

Dear Manchester Art Association Members,

On behalf of the newly elected officers and Board members I want to thank you for your overwhelming support at our Annual Meeting held on October 19th at The Arbors. I also want to extend our apologies to any of you who were not in attendance due to the confusion that arose about the meeting. The meeting's minutes can be found on MAA's website (www.manchesterart.org) under "Members." Copies of the minutes will also be available at our November 16th meeting. We hope the minutes will answer any questions you have about our recent election. The BOD has decided to post minutes of the monthly meetings on MAA's website. Paper copies will be made available to members needing them. Our Secretary will maintain records of all meeting minutes.

Since our election, the MAA Board has been working to reorganize and address our business concerns. We ask your continued patience as we move forward. I want to assure you that progress is being made and that we will keep everyone informed along the way. We will be using our website and emails to the members to provide updates. We are currently using Christine Larson's email: larsonc3@gmail.com to communicate with members online. Emails from "manchesterart.cox.net" are not official MAA emails. We are working to resolve this problem and will let you know when we have a new email address for MAA. For those members who do not have access to the internet we will communicate through phone calls and letters. We will also mail quarterly newsletters to our members. Please note that there currently is no official Facebook page for MAA.

I am happy to report that we held a very successful Craft Show at MCC on October 29th, despite Storm Alfred. Our thanks to everyone who helped make this fundraiser a success. We netted over \$2,400! This fundraiser made a significant contribution to MAA's funds, allowing us to continue our activities throughout the coming year.

The Board has already taken steps to establish checks and balances for the expenditure of MAA funds. All expenditures will be made on a reimbursement basis. Those seeking reimbursement for monies paid out on behalf of the organization must include receipts for said expenses and a completed "Request for Payment" form. The Board must approve any non-budgeted expense over \$100.00. The MAA debit card has been cancelled as of this past August. There will NOT be a debit card for any of MAA's accounts. All payments will be made by a check written by our Treasurer. The "Exhibition Checking Account" (Show account) has been closed and all funds in that account have been transferred to MAA's General Checking account, for which the treasurer holds the checkbook. Our savings account has remained open. The only signatories for MAA's accounts are our Treasurer, John Kelly, and myself. Although I am a signatory on our accounts as provided for in our current bylaws, I will not be signing any checks on behalf of MAA unless our Treasurer is rendered unable to do so. John Kelly has graciously agreed to provide a more simplified accounting report to our members at our monthly meetings. The new reports will provide information on both income and expenses for the month. Once we have established a budget for the year a comparison to the budgeted items will be made in order to see where we stand financially. Our Treasurer will be making monthly reports at the BOD and the members' monthly meetings.

You may recall from the letter our slate sent to you in September that we had a number of actions we proposed for the coming year. We are concentrating on the items concerning the financial management of MAA. Now that we have taken steps to safeguard our assets, we

will be working on developing a budget for the remainder of the year. An analysis of past fundraising will be conducted. Fundraising will be conducted in an orderly fashion with regard to the nature and number of fundraisers. All fundraising events will be overseen by a committee and require prior endorsement by the BOD and the membership.

We are also committed to reviewing and revising our bylaws to address inconsistencies and to improve checks and balances for MAA's management and governance. I am particularly concerned that the current bylaws vest too much authority in the office of the president. Responsibilities and authorities need to be carefully weighted to ensure a democratic process in the conduct of our organization's business and that no one individual takes on too much. If you would like to serve on the bylaws revision committee please let me or Helena Deary know.

The Arbors has been secured for the coming year for our monthly meetings, which are held at 7 pm, on the third Wednesday of the month with the exception of December's meeting, which will be held on Dec. 14th. BOD meetings will be held at Gallery East, 464 East Center St., Manchester on the second Wednesday of the month (except for the month of December in which it will be held on Dec. 7th). All members are invited to attend BOD meetings. We have booked a wonderful artist for our November meeting, Rachel Miller, a sculptor of handmade paper. Concerns have been raised about the cancellation of the artists originally scheduled for demonstrations by previous BOD members. We will be contacting the artists originally booked for this year and will make any necessary changes in the schedule for 2012.

At our December meeting we will have our annual members' holiday gathering. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with one another and socialize. At our holiday gathering we will begin our discussions about a long-range plan for our organization. We are relying on you, MAA's members, to provide input. MAA has existed for sixty-one years due to its talented members who have given of themselves. If we strive to meet the needs of our members, to foster their artistic expression, and to bring artists and art loving people together we will succeed. I look forward to working with all of you to rededicate ourselves to our art and to share it with one another and our community. My thanks to our dedicated officers and Board members for their hard work during this transition. If I can be of any assistance to you or answer any questions you may have please do not hesitate to call me (860-643-9310).

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn Gimbrone, MAA President
November 10, 2011