

## **MAL June 26 2023 Special Board Meeting to discuss Fee changes**

Meeting started at 1:00. Jan Pini presiding.

Zoom attendance: Jan Pini, Sandy Conley, Linda Saksa, Michalina Pendzich, Lisa Markowski, Paul Rebholz, Leslie Baldwin, Betty Roseborough

Jan Pini opened the meeting by telling everyone that GoDaddy has discontinued their free email forwarding service. This creates problems for MAL since it's the service that Jan set up for the league to use. She is looking into alternatives.

### **Cost Analysis Discussion**

Today's special board meeting was called to discuss whether or not the board should recommend price increases in dues and league activities due to rising prices overall as well as the possible purchase of a new HVAC system in the near future. MAL's lease with Mosites states that MAL is responsible for replacement of the HVAC. MAL, however, does not have enough cash to pay for a new HVAC and will need to either renegotiate the lease terms to eliminate the responsibility of buying a new HVAC system or find a way to pay for the HVAC.

Jan suggested that MAL revisit the possibility of obtaining 501(c)(3) status so that Mosites can deduct the cost of the HVAC rather than require MAL to pay for it. Paul Rebholz volunteered to start the process of applying for 501(c)(3) status with Jan Pini's help.

Lisa Markowski also suggested that MAL may have to consider moving to a new location. Sandy asked whether we might be able to move to the ARC building in Canonsburg? Linda Saksa suggested that we look into possibly using the old elementary school in Venetia. The consensus, however, was that MAL should try to negotiate with Mosites as finding a new studio will not be easy.

Before approaching Mosites to discuss the HVAC purchase it was decided that MAL should get a second opinion about the condition of the HVAC system from a qualified HVAC company. Lisa Markowski volunteered to contact someone. Further, MAL should consult a real estate attorney for help with negotiating any changes to the lease and answering questions such as is it standard practice to require a renter to pay for an HVAC system. Leslie Baldwin will contact someone she knows. Sandy will reach out to Andrea LaNasa who is a real estate agent to ask whether Andrea knows an attorney who could help MAL. Linda Saksa thought that Arlene Popko's husband might be a real estate attorney.

Sandy Conley led the discussion of the report, *McMurray Art League Finance Analysis and Recommendations for 2023-24*, prepared by Linda Saksa, Jan Pini and Sandy. The report's recommendations and board's decisions:

- 1) **DUES:** The board agreed that annual dues of \$35 should not be raised. Jan Pini will set up a way for members to make a donation to MAL at time of dues renewal.
- 2) **CLASSES:** The board voted to adopt (motion made by Paul Rebholz and seconded by Michalina Pendzich) the report's recommendation to change prices. **Changes are: No**

Board discount; Class monitor will receive a 10% discount instead of 25%; MAL gets \$10.00 per class per member instead of \$5.00; MAL gets \$15.00 per class per non-member instead of \$10.00.

- 3) **JURIED SHOWS:** The board voted to adopt (motion made by Linda Saksa and seconded by Paul Rebholz) the reports' recommendation to change juried show prizes to \$100 for First Place, \$50 for Second and \$25 for Third Place with 3 Honorable Mention awards that would receive only a ribbon. The league will also ask for a donation from members when they register for shows.
- 4) **NON-JURIED SHOWS:** The League will continue to organize non-juried show opportunities for members. Non-juried shows generate more income than juried shows because there are fewer expenses. It was agreed that we continue the ARC shows. Paul Rebholz will reach out to Darlene Sanders to see if she could help organize another **show at Chartier's Bend**. MAL will have a show at St Clair Hospital. Betty has contacted the **Pittsburgh Botanic Garden** about a show. They are booked into 2026 but will work with Betty to organize a show for MAL. A show at the Mt Lebanon library is planned. The shows at the Peters Twp Library are ongoing. Sandy asked whether we should organize an opening night reception for the studio shows. The possibility of taking part in **Peters Township Community Days** in June was discussed. The event will be put on the League calendar and discussed further at a later date. Sandy Conley mentioned that in the past membership was not interested in supporting a booth at the Community Days in June. Carol Modery's brother, Rick, has contacted Jan Pini about a show at a winery he is familiar with in **Finleyville, Great Oaks Winery**. Sandy Conley and Jan Pini will visit the winery to see if a show is a good idea. Lisa Markowski voiced reservations about holding a show there because the area is depressed and might not attract a good audience.
- 5) **OPEN STUDIO, ART TALKS, CAFES:** These events will continue because they earn income and are a good way to bring members together and attract new members.
- 6) **OTHER FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES:** The report's recommendations were approved. Michalina suggested that MAL organize a major fundraiser for the HVAC system after negotiations with Mosites. Leslie Baldwin suggested an **Open Show**, with a limit of 50 paintings, (perhaps at the winery) which would be juried and open to all artists in the South Hills.
- 7) **OTHER WAYS TO CUT COSTS:** After discussion the board agreed with the Treasurer's recommendation that members be encouraged to pay by check but the possibility of paying by PayPal should be kept. If MAL can get 501(c)(3) status our PayPal cost will decrease. Jan will add a note to PayPal as well as dues payments and all other member payments asking members to add a donation to help pay for the HVAC. Lisa Markowski agreed to be Class Registrar to help Jan Pini if they can figure out a way that Lisa can work remotely. Memorial library books (\$35) will only be bought for members. Lisa Markowski made motion, Leslie Baldwin seconded the vote. The board voted (Paul Rebholz made motion, Lisa Markowski seconded) to discontinue the annual gift basket to Mosites.
- 8) **MAL SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES:** The board accepted the report's recommendation to continue these activities. At the first fall meeting, Leslie Baldwin will ask for a volunteer to organize a Spring Luncheon.

- 9) **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:** Margie Mersky will work on improving the studio window display. (I don't remember who) will ask Margie to give a presentation at several board meetings in the fall teaching members how to use Facebook. It was decided not to do a survey.

MAL has a mailbox at the rear of the building that we didn't know about until recently. Using it will save the cost of a PO box at the post office.

Next Board Meeting will be on August 7 at 2:00. General meeting will be on September 14.

Meeting adjourned: 3:10

Michalina Pendzich, Recording Secretary