PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It is finally spring and I am happy to see robins and daffodils. Spring represents change and hope. I’ve been thinking a lot about change and the relationship between the worlds of art and science during the past few months. Artists and scientists are very much alike, especially in creativity, as they must be if either profession is to move forward. Scientists and artists ‘experiment’ as a way of pushing the boundary of knowledge. The same creativity that drives a scientist to try innovative methods to gather information also drives the artist to try new techniques to achieve a never-before-seen result, and bring it to the awareness of the public.

This year, Artists Equity has made some changes as well, and we hope that they will strengthen our organization so we can adapt to new trends in the art world. The “laundry list” of new things includes our e-newsletter, a revised and updated database for membership renewals (which should make things a lot easier in future), and, this spring, a first time trial of the online service, SlideRoom, for submission of images of artworks for our Spring 65th Anniversary Exhibition.

While online submission of artwork has both pros and cons, it is being used by several of the more prestigious area venues. Digital images may not adequately portray all the nuances of an artwork, however, it makes the process of submission and jurying more efficient for both artists and jurors. We would like to hear from you about this ‘experiment.’ E-mail comments to info@artistsequity.org.

As an all-volunteer board, we try to keep the organization running as smoothly as time, artistic impulses, work pressures, families, and busy lives allow. This past year we have completely reorganized our membership renewal process. We sent several reminders in both the hard copy and e-newsletters and on the website to renew by Dec 31, 2013 (and many did! Thanks!) and we allowed a 60 day ‘grace’ period which essentially extended our renewal process to 3 months. Since the process requires going to our PO Box, processing applications, and recording data in our new Excel database, it was sometimes several weeks before the renewals were processed, and then checks were sent to our accountant in batches for recording and deposit. This year it took more time than we would have liked. Some members had not renewed for several years, or sent incomplete information, all of which slowed the process. Next year we will devise a schedule that allows more rapid recording, cashing of checks, and mailing of the cards. Renewals during dropoff of work for a show will not be allowed since it slows all of us down. For those of you who do not have computers and/or email we will continue to send important info via the post office (but we will try to persuade you to learn to use computers at the public library for email to stay in touch).

We have had positive feedback from many in our membership on these changes and hope that as we get used to them (and use our ‘education’ mandate to help members adjust to the changes) they will become the new normal, and allow AE to continue to promote and support the needs of our members and the profession. Wishing you a creative and productive spring and summer,

Pat Mancini

THE BUSINESS OF ART

ADVOCACY UPDATE:

HR2482: ARTIST-MUSEUM PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2013:

Introduced as HR 2482 into the House Ways and Means Committee of the US House of Representatives on 6/25/2013. (This is a reintroduction of HR 1190 which died in committee.) The committee chair David Camp (R-MI) determines whether a bill will move past the committee stage. There are 23 Rep / 16 Dems on the W&M Committee. Pennsylvania representatives are Allyson Schwartz (PA-13, D), Mike Kelly (PA-3R), and Jim Gerlach (PA-6, R). A bill must move out of this committee to make it to the floor of the House for further consideration.

This act amends the IRS “…code to allow taxpayers who create literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions or similar property a fair market value (determined at the time of contribution) tax deduction for contributions of such properties, the copyrights thereon, or both, to certain tax-exempt organizations, if such properties are properly appraised and are donated no sooner than 18 months after their creation.”

The amount of such a deduction would depend upon the artist’s income. Prognosis: This bill has little chance of passing out of committee (1% probability) and even then, only 3% of bills that go to the House were enacted in 2011–2013.

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Elaine Bass

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What you can do: Contact our representatives, saying that you want this bill to pass. Below are AE’s talking points for this bill:

• Most museums, libraries, and archives have no acquisition funds; the only way to acquire new works is through donations.

• Living artists, including established artists engaged in estate planning, have no incentive to give their works to a nonprofit institution; instead works of local, regional, and national significance are sold into private hands and never come into the public domain.

• Collectors have the right to deduct the fair-market value of gifts of artworks that they donate, and artists should have the same right when they donate their own works. It is only fair.

Bottom line: The Artist Museum Partnership Act of 2013 would both support living artists and significantly enhance our country’s cultural institutions.

[The summary is adapted from information written by the Congressional Research Service, which is a nonpartisan division of the Library of Congress. http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php]

H.R. 1891, THE SETTING NEW PRIORITIES IN EDUCATION SPENDING ACT


H.R. 1891 Saves Taxpayer Dollars, Eliminates Wasteful K-12 Programs
WASHINGTON, D.C. | May 13, 2011


NOTE: Glenn Thompson and Lou Barletta (both Republicans) are on this Education / Workforce Committee in the House; there are no Democrats.

BILL SUMMARY

Despite tripling overall per pupil funding since 1964, national academic performance has not improved. Math and reading scores have largely remained flat, graduation rates have stagnated, and researchers have found serious shortcomings in many federally funded education programs. As the House Education and the Workforce Committee works to reform our nation’s broken education system and restore fiscal responsibility in Washington, we must ensure taxpayer dollars are well spent.

The Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act will repeal the authorization for more than forty wasteful education programs, reducing by half the number of federal education programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This bill will help balance the budget, restore fiscal discipline, and promote a more appropriate federal role in education. The Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act will build on the important work begun in the Fiscal year 2011 budget agreement by permanently eliminating the following program:

Arts in Education (NB: this is the only program of relevance to AE in the bill.)

The Arts in Education program funds professional development for arts teachers in high poverty schools; replication of arts programs across school districts; and provides noncompetitive awards to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The program received $38.1 million in FY 2009, $40 million in FY 2010, and $27.4 million in FY 2011.

The Arts in Education program contains partially earmarked funds, does not serve a federal role, and is duplicative of ESEA Title I (Aid for the Disadvantaged) and Title II (Teacher Quality State Grants) programs.
MARCH 31–APRIL 27 AT MCGOPA

ANNIVERSARY SHOW REPORT

JUROR, AL GURY, PROF. PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS

The Artists Equity 65th Anniversary Members Juried Exhibition had its opening reception on Sunday April 6, 2014 from 2–4 PM at MCGOPA at SPP Galleries in Conshohocken. Judging by the turnout of friends, family and AE members, it was a rousing success. The Board of Directors and the Exhibition Committee wish to thank our friends at MCGOPA for allowing us the use of the venue, and our juror, Al Gury, Chair of the Painting Department at Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA) for jurying artwork and prizes and giving an informative and interesting gallery talk. Thanks also to everyone who contributed their time to the myriad tasks involved in putting a show together. We are grateful. Now on to the preparations for our Annual Meeting and Luncheon on May 31 and our Fall Show!

Pictured, clockwise, GRAND PRIZE $300, Ellen Carver, The Golden Years, handmade paper and acrylic on canvas; SECOND PRIZE $200, Karen Kappe Nugent, Winter Tea in Kennett, oil on canvas; THIRD PRIZE $100, Uta Fellechner, Message Board (from Dementia Series for WCF), archival ink jet print on rag paper.

SOLO SHOW at the MAIN LINE UNITARIAN CHURCH, Pam McLean-Parker, Bath Abbey Ceiling, Archival Pigment Print, Digital Photography.

JACK RICHESON & CO., INC., $150 CERTIFICATE, Nancy Freeman Tabas, Happy Family, Acrylic on canvas.

JACK RICHESON & CO., INC., $125 CERTIFICATE, Sherry McVickar Sophocles, mixed media on paper.

JACK RICHESON & CO., INC., $100 CERTIFICATE, Mary Kane, Love with No Fish, Acrylic on canvas.

GOLDEN PAINTS, $100 CERTIFICATE, Nury Vicens Rosenbusch, The Poets Thoughts, Mixed media drawing on paper.

WINSOR NEWTON, “SKETCH BOX” WATER COLORS VALUE $100, George K. Shortess, The House Emerges.

AMPERSAND, AMPERSAND BOARDS VALUE $70, Jane McGovern, Colorado Tracks II, oil on canvas.

“30,000 YEARS OF ART,” PHAIDON PRESS, Georgette L. Veeder, Ipanema Fling, handmade rag and kozo paper w/raffia & cloth. ▲

Email your news to newsletter@artistsequity.org by the 30th of each month for inclusion in the following month’s electronic newsletter. For the next printed newsletter the deadline is October 15, 2014.
Artists Equity is an association of professional artists. Membership may be designated either “Associate” or “Full.” The dues are the same for both categories, however Full membership requires a one-time screening fee $25 and receives a link on the website. Every member, regardless of category, is eligible for all AE exhibition and program opportunities.

Name: ___________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________Apt. #:__________
City: ____________________________________________________
State:  ________________________ ZIP:________________________
E-mail address:  _____________________________________________
Website url: _______________________________________________
Phone: (________) _________________________________________
Your Primary Medium(s): _____________________________________

☐ Check here if this is a CHANGE of address.

Membership Information:
Is your membership □ New OR □ Renewal
Is your membership □ Full membership OR □ Associate membership
Full Member: $25.00 screening fee new applicants only.
☐ Active Member $40.00 annual dues
☐ Joint Members $60.00 (two members living at the same address)
☐ Member age 65+, $30.00 annual dues

SEND your completed application and a check (made payable to: Philadelphia/Tri-State Artists Equity Association) to:
ARTISTS EQUITY ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 615
HAVERSTOWN, PA 19083

Membership Categories

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP  Associate membership will be open to everyone who supplies a completed membership form and pays dues at the current membership rate.

FULL MEMBERSHIP  (Professional) Full members receive a link to their fine art website for as long as they are a member in good standing.
Full Membership is open to those who pay the current membership dues plus a one-time screening fee of $25, and supply the following four items:
1. Your resume or curriculum vitae
2. Your artist’s statement
3. A completed membership form
4. Documentation of two of the activities listed below:
   • Are represented by a commercial gallery or professional art representative
   • Three or more sales of their original artwork
   • Exhibition history in three or more juried/curated (non-student) shows at a university or museum gallery, art center, artists co-op or commercial gallery
   • Graduation from a professional art program

All materials must arrive in the same package and will be kept on file by Artists Equity Association. Questions? Email info@artistsequity.org