FROM THE PRESIDENT

Where did the summer go? At last we have had some rain. Seeing the Long Leaf Hydrangeas lift their drooping heads makes me smile and praise God for His Creation! Having seen all the wonderful paintings hanging at the Heritage Hall Museum in Talladega brings additional joy. There is beauty all around us!

The 2018 Alabama Members Showcase in Talladega is one that will make you proud of your Watercolor Society. So many outstanding paintings were hung that Don Andrews, the awards juror, had a difficult time choosing the ones for the awards. Several of us who took his workshop, which by the way was marvelous, had fun analyzing the award winners’ paintings to determine why they were the chosen. We noticed that each had strong points of light, (some call it the focal points), pulling your eye into the painting. This was what Don emphasized in his workshop. Excellent lessons.

Our deepest thanks go to Valerie White, Director of the Heritage Hall Museum, for all she and her volunteers did to make our showcase a success. The reception was exceptional with beautiful flowers on tables and the mantle, to say nothing about the variety of delicious food. We are delighted to know that they will host the Members Showcase for two more years, 2019 and 2020! How fortunate WSA is! The display of paintings hung, once again by Jim Shepard and Heike Covell, showed unbelievable creativity and passions. Good work crew for a “knock out” exhibition!

With Fall in the air, I hope all of you are picking up those brushes and starting to work on paintings for the 2019 National Exhibition. There is no time like the present to stretch your imaginations and hone your skills. The 2018 National Exhibition was a tremendous success with numerous wonderful awards presented. Who knows, one of you might win an award next time. Not only is it a delight to win an award, but it does give satisfaction for the time and effort put into such a creation. It may seem easy to some people, but believe me, it isn’t. Every time I pick up a brush, squeeze out a blob of paint and start working on a white sheet, the challenge makes me hesitate and contemplate whether or not I can paint something which will be acceptable. Just being accepted into a show thrills me and puts a smile on my face.

Time seems to pass so quickly that Spring will arrive before we can catch our breath. Be on the lookout for the prospectus for the next National Exhibition which will be held in Decatur with the opening reception June 2, 2019!

Tora Johnson
Watercolor Society of Alabama
toradave@gmail.com
205-423-0922
78th National Exhibition

WSA 2019 National Annual Exhibition

- Exhibition Dates: June 2 - August 2, 2019
- Location: Alabama Center for the Arts
- Selection Juror: Ken Goldman
- Awards Judge: Keiko Tanabe
- Workshop Instructor: Keiko Tanabe
- Prospectus: Upcoming
- Entry Deadline: March 1, 2019

Look for more information in the Winter Newsletter.
FY 2018-2019 Executive Board

President – **Lectora (Tora) K. Johnson**
President-Elect (AMS Director) – **Walt Costilow**
1st Vice President (Exhibition Director) – **Jaceena Shepard**
2nd Vice President (Membership Director) – **Heike Covell**
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Online Show Director – **Keith Jones**
Facebook Director/Website Administrator – **Lyn Gill**
Newsletter Editors – **Gordon & Marsha Nelson**

*To contact a Board Member, go to* watercolorsocietyofal.org

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Reminder for AMS Exhibiting Artists

October 19  AMS Exhibit Closes
October 20 (Sat) Hand Carried Work Pick Up (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
October 20 - 21 Paintings Packaged for Shipping
AMS Workshop at Jemison-Carnegie Heritage Hall Museum
200 South St. E., Talladega, AL 35160
September 13–15, 2018

Thanks to Don Andrews for teaching
“WATERCOLOR – THE CREATIVE EXPERIENCE.”
He is an excellent workshop instructor and juror!
www.donandrewsstudio.com
AMS Award Winners

Vienna
Scott Melville
Board of Directors' Award

Girl From Belize
Paulette Parks
Award of Excellence

New Horizon I
Cleve Webber
Award of Recognition

It's Rude To Stare
Harriet Cain
Cheap Joe's Merchandise Award
To view the entire AMS Exhibit, go to watercolorsocietyofal.org and scroll down to Gallery.

**Lock 17**
Joyce Lowery
Merit Award

**Along the Nile**
Lectora (Tora) K. Johnson
Merit Award

**Old Bones**
Eugenia Johnston
Award of Recognition

**Nevermore**
Deborah Guy
Award of Recognition

**Thoughts of Autumn**
Heike Covell
Award of Recognition
I’m convinced that “linen is better” is just a myth, that repeated often enough becomes a fact. This leads into what I want to say about watercolor.

