



Deer Isle Artists Association – PO Box 634, Deer Isle, ME 04627 – www.deerisleartists.com

March 14, 2025

Letter From the President

As I sit down to write this, my 16th and last, annual letter to you, I am at the dining table looking south over Caterpillar Hill toward Deer Isle and the DIAA Gallery. It is a cold wintry day, the sun shining off the fresh, sparkly snow. That sunny warmth contradicts the “feels like” 4 degrees. Closing my eyes, I can feel the presence of the DIAA Gallery feed my soul.

I want to briefly update you on my health. As you may know, I have been home from the hospital since early September. I am really doing well. Donna and I are still making treks to Boston every couple of weeks. When one last issue heals, I will be ready for a short couple of weeks of precautionary proton radiation treatment and a regimen the oncologist feels is appropriate. Then, it’s back to the pottery studio!

I am so excited about DIAA in 2025. Thus far we have had two artist residencies, three ART matters presentations (shared with the world on Facebook Live), and are in the middle of a third residency. All events have been tremendously well attended. And of course, the Winter Windows exhibit continues to share wonderful art to the community. Our winter activities will continue through April, wrapping up in time to ready the Gallery for our exhibition season beginning the end of May.

The membership packet presents some new ideas and reinforces best practices the Board believes are in the best interest of the DIAA Gallery. The exhibition schedule is robust and presents many wonderful exhibit opportunities, enticing titles to expand your creative thoughts. The Collaborative Exhibit is back, start pairing up. And 12x12. So, ramp up the winter and spring in your studios. With this packet, sign up for exhibits is open. Don’t forget that our exhibit season runs from late May to the middle of October. You can be in up to three exhibits AND all the All-Member shows too. Do you know an artist on the peninsula who is not a member? Invite them to join the DIAA.

It has been a tremendous opportunity to serve the DIAA all these years. From working with the various Boards, committees and all of you – fantastic artists and friends, being a part of the

move from Dow Rd. to 15 Main St. and experiencing the art explosion as the DIAA has grown into the organization it is today, has been an extraordinary opportunity. I am gratified that DIAA has seen such growth over the years, and, thanks to your generosity, we are a financially stable organization. The year-round presence we have in the Deer Isle Village is fantastic. Our community outreach through our Artist in Residence programs and ART matters has brought many first-time visitors to our space. Art happens year-round at the DIAA. Thank you for the trust you have put in me over the years. At our annual meeting in August, it will be with grateful heart and joyful mind I hand over the gavel to our next president. Thank you and I am eager to see you this summer.

Be well, stay safe and keep making great art.
David McBeth, President, 2025

2025 Membership Renewal Package

Please read everything. Some things have changed.

Remember that the Membership Form and Exhibition Sign-up Form go to two different places! Both are fillable pdfs, so you can download them from the email or www.deerisleartists.com/join. Save them under a new name – your name – fill them out on your computer, save again, and email or snail mail them to the proper place. Send a check to the PO Box. Unfortunately, online payments and submissions are not in place yet; we’re working on it for 2026.

Of course, the traditional print/write/mail process will work as well. Just do it before April 9 to improve chances of getting into one or two of your exhibition choices.

The Member Information Brochure has been updated and will answer many questions.

Thank You – to those of you who show up for receiving/hanging (over and over); for participating in the 12x12(x12) (keeping us solvent); for volunteering extra time in the gallery, and maybe running for office in 2026?

Susan Finsen, Membership Chair, 2025