

COLLAGE



APRIL-JUNE 2023

A message from our President

To My Fellow Artists: **NEW OFFICERS, BY-LAWS AND POLICIES!!!**

I am writing to tell you about some very important and exciting information regarding the future of CWS.

First, I am so very happy to announce that I have, in the nick of time, found a very capable person to take on the Presidency next year. CWS will live on! Hooray! Richard Chacon, who was an understudy to be next year's Treasurer, has accepted the position of President. Then, hooray for Bonnie Jones who has agreed to take on the position of Treasurer next year. So, we have a fully functioning Board. I will write more about them in a separate column in this Collage

Second, and of equal importance, I need to talk to you about the **upcoming ballot** you will be receiving soon. The ballot will contain the new Board members for you to confirm. However, there are two most important things you need to vote for and that I and the Board unanimously hope you will vote Yes and confirm these changes.

The first of these changes relates to **Policies**. As our policies stand now, if the Board wants to change a policy, it has to go to the whole membership for a vote. This is highly cumbersome, time consuming and time wasting, and thus very difficult to do, especially in a timely fashion. Most societies don't even have policies, only bylaws which allow very agile changes to happen as long as they are within the Bylaws. You vote to have a Board to make everyday decisions to run the Society, so the Board should be able to make changes as timely and necessary as needed. The Board encourages you to vote Yes on allowing the Board to make policy changes with a minimum 2/3rds vote without having a total membership vote. Too many of our policies are way out of date, no longer relevant, cumbersome, and also with declining volunteers, unable to fulfill. We need to just make these changes, notify you of what we have done and why. The changes will still all be within the authority granted by the Bylaws.

The second of these changes relates to **Membership**. Because of slowly declining membership enrollment and the aging of our core membership, our revenue is down while all costs are going up! Our older membership demographics are leading to a general decline in entering shows, and volunteering for a lot of things that we need to keep CWS running. Now that we have a Board for next year to keep CWS open, we need more members for general revenue and exhibit entry revenue. The Board has unanimously agreed to **open CWS membership** and all that entails, to anyone over 18 in any of the 50 states. The hope is that we will gain new members, more young members, gain needed revenue, and put on better exhibits. This will not happen overnight as it takes time to get the word out. But there was a woman in the last workshop who came from South Dakota, who would dearly love to be a member. There is nothing happening in the Dakotas for watermedia artists. Colorado is the closest Society. With our current show, we could have hung 80 to 100 paintings, but we only had 54 people enter. To try and fill the smaller gallery of the two spaces available to us,

our juror picked 52 paintings. Fortunately, we were not charged rent for the space. If we had been charged, we probably would have had to cancel the show due to lack of entry money. We don't always get free space. As it was, we didn't have enough revenue to give out more award money which we want to do, as more entries are deserving of them.

So please check the website for the coming ballot and **VOTE**. If we don't receive a quorum for voting, the changes are a moot point.

Thank you to all of you for your support these last 2 and 2/3rds years of my Presidency. I have enjoyed keeping the train on the track, have really appreciated my talented and dedicated Board, love CWS, am very glad it is continuing, and signing off on my last "Letter From the President" in Collage!

Beatrice Trautman

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Upcoming Meeting Programs, Shows and Workshops Programs

April 18: Stamp Making and Application with Susan Schmitt

May 16: Watercolor Demonstration by Richie Vios

Workshops

In September, Matthew Bird will present his techniques

Sign up begins soon.

Shows

The **Wild Side Show** will continue through May 15 and artists will pick up the one or two unsold pieces on Tuesday May 16 from 10 until noon. Call in advance to make arrangements to be allowed in.

The **CWS State Show** will start in September at the Gilpin Arts Association Gallery in Central City. There will be a Call for Entries and a delivery and opening date followed by the end of the show.

The **CWS Member's Show** will be held in the Lakewood Cultural Center at the end of this year.

Exciting News from the President!

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To my Fellow Artists I am very happy to announce that *I have recruited a President to follow my term!* I had recruited Richard Chacon to be next year's Treasurer and put him on the Board to follow Bobbie Ruh. Richard said he didn't feel ready to be President when I first asked him last summer. But being on the Board for the whole year, he has become knowledgeable. He agreed to accept the Presidency and he will be terrific. Then with the Treasurer's position open, I asked Bonnie Jones if she would take that position as she has been a long time volunteer and used to run her own business. She accepted! So we have a fully functioning Board!!!

Richard, a transplanted Californian with a degree in Social Ecology from UC Irvine, came to watercolor 25 years ago doing art classes with his 2 young kids for fun. He found he loved creating art. He continued his art quest through the Bemis Art School in Colorado Springs, the Denver Art Student's League, CWS workshops, and local artists. A member since 2016, he is grateful to CWS for the mentoring we do, and since he has recently retired from 31 years at Lockheed Martin, he felt he had the time to give back to CWS. Richard and his husband, Doug, live in Castle Rock, have 4 sons between them and 3 grandchildren. He is excited to be our new leader!

