**SLO Bytes Computer Users’ Group
Minutes of the March 4th 2022 Virtual BOD Meeting**

**Officers present via Zoom**: Alan Raul, Ralph Sutter, John Waller and Kaye Raul

**Other Board Members Present**: Jim Buenrostro, Peter Stonehewer

President John Waller called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

The Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of **02/04/2022** were approved as submitted.

Treasurer **Kaye Raul** delivered her financial report, indicating that SLO Bytes currently has 27 members in good standing. As announced at the February General Meeting of 02/06/2022, the Dues for all such members have been extended for an additional year at no cost to them.

Kaye submitted a copy of the State Farm Insurance Policy, having paid that bill for the year.

Training Officer **Alan Raul** will not be posting on the Bulletin Board his First Session Notes for the General Session of 03/06/2022. Alan expressed doubts that members were reading them.

The BOD entered a lengthy discussion as to whether SLO Bytes should move from its current status as a Non-profit Corporation to a Unincorporated Non-profit Association. Secretary **Ralph** **Sutter** provided the following links regarding the pros and cons of each

<https://www.accountancywales.com/social-clubs/faqs/constitutional/unincorporated-associations-advantages-and-disadvantage/>

<https://www.thebalancesmb.com/what-is-an-unincorporated-nonprofit-association-2501895>

<https://startupsavant.com/nonprofit-corporation-vs-unincorporated-nonprofit>

Alan advocated in favor of making the change, given the challenges that SLO Bytes faces in finding members who are willing to serve as Officers in the group. He cited the model followed by the **Central** **Coast Photographic Society.**

He offered the following text from that group, explaining their organizational structure.

 “Your Artists Collective provides an organization for local art groups and artists to flourish, serving you with a website, social media, exhibitions, a newsletter, studio visits, lectures, group meetings, and now, a chance to show your work at the SLO Gallery in downtown San Luis Obispo. For more information about the Collective, or if you know of other artists/art groups who might wish to join, please contact us and visit our website.

 Info@CentralCoastArtistsCollective.org

Collective Fee Due

 In order to pay for operations, your participant fee for 2022 is due and may be paid by mailing a check made out to the Central Coast Artists Collective, % Carl Berney, 758 Evans Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Please include the form at the end of this newsletter with your check and indicate the artist group(s) you wish to join. Add $20 for each additional group. Online payment through the website using PayPal is pending. The $30 fee is valid through the end of 2022. If you have questions, contact Carl at Carl@CentralCoastSculptors.org or Cheryl Strahl, clstrahl@sbcglobal.net.

What’s the difference between Members and Participants?

 It has to do with the taxman. The Artists Collective is formed as Unincorporated Non-profit Association, not the more familiar 501(c)(3). This means that it is not a Membership organization and donations to it cannot be claimed as a tax deduction by the donor. A Membership organization means that the members vote on policies. The only Members of the Collective are the individual artist group’s President who vote on Collective policies. When an artist signs up, they become a Member of the artist group they choose, and they become a Participant in the Collective. We use Participant for the Collective to make it clear to the taxman that we understand the distinction as it could affect our non-profit status.

 The Collective now manages SLO Gallery at 1019 Broad Street, across from SLOMA. Roger Cantrell continues as Gallery owner. Artists are responsible for display fees and docent work one or two times per month for four-hour sessions.

 You must join the Central Coast Artists Collective to display your artworks at SLO Gallery. The Artists Collective is now accepting artists to display art in the Gallery. We now have space for all artists in all mediums in the Gallery! Contact Info@CentralCoastArtistsCollective.org. We need volunteers to manage and administer the Gallery. If you are interested, please contact us. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who have painted, cleaned and refurbished the gallery so far: Bill Rumbler, Ralph George, Carl Berney, Blaire Kilbey, Carolyn Chambers, and Charlotte Berney. More help is needed to transform the Gallery into a truly professional artspace.”

Ralph advised against adopting the Unincorporated Non-Profit Association model, arguing that SLO Bytes Officers would lose the legal protection inherent in corporations.

The SLO Bytes BOD reached no decision regarding the proposed change. We agreed to continue the discussion at a later date.

The meeting ended at 7:04 pm.

**Ralph Sutter**