

***The Loose Bead Society of Greater Milwaukee***  
***Membership Business Meeting***  
***October 17, 2016***  
***New Berlin Public Library***

The membership meeting for October, 2016 was all business: filling the open Board positions, voting for challenge pieces and a report by Treasurer Allyn Steffen on the budget and status of our finances.

**Board Elections**

The nominating committee for 2016 consisted of Kat Feldman, Mary Hottinger, Kathy VanDemark, and Katy Hess. The open positions were the President-Elect, Secretary and Vice-President of Programming.

Katy Hess introduced the candidates for our annual election and asked them to say a few words. The candidates were:

- President-Elect – Tris Withington
- VP of Programming – Deb Dunn
- Secretary – Becky Prusak and Susan Beal

Katy asked if there were any nominations from the floor for each candidate. There were none. Ballots were distributed and the members voted. Katy announced the election winners. They were:

- President-Elect – Tris Withington
- VP of Programming – Deb Dunn
- Secretary – Becky Prusak

**Challenge and Scholarship Recipient**

Of course, everyone was excited to see this year's Challenge pieces. The theme for this year's Challenge was "Leap Year". Each participant received a packet of four beads, each representing a year. The packets contained a natural stone bead, a metal barrel bead, a potato pearl bead, and a glass bead in several different colorways. Participant had to "leap" at least one bead into their project.

Cory O'Brien Borkowski, UWM Jewelry and Metalsmithing student, and recipient of an LBS scholarship joined us with a few of her friends and family.

For the first time a 'Student Choice' award was going to be made in addition to the usual categories. Here's what our guest student judge and recent scholarship recipient Cory O'Brien Borkowski had to say about her experience:

"Before the meeting, I had done some research into the Loose Bead Society but didn't have a clear picture of what to expect from the contest. When I saw the intricate and diverse selection of work, I was deeply impressed. The amount of love and hard work that went into the pieces was clearly evident and astounding. It was truly a hard decision to make! I was stuck between three choices but had to narrow it down to one. The reason I decided on the piece I chose was due to the hidden moments within the work. There were subtle details in the pendant that aided in the necklace's beauty and tied everything together. I loved being part of the event and getting an up close and personal view of the lovely work created by the membership of the Loose Bead Society."

After everyone had time to view and vote for the challenge pieces including Cory, the winners were announced.

- Beginners: first place - Lorene Dalsant, second place - Amy L. Thomas. (There was no third place due to only two entries in this category.)
- Intermediate: first place - Kim Ogle, second place - Kandy Stamborski, third place - Suzanne Stimac
- Advanced: first place - Susan Beal, second place - Yvonne Duesterhoeft, third place - Bonnie DeSautelle
- Student Choice Award - Carol S. Surges

Meeting summary written by Carol Surges and Kathy Willmering