FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear WSA Members,

How can one capture on paper the glory of God’s creation? Yesterday, as the sun was setting, its long rays were creating a glittering dance in the Red Bud tree behind my home. Wishing to capture this joy and beauty, I grabbed my iPhone and hurried outside. Low and behold, the sparkle had departed; the sun rays were blocked by the building next door. Perhaps I can portray from my mind’s eye the joy I felt at that moment basking in the brilliance of the creation.

With Spring at our doorstep, excitement mounts as we look forward to the 77th Annual National Exhibition to be held at the Jule Collins Smith Fine Art Center, Auburn, May 20th.

At this time, when the world is turning light green and multicolored, I want to express thanks to all the hard-working volunteers of your WSA organization. Your board members continue to be busy keeping track of membership, balancing and budgeting finances, raising funds for awards, developing and keeping current a website, Facebook, and Newsletter, creating a handsome catalog for each of you, and putting on exhibits and workshops. All of this takes a great deal of behind the scene planning, such as contacting directors of venues for exhibits, finding and contracting with selection and award jurors, searching and enlisting top notch instructors for workshops.

We eagerly look forward to hanging the show, attending Barbara Nechis’ workshop, and greeting each other at the reception and awards ceremony. Please consider joining us now and in the future to enable Watercolor Society of Alabama to continue to be one of the better state societies in our nation. Remember each of you is valuable and greatly needed. Just let us know your interests and we will find a special place in the workings of the society from planning, entertaining, physical and manual work, to record keeping. YOU ARE NEEDED!

See you in Auburn at the 77th WSA National Exhibition Opening Reception and Award Ceremony on May 20th, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Tora Johnson, President
Watercolor Society of Alabama
toradave@gmail.com
205-423-0922
2018-2019 EXECUTIVE BOARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President Elect (AMS Director)
Walt T. Costilow
1st Vice President (Exhibition Director)
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Newsletter Editors
Gordon & Marsha Nelson
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Keith Jones
Donations/Awards Director
Deborah Rae Hall
The WSA 77th National Annual Exhibition is well underway. Nationally and internationally known artist Carol Carter as Juror of Selection has chosen the paintings to be displayed in this collection. WSA is honored to present a major water-media exhibition of this talent to the public throughout the United States.

Please visit WSA website www.watercolorsocietyofal.org to view selected artists list and acceptance letter. The selected artists are listed in this Newsletter - Congratulations!

We look forward to viewing the award-winning paintings selected by Barbara Nechis as Awards Judge. Ms. Nechis holds degrees in Fine Art from Rochester and Alfred Universities. She has served as a juror and director of the American Watercolor Society and is the author of “Watercolor From the Heart” and “Watercolor the Creative Experience” (North Light Books).

Please mark your calendar to attend the Award Ceremony and Opening Reception on May 20 at one of Alabama’s great colleges, Auburn University.

WSA Workshop (17-19 May) by Barbara Nechis is for all who want to gain a deeper understanding of the creative process of painting, are willing to be flexible, take risks, have fun, be intuitive and inventive. You will not be using rules and formulas but still the emphasis will be on concept, color and design. She will demonstrate various techniques that will work in either abstract or realistic designs.

Please visit WSA website www.watercolorsocietyofal.org to download the Workshop Brochure and Registration Form. The Registration Form is also printed in this Newsletter.


**NATIONAL ANNUAL EXHIBITION TIMELINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Artists Accepted List and Acceptance Letter with Shipping Instructions posted on Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30 - May 4</td>
<td>Shipped Work Due at Jule Collins Smith Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Hand Delivered Work Due <em>(11 AM - 1 PM)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17-19</td>
<td>Barbara Nechis Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Award Ceremony and Opening Reception <em>(1 - 4 PM)</em> at the Jule Collins Smith Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>Exhibition Closes</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30 - Aug 3</td>
<td>Shipped Works Returned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4</td>
<td>Pick up Hand Carried Paintings <em>(11 AM - 1 PM)</em></td>
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"As music is the poetry of sound, so is painting the poetry of sight, ..."  
James McNeill Whistler
Join us for the 2018 National Watercolor Workshop with Barbara Nechis in Auburn, Alabama
DATE: May 17, 18, 19, 2018

Barbara Nechis is an artist who has developed a style known for its masterful balance of spontaneity and control of the watercolor brush.

barbaranechis.com
www.watercolorsocietyofal.org for Workshop Brochure
Barbara Nechis Workshop May 17 - 19, 2018

To secure your reservation, please mail a check for $200.00 payable to WSA with the completed form below. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come basis determined by postmark date of checks received. Registration fee (less a $25.00 processing fee) is refundable until May 12, 2018.

