SANDPIPER ART GALLERY & GIFTS
MEETING MINUTES

Date:	March 19, 2026
Time:	9:00 am
Meeting called to order by:	Sue Arneson

IN ATTENDANCE

Sue Arneson, Wendy Curtis, Belle Edulan, Vicky Poole, Charlie Fudge, Cheri Browne, Karri Gill, Carolyn Schoening, Dee Dee Barbour, Marge Christensen, Jeanne Frolander and Andrea Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February board meeting minutes were read and approved.

TREASURE REPORT

Monthly financial report was submitted. Budget proposal for 2026 was passed. Wendy was able to find $115 per month savings in Quick books by going through Tech Soup for nonprofits. It costs the gallery $2.50 per check thru Simple Consign. Due to this expense, checks less than $10 will not be issued to members. The monies will be rolled over to the following month. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy. Chamber bucks can be used at the gallery, turn in the same as cash at the end of the day. Concern about the G-drive needing to be cleaned up. Wendy to work on this issue.

Gallery Director – Carolyn Schoening

- The new show "From an Artist's Heart" is hung and looks great.
- When bringing in new art please leave it on the left side of the backroom.
- Please take home your old unsold art, this will keep the shows looking new.
- The right side of the front window is being left open to allow people walking by to see into the gallery better and hopefully draw them in.
- Ray will be photographing the receptions.
- Goal is to increase the attendance at art show receptions. Flyers will be distributed to local hotels and the library advertising the receptions.
- Watercolor policy is to have glass in the frames. New policy is presented to also be able to use Dorlands wax. Motion for this addition to the policy was made and passed.

Gift shop Director –Belle Edulan

- Belle appreciates those who helped with the gift shop displays for the new shows
- She will be asking for volunteers to help with gift shop displays to keep everything fresh.
- Advertising signs for the receptions, book signings and new shows and Art Talks are all kept in the back room.
- Vicky Poole offered to take brochures out to the library, local businesses, and hotels.
- Fund raising project is deferred at this time.

Festival Director – Vicky Poole

- At this time 22 booths are filled for FLFA with a total of at least 30 being available.
- Courthouse Festival applications are slower coming in, which is consistent with last year.
- Festival committee meeting will be held in a couple of weeks.

Membership – Marge Christensen

- New members have been trained. Thanks to everyone who helped with this process.
- Marge has collected and organized responses for the volunteer activities required this year. There is a book over the sink in the back listing who has volunteered for which activity.
- One member has had to move from active membership to friend of the gallery due to her work obligation. A $25 refund will be issued.

Website/Social Media – Dee Dee Barbour

- There is a person interested in the position of website coordinator.
- It was decided that the cost to be included in the Attractions menu is too expensive.
- Advertising will continue to occur on social media.
- Andrea will look into the Chamber offering quick grants for social media advertising.
- Andrea will make a video of the new show to send to Dee Dee for the website.

Scholarships – Sue Arneson for Donna Kotyk

- Scholarship application has been updated on the SAGG website.
- Donna will give a report at the April meeting.

Workshop Coordinator – Sue Arneson for Judy Wright

- There are five workshops for March, April and May.
- The new design for the backroom works well for workshops.
- When signing someone up for a workshop please scan the tag on the workshop form.
- Dee Dee needs to be given the information regarding workshops to put on the website.

R & D Committee – Sue Arneson

- Monthly "Let's Talk Art" presentation talks will start again in April of 2026.
- Marge will be the first presentation of the year. She will talk about her trip to Egypt.
- R&D committee will resume their meetings.
- Plans to explore what the goals are for the gallery.
- What grants are available for Sandpiper activities and growth.
- Research the possibility of creating an Art Center for the community.
- Belle and Carolyn requested a guide on what the gallery needs to bring in each month.
- Wendy will work on getting this information to them.

President – Sue Arneson

- Congratulations to Charlie Fudge for being The Citizen of the Year for the city of Polson.
- Policy regarding Human Figurative Art vs. Nudity in Artwork was discussed. Motion was made and passed to accept policy as written.
- Zen Parry presentation about grant writing was canceled and will be rescheduled for next month's meeting at her request.
- Consideration of sales at the gallery has been deferred to next month.
- Consideration to form a committee to work on fundraising and grants has been deferred to next month.
- Natalie Raffield has established a separate nonprofit organization to continue public art efforts in Polson to be known as ***ART IN POLSON.*** The ***Art4Polson*** initiative will remain a program under Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts. The board discussed the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between the two organizations to avoid public confusion.
- Natalie has indicated that she is willing to serve as administrator for the Art4Polson "Let's Make Art Week", under the Sandpiper, scheduled for June 8 – 13 2026. All murals planned, along with grant funds and donations received for these projects, will remain under the jurisdiction of Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts. The Board discussed the need for oversight and accountability related to the planning, expenditures, and execution of the "Let's Make Art Week" projects, including the expectation that all plans, mural designs, and expenditures be brought to the Board of Directors for review and approval. The Board also noted the importance of being kept informed of project planning, financial activity, and organizational commitments associated with these efforts.
- The Board further noted the importance of open communication and cooperation between Natalie Raffield and Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts to support the successful completion of the 2026 public art projects in good faith with the community.

Old Business: Discussion was held regarding our float in the 4th of July parade. Float will depict iconic painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware. Banner stating, We the People will be on the side of the trailer. Sandpiper Art Gallery and Gifts banner will be on the back of the trailer. Karri will supply the boat and oars. A budget of $300 was approved for this activity. Goal is to have everything wrapped up and ready by May 31st.

New Business: Andrea will reach out to Natalie regarding "Let's Make Art" week in June. She will request or gather a detailed outline of the projects and monies needed for each.

Next meeting will be held on **April 16, 2026, at 9:00**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30.