President’s Message by Linda Happel

Happy New Year to everyone. I know that 2016 will be a bright, blessed year for us all. We had a white Christmas at our home which means all dreams do come true! Hope yours was merry and bright as well.

2015 was a great year for MLAA. A successful show held at the fairgrounds, great Plein Aire paint outs with Michael Severin and Susan Hackett, wonderful programs every month thanks to Barbara Conley and more members willing to step up and help which makes it fun instead of overwhelming. Great spirit and a great group. We closed our silent auction December 20th and although disappointing outcomes, we showed our willingness to help our fellow artists who suffered great losses.

I cannot thank our amazing board enough. Because of great board leadership, we are more organized than ever, making it easy for the new board to step up and continue in their footsteps keeping the momentum going strong. Maureen Nolan will replace Barbara Conley as Vice President and Anne Bates replacing Lorna Hunt as Treasurer. Welcome to the board ladies and thank you for your willingness to serve our organization. I cannot thank Barbara, Renetta, and Lorna enough for their ready response and dedication of every detail and decision made in 2015. Susie Hoffman has organized our venues so they now run with ease and Michael and Susan planned and executed exciting paint outs all year long. And Rich Linville, I cannot thank you enough. He is married to our member, Sulastri Linville, and with her assistance, has been producing the newsletter, truly one of the hardest positions on our board. And the newsletters have been wonderful. For anyone who would like to serve on the board, there are many positions available. We always need new ideas and great new spirit.

Next MLAA meeting: January 18, 2016 Monday 1 pm. January will be potluck and exchange of ideas. Please come with ideas, wants and desires you would like to see implemented this year. Who would you like to see demonstrate? Do you have ideas for programs, workshops, the art show? Please come full of ideas to make this the best year ever. The board will provide soups and members can bring dishes to go with the soups if they wish. Everyone is invited to attend whether they bring a side dish or not. We have few opportunities to enjoy each other’s company over great comfort food. I look forward to spending quality time together and picking your brains.

Once again, I cannot thank you enough. What a year and what a great board and truly wonderful members. I am honored to serve as President of this amazing organization. I know that 2016 will be another exciting year with fun art experiences for us all.
MLAA Minutes for Nov. 16, 2015
By Renetta Hayes

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Happel at 1 pm. There were 25 guests in attendance. The Chair introduced guests Sheri Dotten and Violet Ask-Young. Minutes were read by Secretary Renetta Hayes and were approved as read.

The Treasurers report was presented by Treasurer Lorna Hunt and approved as read.

The Chair reported on the Silent Auction being held at the Aloft Gallery. The results so far are disappointing. November 29th is the last day for bidding. The ending date may have to be changed. The Chair presented the Slate of Officers to be voted upon for the 2016 year and asked for nominations from the floor. Having none, Jim Alsup moved and Loretta Pagni seconded that the Slate of Officers be approved. Motion carried. The Officers for the 2016 year are: Linda Happel, President; Maureen Nolan, Vice President; Anne Bates, Treasurer; Renetta Hayes, Secretary.

**Membership dues are due in January.**
$15 for Seniors (75 +) and $20 General.

The P. O. Box for MLAA is:
P.O. 5140, Sonora, CA 95370.

There will be a Soup luncheon in January with the Board bringing soups and other members bringing bread and dessert. This will be an idea session looking for input from the membership as well as a fellowship time to get to know some of your other artists.

Susie Hoffman presented the venues for 2016. Members were asked to sign up.

Rich Linville, Newsletter Editor stated the cutoff date for articles would be Dec. 27th.

Susan Lea Hackett was not there for the plein air report as she is snowed in but invited members to come to her house and paint out the windows at the snow scene.

Renetta Hayes gave the Aloft Report. She reported that the MLAA Silent Auction wall looks very nice but the bidding is not progressing well. The gallery is now set up for the Holiday season and will have some gift items available for sale.

Loretta Pagni was recognized by the Tuolumne County Commission on Aging for her volunteer work with NAMI.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments followed by an amazing oil painting demonstration by esteemed artist Charles Waldman.

