

On Saturday 19, 2018, we had a wonderful meeting at [Sew Inspired](#) in Simsbury. We had 28 members sign in and 1 guest in attendance. We are thrilled to have welcomed some new-to-us SAQA members who have relocated into our region!

We opened the meeting with a briefing from [Clara Narthey](#) about our recently juried regional exhibition, *Local Color 3: Inspired by Science*. The show is currently mounted at the [Zahn Gallery](#) and will be up through March 14, 2018. She showed off some of the fantastic press that the gallery has provided for the exhibition, and unveiled the details of [the new Local Color website](#) - now a separate site from our [SAQA-CT blog](#) - as a place to detail the history and “brand” of our regional Local Color exhibitions, a cohesive website to point prospective venues toward, etc.

[Christina Blais](#) brought up “new business”. She reported on the results of our questionnaire from the last meeting. Most members want four meetings per year. There were numerous pleas for more workshops, classes, and speakers. Finally, people requested time limits for Show and Tell (four minutes) and that members don’t talk over one another. To that end, Jan Doyle was appointed our official Show-and-Tell Timer and “Shush!-er”. We tested this out later in the meeting, and it worked out very well, particularly the four-minute-timer. Four minutes was enough that everyone felt heard when they shared, but short enough to keep everything moving along.

Christina also presented information on behalf of [Catherine Smith](#), who was unable to join us. Cathy is working with [Gallery 53](#) on their biennial all-fiber exhibition. The theme for the show will be “All Things Considered” and prizes will be awarded. There are NO size restrictions, though pieces must be ready to hang (no sawtooth hangers; please include a dowel or rod if your work has a hanging sleeve and requires one). Entry fees are still being finalized, though they are low and extremely reasonable. You may submit two entries. Drop off will be March 23 and 24. To increase ease of participation, **our next regional meeting** will be in the second floor teaching space of Gallery 53 **on March 24th**. Pick up of works will be April 27 and 28.

Christina also reported on initial plans for a regional retreat! Contacts have been made with the [Incarnation Center](#), a retreat center in Ivoryton. Roz Spann has agreed to head efforts toward these plans and will follow up with members. Costs for a Friday night through Sunday noon will likely be around \$200 for lodging and meals, with possible weekend dates of September 28, October 19, or November 2.

As a “last hurrah” to her term as our regional co-rep, [Kelly Lorraine](#) spoke about goal setting and provided a helpful tool for self-assessment. We started off with some thoughtful time to write down our “why”s - “Why do you make art? Why do you work in fiber/quilting? What does making mean to you? What does it feel like for you?” We then moved on to goals: “What do you want to achieve? What is your end game? Your biggest aspiration? What about 5 years from now? How about just this year?” From there, she explained the importance of grading systems and marking periods so that we can track our progress toward our goals, as well as have the ability to correct

our course during the process. We were then introduced to a flexible rubric, based loosely on the work of [The Social Profit Handbook](#) and [the Artists Thrive website](#). This rubric is simply a series of four self-determined markers (word pictures) of varying degrees of success (or lack thereof) in any number of areas of performance that are pertinent to our personal goals. Examples included productivity (how much creating is going on “in here”), exhibiting (getting the work “out there”) or even how much fun we’re having (because not everyone’s goals are gallery or business oriented). It was a timely session, both with the onset of the new year, and particularly as many members expressed how they were in the midst of or just coming out of major life transitions, such as moves, milestones, illnesses and other life events, which makes it difficult to get back into the swing of art production. One highly recommended tool for finding more time for your art is an investment in a [Roomba](#)! Someone else also suggested looking at resources by [Jane Dunnewold](#).

We then had a pizza lunch and our usual rousing time of Show and Tell, and then dispersed to buy fabric!

Just to reiterate: our next regional meeting will be Saturday March 24, from 10a-2p at [Gallery 53](#)! Hope to see everyone then.