

Crooked Creek Art League



June 16, 2025

As we are near the official start of the summer season, I want to take a moment to introduce myself to you, the members of the Crooked Creek Art League (CCAL). My name is Michael Naughton, and I am a visual artist who does acrylic paintings in an abstract style. I have been a resident of the Columbia Metro Area since 1994, when I moved from Pittsburgh PA for a job transfer. I have lived in Chapin since 2002. I retired in 2021 from a Human Resources and Development Leadership position at Westinghouse Electric Company. Now, I have a part-time leadership coaching practice which tends to get in the way of my art!

I am honored to serve as the new president of CCAL. Joining me as new officers on the Executive Committee in 2025-26 are Bobbi Mann, Vice President; Jan Lane, Secretary; and Jimma Causey, Treasurer. Yvonne Beyer, former President, will be our Parliamentarian and Barbara Teusink will continue as Webmaster. All the chairpersons' names, apart from a few vacancies, are on our website. I appreciate all who have volunteered to serve in leadership positions for the coming year.

We recently celebrated the League's 30th anniversary! I know many of you were here when CCAL was just an idea and how hard you worked to build a very sustainable art organization in our community. We have over 160 members, which is quite an achievement. And through the help of many department chairpersons and teams of volunteers, CCAL has been able to offer a variety of events that serve our members and members of our local communities. These art opportunities have included rotational exhibits for members, participation in the Chapin Fall Festival, community art projects, and juried shows. We are also looking for a part-time technical expert (paid position) to help us at our monthly meetings. The time commitment is 3-4 hours including travel time, once per month. This person will set up our ZOOM calls for remote attendees and the camera equipment so they can participate in the meeting and watch our monthly presenters. If you know someone who may be interested, please contact Barbara Teusink or me.

Much like other established community organizations, it is important to assess where we are, what is working well, what may not be working as well as we would like and what can we do to continuously learn and improve together. As a leadership team we

will be discussing some ideas with our Board, and we plan to reach out to members this summer to get your input. Of course, you can always send your ideas and thoughts to me at my email address ccal25 prez@gmail.com or to any member of the executive committee. Once we have your input, we hope to settle on a few objectives to propose for the new year. Stay tuned!

As you know, it will take a team of volunteers to keep our CCAL operating efficiently. We currently have some important Committee Chair positions to fill for the new year including 'Grants' and 'Sponsorships and Donations.' We are also looking for at least two volunteers to be committee members on the 'Community Art' and 'Membership' committees. Experience is always helpful but not required as we can provide guidance and help to new leaders. Volunteering is an awesome way to help our art community thrive and to share your gifts and talents. And it provides some great opportunities for learning, like I am doing right now!! Fortunately, our talented membership always steps up to help one another succeed.

In closing, watch for another summer email that will ask for your input. And enjoy your summer with your family and friends! I can't wait to see what new art you all create in the coming year.

Best Regards,

Michael Naughton

CCAL President

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