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## Nan's Notes

*Nan Kohr, President*

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This time of year has been called the Harvest Season with the Harvest Moon. Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh featured sunflowers in their painting. Oh, and don't forget about the wild pumpkins in every field. **Now is the time for your pumpkin decorating that will raise funds for the scholarship students.**

You may wish to create an elegant pumpkin or a pumpkin with some humor. Something terrifying would certainly be in keeping with Halloween. The pumpkins will be featured at the next **"Artists 'Round the Square"** (ARTS) show on October 15<sup>th</sup> held at Brownwood's Paddock Square.

You may enter the ARTS to show your artwork. The ARTS registration forms and show guidelines are on the website at [www.visualartsassociation.com](http://www.visualartsassociation.com). You may separately design a faux pumpkin! Or you can do both.

Mail your registration form for ARTS to Nan Kohr, address on the form. Separately make arrangements for delivery of your pumpkin with Nan Kohr. Call 904-676-3998.

Whether you are Naughty or Nice there are more opportunities to show off your artwork. First the Sheriff's **Annex Exhibit** on October 7th then the **Fall Festival of Art** at Colony Cottage Rec. Center on November 18th. Registration forms are on the website under Exhibits/Show Forms. Before you know it, Santa's elves will display one of your favorite pieces of art during the artists salon at the holiday December 1st VAA Membership Meeting.

If you haven't already paid your dues for this new fiscal year, you can do so at the upcoming membership meeting next Friday! Download a renewal form on our website.

The **Friday, October 6th Membership Meeting** should be worth a few giggles!





## New Members

*Sally LaBaugh, Chair*

### Meet Rusty Nelson



**Rusty Nelson**  
Phone:  
310-993-9333  
Email:  
2012@RustyNelson.com



**Rusty** was born in Abington, PA, graduated from the University of Dayton, and lived in Michigan, Sacramento, and Marina del Rey, CA. He spent 10 years in the Air Force piloting the T-37, T-38, B-52, and U-2 spy plane. His creative interests started when he left the Air Force to enter the entertainment business in Hollywood and eventually directed for Fox Sports Network. He moved to Kennett Square, PA, and opened a Photography Gallery and in 2021 moved to The Villages full time.

Rusty was certified by Adobe as a Lightroom Expert, awarded Photographer of the Year and Photograph of the Year with the Professional Photographers of Los Angeles. The Delaware Photographic Society also awarded him with Photograph of the Year. Nelson is an extreme storm chasing photographer and guide in Tornado Alley during the summer months. Rusty has a saying that the camera has become his “best excuse for adventure.” With that in mind, he speaks around the country to various groups on how the camera is a motivating factor in life and a great friend on adventures. He was also invited to speak at The Adventures Club of Los Angeles. He also has a YouTube channel on

The Villages: <https://www.youtube.com/@RustyNelson>

Photography: <https://www.youtube.com/@RustyNelsonPhotography>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RustyNelsonPhotography>





**New Members**

*Sally LaBaugh, Chair*

**Meet Brenda Pate**



**Brenda G. Pate**  
**Phone: 352-768-1665**  
**Instagram: pateartsyart**  
**Email: [artsygolfer05@gmail.com](mailto:artsygolfer05@gmail.com)**

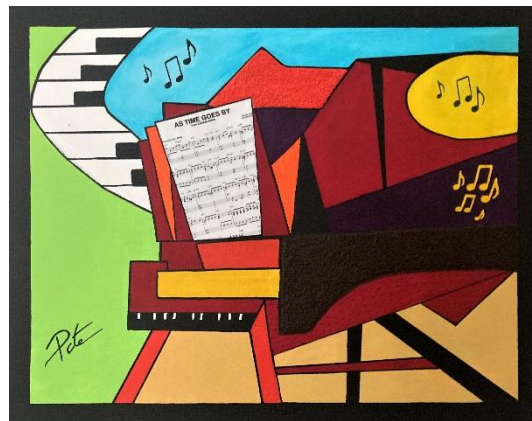


Brenda was born in Savannah, GA, lived in the Lowcountry until 1970 when she moved to Atlanta, GA. Lived in Atlanta for 30 plus years, traveled the US working in the insurance industry, moved back to the Lowcountry in 2006, then moved to Wildwood, FL in 2021. It wasn't until 2015 when she retired THAT...