Another myth is that watercolor is inferior to oil. I paint in oil, transparent watercolor, gouache, and egg tempera. My favorite is watercolor. There is nothing like it. The translucent glazes produce effects unattainable with any other medium. But what I have to deal with is the assumption that if you want a really permanent work of art, you have to paint in oils. Where did that come from?

Anyone who has visited a museum and looked at old oil paintings easily sees that they are covered with cracks. That’s what happens. Mona Lisa is covered with cracks. Vermeer’s Girl With a Pearl Earring is covered with cracks. That is because the support, whether wood or fabric, expands and contracts ever so slightly over the years, causing the paint, which is less flexible, to develop cracks. On the other hand, watercolor paintings do not crack. I believe the reason for this is that the pigment in watercolor is applied so thinly. But whatever the reason, they won’t crack.

Another thing people say about watercolor is that it will fade. “But isn’t oil more permanent than watercolor? Won’t the watercolor painting fade?” I have heard this question many times. The answer is that it is the choice of pigments, not the medium, that results in colors fading when exposed to light. Gum Arabic, the medium for watercolor, doesn’t cause paint to fade, any more than linseed oil, the medium for oil paint, makes the colors permanent. Some colors are light-resistant, some are not. The medium makes no difference. For example, alizarin crimson is notorious as a fugitive color. There are others as well. If they are used in any painting, there will be a fading of the color over time.

My conclusion is that the winner in the permanence category is watercolor. A painting done today will look the same centuries from now if permanent pigments are used. Don’t let anyone put down your watercolor painting. Plus, I just like the way watercolor looks. If someone just wants an oil painting, fine. I’ll paint you one. It won’t start cracking for at least fifty years.

James Brantley, AWS, NWS, WSA, SW
**Member News**

**Don Taylor** will be teaching a plein air journaling workshop using watercolor & pen/ink at the Sheraton Bay Point Resort, Panama City Beach, FL on Oct 4,5,6, 2018. For information, contact Helen Balance at [Beachartgroup@att.net](mailto:Beachartgroup@att.net).

*“Beijing”*

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**Marilyn Johansen** has a series of 12 Soldier Paintings that honor family members who have served in the US military from WWI through all conflicts to today.

This show is traveling locally to museums and libraries.

*“Army Soldiers”*

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Signature Platinum member, **Ann Pember**, has paintings juried into the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society Aqueous Open, Spinning Plate Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA in Oct; and Audubon Artists 76th Annual Members’ Exhibition, Salmagundi Club, NYC in November, 2018.

Attached is an image of *Haughty Hollyhock*, which will be in the Pittsburgh show.

*“Haughty Hollyhock”*

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**Marsha Nelson**, Signature Silver member, has been invited to present a solo exhibit at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County during the months of September and October, 2018.

*“Three Pears on a Plate”*
Jan Ross has work currently included in the following juried/invitational exhibitions:
The Floyd Center for the Arts in Floyd, VA 2018 National Juried Art Show, from Aug. 11 - Oct. 6, 2018. *(Caribbean Queen, Ted, Another Elder)*
The juried 2018 Georgia Watercolor Society Member Exhibition, Oct. 14 - Nov. 18, 2018 at the Sautee Nacoochee Center, Sautee, GA Oct. 11 - Jan. 2, 2019. *(The Oysterhunter)*
Coastal Discovery Museum, (a Smithsonian Affiliate), 'Artists, Artisans and Authors Show', Hilton Head Island, S.C., Oct. 5 - Dec. 31, 2018. *(In Synch)*


Jan has workshops scheduled at the Art Academy from Oct. thru Dec. 2018, and offers watercolor classes on Daufuskie Island, S.C.

Jan Ross, GWS, MOWS, WCWS, RIWS, WSA, NEWS, AKWS, ME.

**Congratulations Signature Members!**

Members who earned a higher level of membership due to acceptance of their painting to the 2018 AMS are listed below with their new status:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allen</th>
<th>D. A.</th>
<th>Sig. Bronze</th>
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<td>Barnes</td>
<td>Sherman</td>
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<td>Cain</td>
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<td>Johanna</td>
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<td>Tilly</td>
<td>Peggy Green</td>
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Dear WSA Member:

It is that time of year again:

The new fiscal year for 2019 has started by the time you read these lines on 1 October 2018 and renewals for 2019 should be received no later than 31 December 2018 to keep current with your dues.

