

St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society Newsletter

September 2026

September General Meeting

Saturday September 19, 10:00am – 12:30pm
Pasture Room, Francis Branch, St Joe County Public Library
52655 N Ironwood Road, South Bend
Social time and set up 10-10:30
Business Meeting 10:30, Presentation Following

Next Meeting

Saturday, November 28, 10:00am – 12:30
Pasture Room, Francis Branch, SJ CPL

Dear SJVWS Members

It's a season of change for the St Joe Valley Watercolor Society. Membership rolls have decreased, volunteers have not come forward to fill leadership positions. For financial and organizational reasons, especially regarding SJVWS' sponsorship of the Leeper Park Art Fair, the board is meeting these challenges in a number of ways.

- We will begin holding our membership meetings on Saturday mornings at a new location -- the Francis Branch of the St. Joe County Public Library. The venue is comfortable and accessible, with ample parking and facilities for our meetings.
- We are adjusting our meeting schedule and dues payment deadline. Meetings will be held in September, November, March and May. Dues will be payable by September 30. Your 2027-28 dues of \$35 will not be due until next September!
- We are updating our Constitution and Bylaws to meet the needs of today's SJVWS. A copy of the suggested changes is printed in this newsletter. It will be distributed to all members and held for a vote at our November meeting.

We plan to continue our efforts to build on the strong legacy of our Watercolor Society by offering dynamic presentations at our meetings, opportunities for exhibiting our work, and sponsoring the Leeper Park Art Fair. Please help us further this mission!

Also in this newsletter is an entry form for our upcoming exhibit at the South Bend Museum of Art, at the Community Gallery September 26 – October 25.

St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society Board Members

President

Open

Vice President

Diane reader Dorn

Treasurer

Nancy Turner

Secretary

Judy Rossow

Exhibits

Open

Hospitality

Beverly Watkins

Historian

Renee Keller

At Large

Gina Mitchell

SBMA Liaison

Dee Thornton

Leeper Park Art Fair

Hedy DeNolf

Publications

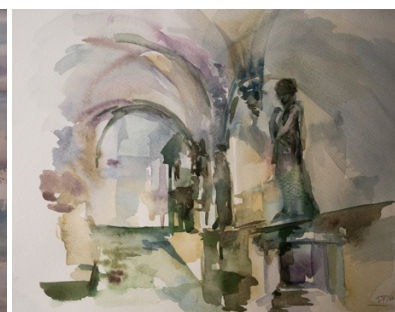
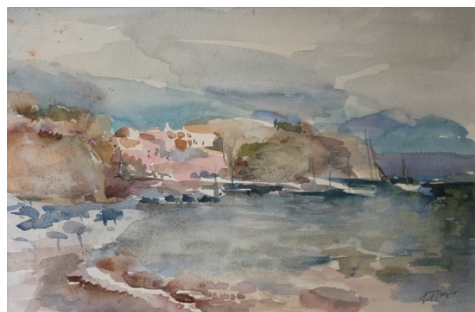
Judy Nemeth

Joan Spohrer

Past President

Diane reader Dorn

September Presenter Irina Tikhonova



Working with watercolor allows me to balance light and shadow, expressing what is often difficult to convey in words. For me, it is a way to naturally engage in a dialogue with the world.

In my work, I share impressions from my travels and beautiful places, but my paintings also serve as a mirror for my dreams and imagination. Wherever I go, I always bring my brushes and paints. In quick travel sketches, my primary goal is to accurately capture form and the distribution of light and shadow. When I am back in the studio, these sketches serve as the foundation for creating larger pieces.

Drawing upon my academic background, I intentionally avoid simply copying nature. For each subject, I try to find a unique method of expression, which is why I constantly experiment with different watercolor techniques and materials.

Lately, the scope of my professional interests has expanded. Drawing on my design background, I have become interested in watercolor's broader possibilities, specifically its application within art therapy and psychology.

SJVWS Fall Exhibit

South Bend Museum of Art

Community Gallery

120 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd, South Bend

September 26 – October 25, 2026

Drop Off: Saturday, September 19, 12-5pm

Members may enter two works, framed and ready to hang.

Dues must be current in order to participate.

Juror: A member of the SBMA staff will jury the exhibit.

Reception: October 2, 5-8pm (DTSB First Friday)

Commission: SBMA does not take a commission on art sold

Pick Up: Monday, October 26, 2-6 pm

Entry Form is included in this newsletter

See and Do Art

Learn and Practice

Daniel Slattery will be offering his watercolor landscape class, "Expressions in Water and Light", at the South Bend Museum of Art. This six-week course, for beginning and continuing watercolor students, meets on Monday afternoons starting September 14. For details or to register, go to

<https://southbendart.org/education/#studio>

Classes

Fall means the start of new learning opportunities. Here are a few links to classes being offered in the area:

South Bend Museum of Art
southbendart.org

Heartland Artist Gallery, Plymouth
heartlandartgallery.com

Roti Roti Art Center, Buchanan
rotirotiartcenter.org

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City
lubeznikcenter.org

Elkhart Art League
ealonline.org

Pinhook Artists welcome artists of any experience level and medium to join us at Pinhook Park Pavilion, 2801 Riverside Dr, South Bend, Wednesdays from 9:30-noon for studio time, camaraderie and inspiration. Bring your own supplies. A small fee is charged quarterly.

