

Ocean County Artists Guild Member Meeting



February 28, 2026

Roll Call:

Board Members: Cagney, Danielle, Gianna, Suzanne Pulver, Corey Ann Roberts, Amanda D, Scott, Diane Israel, Sue Clayton, Sally, Cat, Susan Mauro, Ydes Fastag

Present: Cagney, Danielle, Gianna, Diane, Suzanne Pulver, Ydes Fastag, Sue Clayton, Sally, Corey Ann Roberts

Absent: Cat, Susan Mauro, Scott, Amanda D

Opening Comments

- Thank you to everyone who brought in food in for the meeting!
- Board Introductions
 - Cagney Archdeacon (President), Cat Parker (Treasurer), Amanda Donovan (Corresponding Secretary), Gianna Masi (Recording Secretary), Susan Mauro (Membership Secretary)
 - **Trustees:** Danielle Archdeacon, Sue Clayton, Sally Cornelison, Diane Israel, Suzanne Pulver, Corey Ann Roberts, Ydes Fastag, Scott Oldt
- Changing by law to have board tenure for calendar year as opposed to September to September. Same board for holiday events in Q4.
 - Currently Sept. to Sept., since we have a lot of new board members it is difficult to start in Sept. and transition smoothly to busy December events. With the slow January this makes sense for the new board to join then.
 - We would vote for new board Sept/Oct
 - Members think this is a good idea to avoid scrambling with SailFest, Halloween, Holiday event. **Board agrees.**
 - Two people have stepped down from the board, **Marilyn Kralik & Jullie Fallon.**

Treasurers report/overview of financials.

- Historic Preservation Grant: we would need to raise upwards of 75k, we had to take 6k from 18k savings account due to tax mistake
- SBA SVOG Grant update
 - Documentation wasn't closed out properly; we are not touching money market account in case we need to pay back for SVOG
 - Senate Members wrote for us for SBA/SVOG to consider OCAG is a small business/non-profit
- Clean slate in membership (Thank you Susan Mauro!). Increase in membership dues going forward.
 - With transition between boards, we had lost a Membership Secretary and lost track of membership statuses at OCAG, **Susan Mauro** has updated everything
 - Talking about increasing membership from \$50 to \$60, we only increased it last year 10% and we need to keep it fair and reasonable
- Grant work: We received the LAP grant again but do not have the final # yet.
 - We will get 75% of that in March and the rest of it in May
- Working on new grants-TD Bank, Ocean First, Charles Mathis, New Jersey State Council on the Arts
 - **Corey** came to **Cagney** about TD Bank (everything is closed for now as they run on a 2-year schedule)
 - **Cagney** is looking into New Jersey State Council on the Arts as they give sizable grants, he is optimistic about receiving money from the state given OCAG's great history and community.
- Moving money market account to Provident or local Bank/Credit union that likes helping nonprofits.
 - We get a dollar per quarter for interest, but **Cagney** is looking into finding a better interest rate
- Private events (Children's B Day party and Bachelorette party workshop 5/2). Spread the word!
 - Another source of income!
 - Charging \$300 to rent room at OCAG, kids get upstairs for crafts and main studio for party room

Partnerships:

Music:

- JD Live - Wednesday once a month-next show scheduled March 11th brings a vast different group of people into our home that were not aware of the Guild. Vendors. Leads to new members.
 - We are partnered with JD Live, once a month they perform. Thanks **Danielle!**
 - We have gotten nothing but positive feedback from neighbors regarding the music, one neighbor comments that OCAG has new life!
 - Brings a whole new group of people to OCAG
- Dead Rabbits Celtic roots of the Grateful Dead 3/21
- Evening art and music reception Blackwolf featuring the art and music of Bob Steeler from Hot Tuna 4/18 (art up for the month of April)
 - Blackwolf lives in Vermont, coming all the way to OCAG for this! They get tips and we get whatever we charge for the tickets.
- Live music with Island Heights local Grateful Dave 5/1 (Fundraiser)
- We still have Acoustic series on Friday nights and song circles on Sundays (once a month)
 - This was a fantastic event! Song Circles bring an instrument and wing it!
- Senior Services-Possibility of having the senior show at the Guild> We're working on it!
 - We may be able to have June be the Senior Services, **Danielle** and **Cagney** had a meeting with them, but they didn't show, **Danielle** sent an email of OCAG Jury Show with what we can offer but haven't heard back yet.
- Belmar Arts-Danielle had initial meeting this past week with Chris.
- We signed up to be a part of the Island Heights 250th celebration in July for hospitality (teamed up with Island Heights Yacht Club) and children's crafts (teamed up with Island Heights library and Penny from Borough Hall. We have limited details at this time but will need help from volunteers. Fireworks Barge, live music-should be a blast! More to come.
 - Unsure of exact date, may be July 4th
 - Ideas: Whoever volunteering that day can receive OCAG shirts, or the event may even print shirts for everyone to begin with.
 - **Danielle** has volunteered to run Hospitality & Kids Crafts, getting the Guild out there, we want to be more present in the community.

