

Livessence Society for Figurative Artists and Models
Annual General Meeting
Saturday May 17 12:30 pm RCA Boardroom

Present:

Tina Siddiqui, Airaca Haver, Amanda Broman, Melanie Schleith, John Cochrane, Joan Bolen, Sharon Rose, Sandra Windsor, Sharon Fitch, Pat Huber, Bernice James Audrey Neal, David Leroux, Jean Langergraber, Julia Trops

- 1) President Opening Remarks: Because we made the AGM a working luncheon, everyone was provided a complimentary lunch with paid membership. Meeting started at 1257 pm. Tina Siddiqui welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Executive.
- 2) Drawing Sessions: Julia T presented the status of the drawing sessions. The report is attached.
 - a) Because rates have gone up for the room, and our attendance is down slightly, we have experienced a loss of \$1000 in the drawing sessions over the year. Ideas presented to increase attendance through discussion with members included themes such as musicians with instruments, dance, and to bring a friend.
 - b) The dedicated long pose sessions was discussed at length. There are times when the long pose session is well attended, and there are times when it is very poor. Members suggested that the long pose be moved to the second weekend in the month, as the first weekend usually includes a holiday. Sharon looked through her records and pointed out that generally the second weekend of the month is the poorest attended. Those who usually attend the long pose requested it be moved to that weekend. This will be done. Also, starting in the fall, long pose session will be required to be prepaid in order to guarantee that session is a long pose session. For Oct, Nov, Dec, long pose commitment must be done by Artwalk, and the calendar will be updated with info if long pose requirements (seven persons) has been reached.
 - c) It was also requested that the times of the poses be entered on to the calendar. Julia can put the minimum of what will be expected in the session, and members who are present at the session can increase from those minimums as they wish.
- 3) Models: Julia presented status of models. The report is attached.
 - a) We have some fabulous models and some new ones who are very promising. Because it takes such a long time to train models and after they are trained, some leave us, it was discussed to have a tier program for new models. It is as follows:
 - (1) models will be on probation for the first six months. Wage range will be first six months, 15\$/hour. Second six months, 18\$/hour. Third six months, 22\$/hour.

- b) John C suggested that models have a tip jar. All models are welcome to have a tip jar out during the sessions. Members are welcome to tip if they desire. It is recognized that this is a very personal choice, and not expected.
- c) Models are requested to have more dynamic poses. Yoga and dance are preferred.
- d) Models will be paid by cheque to facilitate bookkeeping and financial tracking of funds.
- e) Sharon R said that the models are an important part of her attending sessions, as she drives from Vernon. If she does not know the model, then she does not attend, as it is very expensive for her to come to Kelowna. This is a very good point, and likely important for others as well.

4) Financial Report: Sharon F presented the Financial Report.

- a) Overall we lost \$200 in the year. Our largest expense is the drawing sessions with cost of room and models. We lost \$1000 in 2013/4.
- b) It was suggested by members that we consider applying for a grant. Grant information from the City of Kelowna is included and Livessence would need a point person to step up and head the grant process:
<http://www.kelowna.ca/cm/page89.aspx#Arts%20Grants> and
<http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page2282.aspx>

5) Hallway Changeover: Sharon F is the main contact for the hallway changeover, with Joan B and Amanda B as backup. The next changeover will occur June 28, and art can go in to the Boardroom as well from June 28 to end August.

6) Artwalk 2014: Jaine B is the Chair for Artwalk. Jaine has done an incredible job over the past few years as Artwalk Chair and everything is running very smoothly. Thank you to Jaine for her inspiration and her dedication. So far, 13 members have contacted her to submit for Artwalk. More members are welcome, please contact her by May 31. The expectation is that if you show in Artwalk, you help in Artwalk.

7) Membership: Tina S presented the report for Jaine B. We have 20 members at present, but that number always increases.

New Business

8) Storage for Livessence: Tina S presented the issue of grid storage. We have lost the RCA grid storage space. All the grids have been moved to Sharon F's house and will be picked up/dropped off from there. Thank you to Sharon F for the use of her space.

