

I was going to write this message right after the wonderful meeting we had on Monday, I WAS ON SUCH A HIGH, but due to Technological challenges of dictating, after three attempts, I stopped till a later date! So after a few days, I decided I am ready to attempt it again!!!! SO HERE GOES NOTHING!!!!

First thing I am considering AS I START -was the ever-repeated message I receive from my dear OAG friends that support me by saying: "GOOD LUCK AND KEEP IT SHORT!!!! Well, you can see from my past President's Messages and my Meetings that keeping it short is not within my comfort zone. I don't mean that in a negative way though!

What has happened from hearing this told to me all the time is that I now feel like a "total teenager" again like when we were on the phone talking to our friends . I NOW REALIZE THAT that's what I consider my President's Message to you ALL!!!! I have a lot to talk about WITH MY DEAR FRIENDS so (WHILE IT IS NOT THAT FORMAL) I do hope you read this to the end please , even if it is kinda long!!!

First -I want to thank EVERYONE who was involved in working on the February 1ST, 2025 -75th anniversary CELEBRATION of the Ocala Art Group—From the Chair people, Publicity, Hospitality , Setup, Cleanup, and all the participating Artists-even those who wanted to participate, but couldn't!!!! It's not often that a group is able to celebrate such a IMPRESSIVE milestone and I'm very proud of all our accomplishments and the wonderful event we presented to the public.

Special thanks go to Chairs : Ginny Kinsell and Karen McKeon Along with their assistants:

Lynn King; Publicity chair: John Elliott; Media Chair: Barbara Fife and Marilyn Busse; Food Donors, etc. And all those who have remained UNSEEN AND, in the background, helping with the many details involved in presenting a very successful art venue to the public. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!!!!!!!!! Everybody's been working very hard for a year on this event and it certainly has been obvious to those who enjoyed it!!!! This event has just planted more ROOTS in OCALA, so that we will be here for another 75 years hopefully!!!!

Now that we've got that out of the way, we can look forward to our usual delightful interactions amongst our members. Please check the website for details as we approach our next THEATRE GROUP outing to the Ocala Civic Theatre to see "Daddy Long Legs "at the matinee on Saturday, February 8.

NO MEMBERS MEETING IN MARCH, but we still have a very busy month!!! FIRST, we have our Artist Book Club, which will be reading a book about Georgia O'Keefe and producing some interesting art. Congrats to Marilyn Busse for the sale at our last Book Club /Meeting about Marc Chagall and his art and life!!!!

In place of the members' meeting that month on the second Wednesday, we have a wonderful trip planned by Marilyn Busse. She has worked diligently to make this a very easy trip for us to take part in with pickups at Chelsea Arts Center as well as in the Villages. Please check the Website for details and deadline for your money.

We are excited to share with you the news that we have , more CIRCUIT locations possible that we are considering, So be sure to come to April's meeting for signing up and get your Extra paintings

done so you are ready at a MINUTE'S NOTICE !!!!We are so pleased with our very much thriving CIRGUIT and hope more Members will help support it with their art!!!!

Lastly-AND MOST IMPORTANTLY:

Due to the fact that we will have four Executive Board vacancies NEXT YEAR (PRESIDENT, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER), you will start to hear from the Nominating Committee to find replacements starting in FEBRUARY. Even though they are very important Board Members needed, we have managed to give them lots of support, so that their duties are not overwhelming. If you have been helping with any projects lately, you will see that we have a lot of support from our membership for all our developing ideas. We hope our Nominating Committee will be successful in this search, so that we do not have to Consider extreme actions such as dissolving the group..... ESPECIALLY after all the successes we've managed to maintain these last few years!!!!!!!

My last words to you as your "SOON TO BE" outgoing president are this:

REMEMBER WHAT I CONFESSED TO YOU IN SECRET AT SEVERAL MEETINGS?

If you think any of these jobs are too difficult for you ? REMEMBER WHAT I, Your president LEONA Asta, told you AS A SECRET FOR NOONE ELSE TO HEAR: “

“I got a “D” In Freshman Speech—NOW If I could do this job, anyone can! ———-especially the way we have set it up NOW!!!!!!—DO NOT BE AFRAID!!!”

WE NEED YOU TO STEP UP AND HELP OAG CONTINUE ON or there could be NO FUTURE FOR OAG!!!!!!!

I HAVE FAITH IN YOU--

SINCERELY-YOUR FRIEND——-LEE (LEONA) ASTA, PRESIDENT