He primarily paints plein air as he feels cameras don’t get the values. He believes values make the painting. The way light hits the object changes the light. He feels things should be observed and broken down into spots of color. The demo was very informative for whatever media the artist uses.

**MLAA Venue for January and February 2016**
By Susan Hoffman

The following artists will be leaving on January 26:

**Serventes:** Cary McGrew and Winnifred Wilson  
**Umpqua:** Eva Walker

The following artists will continue these venues until April 27:

**Aloft:** Diana Boyd and Renee Rondon will continue.

We need artists to fill these venues on January 27 for 3 months:

**Serventes North:**
**Serventes South:**
**Umpqua Bank:** Winnifred Wilson signed up  
**Anticoagulation:** Renee Rondon until April

Members may sign up at the January meeting or e-mail: susie@townhallarts.com. One venue per artist, please.

The next **Stage 3** play is "Talk Radio", which runs from Feb. 5 to Feb. 28. It takes place in 1988 and is about a controversial Cleveland radio host who insults the pathetic souls who call him in the middle of the night to sound off. If you would like to paint for this show, plan on having your work ready to hang by Feb. 2 and contact Susie as soon as possible.
MLAA January Meeting
January 16, 2016 @1 pm
The meeting will be held at the Tuolumne County Library with the Installation of Officers and the potluck and exchange of ideas. The soups will be provided by the Board with members providing bread, desserts and side dishes. Members are advised to come with ideas for 2016. This meeting is the members’ opportunity to get to know one another and share thoughts to make our Association and meetings better able to meet what our members would like to see and do.

MLAA February Meeting
February 15, 2016 Monday @1 pm
Joan Muggleton will be doing the February demo of a floral in a glass jar. She will be using egg-tempera for her demo.

Growing up in a rural community in northeastern Ohio, Joan's interest in drawing and painting started at a very early age. By sixteen, she won first award in painting in a city wide art contest. She was accepted at the Cleveland Institute of Art in 1969, and a year later won a scholarship competition held at the school. While pursuing a major in painting and minor in sculpture, she studied with Richard Treaster, a well-known water color artist, who taught the watercolor and egg tempera technique she uses today.

Joan worked at American Greetings as a book and greeting card designer. She left to raise her daughters, but continued with graphic design and illustration on a freelance basis. In the mid-eighties, her focus moved away from commercial art, when she switched to a career in computer programming, which she has held since.

In 2001 she moved to Long Barn, California, where she now lives. She paints more than ever now, having joined the Aloft Gallery in 2015. Joan is currently working to improve and expand her work, to keep honing and refining her watercolor and egg tempera technique. Her works are in private collections in several states. This is one presentation that you won’t want to miss!

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Personal Letter to All MLAA Members
Hello Linda and MLAA!
I just wanted to say hello and thank all of you for everything you made possible with your MLAA Scholarship. I was able to move my family up to Humboldt State and I just finished my first semester. My professor here is submitting my art work to the New York Society of Illustrators about which I'm very excited! So I thought I would send you some of the things I've done this semester in my illustration and painting classes. The wolf near the middle of these pictures is the one that is submitted into the illustrator student competition in New York :) Thank you again ever so much!!!
Sincerely,
Amanda Walker
Plein Aire Paintouts
By Susan Hackett
November and December 2015

Painting outdoors at this time of year is mostly for the hale and hearty at my elevation of 5,325 feet. We've had only one group outing before the snowfall and that was November 7, 2015. Catherine Strong and Barb Young answered the call to paint the Fall Dogwood Trees on Old Strawberry Road. The foliage was spectacular.

Susan Kendall returned from her trip to France. I joined her and her friend Maria Stephano-Santos, visiting from the Bay Area, for two outings in early December to Pinecrest Lake (which is drained every winter but still provides interesting panoramas) and to the Strawberry Bridge area. Several layers of clothes were required and by 3pm the temperatures began to drop into an uncomfortable range. Since then we have had several feet of snow (hooray!) which stays on the ground and lines the trees when the temperature stays low enough. It is truly beautiful here now but lends itself best to painting out the window or from photographs. I extend an invitation to any of you who would like to come up and take photos or paint indoors. Give me a call a few days in advance so I can send out a general invitation.