9) Possible Venues for future drawing sessions starting Jan 2015: Julia T presented possible venues for future drawing sessions, as the costs for the RCA keep escalating. Discussed was Robert's Gallery on Lawrence just behind Town Centre Mall, HeArt School, unused building lease space, French Cultural Centre. Also, members are asked to contact any real estate friends to see if they know of any building owners who would rent us their unused space. Airaca H brought up that the

RCA and UBCO have joined and the fear that through this partnership will squeeze out community groups. Joan B stated that we community groups should consider presenting at the KVPACS AGM that the costs are too high. The KVPACS AGM is not scheduled at present as indicated on the website. When this date is known, members will be notified and welcome to attend the AGM. Note that in order to vote on KVPACS matters, you must be a member of that Society.

a) The UBCO article relating to the RCA/UBCO partnership can be read here:
<https://news.ok.ubc.ca/2013/11/15/community-engagement-focus-of-ubc-and-kelownas-rotary-centre-for-the-arts/>

b) Information on the mandate of the RCA is available here:
<http://www.rotarycentreforthearts.com/about/aboutus.html>

c) Calls are being made to the various groups discussed and if anyone has any other ideas of space, please send an email to Livessence.Society@gmail.com.

10) Potential Donation for Heart School Phase 2 Expansion: Julia T presented the known information for the HeArt School Expansion project phase 2. The link promised in the AGM is here: <http://www.gofundme.com/heARTschoolkelowna> The question was raised if Livessence would like to donate to the project. A sum of \$200 was voted and agreed upon if HeArt School is a non-profit. There were concerns about donating to an actual business. Because this is an open issue, members are requested to visit the link above and make their determination by sending back a yay or nay for this item number.

11) Executive nominations:

a) President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. The president for 2014 is Tina Siddiqui, Vice is Julia Trops, Secretary is Jaine Buse, Treasurer is Sharon Fitch.

12) Appointment of Committee Chairpersons as follows. All members are welcome to get involved at any stage throughout the year.

a) Members at Large: Sandra Windsor, Airaca Haver, Jean Langengruber, David LeRoux, Bernice James.

b) Hallway Changeover: Sharon Fitch, Joan Bolen

c) Grid Rentals: Jaine Buse, Sharon Fitch

d) Hosts for Drawing: Joan Bolen, Amanda Broman, Elaine ?

e) Artwalk Chairperson: Jaine Buse

f) Program Workshops: None at present. Joan B said that the Gayle Adams and Suzanne Northcott workshops were very well received. It was suggested that the Program/Workshops be on demand basis and for members to approach the Executive or Members at Large if they have any ideas or interest to lead a workshop themselves.

g) Marketing Promotions Exhibitions: None present

h) Website: Julia Trops The website report is attached. All members are encouraged to read it, and use the website as it is there primarily for them.

- 13)WAM: Tina S said that Livessence has been asked once again to be present for WAM as entertainment for their guests. WAM is Saturday June 14th, time is usually 7-9 pm but will be confirmed. We have been in WAM since the beginning and before that we were invited to Evergreen, which means this is our sixth or seventh year as RCA cultural entertainment. The model is paid for by the RCA. It was suggested by members that if Livessence is helping out the RCA for their events then Livessence should benefit by a reduced rate for room rental. Any members who are interested in attending the WAM please contact Livessence at Livessence.Society@gmail.com, please put the subject for your email as WAM Artist.
- 14)Contact: Contact on any of the items presented in the AGM or throughout the year should be made to any Member at Large or to Livessence.Society@gmail.com. Livessence values its members and encourages participation and discussion.
- 15)Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1430 hrs. At the end of the meeting it was discovered that Melanie Schleith made a donation to Livessence for \$100. Thank you very much Melanie, that was very generous of you.

Models - Report

I continue to get model requests throughout the year. Model training is an intensive procedure, for both me and the potential model. I expect a lot from our models, and I expect a lot from our members in order to keep our models. Both models and members are required to read the agreement forms. Members are asked to read and suggest any necessary amendments for either.

Our current models are
Linda, Donnalee, Sandra, Alexa, Jason,

Left us this year is Brad.

If a model does not show up, please consult the on call model list. I do send out a reminder in the week for the model. A new model who does not show up for the session is not asked back. Also please send me an email for the no-show at Livessence.Society@gmail.com.

Models need to have the warm up for their session, so gestures are important for them to progress in to the longer poses. It also helps them to get focused in to the drawing session. Please do not remove them from the session. For all gestures to 1s and 5s are about 15 minutes, it's not like it is the whole session.

Drawing Sessions Report

Long pose is the first Saturday of the month. Minimum number of people for long pose is now 7 due to the rising costs of the RCA space. Because of lack of attendance of long pose, we are losing money. Unless we can come to some agreement about how to handle it, the long pose will be discontinued.

