

North Shore Arts Association

Annual Meeting – Sunday, August 23, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Location: North Shore Arts Association, 11 Pirates Ln, Gloucester MA 01930

President's Report – Mary Rose O'Connell

It is a pleasure to meet you at this year's Annual Meeting and to once again share the tremendous progress we have made over the past year as well as the exciting direction we are heading.

I am honored to have been elected to serve as the President of the Board of Trustees. Our board is active, engaged, talented, and gives generously of their time. Each member is a pleasure to work with.

We are proud to report that NSAA's Juried Artist Members and Associate Members combined have grown to over 847 strong in 2025 and 2026, reflecting a vibrant and engaging community. Alongside this growth, our outreach, programming, unique events, and grant-writing efforts have expanded significantly under the dynamic leadership of our executive director, Sarah Milton.

A new Fundraising Committee is being established to support our ongoing efforts to repair and maintain our beloved building. We are aware the building needs siding, windows, and very soon a new roof. Thank you to all who have given and continue to give to our annual appeal.

Thanks to the diligence of Steve Howard, the two-story rear fire escape and bollards have been replaced, the front porch has been rebuilt and up to code, the balconies have been reinforced, and we have a new glass patio door on the second-floor gallery. We have a new alarm system, phone system, and computer upgrades. We had the land surveyed and are waiting for an updated plot plan so that we can address the seawall collapse in the parking lot. Thank you, Steve!

I would like to thank Gilad for assuming additional duties. We are all excited about starting to use the new website he has built. Coming soon! Dulcey returned to work with us again this summer. She continues to impress us with her talent and work ethic. Our special volunteers are reliable and essential to our success. Sarah can address this better than I.

We are thrilled to share that our 2025 Annual Appeal has risen to over \$27,185.00—and it continues to grow. These funds support our top priority in repairing the building. The need is great.

Looking forward, we are committed to:

- Serving our artist members
- Continuing building improvements through donations and grants
- Launching a new and improved website
- Creating and maintaining community affiliations

We are deeply grateful for your support. These achievements are only possible because of you.

Please consider ways you might contribute:

- Support Fundraising Efforts
- Create or Support an Award
- Attend our Events
- Include the NSAA Endowment in your estate planning
- Membership participation is appreciated and vital to the future of our cherished association.

With respect to our speakers, I ask you to please hold any relevant questions until the committee reports have been completed.

Comments and discussions may be addressed during the year at any time, and we will bring them before the board. Our board meets a minimum of once per month.

With heartfelt thanks,

Mary Rose O'Connell
President, NSAA