

What Is LACA?

Founded in 1971, the Lebanon Art and Crafts Association (LACA) is a cooperative nonprofit membership organization based in the Upper Valley area of New Hampshire. Since that time LACA has brought “artisans and crafts people together for mutual support and encouragement, to promote appreciation of art and crafts within the area, and to promote the sale of work as a stimulus to the creative interests and talents of the members” (LACA Bylaws).

LACA represents a wide variety of talent and has members pursuing their crafts in the following areas:

Ceramics	Hats, Mittens, Scarves
Game boards	Stained glass
Quilts	Candles
All-season cards	Jewelry
Doll clothes	Purses & tote bags
Local honey	Needlework
Self-care products	3-D printing
Table linens	Wall art
Christmas ornaments	Soaps
Baby accessories	Stuffed animals
Scrollwork	Pet toys and treats

LACA crafts are not juried. However, the bylaws stipulate that all crafts must be made by the crafter, of “high quality,” “demonstrate technical proficiency,” and “show individuality, originality, or creativity in their design or execution” (LACA Bylaws).

The Organization

As a nonprofit organization registered with the state and federal government, LACA is run by a board of officers including a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer.

The president presides over the regular monthly meetings and is a de facto member of all LACA committees except the nominating committee.

However, LACA conducts its business in a democratic manner, with each member having a voice and a vote in deciding plans and activities.

These activities include electing officers, determining the community endeavors LACA will support, arranging and holding craft shows, and any other business that the board or members propose to the membership.

The vice president assists the president as needed, supervises the placement of free and paid advertising for the annual Christmas show and sale.

The secretary takes minutes for regular monthly meetings and board meetings and also maintains up-to-date membership lists.

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The two treasurers maintain LACA’s financial records on a monthly basis and also work as store operations officers each day that the annual Christmas show and sale is open for business.

The responsibilities of the officers are to maintain the regular operation of the organization. This includes such tasks as arranging for a monthly meeting place, securing needed insurance, filing annual taxes, arranging for an annual audit of LACA’s finances, locating and securing a retail site for the annual Christmas show and sale, maintaining accurate membership information, and taking care of any other business pertaining to LACA.

Members & Meetings

Artisans and craftspeople working in any medium may become members of LACA upon payment to the treasurer of annual dues currently assessed in the amount of \$35.00 for individual/patron membership and \$35.00/member for group membership. LACA holds a monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month and last from one to two hours. Guests are welcome.

If you are interested in joining LACA, please visit us at our website at www.lebanonartandcrafts.org, via Facebook, or contact any of the executive board members for more information.

LACA Benefits

LACA provides many benefits and opportunities to artisans and craftspeople of all mediums. When you join the group, you connect yourself to a network of crafters who can guide you to the best indoor and outdoor craft fairs in the area and beyond. You meet people who can offer tips, advice, and inspire you to try new approaches to your craft. You may become the recipient of the group's largesse. You never know when someone else's "junk" might become just the thing you were looking for to complete a project and it gets passed along to you for free or at a reduced price. Best of all, you find encouragement, friendship, and support that simply does not exist when you work your craft in solitude.

Annual Christmas Show

The annual Christmas show and store is held in whatever commercial space available to us for rental. The show is usually open at least six weeks from before Thanksgiving through the Christmas season.

Participation is available to all paid members; see the show application for costs. Members furnish their own displays and stock their own product. Individual sales vary from several thousand to

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several hundred depending on your product and its availability. Members work shifts on as equal as possible basis to operate the store.

Monies earned from the commission enable us to rent a space for the next years show. We also sponsor a raffle of an item(s) usually made by a member. All monies from the raffle sponsor our yearly scholarship award(s) to students following an art form in college from local schools.

Website & Facebook

Application forms for membership, the Christmas show, and scholarships are available on our website, www.lebanonartandcrafts.org.

Information on the organization's meetings and purposes as well as a bit of our history is available there. Contact information to reach an officer with any questions is also listed.

We are also listed on Facebook under "Lebanon Art and Crafts Association."

2024 Officers

President — Susan Matteson

Vice President — Rhonda Tinkham

Secretary — Heather Burgess

Treasurer — Jane Oakes

Assistant Treasurer — Garrick Ippolito

Lebanon Art & Crafts Association



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