



## Diamond State Branch Newsletter January 2023

Happy New Year Diamond State Members and Friends! I hope that all of you have had time to relax and enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends, and that you are now looking forward to another active and productive year with your fellow members of the Diamond State Branch.

### Looking Back and Feeling Proud.



Looking back at 2022, we had many interesting speakers at our meetings, thanks to Karen Kuhrt; a lot of good food at our luncheons; and good fellowship among our members who attended. Some of these speakers were our own members: Catherine Lawrence, Evelyn Swensson, Carol Mangano and Cyndy Falcoff. We stayed active and productive over the summer months. We had two plein-air painting events at the Hockessin Historical Society and



Tweeds Tavern that members really enjoyed. And the Diamond State Branch again helped sponsor the Lewes Writers Conference led by Billie Travalini. In the Fall, we again kept our tradition of a creative week in Rehoboth Beach. Yes, the Omicron Virus and hurricane Ian interrupted our stay. However, for those of us who were there for a few days, we enjoyed the time spent together and hope for better weather next year! This fall we again are

facilitating the 2022 Scholastic Student Writers Competition for the State of Delaware under the leadership of Taralee Morgan. We ended the 2022 year with a December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting with a luncheon

and speaker at Silverside Church. For those of you who were unable to attend, **Karen Delaney** is a very delightful and creative sculptor who talked to us about her own artistic journey and how sculpture became a focal point for her creative expression. She brought slides of her European work and slides of the paintings that grew out of them. She also brought some smaller sculpture pieces for us to see. At our December meeting we also kicked off our Arts and Letters Challenge. The artists drew for a title of a written piece they will use as inspiration for a new painting. And letters members drew for titles of a paintings they will use as inspiration for new written work. We are stretching our creativity with this challenge! 2022 was a good year for the Diamond State Branch and we should be proud of what we have done and continue to accomplish together.

### **A New Year and New Adventures**

Here we are in January 2023 and our Board is busy planning our meetings and events for the coming year. The Board decided not to have a January meeting to give members time to work on their pieces for our Arts and Letters Challenge.



**Next Diamond State Meeting Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Village of Brandywine Clubhouse  
5801 Concord Pike Wilmington, Delaware 19803**

**Board Meeting 10:30AM Members Social: 12:00 – 12:30- luncheon to follow. Menu TBD – Pizza?**

**Luncheon and Speaker Fee \$20 pp**

**Speaker from the Humanities Forum: Eunice Lafate - Topic - Folk Art and Culture.** Eunice is a self-taught artist and storyteller who has an art gallery on Market Street in Wilmington. Her artwork has won many awards, but her focus is directed at improving the lives of children and others through art.

I will send out a reminder a week prior to the meeting. **Please let me know if you plan to attend so we know how much food to order.**

**\*\*Mark your calendar – Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> Diamond State Branch Meeting – Village of Brandywine Clubhouse-After Luncheon Speaker will be a local author, Jeffrey Byrem .**

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### **Our Arts and Letters Challenge Project – some exciting news.**

We had proposed the Arts and Letters Challenge to our membership with the idea of having an art show sometime this coming year. Finding an appropriate venue was the challenge since most art galleries do not have written work displayed alongside hanging artwork and/or may not have sufficient space for it. Great news! I am happy to report that **The Diamond State Branch of the National League of American Pen Women has been invited to exhibit the works from this challenge in a show at the Henry Gallery, Penn State Great Valley in Malvern from Sept 6<sup>th</sup> through Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** I am so happy to have Pen Women expand our reach to another area outside of Wilmington. So, we have a goal with a definite date. Carry on ladies and get creative with your piece! We will be working with Becky Stanton who is very enthusiastic about our project and the show. She's laid out a timeline starting in May of what information she needs to promote this show. First, we must decide on a **title!** Give it some thought so we can discuss this at our upcoming meeting.

### **Preview Show for our members in the Spring**

Before we bring our pieces to the Henry Gallery, I would like to have a "preview show" just for our members at one of our meetings. We will get to know who is working from whose work at that time if we have not already guessed. We should plan on that for April.

**Suggestion:** I realize that this may be an unusual/difficult challenge, and some members may be stumped with what they had drawn from which they have to work. You are asked not to discuss what you have with another branch member. However, you can ask **another artist or writer outside of our Branch** for ideas on how to approach your piece.

**REMIINDER-Vinnie Ream Competition Deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup>** There is still time to enter. For the Art category, the top 10 pieces along with the winning piece chosen by the juror will again be on display in the Pen Arts Gallery from September - November 2023. You can find all the specific information for all three categories on our national website (NLAPW.org) under Vinnie Ream Competition.

Members News-Please email me any news that you would like to share with our membership. I will send it out in the next newsletter.

Stay safe and warm until we meet again February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mary Lou Griffin, Diamond State Branch President

