

Member Information Packet

Welcome to LAFTA

We are glad you have joined us.

LAFTA (pronounced LAUGH-Ta) members are a very diverse group who share a deep appreciation and passion for a wide range of fiber arts. Our talents include surface design, beadwork, embroidery, silk painting, quilting, assemblage, paper arts, tapestry weaving, doll-making, mixed media and much more.

Our ages range from 20's to 80-plus. We represent varying degrees of education and training. Some of us are new to fiber arts and some of us have been working on our craft for many years. Many of our members are self taught, and others have earned masters of fine arts degrees.

Benefits of your LAFTA membership are:

- monthly newsletter
- email announcements of events, opportunities and other member information
- participation in LAFTA workshops with no fee
- discounts at certain stores
- participation in LAFTA exhibits
- members-only parties.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the Executive Committee (listed on the back of each newsletter).

Louisville Area Fiber and Textile Artists Policies and Procedures ([back to top](#))

To download a printable version of the policies and procedures, [click here](#).

Founded in 1995, LAFTA is an organization of visual artists whose work encompasses a variety of surface design and construction techniques, focusing on fibers, textiles and beads. Our mission is to provide support to our members and to increase community awareness of the broad field of fiber and textile art.

Our objectives:

- to provide a forum for networking and exchange of ideas
- to provide members with opportunities to display work and receive critical input

- to disseminate information on exhibitions, events and resources
- to develop exhibitions, workshops, and lectures open to the community
- to assist and collaborate with galleries and other organizations with similar interests.

Benefits of LAFTA membership include:

- monthly newsletter
- email announcements of events, opportunities and other member information
- participation in free or reduced-cost LAFTA workshops
- discounts at certain stores
- participation in LAFTA exhibits
- members-only parties.

MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

General membership meetings are held at the Home of the Innocents on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of December (when we have a holiday party at another location). Members are encouraged to bring guests to general meetings. The December holiday party, plus one other possible social event during the summer, are members-only events.

Anybody 16 or over can join LAFTA. Dues are \$25 a year and membership runs from January 1 through December 31. If a new member joins after July 1, dues for the remainder of the year are \$15. If a new member joins after December 1, dues are \$25 and run through the following year. If current members do not send in their dues by March 1 they will be taken off the rolls and will not have access to the members section of the LAFTA website. Scholarships are available to pay the dues for members in financial need, by request to the treasurer.

SELECTION OF LEADERSHIP

A four-member nominating committee is selected by the chair and convened in December of each year. It includes three members of the executive committee; and one LAFTA member who is not on the executive committee, who is chosen from volunteers.

The nominating committee chooses a slate of candidates for the next year's executive committee. All members are invited to suggest themselves or others as potential nominees, by filling in a questionnaire

in the November newsletter. Potential nominees should be active LAFTA members and have shown a commitment to making fiber and textile art.

Candidates are elected for one-year terms, although many will serve more than one term and there is no formal maximum time in office. Indeed, for some offices such as treasurer it is especially good to have the continuity of a longer term. It is desirable to have some new members each year, which means that some members will have to rotate off the executive committee.

The slate of candidates is announced in the February newsletter, candidates are introduced at the February membership meeting. Between the February and March membership meetings, all members are invited to cast their votes through email or telephone. If the proposed slate runs unopposed, members are asked to approve or reject the entire slate; if an additional candidate has been nominated for a specific office, members will choose between the two nominees and approve or reject the rest of the slate. Results of the election are announced at the March membership meeting, and new leaders take office immediately.

Some members of the executive committee have specific assigned jobs (such as treasurer, workshop chair or newsletter editor). Others serve as members at large and take on tasks during the year as appropriate. The nominating committee may decide whether to assign a job or title when putting the slate together, or the full executive committee itself can decide on duties, or decide to reassign tasks among the members. There is no program chair; selection and arrangement of programs for the monthly meetings are the collective responsibility of the executive committee.

It is expected that all members of the executive committee will attend executive committee meetings and membership meetings regularly.

The executive committee typically meets every month, with the possible exception of December, before the membership meetings. At the April meeting, as a new slate of members takes office, the committee will review the budget and procedures document.

The chair may appoint additional members at large to the executive committee as required, to fill vacancies or meet new program needs, with the approval of the executive committee.

FINANCIAL DECISIONS

The LAFTA budget year runs from January 1 through December 31. Each year the executive committee prepares a budget proposal to present for discussion and approval at the November membership meeting. Within the general guidelines of the budget, the executive committee makes decisions regarding specific expenses. Unexpected proposed expenses over \$250 are presented for approval at a membership meeting.

We customarily make donations to the Home of the Innocents and the University of Louisville art library each year in appreciation for the use of their facilities. We customarily make a memorial donation to

the charity of the family's choice after the death of a member (\$50) or a member's spouse (\$25). In addition, we may donate to support local activities that help accomplish LAFTA's mission.

Any member with financial need may request a "scholarship" in lieu of paying annual dues, by request to the treasurer. The treasurer has the sole right to grant or deny the request and does not reveal the names of members who request or receive scholarships. Occasionally the executive committee grants "life member" status in appreciation of long service to the organization; life members pay no dues thereafter.

A detailed annual financial statement is published in the newsletter in April or May January. A brief financial statement is published every quarter.

WORKSHOPS

We try to offer as many workshops as possible relating to various aspects and techniques of fiber art. Frequently they are held at the Fiber Studio at the University of Louisville School of Art, but may also occur at other places.

Generally workshops last 3-4 hours and are taught by LAFTA members, who are not compensated for their services. If a workshop teacher must drive more than 100 miles round-trip, we provide a mileage payment. Generally workshops are offered to members at no charge; if the workshop teacher provides supplies, a materials fee is charged. If a non-LAFTA artist is invited to lead a workshop, the executive committee decides whether to charge a fee for participation or to pay the guest teacher from the LAFTA treasury.

Advance registration is required for all workshops, by contacting the workshop chair (not the workshop teacher). If space permits, non-members may attend the workshop for a \$25 fee.

PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMUNICATION

Our primary way of communicating with the general public is through the LAFTA website. It has several sections available to any visitor, and a members section that is accessible with a password. The public sections include information on events and activities, links to other community arts organizations, gallery pages for individual members to show their art, and links to members' websites and blogs. The members section carries the monthly newsletter, membership roster, information and signup for workshops, the policies and procedures, and other information that we do not want to be public. The password for the members section changes every year on March 1.

A newsletter is published every month except December. It is posted to the members section of the LAFTA website on the Friday or Saturday before the general membership meeting, thus allowing the inclusion of decisions made at the executive committee meeting, and serving as an announcement of

the following week's meeting. In January we distribute a hard copy of the newsletter, along with a return envelope that is used for paying dues.

The newsletter includes information provided by members on their own shows or art-related activities and accomplishments. We also maintain an email network for urgent messages or other member announcements and requests. Members may send in information for either the newsletter or the email digest by using a form on the members section of the website.

The email digest is used by members who want to send announcements of their own shows, by galleries or organizations sponsoring LAFTA shows, and by organizations and galleries wishing to send announcements of art-related events.

We do not provide the membership list to any organization or individual, nor do we put solicitations from individuals or organizations into the newsletter or distribute them by email.

adopted by LAFTA Executive Committee, 8/23/07; revised 5/12/12