

28 Aug 2014

Greetings, fellow Paletteers. It's been a while since I last wrote in this space, and much has been happening. In addition to our three regularly planned art shows, there have been two shows held at the Fishman/Family Dollar store in Barre, and some of our members have taken advantage of various venues for displaying their art. Of particular note is The Gardens in Williamstown, which is apparently interested in continuing to show art.

Your board met yesterday and discussed a number of interesting issues. We will have a number of changes for next summer's art show, and hope to find a way to offer credit card purchases. We feel that would probably spur more purchases. It's easier to fork over a credit card than it is to come up with a few hundred in ready cash.

I have been communicating with Robert Brunelle, Jr., who is heavily involved in the Northern Vermont Artists' Association. Some of our members also belong to NVAA. We are exploring ways that the Paletteers and NVAA can work together, and perhaps collaborate on future events. We will be adding a link to our website soon for the NVAA (as soon as their website is finalized). They will, in turn, provide a link on their site to ours. It will be a convenient way for members of both organizations to know what each is doing.

We are still interested in purchasing additional art display panels. The ones we recently purchased added a lot to our summer show, and made it possible to display at the Fishman store in Barre earlier in the year. We hope to get a lot of use out of them, and could use one or two additional sets. The only impediment right now is money. In order to raise additional funds for this type of purchase, I will be proposing that we consider registration fees and sales commissions for Spring and Fall shows. They would be small fees, but could add up nicely over time.

An idea tossed around at our board meeting was the idea of finding a "home" for the Paletteers somewhere in Barre, a place that could allow year-round display of some of our art, space for artists to work, and space for classes and demonstrations. There are significant cost issues associated with such an undertaking, and they would have to be overcome. It was pointed out that the Paletteers was given space rent-free (for a year) back in the '90s, but that it was abandoned after that first year. Problems that made it impossible to continue were insufficient income and difficulty getting volunteers to staff the gallery. With the Barre Senior Center moving, that would provide a space that might be suitable for an organization like ours, but the cost issues (rent, taxes, maintenance, utilities, etc.) would have to be overcome somehow. It sounds like a daunting prospect, but it never hurts to dream a bit. And someone may come up with a workable plan. Let us know your thoughts.

President Bob