

December 2021



President's Message

The end ...and the beginning

Well, here we are at the end of a tumultuous year. Our Studio has gone through many changes – some orchestrated, some spontaneous, and some just plain out of our control. But, we are still standing strong and have some exciting things to come on our horizon!

Our amazing volunteers flexed their considerable muscle to not only reopen the Studio after closure for an entire year but also to equip and outfit our brand-new classroom that is already in use – with the schedule for it filling up as we speak. Although we are still operating under the cloud of the COVID pandemic, with variants popping up all over the world, most of our members are employing best practices for their own circumstances. Your Board's recommendations have not changed – if you are ill, do not come to the Studio; if you are not vaccinated, have been travelling, have visitors from other areas, or have concerns about infection for yourself or family members - please wear a mask; maintain social distance from those you are not familiar with; wash your hands often. We will continue to monitor how crowded the Studio becomes – if necessary, we will reinstitute workstation signup if we become overcrowded.

We have also had many personnel and committee changes – some of our previous members are not ready to return for a variety of reasons, some want a break from previous activities, and some have moved away. These are all normal changes that any organization goes through periodically:

- Glaze Committee – John Carney moved out of the area and Marilyn Serra took over. She and her committee have done a great job of getting our glazes reconstituted for use, bringing new and exciting glazes in, removing those that were not used regularly, and operating on a shoestring budget!
- Education Committee – Sue Helle did a great job as Chair, but has been unable to return yet to the Studio. As we were reduced to a single instructor for the Intro class, we formed an Education Work Group to review the Education Committee activities from soup to nuts and make recommendations to the Board. The Board has recently approved a realignment of the Education Committee structure, approved a new layout for the Intro Course with a pilot course in December, and approved incentives for future Class instructors and workshop leaders. Check these out on the Education bulletin board.
- Finance Committee – Katey Casey turned over leadership of this Committee to Rex Bybee this past year and Rex hit the ground running! The Board just approved the budget for 2022, new clay prices (which

are going down) and new firing fees (which are going up). These all take effect in 2022 – a preview is posted on the Board bulletin board.

- Raku Committee – Rob passed the Raku torch along to Doug Davis, who became Chair and has started our monthly firings back up – Raku on 1st Wed, Horsehair on 2nd Wed of each month.
- IT Committee – Jon Otto worked diligently with his committee to bring our computer systems up to date – we are now the proud owners of two brand new computers with updated (and more importantly, supported) software. He accomplished this with very little disruption to Studio operations – a big thank you to the work behind the scenes from Paula W (Service), Kathleen Richter (Membership) and Diane Willcutt (Monitor) who tested and made systemic process changes that most of us never know about. Well done all!
- Storage Committee – a brand new subcommittee headed up by Julie Jacques was created by a Work Group chaired by our VP, Marcia. With our new storage area operational, we needed new policies on what could be stored and how => thus Julie came to the rescue as our Storage guru – she keeps us all honest in what can be stored where.
- Kiln Committee – two new kilns are in place and operational thanks to Jay “Groot” – well done! Notices for sale of the old kilns are on the wedging table bulletin board near the sink in the main room.
- Social Committee – Teresa Turocy assumed the mantle; she and her committee have planned a Holiday gathering for us (see below)
- Monitor Committee – after a long tenure keeping our monitor program up and running, Diane Willcutt has decided to return to clay for the fun of it. Please thank her when you see her for all the hard work she has poured into keeping our Studio open by training the monitors. If you would like to volunteer for the Monitor Committee, please send me an email or text or drop a note in my mailbox. If there are any issues that crop up, please notify me until we get a new Committee Chair in place.
- Board actions - The Board realized this summer we did not have our own Studio Complaint/Incident Form, so they recently approved the new form and added the Three Strike Policy we have operated under to the Code of Conduct and Policy manual. It’s posted on the Board bulletin board. They also approved dues for 2022 - \$35.00. Renewal forms will be available in early December – we are back to dropping off your forms in the Studio.

Wow – that’s a lot in an abbreviated year! Now, for a peek into what’s to come in 2022:

- Our newly appointed Visiting Artist Chair, Sam Sweetman, has lined up a lecture from Tucson’s own Andy Ward entitled “Native Ceramics of Southwest Arizona”. This will be held on January 19th, 2022. He’ll also be offering a two-session workshop – “Coil & Scrape Pottery Technique” on January 25th & 28th. Those interested in this workshop will need to pay in advance – more details on the Workshop coming soon. Keep an eye on the Education Board.
- A new Mentoring Program – designed for those who are new to the Studio – is under construction. We hope to have this in place in early 2022 to help shepherd all the new members we hope to receive from the new Intro Class.
- We are working on a robust Education Curriculum to fill up our classroom schedule. Expect to see a new and improved online Class Instructor/Workshop Leader application, commencement of our incentive program, installation of the new Intro class, as well as other ideas still in the formative stages. All under the expert tutelage of Pam Bybee, who will assume the Education Chairmanship when the Work Group has completed its work. Look for classes you will see announced through GVR’s Eblast (not in catalog) such as Intro to the Clay Studio, Intro to the Wheel, Beyond Basics, and Storytellers; watch the Education bulletin board for pop up Workshops, including Wedging and Centering for Wheel

Work, Underglazes, Intro to Low Fire Glazing, Intro to High Fire Glazing, Intro to Oxides, Mastering High Fire Glazes, plus more in the works.

- We are also working on a standardized and regularly occurring monitor training workshop, as well as a “refresher” option.
- New functions on our website - we plan to introduce more current information as well as easier navigation. Stay tuned. If you are interested in assisting in this endeavor, please contact me.

Now, on to a few announcements/reminders:

- Hope to see you all at the Holiday get together on the roof in December. Outside venue, wine and beer, and gift exchange – be sure to sign up at monitor’s desk.
- Remember, refrain from bringing any politics or religion in the Studio – this includes politically motivated t-shirts, ball caps, and masks.
- On behalf of the Monitors. They are the back bone of our Studio – without them, there is no opening of the Studio. Please show them kindness, respect, and patience as they perform their duties, especially as some are monitoring for the 1st time due to our prolonged closure. A little kindness goes a long way.
- To all Monitors – you are responsible for the safety of all within the Studio. Your number one priority is to make sure every member signs in as soon as they enter the studio. *This is our primary method for contact tracing and is vitally important.* You have many other important duties as well, including making sure those that are ill do not stay in the studio, locking and unlocking doors, ensure all equipment is operated safely, operating the cash register, etc. Please do not become so immersed in your own project that your monitor duties fall by the wayside.
- To all members – please clean up after yourself at your workstations. At the Glaze station, please clean up the lids/containers after using a glaze.
- Every year we have three Board vacancies that need to be filled – I am pleased to announce the three members that were presented to the Board in November – Phil Vande-Reit, Alan Koss, and Kay Eason have all volunteered to fill the vacancies. The annual Board meeting is in January; they will assume their positions starting 1 Feb.
- We have a new feature on our Website – “ What you need to know now...” Short informational notices will be posted here as things crop up (as soon as I figure out how to modify it – Jon’s trying to train me!)

Finally, I hope everyone has a safe and healthy holiday season, wherever you might be spending it. We miss those we haven’t seen in a long while, but are delighted to see some of our members’ faces back. See you in the Studio!

Susan





Holiday Social

Thursday December 9th from 2-4pm
Location: outdoor patio above the studio

Light Appetizers, Beer and Wine will be
provided

Gift Exchange: bring unwrapped gift to
event...pottery item or pottery related item,
(tools, gadgets etc.)

Please RSVP by December 1st

Sign-up sheet is by the service book at the
monitor's desk.

Teresa, social chair

December Calendar



Education Work Group: Every Friday at 10:00 AM

Education Committee: Wednesday Dec 1 at 10:00 AM

Facilities Committee: Monday Dec 7 at 9:00 AM

Finance Committee: Monday Dec 13 at 9:00 AM

Kiln Committee: Tuesday Dec 21 at 9:00 AM

Glaze Committee: Thursday Dec 16 at 9:30 AM

Board Meeting: Friday Dec 17 at 9:30 AM

All meetings are held in the studio classroom.

The Studio has a Skutt KM 818 kiln for sale for \$600.



It also has a Skutt KM 1018 kiln that could be used for Raku or Sager firing for \$50. See or call Jay



These are stock pictures

Time to Show Off your Clay Art!

If you want to sell or simply display your Clay pieces in the window, please sign up at the Monitor's Station.

Pick an empty numbered shelf.

The space is yours for 30 days maximum. Card holders are on the shelves. Please put your Name and Phone Number in card holders. If you are selling your piece pricing can be displayed on each piece.

- you are responsible for your window space. Kindly clean shelf before and after use.
- for visual consistency no paper, cloth or decorations in windows. There are black wooden blocks to elevate pieces at your disposal in the wheel room window cabinet.
- you can change your window display as many times as you like in your allotted time slot

Questions call and leave a message and I will get back to you. Robin Wamsley
520-668-3770