On Exhibit

Northern Indiana Artists' fall show "Seasons of Change" is on exhibit September 5 - November 15 at Fernwood Botanical Garden Clark Gallery, 13988 Range Line Rd., Niles. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00am – 5:00pm.

Congratulations to the **Northern Indiana Pastel Society**, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this summer with exhibits at the Crowley Community Gallery, South Bend Museum of Art, May 23-July 12, and at Heartland Art Center Historic Firehouse Gallery, Plymouth, August 4 - 29.

Opportunities to Exhibit

Heartland Artists 38th Annual Juried Exhibit runs September 29 – October 30, with a Reception & Awards October 30, 6-8 PM. Deadline to enter is September 19, visit heartlandartgallery.com for a prospectus.

The 48th Elkhart Juried Regional is accepting entries September 8-19. Visit midwestmuseum.org for a prospectus. The show will be on exhibit at the Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S Main St., Elkhart, October 10-December 31.

Artist News

SJVWS Artist News

Linda Fritschner had two paintings in the Colfax Gallery's Art and Social Justice exhibit this summer. "Maintenance Is an Economic Problem" won First Place.

Joan Spohrer, Eileen D'Haeze and Dan Slattery won awards at Northern Indiana Artists exhibit "Summer Splendor" at Heartland Artists Gallery, Plymouth this summer. Joan Spohrer and Eileen D'Haeze won Judge's awards for Sitges, Spain (acrylic) and Queen of Spring (watercolor), and Dan Slattery won a Merit award for Lighthouse Dawn, (pastel).

Nancy Turner had a painting accepted to the MAAC show at the Box Factory (St. Joe, Michigan) that ran this summer, and a painting accepted to the YWCA Women Artists: A Celebration exhibit that ran this summer in Youngstown, Ohio. She also had a painting in the Around the Bend show at the SBMA.

SJVWS Members won awards Leeper Park Art Fair, June 15-16.

Merit Awards

Barbara Walsh, Painting

Joan Spohrer, Painting

SJVWS Member Tent Awards

First Place

Irina Tikhonova

Second Place

Daniel J Slattery

Third Place

Anne Marie Peck



Eileen D'Haeze



Joan Spohrer



Daniel Slattery



Linda Fritschner

Responding to the Current Times

The St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society was founded in 1959 by Joseph Wrobel, an artist and teacher. The society serves to showcase watercolor paintings of members and to promote an interest in watercolor painting for the Northern Indiana area.

Membership is open to anyone interested in or active in watercolor paintings. Membership categories are: Active, Student, Honorary, and Honorary Life.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society is to serve the membership by providing an opportunity to meet in a friendly forum; to learn and experience new techniques; to exhibit in juried and non-juried shows; and to sell their art work.

The Society will serve the community by providing the public with varied opportunities to view watercolors by local artists that they may appreciate the talent that resides within its boundaries

You may recognize the above information since it's in the first pages of our most recent members' list booklet. It's also quite possible you don't recall seeing it or even have a member booklet because we haven't had a new member book printed since 2014.

Our society has had many members over the years and accomplished some pretty incredible things, including creating the Leeper Park Art Fair which has grown into one of the country's top 200 art fairs. We've also had many exhibits, awarded thousands of dollars in prizes, and had artist demonstrations, trips to the Chicago art museum, paint-outs for our members, models for indoor painting sessions and many other art activities! However in recent years we've also had declining membership and increasing difficulty finding volunteers to fill positions. With the inability to fill essential roles necessary to keep the watercolor society functioning in its current state, we've found a possible way to keep the watercolor society from dissolving.

Below is the outline of the basics for the society's future. These options will be presented at September 19 meeting, held at the Frances Branch of the South Bend Public Library (52655 N. Ironwood Road, South Bend), Saturday, September 19 from 10:00 - 12:30. They will be voted on at the November watercolor society general meeting.

The watercolor society will not be dissolved but instead will continue with reduced

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commitments that are more in line with what is possible with our lower membership. The Leeper Park Art Fair will continue working together with the Watercolor Society sharing our nonprofit and tax exempt status.

The watercolor society by-laws will be amended so they reflect what is possible and is the intention of the society members.

