Alamance Artisans Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023

21 in attendance

**Patrons Committee**: Jean described the letter that will be going out to all Artisans describing the concept of Patrons. For the first year of this endeavor, it is anticipated that we will have enough money to fund only the Extravaganza, but that in future years, Patron funds will enable us to take on additional initiatives. Extravaganza will always be the first priority. Jan will be sending out a letter to members to prompt them to contact last year’s sponsors.

**Membership renewal**: We now have the option to renew online, but you can still renew via mail. Jean reminded us that, after February 28, renewal fee will increase by $15.

**Website updates**: Anita reported that we are making excellent progress with website updates, thanks to the help of Abby Redding, a contracted web designer. Membership forms are online; you will be able to pay fees for Extravaganza participation online; we will have a page that lists our Patrons; photos on web will be updated. We are currently working on a grant application, the funds from which we will continue to pay our web designer (Abby).

**Extravaganza**: In Deb Barnett’s absence, Jean and Anita reported. Vailtree is closing its doors permanently in June. Deb has been busy investigating alternative venues. Some possibilities have not panned out, and others are still in process, including Elon University. Several in attendance supported this option. It was reported that Mebane Arts Center has no Saturdays available in October, but the Steering Committee will be exploring the possibility of dates in November as an option. Graham Mill has no Sundays, but another option that Steering Committee will discuss is having a one-day vs. two-day Extravaganza. If you have any suggestions for venues, please let Deb B know. All possibilities, including dates, duration, etc., are on the table for discussion. The Steering Committee will be entertaining all options, with member input, so contact Deb B or other committee members (Anita, Deb U, Carolyn Bell, Pat Scheible) with any suggestions.

**MailChimp**: Martha reported that we are looking into the possibility of upgrading our subscription, one benefit being that more people within Artisans will be able to utilize it. Upgrade options include increasing number of contact entries and number of emails that can be sent per month. Currently MailChimp is being used only for Artisan internal communication, but that may change in the future.

**Committees**: All committees are in need of members and reactivation post-COVID. Please consider joining or leading a standing committee.

**Empty Bowl Event**: Susan Kern provided a synopsis of this upcoming event, in which a number of our potter members are participating. The event, to be held April 27, 3-8pm, at Graham Mill, is a fundraiser. All proceeds will go to Southern Alamance Family Empowerment. The concept is that potters will donate bowls, which will be filled with donated food, and you get to eat and keep the bowl. For a donation of $10, you get a 1-lb bowl, and for $20, you get a 2-lb bowl. All potters are welcome to participate. Contact for Susan for more information.

**Member Shows**: Please let us know of any shows in which you are participating so they can be posted on the web page.

Our next meeting will be March 21, 7pm, at Alamance Arts.