Alamance Artisans Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023

14 in attendance

Co-chair Jean Kaplan called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

The first item on the agenda was member introductions with a brief summary by each member about why they joined Alamance Artisans. This is a great addition to our meetings with the goal of members getting to know each other better.

**Extravaganza updates:** Deb Barnett reported that our new venue will be the Inn at Elon, and the dates are October 28–29. She shared information about the venue along with photos. There is a wall of windows that let in a lot of light. In addition the space has a great deal more access to electricity.

**Patrons Committee**: Jan Holloman and her committee have prepared a letter/form regarding the concept of Patrons. This year all participants in the Extravaganza will be required to procure at least one Patron (formerly Sponsor), hopefully for at least $160. The goal of the Patron program is that in future years Patrons may become sustainers and that we will raise enough money in this way to fund additional endeavors, but the Extravaganza will always be the top priority. The Patron form is now online on the website. Please share with prospective Patrons how they will receive exposure, including in the 6,000+ brochures we will print and distribute.

**Website updates**: Anita reported that we are making excellent progress with website updates, thanks to the help of Abby Redding, a contracted web designer. In addition to the Extravaganza application form and the Patron form, membership forms are also online. The website also now has a Patrons tab. We invite all members to review and update their photos and bios that are currently online. New member application information will be used to create entries for new members.

The grant application, the funds from which we will continue to pay our web designer (Abby), has been successfully submitted.

**Program Committee: First and foremost, the Program Committee needs a chair and new members.** We are looking for suggestions for new programs to enrich and educate our members. Some suggestions that have already been made include Meet the Founders, How to Get a QR Code, and publishing. The idea is to include a program for members as part of some of our monthly meetings. There was also discussion of occasionally meeting on Sunday afternoons rather than Tuesday evenings. This discussion was tabled for a later date.

**Events/Exhibitions Committee:** Dottie reported that the Center for Creative Learning currently has us scheduled for December 2023 through March 2024. However, there may be an opening for us from August through November 2023 instead. Discussion ensued, and it was agreed that we would be happy to fill the earlier slot if it in fact becomes available to us.

Alamance Arts will have a huge kid’s craft area at the Carousel Festival, May 6 and 7, and they are looking for affiliate group members (this includes us) to volunteer one day, both days, or a portion of either day.

**Alamance Arts:** In other Alamance Arts news, they will be offering two grant-writing workshops in April, dates TBA. The grassroots grant application is due at the end of May. Alamance Arts is also hosting an Artist Meet and Greet and Tapas Night, Friday April 28, 5:30–7pm. Registration will be in early April.

**MailChimp**: Martha Sink reported that we have signed up for an upgrade to our Mail Chimp subscription. The new and improved subscription will allow three users, and it increases the capacity for contact entries and the number of emails we can send out per month. Currently Mail Chimp is being used only for Artisans 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**: A number of our potter members are participating in this event, to be held April 27, 3–8pm, at Graham Mill. It is a fundraiser, and 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, and everyone is encouraged to attend. Contact Susan Kern for more information.

**Member Shows**: Please let us know of any shows in which you are participating so we can spread the word. Here’s what we know so far:

**May Memorial Library**

\*March/April

Jean Fortune Kaplan

Kenneth Kreider

\*May/June

Tekla Frey

Glass case still available

\*July/August

Anita Vigorito

Catherine Kramer

\*September/October

Judy Madren

Glass case still available

\*November/December

A. P. Hill

**Harrison’s**

\*Lane Watson, February 22–April 4

\*Pat Scheible, April 5–May 16

**Press**

July 7 to August 31, Deb and Lisa Ussery

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Our next meeting will be April 18, 6:30 pm, at Alamance Arts.