Your membership expires on 1 January. Of course, I am always happy to add you back to the current membership in case you renew late for the new fiscal year.

You may renew or join via PayPal (with the credit or debit card option) by going to the homepage of the WSA website. You do not need to have a PayPal account. On the top right side of the home page you see the words Join/Renew Now. Click on it and another page opens up with the lines in dark blue: Join or Renew Your WSA Membership online here. Click on it, another page opens up with the name Membership Form. Check the box I’m a New Member or I’m Renewing My Membership, whichever the case may be, fill out the respective form and click Submit. Or you may send a check to me in the amount of $40.00. The membership form for checks is included in this newsletter and also listed below the Membership tab on the website as well as other information concerning membership levels and point requirements.

In case you have questions or any changes concerning your email address, mailing address, or phone, please email me at stuttgart80@knology.net or use the WSA website to leave a message for me so we may pass on important information to you when needed.

As always, WSA appreciates your membership.

Heike Covell

Welcome New Members

Durinda Cheek – GA
Mary Fountain - AL
Sherry Karr – AL
Cleve Webber – AL
The WSA Member Galleries Page is available to all current members and provides an opportunity 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 within your biography when you establish your gallery page. This will give viewers the opportunity to see more of your work and learn more about you. Currently 8 WSA members have created their own gallery page. The individual gallery page may be viewed either by clicking on the Member Galleries tab and then click on the member’s name or you can go to the Membership Directory listing below the Membership tab and click on View Gallery listed next to the member’s name.

Please view instructions on how to set up and manage your gallery on the WSA website below the Member Galleries tab. It looks more complicated than it is. If you need additional help, please do not hesitate to email Heike at stuttgart80@knology.net You may upload up to 10 images, edit your biography, delete and upload painting images at any time, day or night.

The gallery page is available to current 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, same as for the membership dues. It is easy to pay online: Go to Member Galleries tab, then to the drop-down box How To Participate and you will see the Online Gallery Registration Form below. Fill it out and submit to PayPal (credit or debit card is accepted.) Or you may send a check to Heike Covell, 11012 Willingham Dr., Huntsville AL 35803-2073. Upon receipt of online payment or check I will contact you by email.

Images for your gallery page should be watercolor or water media. No nude images are permitted on your Member Galleries page because WSA is a family-oriented organization.

Once you have established your gallery page it becomes even easier to make any changes. Login with your password, go to and click on Update My Profile, change or rewrite text in your bio, delete or upload image or images, scroll down and click on Update and then go to and click on View My Gallery. If you don’t like what you see go back to Update My Profile and delete or upload another image or move it around. Don’t forget to keep it at maximum 10 images, click on Update on bottom of the page and don’t forget to Log Out.

Happy painting, Heike Covell
Let’s support those who support us!

**AIRFLOAT SYSTEMS**  
[www.airfloatsystems.com](http://www.airfloatsystems.com)  
**USE CODE:**  
“WSA” for 20% discount

**AMERICAN FRAME**  
[www.americanframe.com](http://www.americanframe.com)  
**USE CODE:**  
“Alliance2014” for 5% discount

**BLICK ART MATERIALS**  
[www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)

**CHEAP JOE’S**  
[www.cheapjoes.com](http://www.cheapjoes.com)

**GOLDEN ARTIST COLORS**  
[www.QoRcolors.com](http://www.QoRcolors.com)

**DISCOUNTS for MEMBERS**

**AIRFLOAT SYSTEMS**  
[www.airfloatsystems.com](http://www.airfloatsystems.com)  
Gives 20% discount to WSA members on strong-boxes for shipping. Mention the code: “WSA”

**AMERICAN FRAME**  
[www.americanframe.com](http://www.americanframe.com)  
Use code: “Alliance2014” for 5% discount

WSA has become an affiliate with **DICK BLICK Art Materials**  
Go to the following link when ordering supplies:  
[http://wsalabama.org/sponsors.htm](http://wsalabama.org/sponsors.htm)

**HK HOLBEIN ARTIST MATERIALS**  
[holbeinartistmaterials.com](http://holbeinartistmaterials.com)

**JACK RICHESON & CO., Inc.**  
[www.richesonart.com](http://www.richesonart.com)

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[www.mgraham.com](http://www.mgraham.com)

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[www.winsornewton.com](http://www.winsornewton.com)

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**Watercolor Society of Alabama**

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**PLEASE NOTE**

Since this is a quarterly newsletter, the next submission deadline will be December 20th.
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 ________________________________