Send Registration Fee & Form to:
Jaceena Shepard at address below.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name____________________________________
Address: __________________________________
City/ST/Zip________________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ________________________________
Amount of check enclosed: $________
Balance Due: $_________
Send check to:

J. Shepard, 1571 County Road 414,
Town Creek, Alabama 35672
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last</th>
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<td>Alfery</td>
<td>Christine</td>
<td>Peacock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen</td>
<td>D. A.</td>
<td>Wildest Dreams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baggett</td>
<td>Judy</td>
<td>Dining in the Shallows</td>
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<td>Baker</td>
<td>Gloria</td>
<td>Ascension #2</td>
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<td>Barbero</td>
<td>Anne</td>
<td>Gator</td>
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<td>Benbrook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bird</td>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>For You</td>
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<td>Bradley</td>
<td>Marilyne</td>
<td>Gothic Forest</td>
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<td>Bragg</td>
<td>Gwendolyn C.</td>
<td>By the Paddock - January</td>
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<td>Brantley</td>
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<td>Survivor</td>
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<td>Butler</td>
<td>Kathy</td>
<td>Can Spring Be Far Behind?</td>
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<td>Carlisle</td>
<td>Sondra</td>
<td>Lost Key</td>
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<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Charleston Harbor</td>
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<td>Walt</td>
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<td>Covell</td>
<td>Heike</td>
<td>Letting Go</td>
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<td>Davis</td>
<td>Barbara</td>
<td>Daddy's Little Helper</td>
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<td>Davis</td>
<td>Barbara O'Neal</td>
<td>Proud</td>
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<td>Davis</td>
<td>Geri M.</td>
<td>Kaleidoscope</td>
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<td>Durdin</td>
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<td>Ellington</td>
<td>Joanna</td>
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<td>Emerson</td>
<td>Linda</td>
<td>Red</td>
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<td>Faile</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>Marsh Stalker</td>
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<td>Feng</td>
<td>Z. L.</td>
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<td>Karen</td>
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<td>Johnson</td>
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<td>Red Bay Caribe VI</td>
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<td>Kleppe</td>
<td>Shirley R.</td>
<td>What A Riot!</td>
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<td>Yasuoka</td>
<td>Keiko</td>
<td>Happy Anniversary</td>
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Congratulations! For your Acceptance Letter with Instructions, please go to [watercolorsocietyofal.org](http://watercolorsocietyofal.org)
Verena J. Murvin  WSNC, SW, KWS.
Newport, NC
252/223-0537

My watercolor "Curiosity" was recently accepted into Georgia Watercolor Society XXXIX National Exhibition 2018. The show will be held at Oglethorpe University Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia. Opening reception is March 16th to April 29th. Thanks so much to the juror, Kathleen Conover.

Also, my watercolor "Purple Haven" won an Award of Excellence, in Art from the Heart 2018. The show was held in Morehead City, NC from Feb 16th to March 8th. Thank you, Bob Rankin, the judge for the show.

Ellen Diederich will present a 4 day workshop exploring Acrylic & Watercolor Painting, held at the Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND April 24-27, 2018.

She will also present Garden Paintings in Watercolor at the Holiday Inn, in Fargo, ND May 4-6, 2018.

To find more information about her workshops, please click on Ellen’s Website (or copy & paste the following URL).

https://us10.campaign-archive.com/?e=9bd398dd18&u=26228a7bec3b2851f6c5a705c&id=2d062bd873

Don Taylor’s painting "Coffee Break" was accepted in the 9th Signature American Watermedia Exhibit in Brea, CA.

Don’s painting "Raging Bull" won the Boone County Historical Society Award in the 2017 MoWS Member's Exhibit in St. Louis.

His painting "Arches of Augsburg" was accepted in the 2018 WAS-H International Exhibit in Houston.

His painting "Short Order" won a merchandise award in the 2018 Rockies West National Exhibit.

Don’s painting "Linked In" was his 3rd acceptance into the 42nd TWSA Exhibit and will earn him signature status.
I am a person with two very diverse interests.

As a full-time practicing attorney and shareholder in the firm, Sirote & Permutt, for over thirty years, I specialize in the area of estate planning. I also love to paint and am active in the Watercolor Society of Alabama. I am a long term WSA Board Member and enjoy participating in WSA Exhibitions.

