Tri State Sculptors
from 1979 through 1998

"Because of the opportunities it offers ... TSS has done what I hoped for."

1998 member letter
1979-80
Piney Lake

For Jim Gallucci

THE FOUNDER OF TRI STATE, FIRST PRESIDENT OF TRI STATE, RE-ELECTED TWICE, TREASURER FOR SEVEN YEARS, NC REP FOR TWO YEARS, BEACH WEEKEND ORGANIZER, SCULPTOR, TEACHER, ORGANIZER OF THE FIRST TSS WACKO EVENT, THE CARDBOARD BOAT RACE OF 1979

Tri State began at the “Safety, Health, and the Sculptor” conference, October 4-6, 1979, at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro that was organized by Joan Gregory and John Spring of the art department faculty. At the same time a sculpture competition, “NC Sculpture ‘79,” also sponsored by the Department of Art, was opening at the Weatherspoon Gallery on the campus.

Jim Gallucci, an instructor in the art department at UNCG, gave a welding demo at the “Safety, Health, and the Sculptor” conference, and more importantly held, “a meeting of interested parties to discuss organization of Tri State Sculptors Guild.” The meeting took place the last afternoon of the conference at an “optional” ($3.50) picnic at Piney Lake. Jim Gallucci had invited everyone interested to view the final critique of his cardboard boat project. Teams of students had to navigate the lake in boats they made of cardboard covered in wax.

According to Bill Donnan, “There were several valiant tries including one where the pilot had his boat fold in the middle twice and climbed back on each time. While the festivities were taking place on the lake the observers started to work on the left over beer... and talk to each other. We were an interesting group made up of teachers, students and independent sculptors.”

At that meeting, “It was the consensus of all those present that the exchange of ideas and the opportunity to meet other sculptors ... was a valuable and meaningful experience” which the Southern Association of Sculptors, then in existence, was no longer providing.

$16.55 was raised to cover mailings for the next meeting, and Jim was elected provisional president with Mary Anna Dunn, a student at UNCG, as provisional secretary. Dues were set at $5.00.

In October 1979, fifty-five questionnaires were mailed out and thirty-five were returned. The survey results concerned the content of a newsletter: that it include the kind of information that appears in our current newsletter (business and art, commissions and exhibits, and aesthetic information). Goal suggestions were for an annual conference, slide presentations to the public, and that Tri State promote sculpture, put art in new spaces (outside of galleries and museums), and increase public awareness of sculpture.
An Organizational Meeting

held on January 19th, 1980 set the tone of Tri State by beginning the slide library which eventually turned into the Traveling Slide Registry, by emphasizing sculpture exhibitions, and by planning a wacko sculpture event, the first annual hood ornament exhibition (which may someday take place). At that January meeting the Tri State Sculptors Guild was formally established, with Jim Gallucci as president pro tem, Mary Anna Dunn secretary pro tem, Lise Temple-Greenberg, newsletter editor, and George de Merle to design the Tri State Logo.

The constitution was drawn up by Norm Keller, Jim Gallucci, Tom Grubb and others, and facilitated by Norm Keller's experience as a biker who, according to Jim said, "this is like setting up a good 'biker' club!" KISS - KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID became a familiar cry.

The party after that hard work was reported to have ended up at Jim Gallucci's apartment: a mouse was rescued from a cat and spent the evening in Gyuri Hollosy's pocket eating crackers, and Norm Keller rescued Tom Grubb from the Alamance County jail where he had stopped off under duress on his way home.

The First Tri State Newsletter

came out in the spring of 1980 (no date on it) containing the minutes of the organizational meeting and a treasurer's report ($131 balance before newsletter expenses). A note from Jim Gallucci stated that the June meeting set for Washington, DC during the ISC (International Sculpture Center) Sculpture Conference was going to cost Tri State members too much ($110 for conference registration alone). In a later letter to Board Members, Jim proposed an alternative to the DC meeting: "Roger, Bill and I had talked about a possible meeting in May with an erotic art one day show, beer and etc...., The place proposed is outside of Asheboro on a farm w/a giant barn in case of Rain." No records of that spring meeting have been found.

The Fall meeting of the Tri State Sculptors Guild was held in Elliott Hall on the UNCG campus on Saturday, October 11, 1980. The Constitution of the Tri State Sculptors Guild was voted on. The dues were set at $10.00.

1980 Officers:

President, Jim Gallucci; Secretary, Mary Anna Dunn; Treasurer, Roger Halligan; Directors (representatives from each state), VA, Steve Bickley, NC, Norman Keller and Bill Donnan; SC, Jon Formo and Suzanne Bullock.

Jon Formo was chosen chairperson for the "October Sculpture Conference" which was to meet at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

"For the most part we are showing sculpture in a region which may not be as universally progressive as we all would like....what seems to work in Tri State's favor is the flexibility we seem to have as a group and for the most part we seem to have as individual members. It is my opinion that [this] has carried us a long way and has done more for the longevity of the group than anything else."

Stephen LeQuire, 1998 letter
The Purpose

The purpose of the Tri State Sculptors Guild shall be to perpetually promote public awareness of sculpture and to disseminate sculpture information among its members.

And to that end during 1981, Jim Gallucci, Claire Cooperstein, Rosie Thompson, and Norm Keller began contacting people and organizations about exhibitions for TSS members, venues for the slide registry, etc.

