

Minutes of the 1/25/25 Annual Members Meeting

Wallkill River Center for the Arts
232 Ward Street
Montgomery, NY 12549

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm by Maureen Crush, Chair. There was a call for Ballots and Proxies with any outstanding Ballots or Proxies to be emailed to: wrsannualmeeting@gmail.com).

Quorum: With 211 Members as of December 31, 2024 the number needed for a quorum is 32. Quorum was confirmed with 80 members attending.

Introduction of Board of Directors: Maureen Crush, Chair; Gloria Bonelli, President; Judi Silvano, Vice President, Louise Pedrick, Secretary; Catherine Lagoudakis, Treasurer; Shane Daley, Assistant Treasurer. Julie Saltzberg was thanked for her service as a Board member during the year and her resignation had been accepted by the Board.

There was announcement that the School is seeking new Board Members and also Volunteers.

Introduction of Staff: Ursula Morgan, Interim Executive Director and Nick Riker, Executive Assistant. Maureen thanked them for their hard work and enthusiasm. Sarah Fortner Pierson who served as Executive Director for most of 2024 was recognized and thanked for her help in this transition.

Welcome Members: Maureen welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending. She stated that the members have stayed strong in supporting the school and noted there have been great Volunteers this past year. Maureen welcomed people to step up and that whatever help someone can provide will be very welcomed. Maureen thanked the teachers and expressed gratitude to the Board.

Announcements:

- Maureen requested that anyone attending who had not yet turned their Ballot in to please do so.

Notice of Meeting: Penny made a motion to waive the reading of the Notice. Judi Silvano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from the 2024 Annual Member's Meeting: Maureen called for any corrections to last year's meeting minutes. There were none. Catherine Lagoudakis made a motion to accept the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes. Doug seconded and motion was passed unanimously.

Highlights from Annual Reports:

Chairwoman Report. Maureen acknowledged the work of the Board and the Committee Chairs and all who volunteered. She noted the written reports were previously provided in the Annual Meeting Packet. A computer power point presentation with the Report Highlights was presented.

Executive Director Report. Ursula noted the incredible help and assistance of Sarah Fortner Pierson in supporting the transition as well as Nick Riker whose institutional memory was invaluable. An overview report was presented by Ursula, noting particularly that WRCA had received 2 Arts Mid-Hudson Grants supporting the Arthur Patchett Memorial Music Series – one for performers and one for equipment (which would also be available for other needs of the Center). She also reported generally on the statistics of the exhibits and programs. Mention was made that WRCA also received a second NYSCA Grant which demonstrated recognition of the quality of the work being done with everyone's help and participation. She also added that the Committee Chairs were exceptional and brought great recognition to WRCA.

Treasurer Report. Catherine Lagoudakis reviewed the financials and noted the Income was within 79% of the Budget and 88% of the Expenses. She noted WRCA finished the year in the black and

thanked everyone for their efforts to make that happen. Catherine then presented the Proposed Budget to the Members.

Insurance Committee Report. Louise Pedrick was unavailable due to a death in her family, and Ursula provided the Insurance Report noting we paid a total of \$4,019 in 2024 which was an increase of \$419 over the year before.

School Report. Ursula gave the report. There were 126 classes representing 1,891 class hours. There were also significant community programs offered such as Slow Stitch and the popular Senior Drop-In, and many more. Enrollment numbers increased which is a nice post-pandemic improvement to see.

Teacher's Committee Report. Presented by Ursula who noted the committee would be meeting in February and would discuss policies and processes and new ideas for classes.

Curating Committee Report. Presented by William Noonan. Billy went through the wonderful exhibits that had been held in the galleries and highlighted the various artists and contributions to our increasing recognition. He highlighted the Hallway Shows for members as a unique opportunity for members to show their work and noted sales of art were frequent from the Hallway exhibit. He encouraged members who were not at the artist level membership to consider this opportunity. He also noted our national show that called attention to WRCA as well as brought in new and exciting artist to showcase. Billy also reported that the calendar for the upcoming year was nearly complete as well.

Gallery Report. Ursula gave the report stating there were 33 Exhibits with 10 solo, 7 groups, 12 hallway and 3 off site. She noted that over \$10,000 of art works were sold with many of those by WRCA members whether from the Hallway shows or as exhibiting artists. She encouraged artists to ask questions about exhibiting.

