



January 2024 Newsletter

From Our President

Mary K. Hammond

nbalpresident@gmail.com



Yikes!



.... Oh Great!

I have to write a Presidential Newsletter.

Hello everybody, Happy New Year!

This was much easier to do as both 2nd and 1st Vice President because I just had to keep you updated on any changes happening in my area and praising the teammates that were helping me get things done. To some extent, I think I will continue to do that, but I have been told not to get in the way of my wonderful Vice Presidents and to let them write the information, updates and instructions pertaining to their area of service to you. Please be sure to read their sections of the newsletter because they have important stuff to tell you. This year **Vicki Houston is taking 1st VP, Joan Ehlert-McBride will be 2nd VP, and Gretchen Goode is staying as 3rd VP. Thank You Ladies.**

So, I asked past presidents what I should write about. They told me, "Whatever you want to or are thinking about". *What???* Right now, too many thoughts are running around in my head to nail one down, but here it goes.

My main thought as I step into this position is that I am honored to have been asked to be president of such a fantastic organization. Do you realize that we (by which I mean you, me, docents, teachers, team members, team board and executive board) all working together as a cohesive unit have created and maintained this business, education facility, and community center for artists for 59 years as of this year. An organization created by artist for artists. **Our 59th "Artoberfest" will happen this October Amazing!**

The first painting class that I took through NBAL was in the mid-1990s, in a little store front shop located across from the HEB on Walnut. My next painting class was in the kitchen area of the building we are in now because the upstairs was not completed, and the elevator was setting in the alleyway. My next class was in the large, beautiful Bower Classroom and at that moment I knew that this organization was something I wanted to be a part of. I could tell that the administration raised, saved, and used their money wisely in a well thought out manner. Moving forward in a logical positive way to create an environment that served artists no matter what artistic level they were. So, I joined NBAL in 2003, serving as a docent for 10 years as I continued to teach art at Judson High School. After leaving teaching, I focused on my art, winning "Artist of the Year" for 2012 and was asked to join the Executive Board in 2013.

Now here I am after 10 more years, where **I will be the 30th President** to have their name added to the NBAL Yearbook. It is not only an honor, but a humbling experience to have my name linked with those who have served before me. I know that several like me did not actively pursue the position but step up to it as a way to pay back for the artistic gift that God has given us. A way to ensure that the organization lives on to be a home to our creative friends and colleagues. Read those names at the front of the yearbook because they are special people who set their art aside to give back to their community and I am proud to have my name added to theirs. **I pray every day that the Lord gives me the knowledge and the skills to serve this community in a friendly, fair, and diplomatic way.**



Praise and a big THANK YOU, to Elaine Felder who has had this job before me for a total of 19 years, 1980-1981, 1984-1986, and 1990-2004. Elaine was the driving force behind us owning our wonderful building. She found the building, convinced the board to purchase it, came up with the needed fund raisers, and then oversaw the renovations to make it into the beautiful property that it is today. Those of us who have been here the longest

think of her as *Superwoman*, who drove the rattlesnakes out of the basement and chased the bats out of the attic. Elaine is still serving NBAL as our **President Emeritus** and **Historian**. She continues to attend every Executive Board meeting to help us make decisions about how to maintain our facility. **Elaine, you are a gift to our artistic community, and we treasure you.**



***Message to Team Leaders**

Calling all Team Leaders, please come to the meeting this Jan 16. I want to restructure how these meetings run and need your input.

***General Meeting on Jan. 16 at 2pm in the Bower Classroom**

General Meetings are for *ALL* members as well as guests. After a short business meeting where members are updated on what is going on at the gallery there is a demonstration

by a local artist. **The January demo will be by Sondra Von Gyllenband who will show us the art of felting.** Come prepared to have fun and learn a new skill.

****HELP! We still need someone to take this job.***

Special Events/Demonstrations Team Leader* – Oversees special events such as Wine & Saengerfest, Wine Stroll, and Wassailfest. Schedules and manages artist demonstrations or programs planned for the General Meetings throughout the year. Please contact me if you have any questions or are willing to help me with this. **In the meantime, if you or someone you know would like to give a demo for the general meetings, please contact me. NBAL pays \$100 for this service.**

See you guys in the gallery,
Mary Hammond
NBAL President

Treasurer's Report December 2023

Marcie Helmke, Treasurer
nbaltreasure@gmail.com

Top ten sellers: Trace Guthrie, Randy Spangenberg, Joe Eby, Diane Black, Donna Hays, Joy Fonvielle, Barb Maroney, Nell Anderson, Myra Knapp, Gina Cumberland.

Total Sales: Nov 2023	\$12,116.98
Nov 2022	\$ 6,790.11

A detailed financial report of the Art League balances is furnished to the Board monthly and is available to anyone upon request.

Parking Reminder

Parking continues to be sparse downtown. The NBAL parking spaces in the back of the building are designated for artists doing business in the gallery i.e. working as a docent, dropping off artwork, attending classes/workshops. Vehicles not claimed by an individual inside the gallery are subject to be towed at the owner's expense. Be sure to sign up your vehicle on the whiteboards posted on the back door. If you plan to eat/shop in downtown, you will need to move your vehicle.

Information Security Notebook

It is that time of year again. ANYONE who might work at the docent desk during the upcoming year is required to read the NBAL policy on handling secure data and sign the notebook indicating your acceptance of the policies. This includes not only the regularly scheduled docents but also **anyone** who wants to sub during the year or who might need to fill in at the desk during receptions or special events.

Open Art Night Returns

Mark your calendar for February 17 and plan to join us for Open Art Night. More details in the February newsletter!

NBAL Gallery Information

Vicki Houston, 1st VP

msavenhouston@gmail.com

The bag labels placed on the white bags have increased significantly in cost. We have decided to phase out those labels and continue to use the “Thank You” cards at each sale.

Please remember to fill out the emergency call number on your time sheets. If an emergency should arise, we need someone to notify. Also, please make sure you fill out the sub information on your time sheet.

NBAL Special Show Information

Joan Ehlert-McBride 2nd VP

joane050@gmail.com

Jury Day was December 2, 2023 – Congratulations to New Displaying Artists

26 Artists Submitted

23 Artists Accepted

16 New Displaying Artists

6 New Members to NBAL

New Artists to NBAL who are now Displaying Members:

Janie Perez Martin – Water Media
Rob Woolley - 3D Media Glass
Rebecca A Briley – Oil/Acrylic & Water Media
Noel R. Laue – Photo/Digital & 3D Media Glass
Jimmie Bemont – 3D media Metal
Dan Harper – Photo/Digital

NBAL General Members who are now Displaying Members:

Deborah Richman – Oil/Acrylic
Louellen Brock-Jones – Water Media
Carol Haralson – Drawing Media
Donna Maske – 3D Media Textiles
Sherry M. Riggs – Oil/Acrylic
Carol Hoffman- Oil/Acrylic & Water Media & 3D Media Metal
Kathy Kelsheimer (Weiner) – Oil/Acrylic & Drawing
Christy Gallaher – Oil/Acrylic
David R. Moran – Photo/Digital
Kathy Hopkins – 3D Media Jewelry

NBAL Displaying Members who are now approved in another media:

Gerlyn Friesenhahn – 3D Media Metal
Anna Cochran – Drawing Media
Mi Hyun Choi – Water Media
Eilen Thedford – Water Media
Renee Bejbl – Water Media
Rebecca Inman – 3D Media Jewelry
Bob Blakeslee – 3D Media Jewelry

Current Show “Artist of the Year 2023”

28 Artists are participating in this show.

The reception will be held Friday, January 5th, 6-7:30pm

note new reception times

The show ends Saturday, 1-27 and unsold work may be picked up Sunday, January 28th.

Upcoming Shows

“Anything Goes” 1/30/24 – 3/3/2024.

This is an open theme show for NBAL members. For this show only, any subject matter and media are allowed including artwork done in a classroom or workshop. There are 5

Media categories. Each category will award a 1st(\$100), 2nd (\$75), 3rd (\$50) and 1 Honorable Mentions (\$25).

Submission Day: Monday, January 29, 9am-12pm

Reception and Awards Presentation: Friday, February 2, 6-7:30pm

note new reception times

The 2024 Show Schedule and Show Prospectuses/Artists Inventory Log Sheets printed copies are available on the Show Bulletin Board and will be available online soon.

We Are Honored!

Gretchen Goode, 3rd VP
goodecreative@gmail.com.