- Guild of Creative Arts-Thanks to Tamara having them judge, we have a renewed partnership with David and Barbara.
 - OACG will be visiting the Guild of Creative Arts to get to know a similar organization!
- We still have Island Heights Cultural and Heritage Lecture series- Espionage, Baseball, Railroads- very interesting stuff!

New Workshops and Classes and Events

- Garden State Art Weekend (**April 17th, 18th, 19th**) with live demos – Turn trash into treasure with Clara Sue, Music art reception with Curtis Blackwolf and Bob Steeler, Sunday portrait and song circle, Woodturning, Linocut with Jo and miniatures with Diane Israel
- Working with Lee and Joe on offering Life Drawing with instruction and classes on drawing feet and hands.
 - Some of the most difficult subjects to draw, can be a popular class to have as many struggle with it!
 - **Tamara:** Life drawing the entire weekend workshop—could be a large draw as a weekend thing at OACG, she enjoyed it!
 - Maybe we can have Joe join in on this
- DYOT weekend and evening editions!
 - Thursday DYOT is HUGE and a lot of people come to have fun! We would love to have this at night and weekends! **Corey** is heading this!
 - Please share this!!
- Added Yoga on Fridays
- Gelli Plate DYOT
- Happy Hands Art Club
 - For children on one Saturday per month, there is a need for it as some cannot come to other OACG children's classes
 - 1.5-hour kids craft, **Danielle** is teaching this! 4-8 y/o, parents can run errands with kids here!
- There's interest in Pastel Classes, know anyone that can instruct?
 - We currently don't have any pastel related classes
- New children's classes with Jess on Thursdays to supplement the amazing work that Ms. Alison has done on Tuesdays and Wednesdays!
- Teen classes with Carol Colvin on Mondays
 - **Carol Colvin** is working to get the teens out of their comfort zones!

- Paint what you hear to live music in the works.
 - **Danielle and Cagney** attended a show and witnessed someone doing this, this would be great to have at OCAG with live music!
- Leona has newly themed watercolor classes and new workshops every month (soul book, alcohol ink on tile, deli prints)
 - **Cagney** went to one of her classes, its relaxing and creative!
- Joyful Art collective-proceeds are donated to the Guild every other month.
- Updating the foyer to show the instructor paintings of the classes being offered.
- Do you have any ideas for new classes? What are we missing? Let us know! Shout some ideas out and let's follow up with Danielle.
- New models for our life drawing and portrait classes. Thank you Lee!
 - **If you have any interest in live drawing new models can be fun!**
- Lots of stretcher bars and canvas donated, Diane can do a class on how to stretch your own canvas
- Summer Classes/Art Camp for Children
 - **What we currently offer during the summer is not enough for it to be truly worth it, for kids and parents, only a few hours.**
 - **Ydes** makes puppets! She can do a week of puppets. **Ydes and Danielle** will collaborate!
 - **Diane** has information on Montclair based summer camp, she will find out more about how they run the program, the layout of how it's structured, and how to monetize it to the community.
 - **Michelle Dillon:** introduces 5-day program with show at the end
 - **Tamara:** suggests music and art combination for summer camp—suggests local art teachers for summer, but **Danielle** tried this last year. Printmaking could be great!
- **Michelle Dillon:** introduces her classes for collages
- **Tamara:** suggests slow stitching class, you don't have to know how to show and you learn basic stitches, "Slow Stich Saturday," relaxing and for beginners, patchwork
- **Tamara:** in Maryland she found a town as one of biggest Plein Air Painting weekend, maybe OCAG can do something similar (**Cagney** and **Danielle** did have a day for Plein Air), bring it back? Cattus Island, paint on the river, etc. and have a show at the end to close the loop and tie the classwork together
- **Michelle Dillon:** has bowling pins, lesson where you make them look like people—SUMMER CAMP idea!! Could also be sold somehow in a fundraiser