The 1981 May newsletter quoted the membership as 49. By November it was 67, and fear of growing too fast was of concern. In the correspondence between Claire and David Furchgott of ISC about a suggestion that ISC might "consider co-sponsoring some regional workshops with Tri State" Claire wrote that, "Our members indicated a desire to maintain an intimate organization" and that "the formality, sophistication, and size of ISC seemed a disadvantage." David Furchgott attended the October conference and many thereafter.

Jim Gallucci made contact with Northern Telecom, Inc., a company interested in purchasing a sculpture by a NC artist and starting an annual invitational exhibition for NC sculptors. Rosie Thompson organized the Horace Williams House exhibition, which was held in February 1982, and she and Barry Bailey worked on an exchange exhibition between TSS and Louisiana sculptors.

The NC Arts Council recognized Tri State in its publications, and Tri State became involved politically by supporting legislation to publicly fund the arts. (No action was taken in 1981 by the NC General Assembly ostensibly because money was scarce).

The 1981 Spring Planning Session was co-chaired by Claire Cooperstein and Steve Clapp. On Saturday April 11th, 38 members of the Tri State Sculptors Guild met at the Wesley Foundation in Chapel Hill. Accommodations included the UNC Art Lab parking lot.

A special and first showing of the "Traveling Slide Exhibition" by Norm Keller was featured, and members were to bring slides for this purpose. This became an important informal event at Fall Conferences and spring meetings.

A Tool and Material/ SWAP 'N SELL newsletter section was organized along with a new complaint department: against art exhibitions/competitions that unfairly exclude sculpture by restrictions of size, weight, etc. The first annual conference planning continued with Jon Formo and Suzanne Bullock in charge.

The 1981 Fall Conference: "SCULPTURE - ?" was held at the University of South Carolina on October 16,17,18. "The theme and title was chosen to focus on the diverse forms and concepts that sculpture involves these days." Seven outdoor and fifty indoor works were exhibited during the conference. An outdoor sculpture was assembled on the campus by various Guild members - the wacko event, considered a disaster by some. The Department of Art paid for "catalogs and three kegs of beer" among other items. Forty-seven people registered at $10.00 and nine students at $5.00.
Highlights of the 1981 Business Meetings included the election of officers: “re-elected by acclamation for a two year term: Jim Gallucci, President. Roger Halligan, Treasurer. Representatives: Bill Donnan, N. Carolina. Susanne Bullock, S. Carolina. Steve Bickley, Va.” A decision to seek incorporation and nonprofit status, and the decision that “all exhibitions held in conjunction with Tri State conferences and meetings include both indoor and outdoor sculpture.”

1981 Officers
President, Jim Gallucci; Secretary, Claire Cooperstein; Treasurer, Roger Halligan; Newsletter Editor, Lisa Temple-Greenburg; NC Reps. Norm Keller and Bill Donnan; SC Reps. Jon Formo and Suzanne Bullock; VA Reps. Steve Bickley and Jeanne Van Gemert.

1982

Scale and Sculpture

The good contact work done in 1981 by Jim Gallucci, Claire Cooperstein, Rosie Thompson, Norm Keller and others resulted in a number of sculpture exhibitions and opportunities for TSS members. In September Northern Telecom held the first annual juried sculpture exhibition with purchase awards.

The 1982 Spring Meeting took place at Mountain Lake Hotel in Blacksburg, VA. Organized by Steve Bickley, it was held in conjunction with the Virginia Polytech “Contemporary Sculpture Conference” with Tony Caro and Clement Greenberg among others participating. Several TSS sculptors reported joining “intense, rewarding and non-stop critiques.” Claire Cooperstein wrote in the May 1982 newsletter that “Caro was the star, articulate, perceptive, and warmly human.”

After listening to him describe how he created the permanent installation for the East Wing of the National Gallery in DC, she wrote, “One understands perfectly what he means when he looks at a slide and says, ‘I’d cut off the top—and then start in again’; that’s exactly what he did in the East Wing. It’s a rare conference that can give one that kind of insight into the creative process.”
The Annual Fall Conference 1982

was organized by Norm Keller and held on the ECU Campus at Greenville, NC. The members' exhibition, "Scale and Sculpture," was described in the Oct. '82 newsletter by Norm. “The 91 pieces from 49 artists represented the largest assemblage of contemporary sculpture in the southeast in the last 25 years.” Installed by Norm and his students, the outdoor work was exhibited on the grounds of the Jenkins Fine Art Center. The indoor work including drawings was shown in ECU’s Gray Gallery from 2-28 October. This was the first conference exhibition that was “more than an informal weekend showing.”

More than 65 sculptors participated in meetings and workshops which included a computerized sculpture demonstration, a sand casting workshop, an aluminum pour, panel discussions, and “between diminishing kegs of beer in the ECU metal shop,” John Quinn demonstrated his portable foundry.

Highlights of the 1982 Business Sessions

Roger Halligan completed the incorporation of TSS as a non profit educational organization.

"Most artists need a support system that provides educational experience and different places to show. TSS worked well for me in this regard."

Ruffin Hobbs 1998 phone conversation

For IRS purposes Tri State had become Tri State Sculptors Educational Association, Inc. (however, TSS could still use “Tri State Sculptors Guild” for other purposes.