I would also enjoy painting in the lower elevations as long as it's not actively snowing here. Do you have a favorite spot you'd like to suggest? I need another artist to commit to being on site early as travel in the high country is iffy in the winter. Let's hear some ideas! Happy New Year's painting to all!

Old Strawberry Road with Dogwood
Watercolor by Susan Lea Hackett

Aloft Gallery News

Happy New Year from the Aloft Gallery. We had a busy November and December. Now it is time to start 2016. Our quarterly change out will be January 26th. The MLAA artists that will be featured are Diana Boyd and Renee Rondon and these two artists will finish out our year. Our new year starts May 1st. We still have Aloft calendars for sale. In fact, they have been discounted from $9.00 to $5.00! So get your calendar while they are still available.

Maybe you noticed our new display window at Baer’s. It was decorated for Christmas. The window will change every few months. Check it out and tell us what you think.

January and February we are advertising our annual fundraiser. This year participating artists will donate 20% of their sales, for the month of February, to FOAC. This is a wonderful organization that places dogs and cats in homes. They were very busy during the Butte Fire rescuing animals. So join us on the 2nd Saturday of February 13th to support FOAC. Since it falls around Valentine’s Day, the theme is Love.

If you have ever considered joining the Aloft, there is now a waiting list. Since we are a member operated gallery, that means committing ten calendar dates each fiscal year and participating in monthly 2nd Saturday events. Unlike other galleries, the artist gets to keep 90% of their sales price.

Aloft Art Gallery:
167 S. Washington St. (across from Sonora Inn)
Telephone 209-588-8604
www.aloftartgallery.com/
www.facebook.com/AloftArtGallery

Calling All Artists:
Ironstone Vineyards
Spring Obsession Art Show
March 19, 2016 Saturday
Entry Form Deadline:
Open Division: February 12, 2016
Themed Division: January 15, 2016
“An Obsession with Daffodils & Tulips”
Celebrating 19 years
Be a part of our annual art competition and sale
Questions? 209-728-1251 X45 or email at: cgomez@ironstonvineyards.com
Applications can be found at: ironstonemuseum.blogspot.com
MLAA MEETINGS on the 3rd MONDAY OF THE MONTH
Next meeting: Jan. 18, 2015
No Meeting July, August or December. 2016

2016 Schedule
January 18, 2016    April 18, 2016    July (No Mtg.)    October 17, 2016
March 21, 2016      June 20, 2016    Sept. 19, 2016    Dec. (No Mtg.)

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Tuolumne County Library on Greenley Rd. Sonora at 1:00 pm during the months of January – June and September – November

THERE ARE NO MEETINGS HELD IN JULY, AUGUST OR DECEMBER

Newsletter Info
Your newsletter editor would like to list upcoming classes or workshops and any shows our artists have been accepted into or won any awards. Let me know when you hear of them. If you are interested, others may be as well. If you see something reported incorrectly, please contact Rich at: teachersask@yahoo.com Thank you.

Fill out the membership application and bring it with your check to the next meeting or mail it today. Thank you.

If you are already a member, cut this out and pass it on to someone you think might be interested in becoming a MLAA member.

MOTHER LODE ART ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name__________________________________________________________
Address___________________________________________________________________________
City_________________________ State_____________ Zipcode_____________
Phone________________________________________ Email_____________________

Membership Categories: (check one)

Individual
$15.00  Senior 75 & Older_______  $50.00 Patron ____________
$20.00  General _________  $100.00+ Benefactor _______
$50.00   Patron _________
$100.00    Benefactor _______
$250.00+ Lifetime _________

Please make checks payable to: MOTHER LODE ART ASSOCIATION.
P.O. Box 5140 Sonora, CA  95370

We encourage you to enjoy the wonderful Artist Demonstrations and Programs we have the 3rd Monday of each month at the Tuolumne County Library, Greenley Rd., Sonora. Meetings are at 1:00