As an artist, my passion is painting people, but not portraits, with watercolor, acrylic or oil. My people come mostly from my imagination. If I ever use models, they would not be recognized because I usually add many pounds to their figure.

To start a new painting from an idea in my head, I doodle, using pencil and then eraser, getting caught up in the delight of seeing what evolves. It is a fun process! Sometimes a small design leads to a larger painting, usually different from what I started out doing. A title might be one thing to inspire me in the beginning but it also changes with the painting. Occasionally, I finish a painting in one concentrated weekend, but some paintings have evolved over a decade. One painting that I recently sold took years of layers before I was satisfied. It would be interesting to see all those layers with x-ray.

Inspiration for my art comes from a fascination of people, pets, fabrics and patterns. The important things of life center around relationships. I have one painting that I did of two flowers, just for fun. All the body language was there—even my floral painting was about relationships.

My best art advice came from my daughter, Melanie, when she was an art student at Auburn. She said, “Paint the unexpected.” I was puzzled. So, having grabbed paper, pencil and paint (always abundant in our house), she described what she meant, painting as she talked. That painting still hangs in our kitchen and the experience was an “ah-ha” moment for me. I will be forever grateful and I have painted regularly since that day.

One of the joys I feel in creating my art is constant surprise. I ponder many things, such as color, an expression, the integration of primary image and background. There is a huge amount of internal dialogue that goes into a painting. The eternal “what if.” As a lawyer, I am conservative, cautious, and carefully consider all the pros and cons, helping my clients do the same, but painting is very different. Painting is still about choices, but if I think, “wouldn’t it be fun to try...” I can do it, and after all, it is just paint and paper or canvas. As a painter, I am absolutely free.

Besides my personal pleasure in painting, the two favorite compliments I have received are related: “Your painting makes me happy,” and “Your painting makes me laugh.” Typically, my paintings have some ambiguity, which I embrace, but they also express a love of life. If the viewer can recognize the ambiguity and feel the joy, then I am happy.
Welcome New Members

Matthew Bird – MD
Robert Ekelund - AL
Linda Emerson – MA
Alicia Farris - MO
Traci Freeman – AL
Johnny Guthrie - TN
Sharon Harper – AL
Norma Herring – KS
Lida Hill – AL
Marilyn Johansen - FL
Michele Tabor Kimbrough - FL
Shirley R. Kleppe – AZ
Sun Lee Menk - AL
Jamie McGough - AL
Carolyn Moseley – AL
Charles Rouse – CA
Debra Scoggin/Myers – MO
Sarah Scott - AL
Susanna Spann - FL
Denis Thien – MO
Helen Thurber - AL
Membership Information

From the Membership Director

Dear WSA Member:

Spring has arrived, time to spend outside and take charge of the garden, get some potted plants, trim the shrubs, and pull weeds. Time to create some new paintings, it is a season for new beginnings. Most of you have renewed your membership for 2018 and, as always, WSA appreciates your membership.

Due to the addition of the PayPal (debit/credit card) option I do not send out individual confirmation upon receipt of dues any longer, because you receive an automatic confirmation of your payment. If you still prefer the check option, I will send an email to you upon receipt.

A few of you recently wondered about your current membership status. When you visit the WSA website and go to the Membership tab and hover your cursor over the tab, a drop-down menu will appear with the Membership Directory listed. Click on Membership Directory to see your name listed in alphabetical order by your last name, together with your membership status in brackets after your name. Of course, when using a cell phone, you do not hover a cursor over the Membership tab, but the Membership Directory and other information can be found just as easily. If you do not see your name listed, you have not renewed your membership for the current fiscal year.

Some of you were under the impression that a password was needed to join/renew or to submit entries. NO password is needed for anything, except if you wish to establish your own Member Gallery Page with WSA.

The other day I was reminded that it may be beneficial to mention the following again: At all levels above Associate, a member has to pay his/her dues every year, continuously, or that member will automatically lose the advanced level of membership earned. If dues are not paid, a member may pay back dues owed and regain the membership level lost (plus earned points) if he/she so desires.

If you have any changes concerning your email address, mailing address, or phone, please email me at stuttgart80@knology.net so we may pass on important information to you when needed.

