

Conversationne

River Region Art Association Newsletter
January 2009

Out with the Old—In with the New!



Catch Up News The last Board meeting of the year was held on December 4, 2008 at 6 p.m. at the gallery. The past president of River Region Art Association, Jan Hebert, turned over the leadership to Betty Marks, newly elected president of RRAA. Betty thanked Jan for her faithful and loyal dedication in serving as president. We also give thanks to the Nominating Committee consisting of Carolyn Bowman, Cy Rawls, and Jean Liehe. Shirley Russell volunteered to take over the Newsletter. Her home phone number is 225/647-6940; her email is starwOman@eatel.net (please note that the wOman is a ZERO!) Now we need a treasurer. The gallery cannot operate without a treasurer! Does anyone have an idea of who could handle this position? Let us know! We are in need!!!

The Board animatedly discussed how many members would renew their memberships with the current poor state of the economy. Another concern was the inactivity of the majority of members who are not taking responsibility with volunteering to man the gallery once a month. It was noted that the gallery is open due to the dedication of a few "core" members who repeatedly staff the gallery to keep it open. This puts a strain on these dedicated members. There are nearly 100 members and only about 15-20 active members who either volunteer to work the gallery or participate in activities that help the gallery on a regular basis. Sometimes these members open the gallery more than once a month, and occasionally the gallery is not open when there is no one to volunteer! It was also noted that the general meetings have light turnouts. At the next general meeting, solutions to this problem will be discussed.

Suggestions were made to reward those members who give their time so generously to open the gallery. One proposal was that when a member worked the gallery a certain number of times the name could be placed in a drawing for a free next year's renewal of membership fees or something else substantial. Another proposal was to charge a higher fee for those who do not staff the gallery; but this wasn't well received because it was thought to be a way of further discouraging those who do not volunteer their time to the gallery now. This, too, will be brought to the next general meeting for a decision.

The gallery's Christmas Party for members at Sally McConnell's was festive and fun! About 15 members attended and brought holiday food. Most members brought a small gift to exchange with another. Sally gave us a tour of her pottery workshop. Next year the Christmas Party will return to the Gallery on a Sunday afternoon around 4 p.m.

Membership Dues for 2009 is \$40



Membership dues have begun coming in! Thank goodness, we need your money to pay our bills! For every bill we have to mail to you, it causes our treasury to become smaller. Please stop by to pay your dues, or send your check in the mail.

On-going Hanging/Displaying Fees



We need members to keep up with their art/crafts on display in the gallery and pay your hanging fees on time. There are a few members who are behind with their fees. As you know, we do not have a treasurer! If you know you have not paid, please come by to pay. With the rough times ahead, we really need everyone to help with this since the Association needs every cent it can generate! We can't afford to hang items for free. By the end of January, all unpaid items will be taken down. Please pay your fees promptly so that we can continue to hang or display your work! Thanks!!!



2009 RRAA Meeting Dates for Your Calendar!!!

Grab your calendar right now and *copy* the dates right now! We need your attendance at the meetings! *The Board has changed the meeting set up.* Board meetings will continue to be every month at 6 p.m., and *general meetings will now be only six times a year held right after the Board meeting;* except for January since the meeting was scheduled in December. So make it a social event; call another member who lives close to you and arrange to ride together! Let's all try harder this new year to participate in attending more meetings! In fact, let's make it a resolution for the New Year! Door prizes will be awarded. Any member who attends all six general meetings will have their name entered in a drawing for a really nice prize, like a certificate to a local art store, or a free renewal of membership fees, or a free subscription to an art magazine. The Board did not definitely decide on what the winner will receive, but it will be a really nice gift!

Board Meetings—6 p.m.

January 8
February 12
March 12
April 2
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 15
November 12
December 3

General Meetings held right after Board Mtgs

January 22
none
March 12
none
May 14
none
July 9
none
September 10
none
November 12
none

Our Next Community Theme Exhibit for January: Click Art



The exhibit is for Photography ONLY and the work must be framed with wire for hanging. Sizes as small as 4x6 and as large as 16x20 are allowed. Any subject can be represented...that is up to you. The show is for both adults and youth. It can be black and white, color, digital or 35 mm....even enhanced.

Take in for the "photo art" is now until January 15 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at the River Region Art Association gallery located at 1835 N. Magnolia Ave. in Gonzales. The art will remain on display in the gallery until Jan 31. There will be no entry fee and up to three entries per person. The show will be judged and ribbons awarded with winners sited in the media and on the website.



Community Theme Exhibits for the Year



Put these dates on your calendar right now!!!

January--Click Art
February--Things I Love
March--March Into Art
April--Around the World
May--Forests and Fields
June--Red Hot

July--Patriotism
August--Cowboys, Indians and the Wild, Wild West
September--Sugar and Spice and Snips and Snails
October--Awesome Art
November--Things Remembered
December--Deck the Halls and Walls

Artist of the Month for January 2009



The newly selected Artist of the Month is **Carolyn Milner!** She is married to Perry Milner. They have four children and five grandchildren. Carolyn and Perry have resided in Prairieville for 30 years.

While in fourth grade Carolyn began taking oil painting lessons from a neighbor lady while living near Liberty, TX. Two years later her dad was transferred to Jennings, LA. She took a few private lessons from a local artist, but after a year or two, transferred her interests to music.

After marriage, and the birth of their first child, Carolyn began drawing pictures in crayon on colored construction paper to decorate the child's bedroom. She continued using this technique as her creative outlet until pregnant with their third child. Someone gave her a small set of paints and brushes and a cheap canvas, and she produced a painting of an old barn and cistern. Her pastor encouraged her to donate it to their Parish Fair Auction. She was so surprised when told that the art work sold for \$35! She says that was her motivation to continue with painting. She checked out every book she could find in her local library on painting, drawing, and composition.

After moving from Baton Rouge to Prairieville, Carolyn began teaching children and adult beginning oil painting classes at the old Ben Franklin Store on Hwy. 42 in Galvez. After that store closed she began teaching in her home. Encouraged by Louis Roussel and her husband, she applied to teach at a Catholic school and was hired as an art teacher. Later she enrolled at LSU and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine and Studio Arts. Carolyn is currently teaching art to K-8 students at Most Blessed Sacrament School and serving as Public Relations Director for the school.

Through River Regions Art Association and other contacts, her work has been in several exhibits and has acquired a few ribbons. Carolyn's preferred medium is oils, but she also enjoys working in watercolor, pastels, mosaics, and ceramic clay. She still likes to pick up a box of crayons and a sheet of construction paper every now and then!

All the members of RRAA congratulate Carolyn as the Artist of the Month and wish her great success with her artistic efforts in her future!





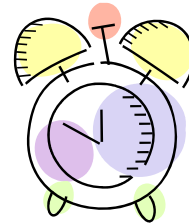
Volunteers to Open the Gallery Are Needed!

Please help us to keep the gallery open! We need volunteers to sign up for the new year. Our docent volunteer book is blank! We ask that our members please consider sharing your time one day a month! If you work twelve days a year, your name will be placed in a drawing for a very, very, nice gift.



February Workshop with Judi Betts: Discover the Magic

Judi Betts will host a watercolor workshop on February 23-27 from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. at LAAG Studio located at 2490 Silverest Ave. (off Old Hammand Hwy. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Airline Hwy.) in Baton Rouge. The fee is \$250 for LAAG members and \$300 for non-members. You will learn how Judi makes her watercolors sparkle, how to simplify design, use exciting color and light, and capture mood and emotion in new ways. Call Caroline Smack to register at 225/925-5764. Also see www.laag-site.org for more information.



LAST MINUTE REMINDERS!

The library exhibit is over, and the paintings have been returned to our gallery. We need you to pick them up as soon as possible so we can use the space!! Jan Hebert took care of the transportation for the members. Thank you, Jan! The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Remind your children and grandchildren 17 and under to get busy and prepare for the month of March's exhibit entitled "March into Art." There will be a Blue Ribbon and prizes! More details will follow in the next Newsletter.

Please think hard about who might qualify to be our new treasurer. Remember, we cannot operate the gallery without a treasurer!

River Region Art Association thanks all those members who participated or served in any way this past year. In the New Year, may our renewed efforts be generous with participating in functions and serving neighbors even more vigorously!