Hudson Valley Plein Air Festival Report. Presented by Ursula who noted it was the 9th HVPAF and that there were 7 varied painting locations at which nearly every location sponsored awards for the participating artists. She also noted next year would be the 10th HVPAF and that a committee would be forming and suggested members consider volunteering and showing support.

Gallery. Ursula gave a brief report on gallery financials with income at \$14,248 and expenses at \$20,618, noting that the gallery work was labor intensive and used significant staff time.

Arthur Patchett Memorial Music Series. Judi Silvano gave the report noting 4 concerts were held with combinations of dance, painting and other performances in a variety of unique locations. She thanked all of the supporters of the series, noting that there was minimal budget, and the concerts were free (donation requested). She thanked all on the Board and volunteers who attended and gave their time to make the series a success. The next years concerts are in the works.

Advertising and Marketing Report. Shane Daley presented the report noting the completion of the switch over of all of the social media to the new Center for the Arts name. Details on the various social media platforms were given with increases being noted in all categories. See the report for details.

Fundraising Committee Report. Maureen went over the various fundraising events that were held. A detailed list of the fundraisers and donations was provided.

Capital Campaign. Maureen reminded members that the funds raised from the Capital Campaign were still on deposit and growing at the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan and that both Sarah and Gloria had spent time visiting various potential locations, but none was yet identified as right for our next home. She noted we were still welcome and supported by the Devitt family in the current space and were grateful. Maureen thanked Sarah for being willing to continue on with the Capital Campaign Committee and promised updates if there were changes.

Volunteers Committee Report. Gloria discussed the importance of volunteers and the work that they do for the School. She thanked our volunteers for all of their hard work.

In Memorium. Gloria spoke to the members about various of our members and supporters who had passed in the prior year and a page with their information was shown at the meeting. She noted George Hayes who was an original member and Gene Bove who was a Co-Founder of WRCA more than 20 years ago. Penny Thelman also made remarks about Gene's contributions to WRCA. Gloria also mentioned the passing of Ed Devitt, who was a great supporter. She also noted Lisa Stein who was able to have an exhibit that was attended by family and friends before her passing. Peter Kopher, a

photographer, was described as always bringing his works to the Hallway shows and Frank Shuback who created his art with various found and donated objects. Several members noted their fond memories in the chat.

Motion to approve Reports made by Doug, 2nd by Shane Daley and unanimously passed.
Motion to approve Budget made by Doug, 2nd by Lisa O'Gorman and unanimously passed.

Election:

- **Appointment of Inspectors of Election.** Upon motion made by Penny Thelman, 2nd by Judi Silvano, the appointment of Ursula Morgan, Interim Executive Director and Nicole Riker, Executive Assistant as inspectors was unanimously approved.
- **Introduction of Candidates:**
 - Lisa O'Gorman
- **Call for Nominations from the floor:** Penny nominated Gloria Bonelli, Louise Pedrick and Shane Daley for a 3 year term; 2nd by Billy Noonan.
- **Candidate Statements:** Lisa O'Gorman provided insight on her past long involvement with WRCA and how she felt she could do more that would benefit by serving on the Board.
- **Report on Election Results:** Catherine Lagoudakis acted as Assistant Secretary and cast the votes for the appointment of Lisa O'Gorman. She then cast the votes for the reappointment of Gloria Bonelli, Louise Pedrick and Shane Daley. All candidates were elected with 59 votes.

Old Business: There were no items listed as New Business from last year's meeting.

New Business: Maureen went over how to use the Chat Box to bring up any items while Ursula reviewed upcoming events. There were no items raised by members as New Business items other than a warm welcome to Lisa and thanks to Gloria, Shane and Louise for serving again.

Thank you and Appreciation. The meeting slide show ended with a Thank you to the Board Members, Committee Members and the Volunteers and Supporters. The event Sponsors were given special thanks. See the Report for these lists. Members responded with notes of appreciation for the Meeting, the Board, the volunteers and supporters.

Adjournment: Catherine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Susan Baldwin. All were in favor and motion was passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Crush who acted as Secretary for the meeting.