There comes a time in any organization when it is good to step back and take stock. The recent questionnaire was an effort in that direction. The results of that survey and our mission statement provided fodder for the recent board retreat held on Sat. Feb. 8.

Informal preparatory meetings were held at a local pub. Phil Seder joined us there and offered to once again serve as our guide and ringmaster both at those early meetings and at the retreat itself.

The early pub meetings were to provide a framework only. No brainstorming was allowed. This is tough in a pub. Still the idea was to provide a framework on which ideas and plans could be hung. A take home for me was the notion that if a person or organization wants to be successful then they should focus on no more than three things.

The retreat focused on identifying which three areas should be the primary focus for the coming year.

1. Improve consistency and quality of member meetings so as to retain current and attract new members. Meeting types were broken down to no less than four types:
   1. Educational/Demos
   2. Social/Studio tour/Networking
   3. Collaboration
   4. Lectures/Talks

   An effort will be made to schedule meetings as much as six months in advance and provide better pre meeting publicity including an effort to attract non-member guests. Member meetings will now be consistently held on the 4th Wed. of every month save December. The goal is double current attendance levels.

2. Grow Volunteer Contributions to the organization.

   Double the non-show volunteer hours for 2020 as compared to 2019.

3. Enhance Board Productivity

   Meetings will be agenda driven and structured to produce action items which will be communicated to the membership within seven days.

   Board members will be minimally knowledgeable about all PNWS functions.

   The board will meet face to face at least six times a year.

   Board will maintain or establish active committees for shows, volunteers, equipment, web, social media, newsletter, treasurer, calls to artist and PR.

   Increase revenue from sources other than member dues to $2020 using repeatable and sustainable sources.
My apologies for this very late newsletter. We’ve recently sold our house and spent most of December and all of January either getting ready to move, moving or dealing with the fallout. All this while realtors snapped viciously at our heels and inspectors handed us papers with evil content. We rent now. Life is again simple and good.

The annual meeting will be March 25th at Marty Eichinger’s studio. Elections will be held as usual and we will give reports on the state of the organization. Changes are coming in particular for me as I will be passing on presidential duties to our current VP Chas Martin. I have zero qualms taking my hands from the wheel. Quite the opposite in fact. We’ve a talented board, skilled in the areas we need and anxious to bring upgrades to our activities. I feel pretty good about the whole thing and perfectly content to be along for the ride.

I will still be involved with the newsletter and website and as past president will advise and fill in when needed. However, you are not rid of me yet. New officers are officially appointed at the first board meeting following the annual meeting but then I will retire and this time I mean it.

George

Volunteers

Andy Kennedy is our new volunteer coordinator.

From Andy:
“About six years ago we had a meeting at Julian’s studio. I was fairly new to the group trying talk with people, trying to figure what PNWS was. A bell went off in my head when I was talking with Alissa when I recognized how resourceful she was and then realized how exceptionally resourceful everybody in PNWS is. We all wear several hats. We’re all problem solvers. We all juggle several skills that fit together in 3D.

There’s a challenge inherent to organizing a bunch of resourceful people: channeling abundance into cohesion.

We’ve come together to share resources. We do this informally while chatting with others or hosting a potluck at our studios. The PNWS Board is recognizing how
important meetings are to members, trying to make them both more reliable and fulfilling. I’m trying to step up as a volunteer coordinator holding out the truth that we are an extraordinary group of people. I’m also proposing that by joining the group and sharing yourself as a resource, you are volunteering part of yourself already.

Showing up is basic to contributing to PNWS. And if showing up is a challenge, please let someone know. My personal definition of Community is: no one gets left out.”

-Andy Kennedy

More will come from Andy as our volunteer needs are clarified. For now the newsletter seeks reporters and those who would serve as photographers. Of particular interest are profiles of sculptors that would include both motivations and techniques. Such a story would involve a studio visit, interviews and photos. Reporters could propose their own ideas as well.

Board Meeting
Friday Feb. 28th 10:00am
Via Skype: contact Shelly at: treasurer@pnwsculptors.org
Physical location TBA

Next Member Meeting
Jesse Pierson Studio
February 26th at 7:00 pm
810 SE Franklin St., Portland, OR
503-395-5323

Annual Meeting
March 25th 7:00 pm
Marty Eichinger Studio
2516 SE Division St
Portland, OR

Workshop at Karen Russo Studio

Alessandro Gallo will share his sculpting process, from hand-building a figure using solid clay construction to painting the figure realistically after firing. Throughout the immersive, six-day workshop, every participant will be encouraged to develop one small to medium-size figure (15–20” in height). With the help of demonstrations and videos, the workshop will cover all stages of Alessandro’s process.

Last year, Alessandro taught this workshop at Karen Russo Studio. It was very successful and we are fortunate to have him return. It will be held from May 11–16, 2020 at Karen Russo Studio in Elmira, OR.

For more information or to register please follow the link below:

https://www.karenrusso.studio/workshops/alessandro-gallo-may-11-may-16-2020

Art Play Day at Murphy Studio

I’ve been wanting to do this since Carole first asked me to announce it. I finally made the third iteration and was not disappointed. What a hoot.

Here’s the idea. On certain Wednesdays, (to be announced to members) Carole Murphy opens her studio and her immense collection of oddities to members to use as they see fit. Now I just stuffed my collection of “I may want to make something out this someday” items in a 10’ x 20’ storage. Compared to Carole’s collection that is puny and I am filled with shame. That is to say there is a rich collection of materials and media available at Carole’s. There is a wall of chisels, beaver chunks, shiny doodads and feathery bits from some creature that died in the sea. There is fodder here, workbenches and tools. If like me you toil in a studio alone, with little heat, and poor light, rats nibbling at your heals, a visit here would be a welcome relief.

Right off I found most of some wooden puppet thing that had suffered decapitation. Carole offered the head of temple lion dog which I obtained by means of a cement saw. I spent the session carving down the neck so it would fit in the body of the puppet thing. I was successful in this. Not only that but it no longer looks like a lion...
dog but more like a pig and I’m not done yet. I don’t know where this is going. I don’t know what’s in that chunk of head cement. I hope it’s worthy.

Joe Cartino appeared. Being a sculptor of put together bits I am not surprised that he would be drawn to such a place. Here he examines some artifact to determine if it could be art or he should put it down quickly, back away and go wash his hands.

What are these? you may ask. These are the things that beavers chunk out of trees. The inedible bits they spit out as they take down your price Japanese maple. Wouldn’t it be fun to make a beaver out of those?

Here’s a box of letter stamps. Old school letter stamps. It goes on and on. Shiny and matt, plastic, metal, wood and shell, antique and newish. It is a thing mine. If I miss my hoard I can go here and feel at home. Watch for announcements. This is a fun thing and a chance to collaborate or just show what you’ve made to another sculptor who will understand and not think you are weird because of it. Then again...

Here are some of the thousands of things available: