

**MINUTES OF A BUSINESS MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK, HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019,
PURSUANT TO NOTICE DULY GIVEN, IN THE GALLERY AT THE LEAGUE'S
BUILDING AT 215 WEST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.**

I. Address of the President

President Thomas Harvey called the meeting to order and addressed the membership:

I always look forward to these members meetings. They provide another opportunity to update you on the state of the League and what your Board of Control is doing to assure that the League is the premier arts education institution that it is today and assure that it remains so long into the future. We are nearly 150 years old, and, with prudent management and a bit of luck, I hope that someone many generations from now will be able to say the same.

In a recent letter to all of you, I mentioned how virtually everyone with an attachment to the League brings up the fact that they just love the League. While that is gratifying, I also mentioned that only about 16% of League members actually contribute to the various League fund-raising efforts. I do hope that we can significantly increase that percentage. I know that all of us have a range of philanthropic causes we contribute to each year — our church, our synagogue, our *alma mater*. I hope that I can convince you to make the League one of your philanthropic causes.

And that is for our annual giving campaigns, but also as a potential beneficiary of your estate. We are fortunate that several League members have remembered the League and what it has meant to them in their estate plans. The League is in mine, and I would like you to consider adding the League to yours as well.

In fact, since that letter to all of you, several people who have not previously contributed to the League have done so, and the family of one member who passed away recently asked that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be sent to the League which had been so important in his life. So thank you all for heeding my request and for your generosity.

We are interested in what - specifically - it is that you love about the League. To that end, our Strategic Planning Committee has developed a fairly comprehensive survey which I hope you all will complete. With the information we glean from that, we hope to be able to tailor programming to meet what you perceive to be your own needs — be it instruction in different mediums, additional workshops — you name it. You were given a copy of the survey when you came in this evening. An on-line version should be available within the week. We will be discussing this later this evening.

We are also convening a number of focus groups composed of instructors, students, employees and others involved with the League to hear their thoughts.

It was recommended at a members meeting some time ago that the minutes of the Board of Control be placed on the League's web site. We have done that, and I hope you will look them over periodically. The minutes usually begin with some of my own remarks to my colleagues on the Board — but, in reality, to all of you since I know that those will be posted. There is a report of activities by the Executive Director, Michael Rips, and then reports from various of the Board's Committees. I invite you to review all of those at your convenience.

We talk about transparency in the governance of the League, and publishing that information is one way we have of assuring that.

Let me just hit a few bullet points about goings on here at the League:

Stephanie Cassidy has started a gallery on LINEA listing upcoming member exhibitions. This makes the notices timely so folks can actually attend the exhibitions.

We have a new CFO, Karen Gaines, and a new Marketing Director, Paul Livornese.

At least 8 new classes for Summer 2019 and three new instructors.

Popular New Weekly Tuesday Night Concours Receptions. I attended the reception last evening as I know did many of you.

We are continuing to attract good crowds at recent gallery events, including the movie *The Velvet Buzzsaw*, with popcorn.

Exhibitions: *The Masters* at Hirschl & Adler and the League late last fall. And the Bruce Dorfman and *New York Centric* shows in the American Fine Arts Gallery. *New York Centric* was review in the Amsterdam News.

The Hollis Taggart gallery celebrated The Art Students League at the Armory show in March by showing the work of 20 artists associated with the League.

A new Model to Monument installation in Riverside Park North at 145th Street is scheduled for May.

Michael did a terrific interview Jan. 29 on WNYC's "All of It with Alison Stewart" show.

We did a Social Media campaign during Black History month highlighting the history of African American artists at the League.

Again, thank you all for your commitment to the League. For those of you who have contributed, thank you for your generosity. For those who have not yet done so, please do consider it.

I would now like to ask Michael to share some comments and observations with you.

II. Address of the Executive Director

Executive Director Michael Rips opened his remarks by discussing a student who has had tremendous health challenges and who was sustained by coming to the League as part of a community of friend and colleagues. Mr. Rips went on to point out the Board's recent efforts and leadership in learning what students and members need and want at the League. Mr. Rips also mentioned recent changes to the staff, provided an updated on the status of the ceiling in studios 15 and 16, and concluded by inviting members to meet with him over coffee.

III. Election of Members

A list of 93 candidates for membership was projected digitally, and after review the candidates were elected as new members without opposition.

IV. Deferred Business

There was no deferred business.

V. New Business

President Harvey introduced board members Charlotte Bialek and Julia Salinas. Ms. Bialek and Ms. Salinas proceeded to discuss the effort to conduct a survey of League members and students, to be followed by focus groups. The survey was described as a tool for planning for the future and for gaining an understanding of important issues from the membership.

Member Anita Pearl asked what type of focus groups will be conducted.

Ms. Salinas responded by outlining the planned groups and the types of questions commonly raised by members. Ms. Bialek described how the results of the focus groups would be compiled and analyzed. The results will be shared with the community.

