

General Pottery For Pleasure Meeting

Jan 8, 2025

Attended by 29 members including board members and 2 interested individuals.

Welcome: Everyone was welcomed by Nancy Cohen, new co-leader for 2025. She also thanked the outgoing board members for their service. She shared that **our general meetings will be quarterly** and we **plan to communicate using the SCCL website to disperse emails (pottery@oursccl.com).**

Financials & Treasurer Report: Lana asked if anyone had any questions regarding the proposed budget for 2025 based on numbers from last year and her estimate of the number of members paid this year. No questions were raised and a motion to accept the budget as presented was proposed by Elaine Dunham and was seconded by Neysa Bennett. It was approved.

Financial information was presented as well: as of 1/8/2025

Checking: \$ 7,220.53 which includes \$5,100.00 in member fees

Savings: \$12,346.00 (reserve required by HOA)

Total: \$19, 566.53

Membership for 2025 as of yesterday: 25 not joining this year, 7 no responses despite several attempts to contact, 71 paid members, 4 Yes -plan to join but have not paid yet. Looking at these numbers, we have a potential of 75 members for 2025.

Pottery 101: Lynn reported that the plan going forward is to **have smaller classes more frequently** to decrease the waiting time for new members to get started. A class can be organized after 3-4 people express interest. Today, we did have 2 ladies that are not currently members, but are interested in joining, in attendance. Mitch plans to continue to coordinate the class with a few additions to the class including the making of a pinch pot.

Pottery 102: Lana is taking over this class. The class is optional and includes a review of 101, terms and tools used, demonstrations and glazing. It is possible that an entire class on glazing taught by Lynn Hesney and Nancy Cohen will be offered. The 102 class has been scheduled for this Tuesday and the last two 101 classes have been invited with 5 currently planning to attend. At this point, a suggestion to have a class for adults with special needs was proposed and will be taken into consideration. With the 2 interested individuals and the people already expressing interest, a new class of 101 can possibly be scheduled with Mitch. Their contact information was gathered.

Committees: it has been decided by the board that **each committee will have a board member as a liaison.**

Kiln Committee: Nancy is the liaison. Wendy shared that they need more people willing to help with loading and unloading of the kilns. It is an every 4 week commitment with one group that works during the day hours and the rest work in the evenings. It is also possible to be trained as an alternate to fill in when needed.

Kiln Shelves Committee: Julie is the liaison. Doug Crippen has been leading this committee with other members who plan to continue: Kathy Olin, Doree Barnes, and Mitch Kotula. They have gained permission to perform the cleaning duties at the Lakehouse outside of the studio and plan to clean shelves today at 1:00 pm.

Education: Lynn is the liaison. She reports that she has gained permission to have a TV in the studio for educational purposes. We will need to buy brackets to mount the tv, but several members have offered to donate a tv. The internet has been an issue at times in the studio and we may need an extender/ booster to improve our connectivity.

Social Committee: Lana is the liaison. The current group was recognized for organizing an excellent Holiday Party that was enjoyed by many of the members. They have ideas for several social events for the upcoming year.

Cleaning Committee: Julie is the liaison. The responsibilities include organizing occasional cleaning events for the studio, but the entire membership will be asked to help/ sign up.

Shards Committee: Ellen is the liaison. This committee will monitor the shard supply and make new ones as needed; possibly using the recycled clay. **A new policy is going into effect: all shards available in the bins will be community shards. If you want to keep your own shards, please keep them with your supplies and personal belongings and please take them by the end of the month.** All of the remaining shards will be sorted and then available for all. We will use underglaze to identify the PFP shards or you can personalize your own.

Publicity/ Marketing: Martha is the liaison. This committee includes the newsletter, the display case, and any other marketing for the club. The newsletter has been excellent and has also been submitted to the Social Buzz publication to inform the community about our club. We were also informed that it is now included in the packet given out by the ambassadors during tours of the community. A suggestion was made to include the newsletter in the display case in a blown-up format which can be easily read. Also be reminded to hand out the information sheet near the sign in sheet to those who stop by the studio and are interested in joining and to make sure and sign in each time you are in the studio. The display window case has been a great success with many residents mentioning how they appreciate the pottery pieces displayed and how nice it looks. Thank you to Mary Willingham for her efforts to lead this project. She was also able to get an empty window for January and will be filling it today.

Glaze Committee: Nancy is the liaison. Wendy and Nancy purchased a few new glazes to try which are on the shelves. Just a reminder that we have test tiles to use if you want to try out a glaze before using on your piece.

If you missed the meeting and want to sign up for a committee, a sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

Club Fair: is scheduled for Jan 22nd at the Lodge from 10-1:00. We have two tables reserved and will need volunteers to man the tables and explain the process of making pottery pieces. It was suggested to have pieces in different stages from clay to bisque to finished piece (Janet). A sign up will be coming.

Soup on Sunday: our club has participated in this event for numerous years in which we donate bowls, hand built or thrown, to support hospice services in Charlotte and our area of South Carolina. They will need to pick up the bowls on Jan 20. We have scheduled time to work on the bowls today after the meeting which is in addition to this past Saturday afternoon workday. It is recommended that your bowls be ready for the final kiln firing on Jan 16th. If you participate, you will be entered into a drawing for a free ticket to the event. You can also buy tickets online (Soup on Sunday 2025) or at the event.

New Policies/ Procedures:

- 1. Please write your name and the date on a sticky note with your pieces on the drying shelves. There is a pen and notes available at the drying shelves. Please let someone know if your pieces will not be moving along in a timely manner (vacation, etc) or include a note.**
- 2. The white board with each potter's signature mark will be replaced with protected sheets of paper that will have names and your mark for your pieces. It will be kept in the kiln room to easily identify who made each piece. You will be asked to fill in your mark in the near future.**

Reminder: each piece needs to be marked in order to go in the kiln.

This year we will add an education component to each general meeting of the club. Today, Wendy Carter presented on the Kiln Firing Process.