Suggestions:

1. Pay in advance for long pose to guarantee a spot. Tell me which models you would like to work from, I will attempt to get them for that date.
2. Have long pose once every two or three months. Pay in advance for this session to guarantee a spot.

Members attending drawing sessions should be verified to avoid people "saying" they are members to be able to pay the lesser fee. I'm suggesting that a nominal roll list be attached to the binder so that the host can make sure they are listed. When someone joins, get them to fill out a form and add their name to the list, then send an email to livessence.society@gmail.com to have their name and email added to the distribution list.

Website Report

1. Calendar: updated on the website. Any deviations or notices are on the calendar for the drawing sessions.
2. Members: have the option to send an email to livenessence.society@gmail.com with three images and a bio and artist statement to create a page for them and their work. This is a benefit of membership and currently does not cost anything.
3. Emails: any emails sent out to members are posted automatically to the website. If you think you might have missed something, check there. If you have missed something, then send an email to livenessence.society@gmail.com to let us know you are not on the list.
4. Conversations and posts: are available on the website. If you want to get a conversation going, then sign in to the website, and start it. Members are welcome to comment etc, just make an account and go ahead.
5. Member activity: are you involved in an event or show? Post it up the website. The website is for the society members to advertise their activities as well.

From the Annual General Meeting 2010 minutes:

7. Code of Conduct:

So what is drawing session etiquette? Well, what follows is a fairly general list, but one that seems to work very well for Livessence:

1. Be prepared. Check the calendar if it is long pose or short pose or costumed pose. Bring the materials you envision you will need. You are welcome to bring oils, acrylic, any dry material, clay etc. The only requirement is that there is no odours ie bring odourless materials. The room can not be opened for air once a session has started.
2. You come to class about ten minutes before and get set up so that when drawing session starts, you are ready to go. This is for your benefit, not anyone else's.
3. Use the late door for entering or exiting once the session has started.
4. During the set up time, see if you can make contact with the model and tell them of any projects you are working on, to see if they can give you the specific poses you are looking for.
5. During the session, the model will usually ask if there is anything specific the artists would like to see – use this time to communicate to the model (if you haven't already) about your requested pose(s).
6. Talking or not talking is up to the people who are there. If the majority are not talking, then consider keeping your chatter to a minimum.
7. Bring an ipod or other music device with earplugs. Please try not to sing, or dance.
8. Bring all your own materials.
9. During break, feel free to talk to other participants, ask about their methods, consider trading materials if it comes up.
10. Be respectful of break times.
11. Keep personal comments to a model to a minimum or not at all. Consider viewing the model as a member of royalty far above you, and you should be grateful and feel lucky to draw them.

I don't think there is ever a problem in erring on the side of politeness and respect, in any sort of dealings.

Be polite. Be kind. Just because you are the artist, you are not above the model, they are not your servant.

Remember, the model **ALLOWS** you to draw them.

Model Code of Conduct

So what is model etiquette? Well, what follows is a fairly general list, but one that seems to work very well for Livessence:

1. Be reliable. Be prepared. Know when your drawing session is ([check the calendar](#)), and if you have indicated you will be draped or undraped. Have poses ready. Bring props if you like.
2. No perfumes or colognes or aftershaves. The room can not be opened for air once a session has started.
3. Arrive about ten minutes before and get set up so that when drawing session starts, you are ready to go.
4. Ask the host to ensure the main door is locked with both locks.
5. You are welcome to ask the artists if there are any poses that members would like to focus on.
6. Once a pose has been taken, do not move, or itch, or look around.
7. Talking is not normally welcome. The artists are there to work too.
8. Ensure you rotate for each pose. Front gets back, back gets front etc.
9. Try not to make eye contact with the artists as they can get shaken out of their focus on their work. If you make eye contact, then that means you are moving around. Please stay still or you will hear many exasperated sighs and I will get complaints.
10. Bring a kimono or a housecoat. When not on the stage, you must be draped. Do not leave the room unless you are fully clothed.
11. Bring a sarong or another sort of cloth for you to sit upon.
12. The stage is your sacred space. No one is to come in to that space.
13. During break, feel free to talk to the artists.
14. Be respectful of break times. Start your poses after ten minutes max. The artists will get to their spaces pretty fast.
15. Most members are very respectful. If you find there are any who are not, ensure you talk to the host during the break or at the end of the class. Do not keep that inside.
16. If you have to cancel a booking at all, give 48 hours notice so that we can find another model.