

To: All ANA Members;

Well, 2018 is drawing to a close and what a fantastic year it was. I hope next year will be as filled with even more shows and opportunities for our membership to show their work.

First, let me fill you in on the last Board meeting we had and who your new Board consists of as well as your new officers for the coming year.

Board members are:

Gary Johnson, Chairman of the Board
Greg Brockman
Angela "Ann Gee" Wood
Justin Williams
Apyl Okoroafor
Terry Dushan
Yvonne Morton
Adele Coleman
Raymond Raphael,
Leslie Newman
Melissa Milton

Your new Officers that were elected by your Board are:

Angela "Ann Gee" Wood, President
Justin Williams, Vice President
Raymond Raphael, Treasurer
Adele Coleman, Secretary

Although we have a fairly full slate of people stepping up for Chairmanships, we can still use more volunteer help with a host of activity to keep our organization humming. If you have some spare time, and it doesn't take much, please contact Ann Gee to let her know you'd be willing to help out our organization.

I said it was a fantastic year and I meant it. We added 39 new members in 2018. This represents a full 29% increase in our membership bringing our total to 171. I'm sure we have many more artists out there that aren't members yet that we haven't approached to join us. The more we have, the stronger our organization becomes. If you know someone who wants to become involved in a strong organization, tell them to join. Go to our website to find the particulars.

We had a great Members show this past year in Rogers. A phenomenal number of pieces were exhibited at the Experimental house. It's too bad the weather didn't cooperate as we didn't get the number of visitors we had hoped for. Still, the exhibition showed the strength of our artists.

Our Regional show this year was a great success. We held it at the Art Ventures gallery in Fayetteville and again we outdid ourselves with some great pieces of art that got juried into this show. We gave away over \$12,000 in cash, gift certificates, and merchandise. This is almost double what we awarded in 2017 and close to 4 times what we awarded in 2016. Hopefully we can keep raising the total amount awarded as we move into 2019.

Coming into 2019, we have already determined that the Members show will be a juried exhibition. We are going to be showing at the Faulkner Performing Arts Center on the University of Arkansas campus from mid February to early April. More will be in your newsletter on that

event. This, however, is a great opportunity for those juried into the exhibition to showcase their work.

We will be holding a National juried art exhibition this year instead of a Regional event. This will be held at the Art Ventures Location in September, 2019. We are working very hard on getting a nationally prominent judge to be the Judge of Awards and hopefully give a presentation sometime during the show week. More to come on that as well. We could use some help in this area to continue to gain new sponsors so our awards can become even better to attract the best art the nation has. Get to work on a special new piece for this upcoming event.

There will also be workshops for those who are interested in developing new skills. Leslie Newman is planning some additional new oil workshops. She will introduce Lori Putnam in early April (4-6) for a 3 day workshop and is looking for another nationally prominent artist for October, 2019. I'm bringing in two nationally prominent watercolor artists; Richard Stephens and Kathleen Conover. Richard Stephens in June (3-7) and Kathleen Conover in November (3-7). I will also be teaching an abstract class in March (26-28). More on those later in your newsletter and on our website.

We continue to search out opportunities for our membership to show their work. Apyl Okoroafor has done a great job in finding business's wanting to display our art. We just need you to contact her if you have a body of work you'd like to display in a business. She will work to continue to find new places for it.

Keep on Painting and Creating.

Gary Johnson
ANA Chairman of the Board