Happy painting, Heike Covell
How to Participate

The WSA Member Gallery provides an opportunity for you to get additional online exposure and introduce yourself to other water media artists across the country. If you would like to have a direct link to your personal website, list your website address with your biography. This will give your viewer the opportunity to see more of your work and learn more about you.

Members who wish to participate will create and manage their own beautiful Gallery page. Instructions on how to set up and manage your gallery are provided below the Member Galleries tab on the website. You may upload up to 10 images, edit your biography, delete and exchange images at any time. Images for your gallery page should be watercolor or water media. No nude images are permitted because WSA is a family-oriented organization.

The gallery page is available to WSA members at a cost of $30.00/year which is due on 1 October annually. You have a grace period of 30 days after 1 October to renew your gallery fee. If your membership is current, you may sign up online below the instructions on the website.

If you need to renew your membership or would like to join WSA, please click on Join/Renew located on the right side of the WSA Homepage. After your membership is current, you may sign up for your gallery and follow the instructions provided.

Please contact me by email at stuttgart80@knology.net if you have any questions or concerns.

Heike Covell
Dear WSA Member,

This year’s 2018 National Annual Exhibition is well underway. Entries have been received and selections by Juror Carol Carter are posted on the website and listed in this newsletter. This is WSA’s 77th year to provide a major National Water-media Exhibition for artist members and the public throughout the US. We want to celebrate this monumental event by providing significant monetary awards to the award-winning artists.

On behalf of WSA, I would like to share with you information about the awards donation program. In 2017, WSA was able to provide three Signature Members Awards ($500 ea.) and two Juried Members Award ($375 ea.) at the 76th National Exhibition held in Heritage Hall Museum in Talladega, AL. These were made possible through the Signature and Juried members award program donations.

The Signature Members Award will be given to a WSA member who has earned Signature status. Only Signature members selected for the 77th Annual National Exhibition who have donated to this cause will be eligible to win this award. The Juried Members Award will be given to a WSA member who has earned Juried membership status. Only Juried members selected for the 77th Annual National Exhibition who have donated to this cause will be eligible to win this award.

We are asking our Signature members and our Juried members to help support these awards. Thank you to those who have already contributed to the 2018 awards; your participation is greatly appreciated. Donations, whatever you feel comfortable donating, will be designated toward the award(s) you select. This is a request for your support to these awards but it is not mandatory. We hope you will consider a donation. The more donations we receive, the more awards we can present to YOU, our members.

You may make a donation online or by mail. To donate online, go to watercolorsocietyofal.org (Make a Donation) and you will find Signature and Juried Member Awards. Fill out the online donation form and pay through PayPal (credit, debit card, or personal PayPal account). To donate by mail, fill out the Donation Form (next page) and mail with your check made to WSA, to the address on the form.

Please help make these special awards a reality! Your donation is tax deductible and you will receive an acknowledgment by email. Donations are accepted from all members of WSA, non-members, and businesses. Please do your part to support the arts by giving back to the art community through WSA exhibitions.

Tora Johnson
President
DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1, 2018 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2018 EXHIBITION AWARDS PROGRAM

The Signature and Juried Awards Program is only available through donations. Only Artists who donate to this Awards Program and who have been selected to exhibit at the 77th National Exhibition are qualified to receive an award in the category in which they are currently registered (membership status of signature or juried) with WSA. For example, regardless of what category a member donates to, the artist is qualified to receive an award in the category that they are registered with WSA.

For instance, if I donate $50 to the Signature Award I would be eligible to receive an award from the Juror only in the Signature category. If I donate to all three categories, I will still only be eligible to win an award in the Signature category. If I only donate to the “Other” category I am still qualified to receive an award from the Juror in the Signature Category because I am currently a Signature member.

**SIGNATURE MEMBERS AWARD** (Please check an amount below): Only Signature Members selected for the 77th Annual National Exhibition and who have donated to the Awards Program category will be eligible to win this award, if they are currently a WSA Signature Member.

- $25 ____________
- $50 ____________
- $100 ____________
- Other $ ____________

**JURIED MEMBERS AWARD** (Please check an amount below): Only Juried Members selected for the 77th Annual National Exhibition and who have donated to the Awards Program will be eligible to win this award if they are currently a WSA Juried Member.

- $25 ____________
- $50 ____________
- $100 ____________
- Other $ ____________

**OTHER DONATIONS** e.g. Memorials, special awards, honorary awards, WSA exhibition expenses. (Please select an amount below, and designate the type of donation, e.g. J.B. Johnson Memorial Award, National Exhibition Award Expenses, National Exhibition Reception Expenses, etc.).