Painting emerged in her life. Since that time, she has explored different styles of painting, medium and textures. Picasso is an inspiration in her artwork, not only because of his style of painting but also the colors he used.

Mixed Media is her Medium, using acrylic paint, enhanced by various textures. She believes that texture adds depth and character to any artwork. So, texture is a must!

Brenda was a member of SOBA Gallery in Bluffton, SC and Beaufort Art Gallery in Beaufort, SCs She was a member of the Hilton Head Art League on Hilton Head Island, SC and All About Art in Sun City in Bluffton, SC. She joined Artisans Gallery in Mt. Dora, FL as an Associate Member in 2021. In 2023 she moved to The Villages and has joined the Villages Art League, Visual Art Association and the Fine Arts Society.





**New Members**

*Sally LaBaugh, Chair*

**Meet Gerri Skjervold (Phone: 321-424-1100 Email: reidgerri@gmail.com)**



**EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW**

- Chicago, IL 16 yrs:**
- **Owner of Reid Design and Communication**
  - **Managing Editor of National Arts Guide Magazine (80's Publication)**
  - **independent artist** with 2 professional galleries.

**Other locations:**

- **Assistant Professor** Indiana U/Purdue U, Fort Wayne
- **Art Instructor** Minnesota State Teachers Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) 16 yrs
- **ArtAdventure Guide and Docent MIA, Minneapolis Institute of Art (12 yrs).**

**After Retiring:** Lennox Learning Center teaching art courses to the St Louis Park community MN (4 yrs)



**Top Artwork:** The Power of Light, 13 X 13" framed, cold wax oil on canvas, May 2023  
**Bottom:** The Protector, 18 x 18", oil on canvas, 2015 (inspired from China Trip in 2012)



GERRI REID SKJERVOLD

RETIRED ARTIST but.....

- Still creating artwork currently experimenting with cold wax oils but not marketing anymore.
- Interested in staying in touch with the local art community.
- Would welcome discussion groups; museum or gallery trips to surrounding communities and attending meetings.
- Have produced hundreds of works of art in my over 50 year career moving often all over the United States for jobs that kept me in the arts.
- I have experimented in all media preferring oils, collages and assemblages.

**EDUCATION**

**BA and Master of Arts Degree in Fine Art** California State University, Sacramento  
**Plus:** 3 yrs undergraduate work at U of M, Mpls; Graduate courses at Indiana University/ Purdue University, Fort Wayne; Graduate courses at U of M, Mpls for a required MN College teaching license



## New Members

*Sally LaBaugh, Chair*

### Meet Arlene Connestro

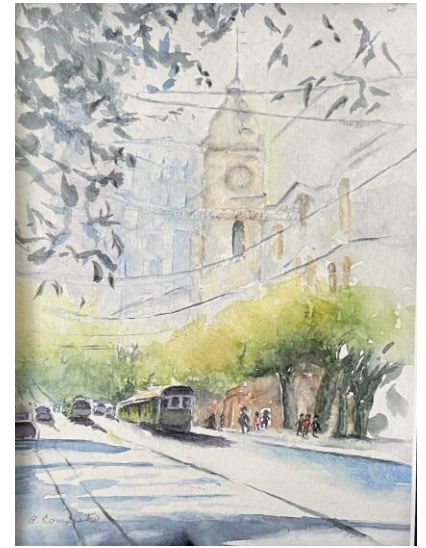


**Arlene Connestro**  
**Phone: 631-355-2728 Email:**  
**acdrano@optonline.net**



Hi! I'm from Long Island, New York. My husband and I moved to the Village of Pine Ridge about six and a half years ago when we retired. Twenty -five years ago, I started

to take watercolor adult education classes at the local high school, and fell in love with the vibrant colors and transparency of the medium. I joined the art group "Splash With Us" and have the honor of participating in class with instructor, Julie McGlone, who is an amazing, knowledgeable and creative water colorist. She is always inspiring me to reach out of my comfort zone. I am so excited to join the Visual Arts Association as I have admired so many artists' works who are members of this incredible talented club.