Bonnie is a long time member of CWS and has served in various volunteer positions over the years. We know her as Bonnie, but professionally she is known by her given name of Bronwen. She has participated in many workshops by nationally known artists, and has been entering and getting into national shows, and winning awards as her work continues to progress over the years. She has recently retired from running her own business in sales for JR Jones Assoc. So she knows something about finances and balance sheets. She will be a great Treasurer.

A huge thank you to these two people for stepping up to keep CWS going and to all the current Board members who are staying on the Board. They are a dedicated, knowledgeable, and loyal group.

Beatrice Trautman

CWS Meeting Tuesday April 18

Don't miss Susan Shmitt doing stamping techniques!!!

She'll carve a stamp and exhibit a bundle of stamps that can be shared with everyone. Then she'll show her method for using them. She will bring a full size print of a Quilted Woman painting that should allow everyone to get close and see how she uses stamps and transition from square to square. She'll also show examples of using the stamps in her other work.

Continued on next page...

The evolution of Schmitt's work over time, from a more realist approach to one more experimental, is defined by visible brush strokes, a focus on movement and light, and a more impressionistic nature. Using hand carved stamps, Susan embellishes her paintings with unique patterns and color that are always identifiably her work.

Her most current series include ***Quilted Women*** (images of women that portray emotions that are uniquely feminine and iconic, and part of her own history), ***Petals*** (abstracted bouquets of flowers) and ***Women I Might Have Known*** (a series of paintings and stories of women she has known and admired). Ultimately, she strives for unusual ways to observe the image and push the boundaries of her media. Selected paintings from all of these series are represented as greeting cards offered through her company, **Susan Schmitt Art**.

April 18, 2023. 7pm

First Plymouth Church, 3501 S. Colorado Boulevard, Englewood, CO.



Dues Reminder: This is a friendly reminder that your CWS membership is due soon for 2023-2024. Annual dues are \$45. Please renew your membership to CWS before June 1, 2023. You can renew on the CWS website (<http://www.coloradowatercolorsociety.org>) or if you prefer you can send a check made out to CWS in the amount of \$45 with "Membership 2023-24" in the memo line.

Elaine Campbell, 11624 Elk Head Range Road, Littleton, CO 80127

If you have had a change of address, website, phone number, or email address please update your records on the CWS website or email them to: CWSmembershipdirector@gmail.com

Announcing New members:

Nora Larimer

Kimberly A. Coie

Cindy Cole

Johnny Less

Andrea Garr

Cindy Butterfield

Ann Mauer



MEMBER PROFILES: ELAINE CAMPBELL, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

I studied art in college and graduated with an Art Education degree focusing on printmaking. I was also introduced to the wonderful world of watercolor. After teaching High School for a couple years, and starting a family, I enjoyed drawing and painting with my children, and taught out of our home and at the community college. When our youngest was in 5th grade I went back to teaching art in Elementary School. I liked being taller than the students! Many summers were enjoyed as one of the program teachers in the Foothills Art Center's children's summer program. I love art and children, so it was fun to combine them.

By the way, I joined CWS in 1990's when you needed a sponsor and your work was critiqued by the board just to join-- little nerve racking! It's been a joy to serve in different capacities with CWS- to work with amazing boards, to meet professional jurors and instructors, to help beginning watercolorists, and to have opportunities to grow as an artist myself. Not to mention the good friends I've been able to meet. Serving as the Membership chair the last couple of years has been wonderful. (Yes, hours and effort some months more than others). CWS is a great organization for supporting each other in our artistic endeavors. I've always felt we should give back when we're able. My goals as an artist are to "loosen up". Accept mistakes and move on! Realize that perfection may not happen in the majority of my work. Take a risk and enter that show. And laugh at the accidents, it's just paper.