- $25 ____________
- $50 ____________
- $75 ____________
- $100 ____________
- Other $ ____________

You may submit your contribution and pay online at watercolorsocietyofal.org *(Make a Donation)* or please send a check payable to Watercolor Society of Alabama (or WSA) together with this form and mail to:

Deborah Rae Hall  
Donations/Awards Director  
1200 Somerby Dr. Apt. 807  
Mobile, AL 36695

Please complete the following:

Your Name______________________________

Address______________________________

City, State, Zip________________________

Phone_______________________________  Email______________________________
Our Sincere Thanks

WSA appreciates your support and participation in the new website online functions:

- Entering the 77th National Annual Exhibition
- Joining/Renewing membership
- Donating to Awards and General Fund
- Interacting with Board Members through **Contact Us**
- Setting up your online **Member Gallery**

See these beautiful new sites:
Elaine Henry Dawson, Ellen Jean Diederich, Heike Covell, Jaceena Shepard, K.M. McWhorter, Lyn Gill, Sophie Repolt Rogers, Walt Costilow

We are always interested in improving and streamlining the website to make it as easy and efficient for you as possible. Please share your experience with us, provide comments and any suggestions for improvement.

**WSA Website Committee**
Jae Shepard, Heike Covell, Lyn Gill
Shirley Tucker, sjtuck41@att.net
DISCOUNTS for MEMBERS

AIRFLOAT SYSTEMS
www.airfloatsystems.com
USE CODE:
“WSA” for 20% discount

AMERICAN FRAME
www.americanframe.com
USE CODE:
“Alliance2014” for 5% discount

BLICK Art Materials
www.dickblick.com

Canson, Inc
www.hamelinbrands.com

Chroma, Inc. USA
www.chromaonline.com

Creative Catalyst Prod
www.ccpvideos.com

Daler-Rowney USA
www.daler-rownery.com

Forstall Art Center
www.forstallart.com

Golden Artist Colors
www.QoRcolors.com

Jack Richeson & Co., Inc.
www.richesonart.com

M. Graham & Co.
Watercolors developed with natural blackberry honey
www.mgraham.com

Savoir-Faire/Fabriano
www.savoirfaire.com

Winsor & Newton
www.winsornewton.com

Let's support those who support us!
Come "Like" us on Facebook
Watercolor Society of Alabama

WSA has become an affiliate with DICK BLICK Art Materials
Go to the following link when ordering supplies:
http://wsalabama.org/sponsors.htm
WATERCOLOR SOCIETY OF ALABAMA
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dues are valid October 1st thru September 30th each year ... Annual dues are $40.00

Please make check payable to Watercolor Society of Alabama (or WSA) and mail to

Membership Director: Heike Covell, 11012 Willingham Dr., Huntsville, AL 35803-2073

___New Membership ___Renewing Membership Change of: ___Address ____Phone ___E-mail

NAME______________________________________________

STREET________________________________________________

CITY_________________________________________STATE___________ZIP_______________

EMAIL____________________________________________WEBSITE______________________________

PHONE (H)_________________________________          PH (Cell)_________________________________

Dues expire after January 1st of the fiscal year if you have not renewed.

NOTE: You will need to be current with your dues when you send entries for the WSA Annual National Exhibition, which occurs after 1 January of each year.

  Active members who are current with their dues have full voting rights, are eligible to be officers, members of committees, and serve on the board of directors.

Benefits:

  • Invitation to WSA activities including Exhibitions and WSA sponsored Workshops
  • Discounts on WSA exhibition entry fees, Workshop fees, and art supplies
  • Full-color catalogue of paintings from WSA National Exhibitions
  • E-Notification as appropriate for current news, WSA quarterly Newsletters, etc.
  • Earn points toward Signature Member status with privilege of using WSA initials after signature
  • Option to have a personal art gallery page on WSA website

Dear Member, **WSA is truly grateful for your support.** We need you and your ideas to help WSA accomplish its goals of inspiring, growing, and networking artists. **GET INVOLVED, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, GIVE BACK TO YOUR ORGANIZATION!**

I can help with:

◊ Exhibitions  ◊ Hospitality
◊ Sponsorship/Awards  ◊ Membership
◊ Workshops  ◊ Website
◊ Publicity  ◊ Programs/Invitations
◊ Newsletter  ◊ WSA Board
◊ Receptions  ◊ Other ________________________