****

**From the President**

Hello CMPS Members,

Regardless of what you celebrate I hope you all had a fantastic holiday season! I’m here to provide a much overdue wrap-up of CMPS’s first year and a few notes on what we have in store for 2020.

First off, I’d like to offer a big note of thanks to everyone who contributed to our very successful first year. From the board, to all the CMPS members and outside contributors, CMPS has gotten off to a great start thanks to the collaboration and help from many. In one year CMPS managed to successfully attain/conduct the following;

Become a valid 501 (c)3 entity, build a website, become an IAPS affiliate, attended and had representation at IAPS 2019 conference, held 3 workshops, held an incredible members show, and an equally fabulous national show with over 3k in prizes, held a very well attended annual members meeting with a pop-up show and a materials swap.

In addition to the above for 2020 we are pleased to announce the following;

**2020 CMPS BOARD** - The CMPS Board moves forward into 2020 with the same folks from 2019; Lisa Nugent - President, Maryann Mullet - Vice President, Laurie Triba – Treasurer, Christine Chisholm – Membership Secretary and Cynthia Robinson – Secretary. The one change here, due to time constraints, Maureen Dillon needed to resign from her post as Co-secretary and Board Member. She was a founding CMPS Board Member and a great contributor. We thank her for her time and effort. She will be missed.

**NEW CMPS SIGNATURE MEMBERS** - Congratulations to Dina Gardner and Susan Shuk Lee! These ladies each submitted work back in October to be considered for CMPS Signature Membership and were successfully juried in.

**CMPS NEWSLETTER** - Thanks to CMPS member Carol Corliss, CMPS will now have a quarterly newsletter! All pastel art related information qualifies – shows, classes, workshops, fairs, studio openings, artist residencies, for sale or swap art related items… everything! CMPS News will post 1/1/20 (this extended President’s note is in place of the 1st full featured CMPS Newsletter), 4/1/20, 7/1/20 and 10/1/20. Deadline to submit will be the 25th of the month prior to these dates. Please send CMPS Newsletter submissions to Carol at CMPSNews@cmpastels.org. Please note – your submission will post **exactly** as you submit it. There will be no editing, so please review grammar and all info thoroughly prior to submitting.

**WORKSHOPS** - We will be shooting for 6 workshops this year.  We will be kicking it off with a 2- day workshop in May, with accomplished artist and brilliant teacher Robert Carsten.  In June the wonderful and talented Betsy Payne Cook will conduct a 1-day workshop on best plein air practices.  Complete details on these workshops and others will be posted soon via email and on the website.  Please note – workshops will be capped at 14 participants and spots will be first-come, first-served.  Workshops signups are only open to CMPS members for the first 2 weeks, after which they will be open to the public at a higher cost.

**CRITIQUE SESSIONS** - CMPS will also be hosting 2 open critique sessions. If you’ve been to a critique you already know how beneficial these can be. If not, you will be amazed at how much you can get out of a session. Participants discuss the merits and/or challenges of a variety of paintings, representative of different styles and genres, using different techniques and materials. Sometimes you’re learning how the artist accomplished something amazing and other times you’re helping them work through a challenge. It really is a great time of reflection, learning and collaboration. More info and dates available soon.

**EXHIBITIONS** - The CMPS National Juried Show will be co-chaired this year by Maryann Mullett and Keith Demanche. A couple things worth mentioning, we will be holding the National Show in the late spring this year (end of May early June depending on which venue we are able to secure) and the Members Show in the fall. We are also working to host the National Show as a brick and mortar event. Once dates and venues are confirmed the info, along with requests for volunteers, will be sent out via email and posted on the CMPS website.

**WEBSITE** - CMPS website updates - we will be looking to get the individual member pages up and available within the 1st quarter of the year. Once this gets underway, we will send requests for info and images from members. If you would like to participate, please be timely when replying. Also, if you would like to assist with creating the pages, please email me at president@cmpastels.org.

**DUES** - 2020 dues are due by 1/31/2020. They remain the same at $40 for standard and $45 for signature. You can pay them through the website at <http://www.cmpastels.org/membership.html> or send a check to the CMPS Treasurer - Laurie Triba, 26 Bent Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.

**DONATIONS –** Big thanks to Atlantic Data Security - they just made a $500 donation to the CMPS! Funds like this go a long way to help defray operating expenses. We are very grateful to them and all of the organizations that provided the substantial donations for the National Juried Show last fall. If anyone is interested in sponsoring an award, an in memoriam award, or any type of donation, please send me an email at president@cmpastels.org.

**ARTISTS OF THE MONTH (AOM) –** 2 CMPS members are randomly drawn from all current members and a piece of their work, as well a brief bio of sorts, is featured on the CMPS website. AOM are featured during months when CMPS shows are not being exhibited on the website. This month we are featuring two very skilled and well-known ladies; Eileen Casey and Lisa Regopoulos.

Lastly, I’d like to sincerely wish you all a very healthy and wonderfully creative 2020! I’m ecstatic that together we’ve been able to cultivate such a fantastic network of not just artists but genuinely great people.

Happy Painting!

Lisa Nugent

CMPS President