

OWS Newsletter - Summer 2022

Special Edition

Spring Fling Update

As you know, we organized a Spring Fling for the end of May - a chance to come together and do some plein air painting, and see each other again over cocktails.

We needed a minimum of 20 ticket sales in order to move forward with the event. Unfortunately, we only had 15 people purchase tickets, including the four members currently serving on the Executive. Our total membership is 116, so the ticket sales represented around 13% of our total members.

It's certainly possible that members are still reluctant to gather in person, because of the ongoing pandemic, and that is understandable.

Consequently, the Spring Fling has been cancelled, and ticket purchases have been refunded.

Thanks to those of you who expressed interest, and we will miss seeing you in person!

Newsletter, Website & Social Media Update

At the moment, we do not have a graphic designer for the Newsletter. Though we have not always had someone to fill this role in the past, it certainly makes for a beautiful newsletter that is beyond my capacity as current editor to produce. As a result, the newsletter will appear only as a special edition and take on this barebones appearance until additional support is forthcoming.

As well, the OWS Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator positions are currently vacant. Therefore, these too will remain inactive until these positions are fulfilled.

Annual General Meeting and the Future of OWS

OWS' recent member survey highlighted what activities members would like to see: workshops, programs, and juried shows. As previously mentioned, the Executive is running with only four members. The Constitution and Bylaws require standing committees for both Exhibitions and Programs, and both of those roles remain vacant, as do many others.

When the OWS was founded in 1976, the internet did not exist. Opportunities to learn and share artwork needed to be in person, and they may have been few and far between. Today, the internet and social media have unlimited options for sharing art, and there are numerous art groups and galleries in the Ottawa area. While these groups may not be dedicated to the watercolour medium, they do not exclude it. Perhaps the Society is simply not needed anymore.

As mentioned above, the Society will be on hiatus until the Annual General Meeting to be held this fall. Generally, the meeting is held in early November and members will receive at least 3 weeks notice, as required by the Constitution.

In order for the OWS to move forward in a sustainable way it needs members like you to fill those vacant positions mentioned above. During the summer months, please consider stepping up and fulfilling one of those vacant positions. Hopefully, by the AGM, your OWS will have a complete executive in place for its future, as it cannot and will not continue with only the current four members.

An email announcing the AGM will be sent to all members in October 2022.

If you'd like to reach out, please contact our current Vice President, Joyce Corey at president@owswatercolour.com.

Thank you for your interest in the OWS,

Your Current Executive