Getting back to getting to know each other

- Let's get back to getting together! Scheduling member meetings once a qtr. Next one scheduled for **Saturday May 30th**.
 - [We want to have these Member Meetings more often to bring us together as a Guild](#)

Volunteering

- We always need volunteers. House sitters are needed on weekends. Please sign up.
 - [You can bring some artwork, be cognoscente of people who may come in, and it's easy!](#)
- In Kind donations-we had a friend cap the chimney after the racoon incident. If you know anyone with special skills that is willing to help, please let us know!
 - [We need more people like this!](#)

Social Media and Advertising

- Please like and share our members' posts as well as posts about the Guild.
 - [We want to get OCAG out there as much as possible!](#)
- Susan Mauro has taken the lead in having inexpensive banners made for our Art Opening Receptions and Events.
 - [People came to the latest member reception due to the banners! Awesome!](#)

Outdoor lights

- We will be replacing the lights on the lampposts in the spring-met with electrician who's volunteering his time. \$60 per lamppost compared to the quote we received for \$10,000. Eco-friendly, shielded outdoor lighting designed to minimize light pollution, reduce glare, and protect the nighttime environment by directing light only where and when it is needed (downward). Whatever we do, it can be undone approach.
 - [This is another In Kind Donation!](#)

Community Support

- We accepted 30 coats over the holidays to help warm the needy and are up to a count of 380 books for Better World Books to help literacy programs across the US.
 - Thank you to everyone who donated! We want OCAG to be a big part of helping community.
- National Soup it forward Day March 3rd. Accepting canned soup donations for the month.
 - We will continue donation drives into April and so on!

DYOT Suggestions/Discussions

- **Tamara:** suggest Newsletter Week at the Guild could include some sort of calendar of month's events.
 - There should always be a membership form somewhere in the building, that piece of paper is a reminder for them to possibly register later; also, with parents who drop their kids off, maybe we can have a room for parents to wait for kids—hospitality
 - We used to have a trifold/bifold with events of the year and overview of OCAG, listing main events of the year, music concerts, workshops, classes overview. She emphasizes that a piece of paper registers differently for people rather than purely online information
 - Have two people run as chairpeople running events, rather than having it on one person's shoulders, maybe we can approach members?
- **Danielle: Desperately needs sitters and someone to take over sitter schedule.**
- **Cagney:** We need to change the atmosphere and the culture to make this a community.
- **Carolanne:** Phone calls work better and get members' attention. Maybe we can have someone who is willing to make phone calls to get volunteers.
- **Michelle Dillon:** Last year Ocean County Library had a raffle with tickets for what you attended, they had multiple winners with prizes and useful items. Each time someone volunteers, maybe they can get a raffle ticket to put in the box, members can donate items to put in the basic
- **Tamara:** mentions honoring volunteers once a year
- **Sue Clayton:** agree 100%, however everything is digital now, what if we had a system where we have text reminders for confirmations of classes, membership updates, etc. and digital is vastly cheaper than printing
 - Maybe easier for teachers to keep track of who is attending what

- **Danielle:** Printing/ink is expensive, we try not to go crazy, Vistaprint mentioned, we use it for labels, and it is cheaper
- **Tamara:** We can encourage members to print out flyers as well, many do not have proficiency in technology, we can show people how to access online; fundraiser for our OCAG color printer that works unreliably
- **Michelle Dillon:** Automatic renewal for memberships? Make it easier for people. **Cagney** is all for everyone's membership ends December 31st, 2027, we start in January—if members join any time after Sept. they just pay for the next year. If we get on a schedule, it will be easier for everyone.

Thank you to the board, members, volunteers, past presidents, and beyond for making OCAG a family and community building. If you know anyone who wants to be part of this space, reach out! We cherish our creative community.