robert E. Wood, Milford Zorne and Zoltan Szabo – all of whose workshops I attended. I've also read – have been influenced by – books by Rex Brandt, John Pike and Ted Kautzky. I hope you can see some evidence of this in my paintings.

3. *Was your development as an artist incremental, or was there "a moment" when you felt like "I've got it!"?*

My development as an artist has been "incremental" – as I imagine it has been for every artist – or any skill, for that matter. No "epiphanies," just slow, plodding work. "Tweaking," another artist calls it. I'm still learning, and will until the day they put me away in a pine box. It's why many say "art is not a destination – rather it's a 'journey.'"

4. *When did watercolor become your medium of choice?*

When I first saw it; see number 1.

5. *How has your background as an illustrator helped or hindered you as a fine artist?*

I think it's helped a lot – in fact, I've noticed many accomplished artists we read about have had some kind of a commercial background. After all, it's all basically the same thing: drawing and design, and commercial work makes one do a lot of it, every day.

6. *Your book, "You Can Do It!" is in my opinion, one of the two best instructional books on watercolor. (The other is Tony van Hassalt's "Water Color Fix It"). It might be the best art instruction book I have seen. The book is now in its 5th publishing. When you wrote the book did you know you had a "blockbuster?"*

First many thanks for the kind words for the book, "WATERCOLOR, You Can Do It!" As far as I know it's still North Light's all time best-selling art book. No, I had no idea it was anything exceptional as I wrote it; I was concentrating upon putting in everything I knew about the subject, as clearly and simply as possible. I had seen other books that were mere showcases of the artist's work or exercises in complex vocabulary and I was determined that mine wasn't going to be one of those. I wanted it to be a useful, straight-forward, easily understood manual.

Incidentally, it's now out of print, as are the other two books I've written, but I found out from Tony van Hasselt I can get it reprinted, so it's now in my own "second" reprinting and I've got a garage full of them that I sell at near the original price.

7. *In the book you describe leaving painting for 6 years. What happened?*

I had entered a local mall art show, won nothing and noticed where the ribbons went. First place went to a square of plywood with a broom and a frame glued to it, all painted white and titled "How to Paint a Broom." I was new at the game and decided if this is what the "experts" think good art is, then I'm in the wrong place. Now, much wiser, I see this is unfortunately part of the scene and one must see through it. As it turns out I didn't hurt anyone but myself.

Pratt Institute has a good motto: “Be true to your work, and your work will be true to you.” Clowns and charlatans are everywhere and always will be; the only thing that makes sense for the serious artist is to concentrate on good, honest work and ignore the occasional yapping dogs as you pass.

8. *Do you think, based on your many years of teaching, artists are born, or made with instruction, or a combination?*

There is a word often used when describing an artist, called “talent.” It doesn’t exist. The only thing that exists in this area is aptitude. All of us have various aptitudes in various areas – some of it in “art” or “painting.”

It doesn’t mean one with greater aptitude for art will be the greater artist; only that this artist will pick up the skill faster than one with less aptitude. What makes the difference is determination. The artist with less aptitude will always pass the one with greater aptitude if the one with less works longer and harder than the one with more.

I think great artists – like great golfers, pianists or scientists – are not born that way, but taught.

9. *I, based on observation, think great artists such as yourself, actually see things differently than the people that “make mud.” The average painter does not see shape and value. Do you agree?*

There could be much in what you say, considering the “average” artist is not terribly experienced in the craft. Value is a tough one for most artists; many not grasping it until very experienced – some not even then.

Shape is not so hard to understand, but it seems to take awhile for many to finally see objects as shapes, rather than things.

10. *You do seminars in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin; have you ever been to Door County, the “Cape Cod” of the Midwest?*

I’ve often heard of “Door County,” but have never been there.

The DCAL newsletter is published three or four times each year as a service to our members who don’t use the internet. Email alerts are sent for upcoming events and exhibition deadlines in accordance with arts organization practices nationwide. Submissions to the Newsletter should be made to JoAnne Rosenfeld, preferably by email at luvbastons@gmail.com.

As you can see by the dense text in this newsletter, submission of pictures or other

illustrative materials would be most welcome! Please send images at reduced file size to JoAnne Rosenfeld.

Please add Door County Art League, webmaster@doorcountyartleague.org, to your address book to assure that you receive e-mail messages. Although nothing has been sent in quite awhile, if you are not receiving email announcements from DCAL, please contact webmaster Mark Allen at mallen@dcwis.com.



Door County Art League

P.O. Box 405
Fish Creek, WI 54212