To exist as a non-profit in the state of Indiana we need:

- A board of directors with a minimum of three directors, president, treasurer and secretary

- Someone to interact with the government to complete the necessary filings

- A mission statement

- Bylaws

Since the Watercolor Society isn't being dissolved, it will be possible to amend the by-laws in the future to expand the goals and commitments.

Please come to our next meeting to talk about the Watercolor Society's future.



Spring, by Irina Tikhonova



St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society

Exhibit Entry Form

South Bend Museum of Art • September 26-October 25

Drop Off: September 19, 12-5pm
Juror: SBMA Staff
Reception: October 2, 5-8pm (DTSB First Friday)
Commission: none

Members may enter two works, framed and ready to hang. No sawtooth hangers. Dues must be current in order to participate.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Entry 1

Artist Name _____

Title of Work _____

Price or value if NFS _____ NFS _____

Entry 2

Artist Name _____

Title of Work _____

Price or value if NFS _____ NFS _____

----- Labels: attach label on back of work, top left corner-----

Entry 1

Artist Name _____

Title of Work _____

Price or value if NFS _____ NFS _____

Entry 2

Artist Name _____

Title of Work _____

Price or value if NFS _____ NFS _____

Proposed St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society Constitution, Bylaws and Member Guide

The following document proposes the Board's updates to the Watercolor Society's Membership booklet and to its Constitution and Bylaws. Discussion will take place at our September membership meeting, voting to approve the changes will take place at our November meeting.

Member Guide

The St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society was founded in 1959 by Joseph (Jozef) Wrobel, an artist and teacher. The society serves to showcase watercolor paintings of members and to promote an interest in watercolor painting.

Membership is open to anyone interested in or active in watercolor painting.

Mission Statement

The mission of the St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society is to serve the membership by providing an opportunity to meet in a friendly forum; to learn and experience new techniques; to exhibit in juried and non-juried shows; and to sell their artwork. The Society will serve the community by providing the public with varied opportunities to view watercolors by local artists to foster an appreciation of the talent that resides within the St. Joseph Valley.

Meetings

General meetings are held in September, November, March and May. Meetings are open to the public.

Annual Dues

The current membership fee is \$35.00, due each year by September 30. After September 30 a \$5.00 fee is added for a total of \$40.00.

Membership fees must be paid to vote, to participate in exhibits and to participate in the Leeper Park Art Fair.

Leeper Park Art Fair

Since 1967, the St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society has sponsored the annual Leeper Park Art Fair, held the third weekend of June. The fair includes a Watercolor Society Member Booth which is open to all watercolor society members whose dues are up-to-date.

Leeper Park Art Fair is an invitational, juried art fair that features over 90 artists from the United States and is ranked in the top 100 fine art fairs in the country.

Past Presidents

Naomi Schied
Alonzo Stivers
Allen Hawes
Dewey Thomas
Alexia Simon
Mary Dance
Phil Steele
Lynn Edison
Corrine Wales
Betty Eming
John DeMaegd
J. Lloyd Mossey

Marilyn Stoll
Henni Akkerman
James McCarthy
Audry Davis
Joan Blaschke
Gloria O'Brien
Don Lowe
Doni Hoevel
Jo Perkey
Martha Radanovich
Howard Scott
Tina Hepworth

Patti Wilkinson
Leanne Schneider
Stephen Blackburn
Yupadi Prasertwanich
Gina Mitchell
Janet Johnson
Joan Spohrer
Dan Slattery
Diane Dorn
Anne Marie Peck

Honorary Members

Anthony Lauck
Vincenzo Mangione
Audry Davis
Ed Lattimer

Harold Zisla
Lynn Edison
Doni Hoevel
Barbara Rogan

Eileen D'Haeze
Gina Mitchell

2026-2027 Board Members
Presidentwill write in names once we know them
Treasurer.....
Financial Officer ...
Secretary.....

Website: stjoevalleywatercolor.com
Website: leeperparkartfair.org

Member list and contact information

Constitution and Bylaws

A revisions date will be written here if changes to our constitution and bylaws are voted in.

Constitution

Article I Name

This society shall be called the "St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society."

Article II Purpose

The purpose of this document is to chart the course to be taken by the society in order to accomplish the objectives outlined in the following sections.

Section 1. Active members shall have full participation in all deliberation or activities of the society, must pay annual dues and may exhibit at our shows.

Section 2. Watercolor media includes gouache, tempera, casein and acrylic.

Section 3 The St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society will continue to work together with and recognize the Leeper Park Art Fair as a part of this organization.

Section 4 The St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society constitution and bylaws may be revised in the future to include different commitments to reflect its current membership.

Article III Membership

The membership shall consist of persons interested and / or active in watercolor painting.

Section 1. Active members may participate in all deliberation or activities of the society, must pay annual dues and may participate in our exhibits if adhering to our exhibit rules. Members must be 18 years of age or older.

