

Virginia Equine Artists Association Annual Meeting March 23, 2013, Virginia Wildlife Center, Waynesboro, VA

Present: Eleszabeth McNeel, Wilma Bradner, David Everette, Renae Major, Jillian Chilson, Elaine Hurst, Anita Parkinson, Donna Doyle, B. J. Clark, Robyn Ryan, Kathy Sykes, Evan Cox, Janine Higgins, Bill Easton, Mary Shira, Rosemary Green Heath, Ron Heath, D. Haskell Chhuy, Cheryl Lynn Ernest.

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by President Eleszabeth McNeel who thanked the Wildlife Center of Virginia for hosting our annual meeting. A thank you was also extended to Bill Easton and Janine Higgins for preparing lunch for the group. New member, Evan Cox, was recognized. Visitor, Rosemary Green Heath, also attended with her husband, Ron.

Members were introduced and officers were recognized.

Minutes of the last annual meeting were read. It was noted that more people had attended than were listed, but the minutes were approved.

Treasurer: Wilma Bradner reported that we had a balance of \$2,029.32, which included \$490 in dues collected for 2013. The SCC annual fee of \$25.00, liability insurance of \$181.00, and the Doteasy web renewal of \$33.40 have been paid. Proposed expenses for 2013 include: \$300 to cover social media expenses, and \$300 for advertising and other expenses for the show at Art on a Wire in Midlothian, VA.

Secretary: Renae Major distributed a membership roster that included two new members, Evan Cox and Donna Bennett, and asked that members make note of any changes.

Publicity/Marketing: Eleszabeth McNeel noted that Facebook draws attention to the VEAA. Individuals can also promote the VEAA and make connections at local shows, street fairs, etc. Cards cross referencing information with the VEAA website and Facebook would benefit the group.

Website: Robyn Ryan said changes to the website will be made gradually and in order of importance.

Social Media: Jill Chilson emphasized the importance of keeping Facebook material fresh in order to retain interest. She checks daily, but is able to schedule new postings ahead of time. Submissions usually run 5 days. She said watermarks are important on images. She and David Everette volunteered to lead a workshop for members who want to learn more.

Exhibits/Events: Debby Thomas who was unable to attend the meeting is in charge of the exhibit for Secretariat's birthday celebration on March 30, 2013.

B. J. Clark said plein air artists are welcome any time at Stillwater Farm, breeders of Gypsy Vanners, in Cashiers, NC. She will also look into the Waynesboro Festival.

Donna Doyle reported on our show at "Art on a Wire", April 6-20, in Midlothian, VA. She provided postcard for members to distribute and will send an email to members listing information she needs for the show. Eleanor Cox will judge the show and awards will be given.

Robyn Ryan said the Virginia Dressage Show at Rosemount Farm in Spotsylvania will be September 7 and 8. A large tent is provided (\$80 for two days, and 1/2 price for a second space).

Workshops: Elaine Hurst said four workshops have been arranged: Robyn Ryan sculpture, June 1 & 2, at the home of Debby Thomas (\$135); June 22 & 23, Ron Boehmer "Understanding Color," (\$240) at Hoofbeats in the VA Horse Center in Lexington; Robyn Ryan watercolor, July 20, in Fredericksburg area (\$85); Robyn Ryan sculpture, August 10 & 11 in the Fredericksburg area (more information later.)

Suggested additional workshops include: Valerie Hinz, Lynn Maderich, Leslie Humphrey, Photoshop/Lightroom, and miscellaneous workshops available through the AAEEA. A group tour of the Sporting Art Collection at the Virginia Museum of Fine Art in Richmond was proposed.

(The meeting adjourned temporarily at 12:30 for lunch prepared by Bill Easton and Janine Higgins.)

VEAA Meeting 3/23/13, Cont.

Elections: Eleszabeth McNeel will continue to serve as President, Debby Thomas as Vice President, Wilma Bradner as Treasurer, Renae Major as Secretary, Donna Doyle and B. J. Clark as Exhibits/Events Coordinators, Elaine Hurst as Workshop Coordinator, Jillian Chilson and David Everette as Social Media Coordinators, Robyn Ryan and Willa Frayser as Website Coordinators.

The VEAA By-Laws were approved as read.

Following the meeting, Robyn Ryan gave an in-depth Power Point presentation on the VEAA's participation in Fine Art America. She is in the process of setting up a VEAA Gallery/Shop where she, as administrator, can upload images of members' work to the site with the intent to promote and sell the work. The FAA site will link with the VEAA website and Facebook fan page. FAA will fill the orders, ship and collect payments from buyers and send profits to the Artist Gallery.

After the meeting adjourned, Bill Sikes, from The Virginia Wildlife Center, talked with the group about the work at the center and gave the group a tour of the facility as well as some up close time photographing a Red Tail Hawk named Ruby and Great Horned Owl.

Respectfully submitted,
Renae Major, Secretary