## New Members

*Sally LaBaugh, Chair*

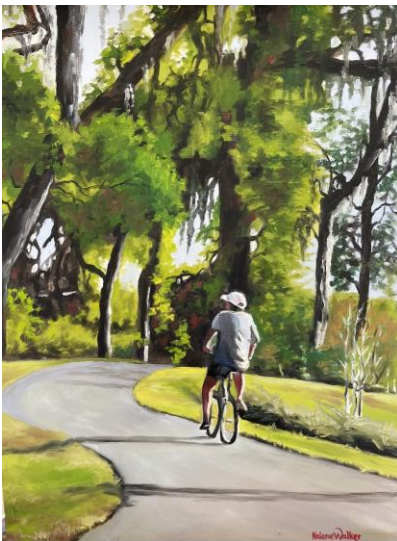
### Meet Kalene Walker



**Kalene Walker**  
**Phone: 702-896-2111**  
**KaleneWalker@gmail.com**



Kalene Rice Walker was born in Mesa AZ, moved to British Columbia with her family at a young age. Living her formative years in the far North West and through her love of travel, Kalene has been inspired to recreate beauty that she experiences. She strives to create the emotions and memories of a moment in time with her paintings. Her preferred medium is oil paint. Kalene is often inspired by other artists' work "past and present", faces, the interesting light and shadow of color, as well as nature. She moved to Florida from Nevada and now lives in the Village of De Luna.





## Spotlight on You



*Darlene Hayes, Chair*

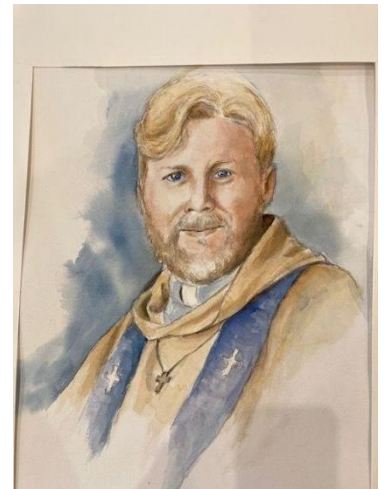
### Adeline Curlett



As a youngster I was always drawing and attended the Detroit Institute of Arts while in high school.

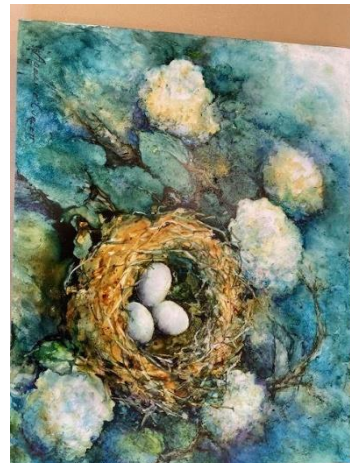
After graduating, I worked as a cartographer and engineering illustrator.

During the years of raising four kids, I taught oil painting. When they left home, I became a color consultant and interior designer, then went on to design and build our retirement home on a lake in Michigan.



Upon retiring and moving to The Villages I joined our great art community where I have won many awards, the last being at LaGalleria, taking second place in the Villages Art League's Tenth Annual "Inspired by the Masters' Exhibit" on September 9th.

My love of art continues and keeps me happy and out of trouble!





## Scholarship Program



*Helen Poor, Chair*

VAA is actively beginning our 18<sup>th</sup> year of searches, projects and fundraisers to find and support the art graduates of our regional high schools. Tuition (even at our excellent Florida state colleges) has risen dramatically. Going into debt for higher education is a reality for many high school seniors and their parents! Unfortunately, art is one of the more expensive college majors, as many of us remember!

SO WE ARE HERE AGAIN .....ASKING FOR YOUR TIME and IDEAS FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIPS and OUTREACH! FUNDRAISING HELP IS TRULY NEEDED!!! PLEASE CONSIDER COMING ONBOARD with ENERGY, IDEAS AND TIME TO BE A CHAIR FOR PROJECTS and EVENTS TO BENEFIT OUR CAUSE!

Our first major activity is coming right up this month. It's The VAA FALL PUMPKIN SALE. Creative members are painting and decorating some terrific pumpkin creations for Halloween... and they will be for sale at ARTISTS 'ROUND THE SQUARE on October 15<sup>th</sup> at Brownwood. We have some great pieces finished, more underway, and would surely welcome additional and eager Halloween Pumpkin Picassos!!!

\*\*\*\*Please use artificial Pumpkins, and we would appreciate permanent paints with materials securely glued.

After last year's sell-out success, we know that Villagers love artistically painted, decorated and sculptured pumpkins! Hopefully, Brownwood will be filled with eager buyers for our VAA Artists exhibiting paintings, and a busy site for those wanting Pumpkin décor, centerpieces or a grandparent gift.



As always, THANK YOU for your support and HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!

*Helen Poor and The VAA Scholarship Team*  
352-561-4474





## Photo Frame

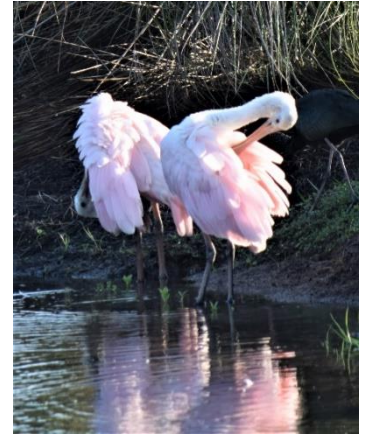


*Betty Eich, Chair*

### Martha Ayotte



You already know me as an artist, but here's a secret: I started my creative journey as a photographer! I was born in Wisconsin, but most of my childhood was spent in the countryside of Indiana. I was happy, as long as I was outside! When I turned ten, my life changed forever when I received my first camera - a "Sabre 620". I was hooked from that moment on! I became a shutterbug, capturing everything and everyone that caught my eye. There was something magical about freezing a moment in time with that camera. And guess what? I still have that first camera tucked away as a cherished memento.



Life took its natural course, and I went on to college, got married, and raised a family of 6 children. Throughout it all, I continued to pursue my photography passion, but at that time most of my photos were of my family. Only when my kids were grown and I retired from the computer industry did I have more time to focus on my love for photography. At that point, I lived in Massachusetts, next to a picturesque state forest. Every day, my White German Shepherd and I would venture into those woods, capturing the beauty of the forest through my lens. I loved experimenting with different angles and especially macro photography. Fast forward to the present, we live in The Villages now, where there are countless clubs and organizations. But one interest stood out in particular for me - art. I decided to fully embrace it, exploring both watercolors and photography. Living by a lovely pond, birds became a mesmerizing fascination for me. I found myself incorporating them into many of my paintings. Our backyard is a haven for all kinds of birds, from graceful white pelicans and delicate pink spoonbills to majestic black vultures, elegant egrets, and even two friendly sandhill cranes who curiously peek through my window every morning. Observing and photographing these incredible creatures in their natural habitat brings me joy. That is why this month, I'm shining a spotlight on birds in my photography. They deserve all the attention and appreciation they can get!





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## LaGalleria Exhibit

*Meg Hay, Chair*

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### **A Call to Artists**

#### **– The VAA La Galleria Winter Fine Arts Exhibit – Ribbons and Monetary Awards**

Our Winter 2023-24 **La Galleria Show** will hang Saturday, December 9, 2023 at La Hacienda Recreation Center. [The registration forms and instructions are now on the VAA website under FORMS.](#) The show ends March 9, 2024.

The following awards will be given: 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$75.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$50.00.

The **postmarked** deadline for registration forms is prior to December 2, 2023. You may submit your registration form anytime before then!

Don't delay, get your registration forms in the mail and let's make this another wonderful exhibit for the VAA.

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## Annex Exhibit

*Catherine Sullivan, Chair*

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Reminder to our VAA Members:

### **The VAA Annex Exhibit is just two weeks away. It's a BOGO event!**

Please deliver your Entry for judging plus one extra painting (BOGO) on Saturday, October 7th between 8:30am and 9:30am to the side entrance of the Sumter County Sherriffs Office located on 466 and Morse Blvd.

You are eligible to enter if you are a VAA member and are current with your dues. We look forward to seeing you and your beautiful Art for this Exhibit.

You can download the Application on the VAA website along with the rules. Your Application and entry fee **must be received on or before the October 4th deadline** to qualify. We will contact all winners that same weekend. Since the Exhibit is on the Saturday following our VAA October monthly meeting, critiques will be available to pick up at the November VAA meeting when we introduce the winners. The Annex is a Local Government Building and the Exhibit is open to the public Monday thru Friday only. We install on Saturday Morning thru special arrangements with the Sheriff's Office and must leave by Noon so please be prompt.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



This year our Show will be a little different! We will be in two rooms at Colony Rec Center from 9:00a - 2:00p. (Next year we will be back at Rohan with all the rooms.)

The Registration Form and Rules are posted on our website. Priority registration begins October 16<sup>th</sup>. Priority consists of VAA Board Members, Show Committee and Committee Chairs. These people have been notified. Regular registration begins on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. **PLEASE PLEASE do NOT postmark your registration prior to the date printed on the registration form! Submissions postmarked prior to the stated date will be placed at the bottom of the pile! We have this problem every year!**

We only have 40 spots this year in the Stage Room (Parlor) and the adjoining double room – The Study and Tea Rooms. All spaces are 12' x 6'. On the room layouts, it shows all 12' spaces with 2 chairs. Please indicate if you will need one or two 6' tables and how many chairs. Of course, if you prefer no table, that can also be arranged.

Thanks for your understanding with this different layout and location. With your cooperation, we look forward to a fun and successful show!

- Carol Reynolds, Show Chair
- Kathy Karol, Registration Chair



## Conversations



Send your topic suggestions for Conversations to Martha Ayotte at [mayotte22@gmail.com](mailto:mayotte22@gmail.com)

## Graffiti Art

By Martha Ayotte

Graffiti art is a form of art often found in urban settings. It can take a variety of forms, from simple words, stickers, and stencils to elaborate murals. Graffiti art has the potential to create a powerful message as well as bring a unique flavor to a cityscape.

The history of graffiti art can be traced back to the ancient Roman Empire. It has been around for centuries and, over the years, has evolved to become a form of expression for those without a voice. Graffiti art has been done in cities worldwide, becoming a way for people to express themselves without fear of retribution.

Despite the popularity of graffiti art, it has faced immense criticism from politicians, organizations, and citizens alike. It has often been linked to vandalism, gang activity, and overall degradation of the society. Despite this, its popularity only continues to grow. However, in recent years, it has become less about vandalism and more about creative expression.

In some cities, graffiti art has been embraced and is an accepted part of daily life. It can bring life to a city, helping the local economy and bringing foot traffic to certain areas. It can also help reduce crime rates, providing a sense of ownership among citizens and deterring criminals.

Here are some of the more famous graffiti artists and examples of their work:



One of most famous graffiti artists, Banksy is known for his politically provoking stencil artworks. He has iconic pieces around the world but his identity remains unknown. Some theories suggest that he may be a collective of artists rather than individual. Regardless of his identity, Banksy has made a significant impact on the art world and continues to be one of the most influential figures in street art.



Jean-Michel Basquiat: While not exclusively a graffiti artist, Basquiat began his career by creating graffiti under the tag name "SAMO." He later transitioned to painting and became a prominent figure in the New York scene during the 1980s.



Keith Haring: Haring was known for his bold and colorful graffiti-inspired art. His work often addressed social issues such as AIDS awareness and apartheid. Haring's distinctive style and iconic figures have had a lasting impact on contemporary art.



Shepard Fairey: Fairey gained recognition for his "Obey Giant" campaign and the creation of the Obama "Hope" poster. His graffiti-style art often incorporates political and social commentary.



Lady Pink: Lady Pink, also known as Sandra Fabara, is a pioneer in the male-dominated graffiti scene. She gained prominence in the 1970s and 1980s, creating vibrant and stylized graffiti art that explores themes of femininity and urban life.



