



## Newsletter

Spring 2014

::: Suzi Hudson :::

Dear Friends

Who's thinking spring? We are!

The ice and snow will soon give way to Minnesota's most colorful season, and nowhere will it be more brilliant than at White Bear Center for the Arts. We invite you to come on over and thaw out your creative flow. WBCA will be a busy place with a full range of new classes and clay offerings.

This spring WBCA will host our 40th Northern Lights Fine Arts Exhibition, in the beautiful Ford Family Gallery. This juried show will feature some of Minnesota and Wisconsin's finest artists and is a great opportunity to build your artistic profile, resume, and portfolio. We encourage you to apply (see inside front cover for details).

As an organization undergoing tremendous evolution, we have a few important highlights to share regarding WBCA's dynamic Board of Directors.

First, a very special thank you and round of applause for our friend and outgoing Board Chair, Robert Cuerden. Among his many roles here, Bob served as chair of the Building Search Committee in 2009-2010. After the successful (!) purchase of the building, he led the Building Design Committee over the next 18 months. Ultimately in 2012-2013, Bob confidently led the "Let's build it!" Building Committee, and well, you know the rest! WBCA will be forever grateful for his superb strategic leadership and dedication. To our benefit, Bob will continue to serve another full year as Ex-Officio Director. Our heartfelt thanks to Bob for his enormous effort in leading this charge.

Additionally, we owe a tremendous debt to two other board member "over-achievers" who have completed six-year term limits: Roberta Johnson and Neil Johnston. Roberta fearlessly served four of her six years on the Executive Committee (one as Co-Vice Chair/three as Board Chair), leading us through the building acquisition and launch of a \$3M capital campaign. Robbie's commitment to WBCA's financial wellbeing played a critical role in our success. What can I say... this woman's got guts! Robbie will continue to chair WriteNow!, WBCA's high school writing contest, and serve as a revered member of WBCA's finance committee. Thank you!!

Neil Johnston also served his share of years on the Executive Committee, three as Board Co-Vice Chair, leading us up to "our big leap!" Neil's academic strengths and contagious passion helped raise the profile of WBCA's artists and exhibitions while contributing to the excellence of WBCA's programming. Neil has chaired the Northern Lights Exhibition and will continue to co-chair this event, while also advising the gallery committee. Thank you Neil, for sharing your remarkable talents with WBCA. We are grateful to see you and Robbie both continue on as Emeritus Directors.

We are equally excited about the election of our 2014 Executive Committee members: Board Chair Dan Wachtler and Vice-Chair Mary Gove. Pat Berger will continue serving as Treasurer with a capital "T", and Alan Kantrud returns as our rock'n Secretary. Thank you for accepting these important responsibilities and leadership roles.

Finally, a very hearty welcome to four new board members: Donna Bruhl, Craig Campbell, Karen April Wong, and Malia Yang-Xiong. We are excited to infuse our leadership team with these new voices, talents, and dedicated individuals. Here's to all of you who make Your Art Center the best there is!

Suzi Hudson, Executive Director