

**St. George Business Alliance**  
**MEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018

Linda Bean's Wyeth Gallery, Port Clyde, ME

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**19 Meeting Attendees**—**Members:** Angela Anderson (Artist), Chris Austin (Austin Payment Solutions), Diana Bolton (Marshall Point Lighthouse Museum), Ed Bodkin (Artist), Judy Brogden (Edward Jones), Ron Crusan (Wyeth Gallery), Kathleen Fox (Artist), Dennis Gurgul (By the Bay Jazz), Sandra Hall (Resident), Jo Ann Hoppe (Blueberry Moose), Niki Janczura (First Nat'l Bank), Rosemary Limmen (Blue Tulip), Jake Miller (First Nat'l Bank), Joanne Miller (ASK...for Home Care), Chris Stump (Photography), Betsy Welch (St. George Dragon), and Carlton Winslow (Maritime Energy).  
**Guests:** Susan Lewis Baines (The Kelpie Gallery, Thomaston) and David Grima (Maine Dept. of Labor).

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**Welcome**—President Sandra Hall called the meeting to order at 9:10 am, welcomed attendees and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

No formal reports were given, but Sandra handed out an up-to-date Balance Sheet for review. No one questioned or commented on the report. Sandra noted that SGBA is a non-profit organization. Making money is not our goal. With that in mind, the Board set aside \$1,000 in 2018 for a scholarship for a St. George graduating senior from the sale of ads in our "Welcome to St. George" Visitors Guide. We plan to do so again in 2019.

Sandra distributed a year-to-date recap of 2018 SGBA meetings, programs and events to spark discussion and feedback. Following are attendee comments and suggestions, beginning with the most recent Art Tour event.

**Art Tour**—Participants in our Saturday, Sept. 15, Art Tour were very pleased with their day, including the publicity made possible by generous donations from our event sponsors.

"I did as well on Saturday as I did at my show at the Grange this summer!" (Kathleen Fox)

"We made a few sales and had 45 visitors, including 3 on Sunday, many whom we didn't know." (Ed Bodkin)

"A great day...my best Art Tour experience in 10 years! 42 people came, one from as far away as Brooks.

Sharing ideas with other participants really helped this year. I became a better participant!" (Angela Anderson)

Sandra noted that this year's committee worked hard to meet deadlines for printing and distribution. Press releases and ads in both the *Courier* and *Free Press* announced the event to a broad audience. Although we had competition from a similar art tour in Thomaston, our event seemed to be better promoted and attended. Sandra plans to speak with the Thomaston committee to coordinate efforts in 2019. She noted that our event might need to be expanded to two days so that visitors could get to all venues without feeling rushed. Artists, studios, galleries could decide to be open one or both days. She also noted that each venue would benefit from doing something unique to make their location stand out. Sunshine Books, for example, had the Humble Farmer on site autographing his books!

Ed Bodkin asked if posters might provide better visibility for the Art Tour than the smaller rack cards. Betsy Welch suggested that individual artists forward our press release to their own lists of customers and contacts. Joanne Miller asked about making artists from other communities aware of our event. Kathleen Fox suggested contacting them through Facebook groups such as Maine Artist's Round Table. Also mentioned was having inviting one or more of our local inns to put together and promote an Art Tour Weekend package to groups of artists or art enthusiasts.

Comments, announcements about other 2018 events included:

*April*

**"Welcome Aboard Business Expo and Job Fair"**—Although attendance by residents and job seekers was down slightly from 2017, comments from participants were generally positive. "It gave me an opportunity increase my visibility in St. George," said Judy Brogden. "A good event for business-to-business networking," added Jake Miller. We cannot compete with similar events in Rockland that attract 300-400 job seekers. Some people are looking for year-round work and many of our jobs are seasonal. We don't have large businesses that employ dozens of people. Transportation down the peninsula is a challenge. Timing is also a concern. "Spring is a very busy time for hiring,"

noted David Grima, Employment and Training Specialist. He offered to help with planning SGBA's 2019 event. The committee may move the event to an evening in late March or early April, possibly in conjunction with an 8<sup>th</sup> grade pizza or spaghetti fundraising dinner. Jake Miller also suggested that we speak to Mike Felton at St. George School about holding a parent/student meeting before the Expo to provide information about possible jobs, work permits, resumes, and interviewing skills for job-seeking 14- and 15-year olds.

*May*

**"Speed Networking"**—"A really fun event, lots of energy!" noted Sandra Hall. "I met and talked to more people that night than at any of SGBA's monthly meetings!" added Joanne Miller. "How about two speed networking events per year...one in the evening, one in the morning," suggested Chris Austin, "...to allow business owners with different work schedules to participate?"

*July*

**"St. George Days Parade, Info Booth"**—Sandra noted the positive reaction from parade watchers when they saw our new lighthouse float. Good member participation in the parade, but we'd always like more! Also looking into locating our info table under the big tent with other community organizations.

**"Welcome to St. George" Visitors Guide**—Sandra apologized for the later-than-expected delivery of this year's guide and encouraged anyone with guides to keep them in your car and drop some off wherever you go in the community ...local restaurants, inns, realtors, the Library, and St. George School. "They are not just for visitors," noted Jake Miller. "There's lots of good info in them for residents; teachers could even use them for a lesson."

*November*

**Membership Renewals**—Scheduled for the month of November this year. Our goal is to have accurate membership lists in place by year-end for the 2019 Visitor's Guide. We'd also like to avoid the confusion we had in early 2018 when the membership mailing and mailings for Expo sponsorships and Guide ad payments all went out within the same few weeks. Dues paid in November 2018 will cover members through December 31, 2019.

**"Yuletide in St. George"**—Committee meetings begin this week. We invite all interested SGBA members to participate in some way and/or share ideas to help us make this Thanksgiving weekend's "Yuletide" a more family-focused, community-wide event. Similar to the multiple activities planned for St. George Days in July, the "Yuletide" calendar could include:

- 1) CDC's Community Turkey Dinner at St. George School
- 2) Tree Lighting, Caroling outside the Town Office
- 3) Visit by Santa?
- 4) Children's event on Friday afternoon? What? Where?
- 5) Food venues open for Friday lunch or dinner?
- 6) Retail locations open, as usual, on Friday and Saturday
- 7) Grange Craft Fair, Lunch on Saturday
- 8) Odd Fellows Craft Fair, Lunch on Saturday
- 9) Enter our new lighthouse float in Rockland's Light Parade on Saturday evening!!

*December*

**Holiday Social**—The SGBA Board is looking at dates, locations, and options for this year's holiday networking event. We will let you know what we've decided as soon as we possibly can.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Limmen  
SGBA Board Member and Secretary  
Sept. 19, 2018  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_