

Virginia Equine Artists Association
Annual Meeting, May 9, 2015
The M.A.R.E. Center, Middleburg, VA.

Present: Eleszabeth McNeel, Debby Thomas, Renae Major, Pam Marshal, Goksin Carey, Linda Worshaw, Cathy Choyce, Rebecca Knotts, Cheryl Lynn Ernest, Cynthia Pixley, Matthew Pixley, Robyn Ryan, Elaine Hurst, B. J. Clark, Janine Higgins, Bill Easton

The meeting was called to order by President Eleszabeth McNeel who expressed our appreciation to the M.A.R.E. Center for allowing us to meet at their facility. Introductions were made and we were asked to tell a little about ourselves.

Secretary's Report: Copies of the minutes of the 2014 annual meeting were distributed and approved.

VEAA officers for 2015 and 2016 were elected as follows: President, Eleszabeth McNeel (Enewsletters); Vice President, Debby Thomas; Secretary/Membership, Renae Major; Treasurer, Wilma Bradner; Publicity/Marketing, Tonya Butcher; Social Media, Cynthia Pixley (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram); Activities/Events, B. J. Clark; Gallery Shows, Donna Doyle; Booth Shows (open); Newsletter, Donna Doyle and Renae Major; Workshops, Cheryl Ernest and Elaine Hurst.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance is \$2,201.49 with a credit of \$106.18 on our debit card, bringing total to \$2,307.67. \$630 is owed for the Meadows exhibit and the Caroline County vendor's permit, with \$23.27 sales tax owed to the VEAA. We have two outstanding PayPal payments of \$67.36 bringing the subtotal to \$1,768.83. A proposed donation of \$25 to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation in honor of Debby Thomas' sister and mother brings the balance on hand to \$1,743.30.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Copies of the membership roster were distributed. At that time, 56 members were listed.

Activities/Events: The following events are being planned: A trip to Chincoteague to see the wild ponies; a return trip to Beaufort, NC, to photograph the wild horses; a layers workshop with Robyn Ryan.

Website: The VEAA website was recently upgraded by Donna Doyle and Robyn Ryan.

Social Media: Due to illness, Jill Chilson was unable to continue her superb work. Debby Thomas (Facebook) and Eleszabeth McNeel (Enewsletter) kindly volunteered to temporarily take on these extra duties. Cynthia Pixley has agreed to work with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as our Social Media director.

Workshops: Assateague plain air workshop (contact Elaine Hurst); a Booth Malone workshop in Berryville, \$275 for five days.

Gallery Shows: Art on a Wire in Midlothian, May 16-30.

Booth Shows: Rosemount, September 12-13, RSVP to Robyn Ryan by August.

OLD BUSINESS

Member Awards: Goksin Carey - Community Star Award for Artist of the Year by the American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C.; Debby Thomas - Cimarron Sky-Dog Reserve Photo Contest, First place in the Autonomous Division, as well as an honorable mention in the same division; Eleszabeth McNeel - Second place in Unity Division of the Cimarron Sky-Dog Contest.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gallery Shows: Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen, November 19, 2015 through January 17, 2016.
Cable Gallery in Lexington, 2016.

Proposal: That the VEAA open membership to artists doing any animal art, not exclusively equine. It was felt that if this were done, the VEAA would lose its unique position as the sole organization for equine art in the area. It was suggested that we designate a show that would include other animal art.

Proposal: That the VEAA provide an annual donation to a charitable organization. The organization would be proposed by the VEAA Board and presented to the membership for approval.

Proposal: That the VEAA buy an ad to thank patrons of VEAA. Tabled for further discussion at the next Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned and we enjoyed another delicious lunch provided by members Bill Easton and Janine Higgins.

Following lunch, the group attended the Society of Animal Artists Exhibition at the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg.