

MINUTES

NWWS Board of Directors Meeting
Weds. October 8, 2025
Zoom Video Conference

1 p.m. Call to Order

Attending: Shilpa Bahdsalve, Deborah Roskopf, Molly Murrah, Mary Schumacher, Kay Seale, Peggy Meyers, Linda Sewerker, Shirley Jordan, Karen Robinette, Sarah Love, Kristi Dyson, Roger Baker, Conny Spann

Approval of September 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

A motion by Sarah Love and seconded by Molly Murrah, to approve the September minutes was approved by all.

President's Report - Debbie Roskopf

- **Thanks** to those who have sent their responsibilities lists and Deb will send a reminder to those who have not yet done so.
- **Financial Forecast:**
 - We are researching bookkeeping services for nonprofits for both NWWS and the Foundation.
 - With 12 months information for 2024 and 2025 ytd figures now in hand, we are increasingly confident that NWWS is doing well.
- **WSST sales tax implementation** - We are now collecting sales tax on WI and regular WS sales, without our Treasurer having to calculate and report and pay these. Hurrah!
- **Membership development** - Sue Dehmlow and Nancy Jenkins respond to new members and we have a candidate to become a member development volunteer. More to come.
- **Open Exhibit:** Molly's catalog is stunning! The exhibit is strong. Deb created and sent a fillable form to all accepted artists to supply additional info about themselves and their paintings. We have space to present this information on the walls next to each painting, rather than compile a Bio Book, so this should be more informative to gallery visitors.

Treasurer's Report - Shirley Jordan

In addition to her detailed spreadsheet, Shirley shared the following top line numbers:

\$12,620.60 Key Bank Checking

\$42,233.16 Savings

\$34,294.83 Certificate of Deposit

\$89,148.59 Total

Discussion:

Molly confirmed with Shirley that paying WI artists quarterly is easy and working well.

Molly offered an update on Pablo Reuben's workshop, with now 30 workshop registrants, noting that she gets new registrants after each of Debbie's email promotions.

Molly also requests Debbie replace the workshop person who backed out.

Debbie noted that the Foundation has a bright future with four new board members - Cathe Gill, Alex Hollman, Kat Parsons and Elizabeth Houser and that Peggy W will step back in to the Presidency, replacing Mike Thoreson, as soon as a new Secretary is secured. Linda Sewerker

added context about how the Scholarship and Art For Kids programs will work and how needed the AFK grants are, since budgets are being cut for arts education.

Corresponding Secretary - Conny Spann

Sent the following condolence letter to Ann Breckon's family:

We were deeply saddened to learn of Ann's passing. Not only was she a remarkable artist but also a cherished friend whose legacy within the Northwest Watercolor Society is profound. Her unwavering dedication to the Northwest Watercolor Society and its foundation left an indelible mark that will continue to inspire generations.

In recognition of her remarkable contributions and to honor her legacy, a donation of \$500 has been made to the Ann Breckon Scholarship Fund at the Northwest Watercolor Foundation.

*With heartfelt sympathy,
Conny Spann, Correspondence Secretary
On behalf of the NWWWS Board*

Agenda Section A: Items requiring Board input and/or decisions:

No section A issues were addressed.

New Business

Mary Shassow Schumacher - Open Exhibit:

Mary advised the gallery is excellent and beautiful and that a piano is available.

Molly will ask Minh Rosen to play.

Deb noted that the gallery has a sound system as a Plan B for recorded music.

Mary advised that parking is tight so think about carpooling.

Deb will check about an elevator.

Peg Willett is securing one member to help Mary with food service and clean up.

(Please see PW's volunteer report in Section B, below, asking how many other volunteers for art intake, exhibit installation and pick up after the exhibit.)

Linda asked whether Plein Air could expand to other areas.

Discussion noted the following: An organizer for South Sound and other locations would be wonderful, although we do not have a current plan to seek a volunteer for that role.

Member Connect might be a good resource. Deb will mention Member Connect at next General Meeting. Urban Sketchers also lists groups who draw and paint together in various locations.

Shilpa asked Molly to send her any new contracts and the catalog PDF.

Adjournment: 1:45 p.m.

Agenda Section B: Committee Reports/Updates to keep everyone informed:

Data Manager - Shilpa Bhadsalve

1. I have attached the monthly report for September.
2. No lapses in signature membership.
3. We seem to have slightly shrinking membership, but I can comment more clearly at the end of the year.
4. Need to check why Shirley and I sometimes do not get the new member notifications.
5. Also wondering if a guest has been using the website for quite some time as a guest; has signed up for events like workshop international etc, and, at a time when they do become members, I wonder if they see the volunteer form.
6. Also, I had sent Deborah, my bullet point list of my responsibilities.

EXHIBITIONS:

International Open Exhibition 2025 - Exhibition team updates:

Award Event Catering - Mary Schumaker

I visited the Yuan Ru Gallery this last week. I was delighted to see that the gallery is a lovely space for our show and the show reception. The gallery is spacious and well lit with excellent lighting and spacious windows with beautiful views of the woods nearby.

Final decisions are being made on the menu for both simplicity and elegance. The black, white, and red concept will fit beautifully into the gallery space. All food will be cold or room temperature and nibble sized, not a lunch presentation.

I noticed that there is a piano in the gallery. The gallery owner was not present at the time I visited, but perhaps someone on the board knows of a musician within the club that might provide music for the event. Just a thought.

Debbie, please confirm that flowers and napkins will be provided and at the gallery before reception time.

I would strongly recommend car pooling to the event as spaces are somewhat limited . Also , there is underground parking but no elevators.

Any questions are welcome, please just call or e mail.

FOUNDATION (NWWF) - Peggy Willett

1. Art For Kids: Linda Sewerker reports: I have contacted Kat Parsons and also. this year's recipients to ensure grant awardees send pictures. I will produce a 2025 slide show and then in January Kat officially takes the reins. She can also begin vetting last Fall's applicants as there is \$800 left from our \$2600 budget. Another thing is I would like the web page master to remove my phone and email on the Art for Kids Application. I see that Kat has her personal email in there but my information is also on the web and it should not be that way.

Please note that Edyte Parsons prefers using her middle name, “Kat” in her role as Art For Kids lead with NWWF. Welcome, Kat!

2. Scholarship: The 2026 Scholarship team met on 10/1 to organize the schedule and plans to contact PNW college and university level art programs in the coming weeks to let them know the entry deadline is March 30, 2026 and that \$3,500 will again be awarded to one or more outstanding art students.

Catherine Gill leads the Scholarship team. Alex Hollman and Elizabeth Houser have joined the Foundation board. Welcome to all the new Foundation board members!

Charlene Burley and Linda Sewerker are also supporting the Scholarship team as they’ve recently served as jurors. Mike Thoreson and Deb Roskopf are advisors. We plan to loop in Peggy Meyers to help the team learn the online application and judging process that she so graciously managed for NWWF last spring when Ann Breckon was ill. And our fingers are crossed in hopes that Kay Seale may help us produce certificates for the winners next spring. It takes a village, folks!

3. Strengthening the Foundation Board: We are actively seeking co-chairs for each Foundation board member so all roles have an informed ‘second in command’ who can support the current leaders and step into their roles when and if needed.

We are seeking a second for Art For Kids, and a financially savvy volunteer to learn and take over the role of Treasury from Charlene Burley in the future. We also need a new Secretary as Peg Willett steps into the role of President so that Mike Thoreson can focus on his family and his health. By Washington State Nonprofit Guidelines the Presidency and Secretary roles cannot be held by the same person.

ACTION ITEM: If any NWWF board members are interested in also working with the Foundation in any of these capacities, please contact Peggy W.

Publicity - Sarah Love: Sept PR Report:

Open Exhibition

- Worked with Kay Seale to create ads for Frank Eber’s workshop. The ads will be boosted posts on Facebook and Instagram beginning 10/2 thru 10/9.
- Provided press release, image and info for Julie Hsieh of Yuan Ru Art Center

Social Media

- Wrote 25 posts with images for social media team to upload to Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Bluesky and LinkedIn.
- Topics covered: Workshops Intl, Open Exhibition, PaintOut, Frank Eber’s demo and workshop, Video Library, Daniel Smith, volunteer needed for AZR, Carla O’Connor’s studio/estate sale, Seattle plein air, member accomplishments and Ron Stocke demo.

Program - Sarah Hansen

The following artists have confirmed to demo for our general meetings as follows:

1. October: Ron Stocke
2. January: Michael Solovyev (Per Molly)
3. February: Scott Gelatly
4. March: Mike Kowalski (Per Molly)
5. April: Stephanie Bower (Note: Stephanie has had concerns with the contract with NWWWS; Molly and Debbie have re-written wording in the contract. Waiting to hear back from Stephanie)
6. May: Rene Eisenbart (confirmed as of last week)
7. June: Pam Wenger

At this time, I am waiting to hear back from Stephanie regarding the contract. All others have confirmed. Contracts, images, bios, etc. from artists are in progress.

Workshops International, Exhibition Artist Agreements, Open Catalog - Molly Murrah

Workshops *International*:

After much explanation and back and forth in emails, one of our approved WI instructors – Karen Mai – has dropped out. She just didn't feel comfortable planning that far ahead as she is "usually so busy around that time." To me, May 2026 – her time slot – is not that far ahead, but she thought it was. I contacted another approved artist, **Sebastien Thommen from Ireland**, to fill that spot and he is very happy to partner with us in this program for that date instead. He's a great watercolor artist and wonderful young man.

Pablo Ruben WI workshop – as of today, Friday the 3rd, 27 participants have registered.

Open and WW Exhibitions:

Waiting on final signed promissory agreements with the artists approved and sent the agreements. They are slow to come in for some reason.

Open Exhibition Catalog:

Catalog and mailing envelope files were sent to the printer on 10-3-25. Since there are no award winners announced in the catalog, it will just be mailed once it has been completed. All board members will get one in the mail. Thanks to Debbie, Eileen, Peggy M and Peggy W for their proofreading eyes!

The catalog cover art showcases the painting of Geoff Allen. I asked for his permission to use his art and he wrote this in his response to me:

I am just so honored that you picked my work out of all the wonderful paintings that are in your exhibition. That is the best part of the painting, my Mom's tea cup and I am sure that she would have really loved that as well. Thank you so much. You have my complete blessing on this. I will be sending my sister who lives in the area.

Workshops - Karen Robinette

The Frank Eber online watercolor workshop will be held October 21-22. I currently have 18 of 22 people registered for the workshop.

Volunteer Update - Peggy Willett

Open roles include:

- AZR lead - a creative opportunity to reimagine this program and take it forward

- 2026 Waterworks exhibition chair and Open exhibition chair
- Contract coordinator - someone with legal/paralegal experience to occasionally review changes we may need or make to artist contracts.
- Foundation - additional 'understudy' board members as noted above

We also need Open Exhibit Volunteers!

We'll need local members to help with Art Intake, Exhibit installation, Award event roles (welcome, food serving and cleanup duties tbc), and Art pick up when the show ends. Please let me know how many people are needed for each job and I'll round up local members to help. We have LOTS of members who want to do so! This is a GREAT opportunity to get more members engaged at an event.

Agenda Section C: Programs proceeding as planned, but no news to share.

Roger Baker - Public/Community Art

Eileen McMackin - Awards

Signature Exhibition - Kristi Galindo Dyson