First Place "Canned Groove"
Andrew Ferdig



Chuck Danford Award "Deep Dive"
Randy Hale



Second Place "Majestic"
Linda Renaud



Third Place "Yadayadaya"
Jeremy Jones



Honorable Mention "Tetakawi Tango"
Sandy Day-Selbert



The people who put the show together

Playing at the Peoples Building until May 16
WINNERS OF THE CWS "ON THE WILD SIDE" SHOW

Scenes from the Kathleen Conover Workshop





Busy artists at the Kathleen conover workshop April 2023



January 2023

1. President Beatrice Trautman is actively looking for a new candidate for CWS President.
2. Vice President Carol Newsom has the following programs set:
3. February: Dan Marshall demonstrating landscape painting
March: Becky Silver Critique.
April: Richie Vios demo for April
4. Kathy Cranmer reported: "Wild Side" show will receive entries thru February 25 and runs April 3 to May 16.
5. Parliamentarian: Jay Breese and President Bea Trautman are reviewing the CWS policies which are out of date.
6. Workshop Director Sandy Day-Selbert announced the upcoming Kathleen Conover Workshop will be at Amazing Grace, Church 3325 S. Federal Blvd.
7. Other News: name tags will now cost \$15 due to delivery charges. Directories for 2024 will be online as a printable PDF and the Memorial Fund will be renamed the Scholarship Awards Fund.

February 2023

1. VP Report by Carol, who chaired the meeting: Becky Silver will be doing critique in March and in April Susan Schmitt is doing a demo. In May Richie Vios is doing a demo. Pam Hake will do a demo in June.

2.0 Treasurer: (See report). Total gross income was \$4,882. After expenses, January ended with a net income of \$3669. A Fraudulent charge of \$97.96 was refunded. A \$1,150 balance was left in the award fund. Membership badges need to be purchased in larger numbers to reduce shipping costs.

3.0 Parliamentarian: Discussion of Policy Changes (Jay Breese Study)

The intention is to have a preliminary agreement for recommended changes tonight that can be sent to members in time for their input.

In some ways we aren't required to have policies although bylaws tend to be a legal requirement. Policies have been helpful at the time, but procedures change and the entire membership has had to be involved in making many policy changes. This is cumbersome and time consuming.

*The biggest policy change would be to allow the board to make policy changes instead of the membership. Also, if a policy is extremely difficult to follow in a particular situation, the board could permit it to not be followed by a 2/3 vote of the board. **Many other changes are proposed that would eliminate the duty to do things that haven't been done for years, to update language, and to allow voting on all issues electronically. Some of the other proposed changes include:***

- a. *Shorten the Oath of Office*
- b. *Eliminate the requirement that Directors maintain notebooks*
- c. *Allow the Board to add directorships when needed and allow it to remove directorships no longer necessary.*
- d. *The Treasurer is to report monthly to the board, sending out a draft prior to the Board meeting.*
- e. *The Jury Selection Committee can be from 1 to 3 members.*
- f. *Board Meetings may be run by Robert's Rules of Order.*
- g. *The Juror selection committee can be one to three members.*
- h. *The Exhibition Director does need not assist WFWS in selecting a juror.*
- i. *The President may appoint chairpersons and committees as needed.*
- j. *On the death of a member, \$25 will be sent to the Scholarship Awards fund.*
- k. *Collage "Member Profiles" candidates need to be approved by the Board.*
- l. *As an incentive for Board members, up to 2 Board members selected, by the President, may attend, but not participate, in a workshop without cost.*
- m. *Many other small changes in language will be made.*

Jeremy moved and Richard seconded approval of the revised Policies.

All of the policy changes will be sent out to the membership for review and the members will be notified of these proposed changes and will have an opportunity to comment. They will have an opportunity to comment and will be able to vote on the Proposed changes at or before the May meeting.

March 2023

- 1.a. President Beatrice Trautman is actively looking for **next president** and has contacted 25 members. Bea will graciously continue as president until September.
- 1. Without a new president, CWS will terminate. (see *article about new President!*).
- 1.b It was discussed and voted unanimously to allow more incentives for CWS President including attending one workshop for free, and no dues during the years of service.
- 1.c. The Board discussed and voted unanimously to open CWS membership nationally. This would Open shows to national members, bringing more submissions and increased revenue for shows.
- 2. Vice President Carol Newsom, vice president set the next CWS Programs:
 - April: Susan Schmidt on the making of stamps for printing.
 - May: Richie Vios will demonstrate his approach to painting.
- 3. Parliamentarian Jay Breese and President are reviewing CWS policies which are out of date.
- 4. Other News: name tags will now cost \$15 due to delivery charges. Directories for 2024 will be **online** and will be printable.

Remembering Robert (Bob) Sims

Robert (Bob) Sims was a twenty-year member of the Colorado Watercolor Society. His professional career had been as a teacher and administrator with the Denver Public Schools. During that time, he was also a part time cartoonist, getting his cartoons published in prestigious magazines. It was upon his retirement from the schools that he began pursuing his skills as a watercolorist, studying with Jackie MacFarland, Carla O'Connor, John Salminen, and Skip Lawrence. He also became a member of The Painted Toes. His work was exhibited through the CWS shows and Foothills Art Center. Bob's watercolors were nearly always figurative and always exhibited the elegant line work he'd perfected as a cartoonist. They also always sparkled with his wry sense of humor.