Section 2. Honorary life members are active members who have contributed time, dedication and unusual service to the society then voted by the membership. Honorary life members shall have full participation in all deliberation or activities of the society, do not pay dues, can hold administrative office and may exhibit at our shows if adhering to our exhibit rules, with the exemption of the payment of yearly dues.

To become an honorary member of the St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society any member of our society may nominate another society member. The member name along with details and examples of contributed time, dedication and unusual service will be given to the board member. At the next board meeting a vote will be taken on merits of the nomination. If a positive vote is given then the nomination will be presented at a general meeting where again a vote will be taken on the merit of this action. A simple majority vote will bestow the member as an honorary member.

Article IV Officers

Section 1. The officers of this society shall be President, Treasurer (and / or a financial officer) and Secretary.

Section 2. The officers shall be elected by a simple majority at the May meeting.

Section 3. Nominating officers may be made up to the time of the election.

Article V Board of Directors

Section 1. The voting board of directors consists of the officers and any past presidents who choose to serve.

Article VI Meetings

Section 1. General meetings are held September, November, March and May.

Section 2 Demonstrations, talks, or other events may be offered at the meetings and may be planned by any of the officers, board members or member volunteers.

Section 3 Reports from officers and board members shall be given and made available at all board and general meetings.

Section 4 Special meetings may be called by officers when necessary.

Article VII Amendment

Section 1. Any proposed amendment of this constitution, or change complete or partial, may be proposed by a member. The proposal must be discussed at a general meeting and at a board meeting. A majority of members must vote in favor of it to pass. The vote may be in person, through email or text message.

Bylaws

1 Membership

Section 1. New members will be introduced or announced at general meetings. Membership is open to anyone over 18 years of age.

2 Dues

Section 1. Annual dues are \$35.00 due by September 30 of the current year.

Section 2. After September 30 (and until the next September 30) a \$5.00 fee is added for a total of \$40.00.

Section 3. Membership fees must be paid to vote, to participate in any exhibit and to participate in the Leeper Park Art Fair.

Section 4. No cancellation or refund of dues shall be made.

3 Officers

Section 1 President

The president shall exercise general supervision over affairs and activities of the society and attend the meetings.

Section 2 Treasurer

The treasurer shall receive and record member and society funds. They shall make available the financial status of the society at all meetings available in verbal or written form.

Section 3 Financial Officer

The financial officer shall be sure the necessary government filings are completed. The treasurer and financial officer may be held by two people or the same person.

Section 4 Secretary

The secretary shall record accurate official minutes of all general and board meetings and make them available in verbal or written form.

Section 5

General tasks may be completed by any of the officers, board members or society members. These tasks include planning meeting events, arranging exhibits, hospitality, historian, and other general responsibilities of our society. They should be completed in conjunction with the society officers in a positive and supportive manner for our society.

Section 6

A qualified auditor shall be appointed yearly from the membership or the community to certify and examine our records of the treasury for accuracy.

4 Board of Directors

Section 1

The voting board of directors consists of the officers and any past presidents who choose to serve.

Section 2 Any member of the board of directors may help with general tasks such as planning meeting events, arranging exhibits, hospitality, historian, publicity and other responsibilities of our society. They should be completed in conjunction with the society officers in a positive and supportive manner for our society.

5 Committees

Section 1 If any committees are necessary they will be appointed by the president.

6 Quorum

Section 1 A minimum of 8 members must be present and shall constitute a quorum of the society for the transaction of business in our general meetings.

7 Order of Business

Section 1 The order of business at all meetings of the society shall be as follows:

A Call the meeting to order.

B Make current financial and previous meeting minutes available for review.

C Give information on any current, new and future business and activities.

D Begin any planned program or demonstration. If necessary the planned activity may be presented before the general meeting.

E Adjournment.

8 Parliamentary Authority

Section 1 Roberts' Rules of Order Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for this society.

9 Amendment

Section 1 Any amendment to these Bylaws may be proposed at any regular meeting to be approved by the board of directors and then adopted by a majority vote at the following meeting.

10 Exhibit Rules

Section 1 No paintings can be accepted for any exhibit that have previously been judged and shown in a juried St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society Exhibit.

Section 2 No paintings can be accepted for any exhibit unless dues are up-to-date.

Section 3 All paintings must be original. No copies of published pictures or other paintings will be accepted. Prints of originals are accepted at the Leeper Park Member Tent.

Section 4 No art can be accepted that has been worked on by an instructor or another person.

Section 5 Jurors for exhibits must be knowledgeable with watercolor media and our St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society bylaws for exhibits.

Section 6 All works must be properly framed and wired for hanging

Section 7 Any piece of art entered into a St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society exhibit not maintaining at least 50% of the fluid quality as stated in our constitution may not be considered as part of the jury process and therefore may not win any award. This art will, however, be allowed to be exhibited and sold.