

St. Louis Lampworkers Society (SLLS) Secretary's Minutes

Meeting Date: 6-8-2008

Meeting Time: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by:

Kim Ownbey

We thanked our host for having us:

St. Charles Coffee House

Guests were welcomed:

Jaquetta Adams: has been beading for 8 years and done glasswork for 1 ½ years.

Fred Linders: has been lampworking for 6 months at Glasshopper's.

Kristol Chism: has been making jewelry for 10-12 years and lampworking for 1 year.

Betsy Loudon: has been beading for 6 ½ years and also does stained glass and mosaics.

Minutes from the last meeting were read by Patti Skonicki.

Attendees were: Sue Wuest, Kim Ownbey, Peri Hoglebe, Kristol Chism, Fred Linders, Karla Lester, Betsy London, Denise Peterson, Sharon David, Lendy Middendorf, Barb Crofton, Kathleen Osterweise, Linda Osterweise, Patti Skonicki, Melissa Villadiego, Marilyn Roberts, Joan Cross, Jaquetta Adams, and Gail Crozier.

Treasurer's Report:

Sue Wuest reported that in May, we collected 0 and our expenses were \$250, which left us with a balance of \$1317.64.

In June, we collected \$47.94 and our expenses were \$23, leaving a balance of \$1342.58.

Announcements:

Gallery Show: the gallery show at Third Degree Glass Factory will take place in Sept. 2008 and will coincide with the Glass Galore bead show on 9/27/08.

Entries must be in a 16 x 20 black shadow box with a black background. Pieces that would look better against a white background may have a white background behind them, as long as there is a black border in the box that is at least 2" wide. If the pieces are for sale, put that info on the card, otherwise say that its not for sale.

Glass Galore: Sharon David reported that it is still being held at the Kirkwood Community Center. She is still working on the final status and has prepared a potential bead show exhibitor list. We need volunteers to help set up and help carry items in to the show.

Some other points of interest:

- We would like to have a gathering afterwards for the participants.
- We will have a bead show meeting in June.
- Exhibitors can split tables.
- Barb Crofton encouraged members to be a helper at the show; it is a good way to get to see everyone's beads.
- Gail Crozier seconded what Barb said.
- It was stated that 75% of the items in your booth must incorporate lampwork.

Melissa Villadiego had a sample of the SLLS brochure that incorporates small pictures of member's beads.

Patti reported that information about the SLLS's activities had been sent to Margie Shanahan in May for incorporation into the Bead Release. (Margie is the director of West Central Region for the ISGB and is our contact person for the Bead Release, an email sent to ISGB members every month).

Barb thanked Karla, Melissa and Becky for organizing the MO Bead Retreat.

Kim explained what the bead retreat is for new members.

Q-Tips:

Q-tips: It was asked, when using wigwag canes, are they shocky?

Melissa explained that they shouldn't be shocky unless bubbles are trapped in them when they are made. When making them, you must be careful not to trap bubbles, and should push in when applying strips of glass to the cane.

It was also asked, how to package beads nicely when shipping beads that you have sold. The suggestion was made to use organza bags that can be bought at Nile Corp or the Store Supply Store on Page in St. Louis.

Denise spoke about Morgan horses and mentioned that she makes horse portraits. They can be seen at www.flamehorse.com.

Bead-N-Tell: The challenge was using red, white and blue.

Karla—showed a finished bracelet from the MO Bead Retreat; a disk bead; a floral, beads using opal yellow and caramello, and beads made with red/white/blue wigwags.

Lendy—r/w/b wigwags, and beads with stars on beads with r/w/b, and a turtle.

Kathleen—an implision pendant

Jaquetta—black and white beads and beads with bright colors; she is working on heat control.

Joan—various “goodies”.

Sue—showed us the commemorative bead from Bead & Button

Kristol—showed us what she was wearing.

Melissa—pandora beads, pmc rings, handmade paper box.

Barb—r/w/b striped beads with stringer, using sangria red.

Kim—r/w/b hexagon pressed beads, drunken fish, implosion pendants using soft glass.

Betsy won the monthly drawing bead.

Next challenge will be using EDP, “evil devitrifying purple” (Effetre #254).

Next Meeting: July 13th at Third Degree Glass Factory. It will be dichro day.

Demos: Melissa Villadiego led a discussion of how to sell your beads online.

Some highlights from that presentation:

Melissa recommends selling on etsy, and using flickr. Also iculture.ca; it is similar to etsy in Canada.

Tips for etsy: stagger your listings, participate in forums, heart other sellers, and join a street team.

Talent database: it is free, and is like a worldwide phone book or glorified blog. It is an artist’s directory.

Trunkt.org is for entrepreneurs, merchandising professionals, wholesalers and boutiques. It is a juried site, high quality, and basic portfolio is free. They print a catalog every 2 years (like Artful Home).

Blogging: blogger.com, wordpress.com, indie.com or indiepublic.

Flickr: can make friends & family folders to restrict access to your photos to keep them from being stolen. You can also print the ½-size cards through moo.com using your flickr photos.

Also, consider doing shows such as Pridefest, the Rock & Roll craft show, and joining the STL Craft Mafia, and Indie Crafts and Indie Valentine.

Kim Ownbey added that she recommends doing home shows. She does them with no presentation and they run about 3 hours. She usually gives 10% of sales to the hostess in free jewelry. She makes a lot of strung jewelry too, and has neck wires and loose beads for sale.