## Events & Opportunities

### 2023/2024 Season Nationally Known Artists



Village Art Workshops  
Art in the Heart of Florida

October 2 and 3, Gene Rizzo, Watercolor  
October 9 and 10, Kevin Tobin, Acrylic  
October 16 and 17, Jane Slivka, Acrylic  
October 23 and 25, Janelle Johnson, Color Pencil  
November 6 and 7, Linda Wokoun, Watercolor  
November 13 and 14, Lynn Ferris, Watercolor  
January 15 – 17, Anne Abgott, Watercolor  
January 21, David Becker, Acrylic Paint Party  
January 22 and 23, David R. Becker, Watercolor  
January 24 and 25, David R. Becker, Gouache  
January 29 – 31, Carol Carter, Watercolor  
February 5 – 7, Alicia Farris, Watercolor  
February 12 – 14, Dan Wiemer, Watercolor  
February 19 – 21, Jennifer Stone, Collage  
February 26 and 27, Sterling Edwards, Watercolor  
February 28 and 29, Sterling Edwards, Acrylic  
March 4 – 6, Jean Pederson, Acrylic  
March 11 – 13, Cole Wolford, Watercolor  
March 18 – 20, Kathleen Giles, Watercolor  
April 8 and 9, Tom Jones, Watercolor  
April 19 – 21, Janet Rogers, Watercolor

*Registration begins August 1, 2023*

[www.villageartworkshops.com](http://www.villageartworkshops.com)



## OCTOBER EVENTS



Village Art Workshops  
Art in the Heart of Florida



Kevin Tobin, Acrylic  
October 10, 9 am – 4 pm

Jane Slivka, Acrylic  
October 16 & 17, 9 am – 4 pm




Janelle Johnson, Color Pencil  
October 23 & 25, 9 am – 4 pm

For more information and to register,  
visit [www.villageartworkshops.com](http://www.villageartworkshops.com)



## Bulletin Board

 PO Box 964  
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655  
[visualartsassociation.com](http://visualartsassociation.com)

### CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

**Membership Mtg**

Friday, Oct 6, 1:00pm  
Sea Breeze

**Annex Exhibit** \*

Saturday, Oct 7 8:30am

**ARTS (Arts 'Round the Square)** \*

October 15. 1:00pm  
Brownwood

**Membership Mtg**

Friday, Nov 3, 1:00pm  
Sea Breeze

**Fall Festival of Art** \*

Saturday, Nov 18  
Colony Rec Center  
9am – 2pm

**Membership Mtg**

Friday, Dec 1, 1:00pm  
Sea Breeze

\* indicates show or exhibit activity

### VAA Executive Board

President	Nan Kohr	<a href="mailto:kohr240@gmail.com">kohr240@gmail.com</a>
Vice Pres	Carol Reynolds	<a href="mailto:caroljr46@gmail.com">caroljr46@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Betty Eich	<a href="mailto:bettybrock@comcast.net">bettybrock@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	Connie Giebels	<a href="mailto:cgiebels43@gmail.com">cgiebels43@gmail.com</a>

### Past Presidents

Lee Asta  
Marge McQuestion  
Frank Zampardi  
Nan Kohr  
Barb Justice (*inactive*)  
Catherine Sullivan

### Appointed Board Members

Helen Poor  
Sally LaBaugh  
Cheri Ptacek  
Lisa Melcher  
Karyn Zais  
Eileen Sklon

### Newsletter Staff

**Sally LaBaugh**, New Members  
[sallylabaugh@gmail.com](mailto:sallylabaugh@gmail.com)

**Helen Poor**, Scholarship  
[helenpoor@comcast.net](mailto:helenpoor@comcast.net)

**Betty Eich**, Photo Frame  
[bettybrock@comcast.net](mailto:bettybrock@comcast.net)

**Darlene Hayes**, Spotlight Artist  
[dgh@comcast.net](mailto:dgh@comcast.net)

**Martha Ayotte**, Conversations  
[mayotte22@gmail.com](mailto:mayotte22@gmail.com)

**Cheri Ptacek**, Editor  
[vaanews@yahoo.com](mailto:vaanews@yahoo.com)

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

VAA Fiscal Year:

Sept 1 – Aug 31

Download form on our website

To mail in with \$15 dues  
(Or bring to membership meeting)

**\*NOTE:** Participation in VAA events  
requires your dues are current