

# Waterbrook Potters Studio

## Board of Directors Candidates 2021

### President



**Elizabeth Donovan**

I am running for a second term as your club President. The past year has been one of discovery and growth. We started our fiscal year last July holding our breath wondering how the pandemic would impact us. Today, we have a stable membership, a balanced bank account, and a lovely studio in hot demand with many potters on our waiting list hoping to join! We had some growing pains, yet Waterbrook is stronger than ever, thanks to our members.

You can count on me to lead the Board and Studio in the right direction. As part of the original Waterbrook Transition Team, and Board of 2020, I embrace the vision that launched our studio: **Waterbrook is a community of potters sharing space, equipment, and passion for clay arts.**

The year ahead will have new challenges, and if re-elected, I will continue to value member input in Board decision-making. Some of the issues inspiring me to offer my service are: updating membership levels; aligning studio usage, space and expectations; and safely getting back to our connections and community that started this adventure known as Waterbrook.

As a potter, primarily a hand builder, I know we have something amazing at Waterbrook. As a social worker, I know that sticking points usually shine the light on areas needing growth and change. For the studio to thrive, we must keep our focus on what's best for the entire club, hear from all our members on their concerns, and enjoy ourselves. If re-elected, I pledge to continue working with you and the Board to keep Waterbrook strong in the coming year.

### Vice-President



**Rebecca Cigal**

Hello Waterbrook Potters,  
It would be my privilege to become your next Vice-President.

I've been a Full member of our community since its very beginning- January 2020 and meeting such a friendly, supportive group of creative people has made me a better potter! From the onset, I've seen the potential of our group. I have jumped into the Education and By-Laws committees and have been attending Board meetings regularly.

Working with others to offer Zoom workshops catering to our member's interests during a pandemic has been rewarding. Contributing to updating the Studio By-Laws taught me how each part of our club functions independently and together. Attending Waterbrook Board meetings has given me insight into our community's successes and challenges.

My 20 plus years holding not-for-profit leadership roles, board positions, and a professional management career have given me many opportunities to work with diverse perspectives and personalities. Together we built strong organizations that met the needs of members or customers alike. As Vice-President, I will continue to bring positive solutions, energy and, creativity to Waterbrook's Board and encourage member engagement, input, and opinions.

All of us can have a part in nurturing Waterbrook to be the hub of the Capital District pottery community.

## Treasurer



**Toan Tran, PhD**

I'm grateful for what Waterbrook has done for me personally and I feel that I can reciprocate by serving the community. I hope to bring us together and help create a place where people can make art in all their wonderfully unique ways. I am very approachable, supportive, easy to work with, and a team player. As the treasurer I will do all I can to ensure that the club continues to be a positive, open and supportive environment. I hope to create a fully transparent, easy to understand financial system so that everyone can see all the wonderful things we have done and will do.

Thank you so much for giving me a chance to serve the community.



**Vince Lanzone**

As your current Treasurer and a Founding Member of Waterbrook Potters Studio I am running again for the Seat I currently hold.

I offer you 34 years of Professional Financial Experience: First with American Express Shearson Lehman. Then a Vice President and later CFO of Keenan Powers & Andrews. Vice President with Tucker Anthony, Vice President, APS Financial, and Financial Advisor with New York Life.

I have also served on Volunteer Boards of the numerous Non-Profit's:

1. Stevens House, Treasure and then President
2. Capital Pride Center, Board member at large and then as Treasurer
3. Waterbrook Potters, A founding member and currently Treasurer

As Treasurer of Stevens House, I inherited a failing institution (-\$ 94,000) in the red. I immediately began a Grant writing and Fund-Raising Campaign. In less than 7 months we raised over 200K donations and I wrote and secured grants totaling \$ 1,293,000, one in the amount of \$ 390,000 paid each year for 3 years from HOPWA a division of HUD, and several smaller grants totaling \$ 123,000 for a grand total \$ 1,293,000. All while working an average of 70 hours per week.

Your treasurer should have knowledge, understanding and experience of budgeting planning and the ability to foresee and head-off potential problems and hurdles that may arise which could jeopardies the

organization. Have the ability to advise on potential pitfalls and work with the Board solve problems. Understand issues that cause small businesses to fail, in the US most small businesses fail at an alarming rate.

1. After 2 years only 85% are still in business
1. After 3 ½ years that number has fallen to 60%
2. After 5 years it is 50%
3. And after 10 years 33% are still standing

The number reasons for the high failure rate are lack of funding, experience and foresee problems that may be looming.

My opponent wants to get rid of the reserve which is the single thing that prevented Waterbrook from failing last year in the pandemic. The plan would be if more money is needed you would receive a bill for what is needed. In addition, raise dues by 8% which is not needed I have no intention, nor do I believe there is any reason to raise our dues in the foreseeable future.

I am not a Diplomat, nor do I pretend to be one. I am not running because of some inner need of for recognition or praise. I am running because I honestly believe in the original reason WPS was created. To fill a need in the community, encourage others to experience Clay in a safe non judge mental environment. And mostly to help people believe in themselves and their creativity. I pledge to continue providing honest experienced and diligent service to keep Waterbrook in a Healthy Financial Status.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Secretary



**Jamie DiCesare**

I believe I would make a great candidate for the position because I am very organized, detail oriented and structured. I love being at the studio as often as I can be and have a real love for the craft and desire to help create and facilitate a welcoming, friendly, supportive environment for our members. I encourage positivity, fun and new ideas as well as openness and honest feedback. I look forward to providing support for this group!

## Communications



### **Annabel Day**

I am interested in taking a role in this new Pottery Community that I have discovered after coming back to clay 20+ years later.

I have been a Flight Attendant for more than 25 years and a certified Yoga Instructor for 10 years and I bring active listening and good interpersonal skills with me.

I would work to ensure timely and transparent communication with members, as well as working with all board and committee members to continue to nurture the creative and centering space that the studio is to me.

## Membership



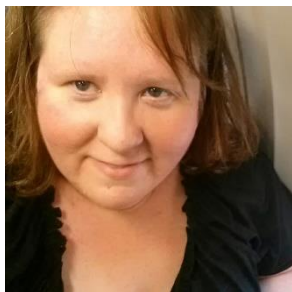
### **Samara Monfette**

I would like to nominate myself for the membership position.

I feel that I am organized, friendly and have experience managing my own small business as well as managing experience with my outside jobs. I love creating a sense of community and having all members truly enjoy their time at Waterbrook.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Operations



### **Lindsay Renz**

While I'm fairly new to pottery, I've been a member of the studio from almost the beginning. I very much want to contribute to our community and help provide more opportunities for us to grow. I have experience with firing at Waterbrook and am also working with a group of potters to begin mixing glazes from scratch.

I have experience with project management and meeting deadlines. I'm organized and have a lot of interest in the process of firing and studio organization.