

# Message from the President

April 2020

As I come closer to the end of my time as Club President, I reflect on the past two years and what it meant to me and what I leave behind. I have enjoyed my time as the leader of an amazing group of artists and have learned so much from you all.

Around this time of the year the President's Message in Close-Up makes mention of the one thing that makes our club run, volunteers. Our Club is fortunate to have an excellent group of individuals who work countless hours to make everything in the Club run smoothly. Without them we would not be able to offer everything that we do, but as is the case with many Clubs it is often the same group of people who volunteer their time year after year to help keep our Club viable.

As we are thinking about the upcoming AGM some volunteers may be thinking about stepping down from their positions. I encourage all members, especially those who have not volunteered in the past, to think about what you get from the Club and consider giving back by filling a role next year. By becoming an active participant, you can have a positive impact through your contribution. This past year seemed we've had many new club members stepping forward and helping out with various committees. I thank you for that. As is said "many hands make light work" and I also add that it makes our Club better.

Our Club AGM will be taking place on April 16th where we will be nominating a new President, Vice President and Director-at-Large.

There will also be a motion brought forward to increase the annual fees. The Club has had the same annual fees for many years and with the increasing costs for our hall rental, new expense for parking, more frequent workshops, amongst other increased expenses, the executive feels that a modest increase will help cover the costs involved in these activities. The proposal will see individual fees raised to \$100 per year, family fees to \$200 and student fees to \$50.

Now that we are into April, this means there are Spring flowers popping up everywhere on south Vancouver Island. This offers the opportunity to dust off your macro and close-up lenses and practice photographing with shallow depth of field. You might even want to try to get "bokeh" shots. Keep an eye out for the flower field trips coming up. Maybe I'll even see you at one.

Teri VanWell, President