The floor was then opened for questions and comments.

A member asked if the League was being compensated for the mishap above studio 15. Member Anita Pearl suggested that the League could be given exhibition space in the new building next door. President Harvey responded by discussing realistic expectations, noting that space for exhibiting League artists was being discussed with Nordstrom and Extell.

Member Robert Schultheis suggested lengthening the Holiday Show and Sale to start before Thanksgiving, going through Christmas, as well as providing proper marketing for the show.

Member Sergio Lora thanked the board for the display cases on the third floor and asked if there could be exhibitions in the cafeteria. Director of External Affairs Genevieve Martin responded that the cases and the cafeteria have been recently used to display works from estates of former instructors in an effort to sell the artwork.

Member Steven Walker also commented that the Holiday Show could be lengthened to give buyers more opportunity to purchase artwork. Mr. Walker also mentioned that the cafeteria has been used for exhibitions of monitors' artwork.

Member Miles Kucker discussed a recent meeting between a.m. welding students, Mr. Rips and administrative staff to review issues about registration policies.

Member Anita Pearl asked if the welding department would be a candidate for offsite programming. President Harvey discussed the potential of the League leasing additional space in New York City.

Member Sergio Lora noted that the city of Washington, DC had identified urban areas in DC where an arts presence was needed. Mr. Lora asked if the League could follow this example in New York.

Member Michel Goldberg congratulated the board on the quality of the survey and discussed its importance as a means of carefully considering the growth patterns of the League and in describing the position of the League as a unique New York City institution. President Harvey replied that the League is fortunate in its financial security and noted that the board endeavors to be wise in plotting the League's fiduciary course.

Member Peggy Silverstein added to member Kucker's discussion regarding the morning welding section, underscoring her strong attachment to the League and to the sculpture program. President Harvey acknowledged Ms. Silverstein's remarks and noted the range of programs serving the entire spectrum of the League community.

A member discussed infrastructure deterioration and suggested that easy things be fixed as soon as possible.

A member suggested reverting the lobby to a meeting place rather than using it as gallery space.

Member Jaron Newton discussed the growth of the student body and inquired about new student demographic statistics. Mr. Newton mentioned Mr. Rips's recent appearance on NPR, noting the emphasis on new professional development opportunities for students. Ms. Martin responded with an overview of NYSCA programs provided by the League. Board member Ezra Bookstein noted Hugo Bastidas's workshops on the business of galleries, and identified an opportunity to study metrics and data on registration trends.

Member Zunilda Sarete-Shanahan discussed the merits of instructor Timothy Clark's "Nude in Nature" workshops and asked why they had stopped. President Harvey discussed the status of the Vytlacil campus. Member Anita Pearl asked if there were other opportunities for acquiring property through donation.

Member Riva Solomon described her experience coming to the League from Los Angeles, studying with Sherry Camhy, and looking for a supportive community at the League. Ms. Solomon said she was happy to see questions on the survey related to social events and thanked the board's member outreach and programming committees.

Member Jaron Newton discussed the need for efforts to attract or recruit young students who are serious about becoming artists. President Harvey discussed the Seeds of the League program. Member Deborah Zavon responded by discussing the importance of the community of older working artists at the League.

A member stated that the League should be thinking about growth across all demographics rather than targeting one specific group.

Member Peggy Silverstein suggested tours for school groups as a way to generate excitement among young students.

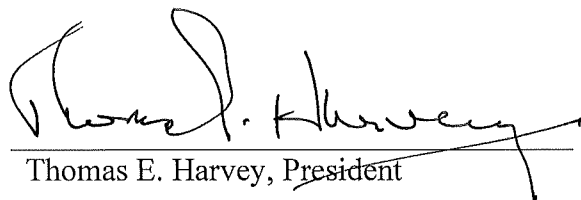
A member discussed the idea of off-site League expansion and the potential economic opportunities associated with a new space, including jobs for students and added services such as canvas stretching and framing.

Member Marian Symczyk noted that Mayor Bloomberg had proclaimed October 6th "Art Students League Day" (in 2005).

A member requested that the bronze statue of Mercury and the wooden benches be returned to the lobby.

A member cautioned against turning the League into a museum and commented on the importance of maintaining a metal welding program.

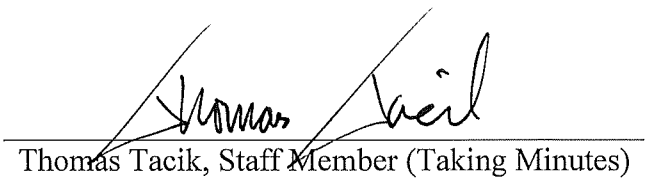
A motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.



Thomas E. Harvey, President

Date

OCT 16, 2019



Thomas Tacik, Staff Member (Taking Minutes)

Date

10/16/19