We are very proud to share with you that the **Downtown Association** (DTA) named the New Braunfels Art League as their **Partner of the Year!** December 5th, at the DTA's holiday gathering, NBAL was announced as the winner. Mary Hammonds, our 2024 president, accepted the award on behalf of the gallery. Yea Us!



Keep Your Ideas/Feedback Coming!

Last edition we asked, "How would you market NBAL?". Other questions posed, "How can we attract a younger, diverse, art buying clientele?" Thanks for your responses! Please keep them coming! Contact Gretchen Goode at goodecreative@gmail.com.

January Photography Classes



NBAL's Photography courses have been expanded recently to be include both shorter timeframes and customized training to meet a photographer's very specific interests. Now there are 4-week, one-day, and 4-hour classes designed for every skill level, from beginner to intermediate to advanced!

[Learn more here!](#)

- **Essentials of Photography** If you are giving (or asking for) a new camera this year, consider adding an Essentials of Photography class with it! This class is perfect for anyone who loves taking pictures, but wish they really felt confident in how to get consistently good results! [Find complete details and cost/registration info here!](#) **The next class starts Wednesday, January 31, 2024!**
- **One-on One or Small Group Classes** These are the fastest growing category of photography classes offered at the Art League and are designed to as one-on-one classes for photographers that are looking to add new skills in a highly personalized, short format, very hands-on experience.

Sessions may be held in a fully equipped photographic studio at the Art League; or at a variety of other locations, depending on the student's interests. The goal is to help both new and confident photographers rapidly learn new techniques or skills they want to have, help them expand their photographic range, or solve recurring issues in their images that are limiting what he or she can achieve. [Find complete details and cost/registration info here!](#)

- **Photo Editing in Lightroom** is a highly individualized one-day photo-editing workshop held on a Saturday each month that is guaranteed to help you produce better images. **The next class is planned for January 13, 2024.** The topics and strategies we will learn are ideas common across all the major editing platforms. Using them, a few minutes of editing can take an average picture to entirely new levels! [Find complete details and cost/registration info here!](#)

If you or someone you know is interested in getting up to speed with your camera or finally mastering manual mode and exposure, those topics can be done nicely in a small group or private class format. For more information on these or to discuss details, contact Larry at the email address or by phone below. (Send a text for the fastest reply.)

For more information on photography classes, especially our fastest growing category, private one-on-one or small group classes, please contact Larry Johnson at drljohnson@gmail.com or 512-740-6205.

[Learn more about Johnson's work here](#)

2024 Schedule of Workshops!

Larry Johnson, Workshops
drjohnson@gmail.com

While we have concluded our Program of 2023 Workshops, we already have six fabulous workshops planned for 2024, and more coming in 2025! You can learn full details about any workshop on the NBAL website, and online registration is available.

Here is the spring schedule! Consider gifting a loved one with a seat in one of these exciting Spring Workshops!



In **Vie Dunn-Harr's Jan 19-21 workshop**, she will introduce movement and abstraction as the foundation of any subject matter. Like an expedition, participants will immerse themselves into unfamiliar territory and be challenged creatively. Her group demos are extraordinary; she works personally with each participant, encouraging them to realize new strengths and expressions. [Learn more here!](#) [Register now!](#)



Monika Pate, April 19-21, 2024. During this 3-day workshop, students will explore a variety of techniques to create realistic glass objects in transparent watercolor. A simple still life will be used to learn how to approach the variety of shapes, colors, values and texture of glass and reflective surfaces. [Learn more here!](#) [Register now!](#)

Coming next fall, we have a fantastic lineup! Click on any of the listings below to see complete information about these fall workshops.

- [Marla Baggetta, Sept 6-8, 2024.](#)
- [David Lobenberg, Oct 25-27, 2024.](#)
- [Elizabeth St. Hilaire Oct 18-20 session](#) is waitlisted.

You can register for any of these sessions right now via the online form at:

<https://form.jotform.com/230390334096150>

2024 Board of Officers

President – Mary Hammond
1st VP – Vicki Houston
2nd VP – Joan Ehlert-McBride
3rd VP – Gretchen Goode
Secretary – Jeanne Balkman

Treasurer – Marcie Helmke
Asst. Treasurer – Chase Willett
Parliamentarian – Robin Roberts-Walker
President Emeritus – Elaine Felder