The 25 members added at the Fall Conference brought TSS membership close to 100. A constitutional change at the Fall Conference made it mandatory to appoint a nominating committee at the spring meeting. Roger Halligan reported approximately $700 in the treasury.

The memory of TSS sculptor Paul Ostaseski who died in July '82 was honored by putting one of his sculptures in a special place at ECU and in planning a memorial sculpture award.

1982 Officers:
President, Jim Gallucci;
Secretary, Claire Cooperstein;
Treasurer, Roger Halligan;
NC Rep. Norm Keller;
SC Rep. Jon Formo;
Newsletter Editor,
Lise Temple-Greenberg
1983

The Emperor Had No Clothes !!!

"As Tri State's 20th anniversary approaches, Mitzi Shewmake and Carolyn Owen keep trying to make some sense of the organization's recently found archives. Who did what? When? They send the founding members lists of questions. But to date, no one has asked about the one thing that makes Tri State unique. We never jury anything.

If you call yourself a sculptor, you can join Tri State. If you join Tri State, you can exhibit at the annual conference, put your work in the traveling small works exhibition as well as the traveling slide collection. If your sculpture is too large to travel you'll be asked for a smaller piece (but never a different one.) If your slides are an amateurish mess, they'll be returned with a request for better ones (but never different work). Each year's Tri State Annual seems better than the last. What happens seems to be this:

As a member you will put your best work elsewhere just once. Pride, ego, whatever you want to call it, will turn you into the most critical juror in the world. The secret of Tri State's success is this jury of our peers."

Claire Cooperstein

Norm Keller, Claire Cooperstein, Dino Read, Frank Smullin, and Rosie Thompson were all officially involved in furthering Tri State's purpose of promoting "public awareness of sculpture". This translated into requests from many different sources for the slide registry and TSS membership lists: contact was made with the NC. Museum of Art, Pratt Institute Gallery, and The Sawtooth Center among other places. Northern Telecom held its 2nd annual weekend sculpture exhibition. Thanks to Rosie Thompson, an ISC group membership inquiry got 31 TSS sculptors to join ($24.00 - compare with today's $95.00 cost). TSS membership tripled to 117 and the dues were still $10.00.

Of Note in 1983:
Claire Cooperstein designed a new logo for Tri State which appeared in the December 1983 newsletter. Lise Temple-Greenberg resigned from the board and had to be replaced by three people. Claire took on the newsletter and Dino Read and Frank Smullin the membership lists. The newsletter instituted "Free CLASSIFIED ADS for TRI STATE MEMBERS."

The December newsletter reported the death of Frank Smullin, and that "Norm Keller is in the process of polling the board about a $150 donation to a scholarship fund" already set up in his memory.

Tri State's 1983 Spring Retreat organized by Jim Gallucci, took place at Atlantic Beach, April 27 thru 29. "36 bed spaces" were provided; the cost was $25.00 for two night's lodging in a beach house, "beer, two breakfasts, pig & oyster roast, beer, sailing, beer, snorkel-
ing...” Saturday was set aside for Beach Activity Time: “Installing Sculptures, Building Sculptures, Sculptural Sand Castles, Wind Machines and Kites.” 50 members and families came and it was unanimously voted to have an annual spring meeting.

The 1983 Annual Fall Conference
October 14-16 at the Greenhill Center for North Carolina Art generated a “Sculpture Month” in Greensboro. The month long TSS exhibitions which included Outdoor Sculpture at the Governmental Plaza and fall programs related to sculpture were designed by the Greenhill Center, “To give maximum promotion and support to your members.” The TSS newsletter offered special thanks to Cynthia Ference, Director of the Greenhill Center, and Ruth Pinnell, the Gallery Curator.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation to Jim Gallucci, the outgoing president, of a gold tray complete with champagne and glasses. The newsletter reported, “JIM GALLUCCI all choked up when he received his farewell gift.”

Coordinating the exhibition, Marta Tornero says that, through ignorance of proper procedure, she dismayed the city of Greensboro by letting Tom Grubb float his sculpture “high above the corner of Friendly Avenue and North Elm Street” without getting the requisite permissions.

86 Tri State sculptors exhibited work, and close to one hundred members and guests participated in the conference. The Roanoke Times stated that “The show’s mix, with no dominant style, reflects the general condition of contemporary art.” Part of the funding for the catalog and conference was provided by the Greensboro Arts Council and the NC Arts Council.

As for 1983 Business Meetings
The total money out in 1983 was $4076.45 including $75.00 in bounced checks. Money in was $4578.80 A special PAUL OSTASESKI MEMORIAL AWARD of $150 was set aside “for the best sculpture in the Roanoke Museum’s 1984 Regional Juried Annual.”

1983 Officers
President, Jim Gallucci; Secretary, Claire Cooperstein; Treasurer, Roger Halligan; Newsletter Editor, Lise Temple-Greenberg and then Claire Cooperstein; NC Rep. Bill Donnan; ISC Rep. Rosie Thompson; VA Rep. Dean Carter, SC Reps. Susan Bullock and John Forino; Membership, Dino Read and Frank Smullin; Traveling Slide Registry, Norman Keller. 1983 Annual Conference Exhibition Chair, Marta Tornero; Conference Programs, Pat Wasserboehr
1984

For Norm Keller

FOUNDRING MEMBER OF TRI STATE, PRESIDENT FOR FOUR YEARS, NC STATE REP FOR THREE YEARS, COORDINATOR OF THE 1982 CONFERENCE, SLIDE REGISTRY CHAIR, ORGANIZER OF THE SMALL WORKS TRAVELING SHOW, SCULPTOR, TEACHER, A SERIOUS BEACH WEEKENDER

The Domestic Manufacturing Co. of Kinston made a contribution to Tri State. Some of the SC TSS members met during the winter and planned to get together occasionally between TSS meetings. ISC asked Tri State for help in getting funding, and Norm Keller replied that ISC can count on continuing promotion of ISC.

TSS contributed $150 to Skowhegan School of Art in memory of Frank Smullin. A retrospective drawing and sculpture show of Smullin's work was held at the NC School of Design Gallery. TSS slides were reviewed at the University of Georgia, and the NC Arts Council.

Among the year's reports of TSS members' injuries the most unusual was Tom Dougherty's admission that "he was recovering from bruises on his leg after a porch fell on it."

1984 Exhibitions

The Case Art Gallery at Atlantic Christian College held an exhibition of 'Tri State sculptors' work in September, as did the Gaston County Museum of Art and History in November (funded in part by the NC Arts Council).

The Big News was the announcement of "THE TRI STATE TRAVELING SMALL SCULPTURE SHOW" for all paid up members.

The Atlantic Beach Spring Meeting 1984

April 27 - 29, was arranged by Barbara Rhoades and Rosie Thompson. "The sun shone ... the waves sparkled ... beer flowed freely from two kegs ... beach sculpture fluttered in the sea breeze ... and the babies had a ball eating sand. ...Close to 50 Tri State members, spouses, live-ins and offspring" paid $30 for lodging, pig-picking, and showing slides. Spring-at-the-beach was voted to become a Tri State tradition.

At the business meeting it was noted that there was a cash flow problem. A motion to raise Tri State dues from $10 to $15 was unanimously passed, and there was only one dissenting vote among the absentee ballots.

"BIGGEST EVER TRI STATE'S FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEMBERS EXHIBITION IN CHARLOTTE"

66 sculptors brought over 100 pieces to Queens College in Charlotte. "Every medium was represented, metal, stone, wood, plastic, neon, and fabric." The Mint Museum provided the catalog prepared by the curator of contemporary art, Jane Kessler, who also installed the exhibition. 162 people registered to attend workshops on paper casting, heat-forming plexiglas, lectures and panel discussions. The keynote speaker was Pat Fuller from the National Endowment for the Arts. "Most of all, we had a good time- with the socializing culminating in a spectacular
cook-out at Willie Baucom-Grimes’ farm” replete with hot tub use by David Furchgott of ISC among others. T-shirts with “Sculpture is not a pretty thing” logo by Nick Batounis “went like ... hot cakes.”

As for 1984 Business Meetings
New officers were elected with the Sec.-VP to act as official Historian. The spring beach bash was voted in for the next year, a list of grant opportunities made available, and plans for the 1995 conference discussed.

1984 Officers:
President, Norman Keller; Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Claire Cooperstein; Treasurer, Barbara Rhoades; NC Reps. Jim Gallucci and Rosie Thompson; VA Reps. Dean Carter and Shirley Koller; SC Reps. Jon Formo and Mary Valk; Membership, Dino Read and Frank Smullin; Traveling Slide Registry, Pat Wasserboehr, Exhibitions Coordinator, Rosie Thompson; Conference Coordinators, Willie Baucom-Grimes and Keith Lambert

1985

Professionalism
THE AMAZING MINIMAL BULLSHIT, MAXIMUM OUTPUT ORGANIZATION

David Furchgott (ISC)

Sculpture was up and running for TSS members in 1985. An NEA fellowship was granted, NT purchase awards made, other competition awards won. The TSS membership of 170 made problems for the newsletter because there was no longer enough room to note all the individual honors. Tri State, along with sculpture organizations around the world, was invited to spend a weekend in Chicago in November exchanging ideas. Jim Gallucci and Norm Keller represented TSS at the World Congress of Sculpture, an event initiated by Richard Hunt and put together by ISC. Jim’s notes concluded: “The feeling of the entire week end was one of deja view. It wasn’t a picnic table, but a boardroom table. There were no giant oaks shading us, just the Art Institute’s magnificent parabolic ceiling. But the feeling was the same ... DIALOGUE, an essential for any artist. Just knowing you’re not alone.” A report on that meeting from one of the British sculptors characterized Tri State as a “hoe your own row” group.

Contact was also made with the Washington Sculptors Group in 1985. On the down side, the juror for the Roanoke Museum’s Biennial Exhibition awarded the $150 Ostaseski Memorial to a painter. Norm Keller had sculpture vandalized. A reviewer in The State Magazine of SC observed of the sculpture at Camden, “They come in all sizes, shapes and materials, but only one represented a finished product.” A comment in the Raleigh News and Observer about sculpture in Raleigh’s “ArtsPlosion” stated that public reaction was mixed “as would be the case with an art that’s new and challenging.” Oh well.

Announcement was made of the concern of TSS members over the death of Wes Crawley, who had been a Tri State member for several years.

The 1985 Tri State Exhibition and Catalog were dedicated to Bruce Laing who died late in 1984 and Dino Read who died in 1985: artists who “personified a dedication to professionalism from which we can all learn and take heart. We will miss them sorely ....”
1985 TSS Concerns
that appeared in letters and newsletters included
discussions of gallery and museum attitudes
toward the artists who are expected to pay high
exhibition entry fees and shipping, installation
and insurance costs. There was the problem of
"professionalism" at the annual membership
exhibition: a few members bring work other
than that promised, remove work too soon,
leave work after closing date, don't show at all,
etc. A newsletter plea asked for artists to sup-
port a NC legislative bill that would exclude art
owned by its creator from the NC inventory tax.

1985 Exhibitions
The Small Works Traveling Show, brain-child of
one of the beach parties involving Norm Keller
and Stephen LeQuire was a success, with a
profit of $368. It had traveled to eleven univer-
sities and art centers in LA, NC and VA.

1985 Conferences
Spring: "THE STATE BEACH RETREAT A
SUCCESS AS USUAL" was reported by Claire
who added that she came out of the Saturday
night poker game "with enough change to do
my laundry for the next several weeks". A stand-
ing ovation was given to Shanna Fleenor, Beach
Retreat chair, and assistant Bill Donnan, for the
"sensational food and smooth-as-silk organiza-
tion". Held at Atlantic Beach, NC, the annual
spring meeting was moved to May "to prevent
bad weather events".

Fall: "CAMDEN HOSPITALITY MADE
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE A SUCC-
ESS". The fifth TSS conference took place at
the Kershaw County Fine Arts Center in SC,
October 4-6. It was coordinated by Allan Sin-
dler and enhanced by the twenty-five Camden
residents who provided TSS members with
lodging and hospitality. TSS was welcomed by
the mayor, the directors of the Fine Art Center,
and the Camden Art Association. Food for the
the exhibition opening and Friday night party at
Allan and Skip Sindler's was donated locally.

The indoor and outdoor sculpture exhibition
took place at the Fine Arts Center of Kershaw
Co. The catalog was made possible in part by
the South Carolina Arts Commission.

The program included panel discussions, a talk
on 20th century sculpture, and workshops given
on poured concrete and rubber molds. Sculpt-
tors Working were demonstrations given by
TSS sculptors working in wood, stone, non-fer-
rros metals, and concrete.

Of Note in 1985
Between 1982 and 1985 the slide registry trav-
eled to fifteen sites.

The Business meetings spawned a happy thank
you to three nonsculptors for their contribu-
tions to Tri State. Jane Keller, Jay Levinsohn and
Joy Haas were made honorary members of TSS.

A by-law change made the immediate past presi-
dent an "advisor ex officio" without board vot-
ing privileges except in the president's absence.

An ad hoc committee was formed to recom-
mand future policy for memorials. The slide
registry chair, newsletter editor, and the mem-
bership chair were made members of the board.
Also it was decided that members who move
away from the area may maintain membership
but may not vote or exhibit.

Tri State T shirt and visor sales made a profit of
$81. However, as usual, "Tri State dues barely
cover the newsletter, board communications ... the slide registry, etc." TSS dues remained $15.

"Upon thinking of Tri State gatherings, I am struck by how
much fun we have...even the meetings are kept lively by
wonderful variety of personalities, and endless wit, possessed by
our membership."

Marvin Tadlock, letter, 1998
1985 Officers
President, Norman Keller; Secretary-V.P. Peter Berry; Treasurer, Abbe Godwin (to fill out the unexpired term of Barbara Rhoades, who moved to California); Membership, Hunter Levinson; Newsletter Editor, Claire Cooperstein; Slide Registry, until May Pat Waterboehr and then Joel Haas; NC Reps. Rosie Thompson and Jim Galluci; SC Reps. Allan Sendler and Don Howachyn; VA Reps. Dean Carter and Shirley Koller

1986

Sculpture Makes Your Art Throb

With Membership over two hundred and dues still $15, 1986 was another year of kudos for Tri State members: there were scholarships, awards, commissions, and residencies.

The NC Museum of Art, the NC Arts Council, "ArtsPlosion" in Raleigh, York County Museum in Rockhill, SC, and Greensboro College all requested the TSS membership list. The Rosina and Dean Carter Sculpture Scholarship was established at VPI and SU.

1986 Exhibitions
Coordinated by Shirley Koller, the first Washington, DC area exhibition was planned. This one to be held at George Mason University. An exhibition curated by Roger Halligan took place at the Randolph County Arts Guild.

"TRI STATE TRAVELING SHOW FINISHES 17 MONTH TOUR MARCH 1." Put together by Norm Keller, it traveled through NC, LA, VA, and KY. "The work was restricted in size to sculpture which could fit inside a 30 gallon drum, and the show was limited to the number of drums which could fit in Norm’s truck."

Of Note in 1986
Guilford College announced that it was seeking a sculpture instructor who could also teach painting, drawing, art history, art appreciation, and possibly photography!! (We’re wonderful!) ISC reported 8,000 members.

Commissions on sold work at Wilmington: the UNCW Student Union, 10%; St John’s Gallery, 30%; and TSS, 10%. Claire Cooperstein asked that the state Reps get more member information to her.

A subtle change had begun to take place in Tri State’s outlook; for the first time instead of beer, beer and food, beer at all TSS gatherings, wine was mentioned as a possibility!

The April Arts Journal presented an overview of sculpture in NC. Written by Jon Meyer, three pages were devoted to descriptions of sculpture by TSS members!

Censorship took an interesting turn at St. John’s Museum in Wilmington. According to Stephen LeQuire the museum requested permission not to light an offending word in a large neon piece of Claire Cooperstein’s during visits of school groups. Also a life size sculpture of a standing nude was not exhibited at St John’s but at a private gallery which hosted the drawing exhibition. “Both were handled pretty well because the sculptors involved were understanding and willing to work around the problems.”

1986 Conferences
At the Spring Beach Retreat, May 17 and 18, again “THE SUN SHONE...THE WAVES LAPPED...THE BEER FLOWED.” Special thanks were voted to Beach Retreat chair Bob Kowski and assistants Bill Donnan and his assistants. George Elarby of Northern Telecom made a special trip out of concern over the sparse entries to the NT Annual. It seems that part of the reason was that NT had not coordi-
nated with TSS, there was no timely information for the newsletter and a conflict with dates.

A policy change gave Hunter Levinsohn, TSS membership chair, funds for an annual mailing of the membership list. A policy was made to establish a $500 annual budget for TSS conference expenses. Memorial ideas presented by Bill Donnan and Shanna Fleenor included a proposal to coordinate with ISC to establish a fund to assist and support living sculptors. Shirley Koller and Claire Cooperstein were appointed to the nominating committee.

In the Fall the “WILMINGTON CONFERENCE AND MEMBERS’ EXHIBIT BREAK ALL RECORDS” as eighty-nine members registered. Seventy-five sculptors brought 160 indoor and outdoor pieces to the two exhibition sites at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington’s Student Union and St. John’s Museum of Art. Tim Murray coordinated the exhibition at St. John’s. Also a members’ drawing exhibition was held at the New Elements Gallery. The Arts Journal review headline called the TSS exhibitions, “A Polychotomous Microcosm of Contemporary Sculpture,” adding that the work “reaffirms the high quality and range of sculpture in the Tri State region.”

Queensboro Steel donated a half-ton of steel, sheared and bent, for Jim Gallucci to make a sculpture to be displayed at the conference. Designed by Shirley Koller and Joe Walters the T-shirts brought in about $244.

Thanks to conference coordinator Stephen LeQuire with assistance from Virginia Lovejoy, the conference and exhibition catalog, designed by Renee Brantly, which won a design award, were paid for in part by an Arts Council and UNCW grant for $6,240. This was not, however, enough to offset a deficit of $300. Speakers, films and demos included information on Pepsico Sculpture Garden, Safety and Health Hazards for sculptors, the Daltic Plating Process, shell cement construction, mold compounds, polyester resin and epoxy applications and much, much more.

TSS made headlines in the UNCW paper after the third sculpture was stolen; “Adam” by Barbara Harbage, “Winglet” by Martin Webster, and “Sentinel” by George Graham. Of the theft of “Adam” a Seahawk editorial commented that there was no reason for the theft as the sculpture would not be marketable, “Since you don’t carry a terra cotta sculpture into Joe’s Pawn and Jewels and say ‘what can you give me for this’.”

Interesting 1986 Tri State Business meeting news was Bob Kowski’s report that the pig was free at the spring meeting, although groceries and beer cost $502. As of September 3, 1986; the balance in the TSS treasury was $3,412.76. The newsletter cost $787, and the board communicated to the tune of $21.

1986 Officers
President, Norm Keller; Summer President, Jim Gallucci while Norm was in Italy; Treasurer, Abe Godwin; Secretary-Historian, Ann Bowers, NC Reps. Rosie Thompson and Dan Millsapgh; SC Reps. Dan Howachyn and L.T. Chapman; VA Reps. Dean Carter and Shirley Koller; Newsletter Editor, Claire Cooperstein; Membership Chair, Hunter Levinsohn; Traveling Slide Registry, Joel Haas; Small Works Traveling Show, Norm Keller

"I wasn't in school - just finding my way ... So Dan (Millsapgh) let this shaky new kid in and made me feel welcome. I was amazed! People like me?! I was no longer alone and they let me be with them. It gave me back my life."

Gretchen Lothrop, 1998 letter
1987

Wild, Unruly, Uneven, and at Times Dazzling

By acclamation, Claire Cooperstein was given a lifetime membership in Tri State in appreciation for her service as newsletter editor for over five years. She turned the newsletter over to Shanna Fleenor in May.

TSS lost two members and raised one from the dead when William Rankin, reported dead in August, was welcomed back by Hunter Levinsohn at the October business meeting. Richard Gans began the process of putting the slide registry on videotape and warned that only horizontal slides would work. Two NC Arts Fellowships went to TSS members. The Roanoke Museum, The Durham Art Guild, Theatre Art Galleries in High Point, The Shenandoah Valley Art Center, Virginia Intermont College, NT, and Gallery 10 in DC among others all showed work by TSS members.

1987 Exhibitions

Organized by Shirley Koller, the Tri State Invitational Exhibition at George Mason University was held in February. Some of the TSS members pooled transport for this first of a number of exhibitions that Shirley Koller has arranged and managed for TSS in the DC area. Another TSS exhibition scheduled for the Horace Williams House was canceled due to a change in policy. The Northern Telecom (NT) show in September included many TSS members with at least four purchase awards made.

Of Note

ISC announced a sale of 22,000 cubic ft. of white Colorado marble, the same as that used in the Lincoln Memorial. Norm reported that the marble had been weathering for forty years but is reputed to be “the best you ever carved” once the outside layer is removed. The new name for the beach retreat, Haas-Keller Reunion, reflects the fact that there is a general policy not to rent beach houses to organizations, but family reunions are okay!

The Haas-Keller Reunion Spring Beach Retreat, May 15-17, 1987 was convened at Emerald Isle instead of Atlantic Beach. “Joel and Joy Haas really knocked themselves out coordinating and serving as hosts for the event.” The newsletter further remarked on Norm as the silver lining to the cloud that formed when the pig-cooker backed out. Norm cooked the pig (again donated), a rare treat, but he vowed never again. Joy Haas reported that “50 adults and 11 children attended the conference, the largest attendance ever...you made it so enjoyable I volunteered to coordinate the event again!!!” When expenses and deposits ($35 for bed and event) were tallied TSS was $393.37 richer.

"At Tri State there is less pretension, a spontaneity, having a good time, finding others like you out there! We're OK - a reward of being accepted by your own kind."

Steven Clapp 1998

phone conversation

At the Annual Fall Conference at Asheville, a closing reception was held for the TSS exhibition. Running from September 8th to October 18th at the Asheville Art Museum Civic Center, it was the first TSS conference exhibition to end instead of begin the conference. By the time of the conference a number of critical articles had appeared calling the show, “an unwieldy affair,” a “wild, unruly, uneven, and at times dazzling affair,” “lacking in drama but
richly diverse.” Praise went to Dan Millsbaugh for “a superb installation.”

James Surls was the keynote speaker, a panel of sculptors and curators and arts administrators discussed “Who’s Responsible to Whom?” The workshops gave welding demos, presented information on sculpting for film, soft sculpture, and the wonders and perils of erecting a monumental bronze horse for the Kentucky Derby.

The conference, coordinated by Dan Millsbaugh, was supported by the NC Arts Council, local business matching grants, and the NEA.

During the Conference Business meeting, nominating committee members Joel Haas and Bill Donnan told of the difficulty they had in finding volunteers for board jobs. Norm Keller remarked on how discouraging was such a sign of apathy, and Claire thanked Norm for his 4 years of service as president. He received a standing ovation and turned the presidency over to Joel Haas. It was decided that the Spring Conference be limited to TSS members and their families, and Joy Haas asked for a volunteer to cook the pig.

The newsletter cost $614.98, T-shirts designed and produced by Emily Weinstein brought in $312.79, and board expenses went up to $90.03. However, Abbe Godwin reported that the TSS bank balance on the third of October was $5,818.97. The meeting lasted one hour and nine minutes.

1987 Officers
President, Norm Keller; Treasurer, Abbe Godwin; Secretary-Historian, Ann Rowles; NC Reps. Dan Millsbaugh and Stephen LeQuire; SC Reps. Dan Howachyn and L.T. Chapman; VA Reps. Betty Branch and Shirley Koller; Newsletter Editor, Claire Cooperstein until April and then Shanna Fleenor; Membership Chair, Hunter Levinsohn; Traveling Slide Registry, Joel Haas

1988

A Savory Gumbo

TSS sculptors were prodded politically to urge congress to require all federally funded sculptures to include permanent plaques with sculptors’ names and to write legislators about tax reform for artists. The first newsletter edited by Kathryn Briggs had a very different format, with three pages devoted to shows and opportunities.

1988 Exhibitions
An Elon College invitational that included seven TSS sculptors elicited a description in the Burlington Times News of “sculptures that look like outlandish rock outcroppings.” In the “Monarch National Ceramic Competition” a TSS sculpture “won out and captured first place” evidently to the disgust of the editor of Ceramic Monthly.

Ana Belle Whiting and the slide registry made a San Francisco TSS invitational possible. “The Other Coast” show at Patrick McGrew Associates in July “was good and the opening reception was a great party,” wrote Ana Belle from Berkeley, CA.

Steve LeQuire reported that he and Bob Kowski were planning another small works traveling show. The November newsletter stated that Shirley Koller and Norm Keller had chosen twenty sculptors for a George Mason University show in ’89 and they needed another ten to fifteen works. Fifty-five works were selected for the September NT exhibition.

Of Note
Not all was up for Tri State, for the death of Shirley Koller’s husband was reported in the August newsletter.
Jim Gallucci announced that 1989 would be the tenth anniversary of Tri State. (and so it goes).

Another Haas-Keller Family Reunion was held at the Beach HQ House at Emerald Isle, May 20-22. The new cooks, Steve LeQuire, Dan Millsap, and Andy McLawhorn volunteered to put on the Saturday night feast. With $8,500 in the treasury a motion was made that the beach organizer get paid the first day rental fee, but Norm Keller said that TSS policy was for reimbursement for expenses, not time. Joel Haas saw a need for more members to add “new blood” to take on responsibilities, and so a motion was made and passed that TSS actively recruit members from SC and VA. Mary Todd Shaw wanted dates on newsletters, and annual dues remained at $15.00.

1988 Conferences
The 1988 Fall Conference at Winston-Salem included three exhibitions of members’ works and four other exhibitions of 3-D art in the area. The main TSS exhibition, the drawing show, and the conference were held at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Art and outdoors in the adjacent park.

A Small Works TSS show took place at Artworks Gallery. Chris Redd wrote of the TSS sculpture that instead of a hodgepodge, “it’s a savory gumbo... one of those rare overviews that actually articulates overlapping thematic ideas.” However, Tom Patterson in the Winston-Salem Journal found instead of a gumbo, “an incoherent hodgepodge”, but added that “it is well worth seeing if you’re interested in the varied approaches to sculpture.” Triad Style speaks of the annual exhibition as a “Big shop of horrors” by a writer who admits he finds “sculpture of recent decades less appealing than other works.”

The theme of the conference, “Collaboration of Sculptors and Landscape Architects” was underlined by the presentation of the 1st phase of The Strollway Project, a public art collabo-
ration of three TSS members and a landscape architects. Burt Kubli of the NEA moderated a panel discussion with sculptors and landscape architects, Richard Bell and Lewis Clark. “Connemara and Sculpture” presented the Texas Connemara Land Trust, a special “museum of the Texas landscape” offering grants to sculptors to exhibit site specific work. A panel discussion gave voice to personal concerns of the artist in presenting “The Artist as Family Member.”

The exhibitions coordinator, McDonald Bane, was also responsible for the catalog which was supported by a contribution from Gordon Hanes and the NC Humanities Council. The Conference, coordinated by Mitzi Shewmake and McDonald Bane, was funded by the NC Arts Council and TSS.

At the 1988 Fall Business Meeting
Carl Regutti reported that T shirt sales brought in $34 and had almost sold out and that the Spring Conference netted TSS $245.69. The newsletter from October ‘87-October ‘88 cost $816. The balance in the treasury was a nice plus of $8,761. Annual dues remained at $15. The slide registry cost $17.23 and Mark Strom reported “that requests for the registry have increased, especially from architecture firms.” A motion was made and passed on Norm Keller’s recommendation that Tri State apply for non-profit status with the IRS.

1988 Officers
President, Joel Haas; Secretary/Historian, Ann Rowles; Treasurer, Carl Regutti; NC Reps. Stephen LeQuire and Tim Murray; VA Reps. Betty Branch and Richard Gans; SC Reps. Dan Howachyn and John Acor; Membership Chair, Hunter Levinsohn; Newsletter Editor, Shauna Fleenor; Slide Registry Curator, Mark Strom
As TSS membership climbed to 300, more awards, commissions and exhibitions materialized for TSS members. Solo shows in CA, NC, VA, and DC, and group shows including TSS members were held in WV, NC, and OH. However, “no shows” continued to plague TSS. Several committed TSS sculptors failed to bring their work to the Metro Gallery and three “no shows” occurred at the Elon Fall Conference. The disciplinary action taken was that adopted in 1985: one “no show” may not show for a year, two “no shows” and you’re out of TSS.

**Items Straight from the newsletter:**

Claire Cooperstein’s first book of poetry was published. DFA Ltd. sponsored its first national juried competition. The entry fee was $125 (you may submit as many slides as you wish). The classifieds included a 1984 Mazda truck for $3,200, and Ed Walker announced he was moving his foundry from New Orleans to NC.

**1989 Exhibitions**

A TSS exhibition was arranged for Asheville, and there was the possibility of a DC show to be held in connection with an ISC Conference. TSS sculptures were on display in Raleigh for the Sir Walter Raleigh Awards to architects, builders and developers. Shirley Koller and Norm Keller arranged for the 2nd exhibition in the Metro Gallery of George Mason University in April.

**Of Note in 1989**

A special planning meeting for the board and interested members took place in Raleigh on August 19 to discuss the problems of growth, nonprofit status for TSS, and how to use the $10,000 gift donated by Northern Telecom that was discontinuing its sculpture exhibitions.

“I love the people and can relate to the people, creativity with meeting inspiring, people you don’t find anywhere else. Others don’t run around with lampshades on their heads.”

Mary Todd Shaw 1998 phone conversation

By applying for nonprofit tax status the IRS requested budget information that would make it necessary to change the loose and easy going way TSS had been operating: annual accounting would be required! However, Norm Keller’s motion “that we continue with our move toward gaining nonprofit status” was unanimously passed.

Also unanimously passed was Keller’s motion to put the NT gift in a “locked up account for two years.”

Hunter Levinsohn’s announcement that TSS had “approximately 300 (members), not all of which seem to understand the organization” underscored the question of how much growth would work best for TSS. This had been of concern since 1979 when some of the founding members of TSS hoped to avoid mistakes they thought made by SAS (Southern Association of Sculptors) in trying to increase its membership drastically.

A motion to raise dues to $20 was passed.

**1989 Conferences**

The Spring Haas-Keller Family Reunion Beach Conference met at Emerald Isle May 19-20. One hundred people came, and the cost went up to $40. Vegetarians and nondrinkers were welcomed. Jacqueline Byer was lauded and applauded for her great organization and the fun T shirt, “the wave of art.” Special awards were
given to Norm and Jane Keller for the “donation of their characters and personalities.”

The TSS Annual Fall Conference, hosted by Elon College, and organized by Mike Sanford exhibited about 80 works. A focus on sculpture gardens was presented in panel discussions by staff from Storm King and Brookgreen Gardens, moderated by David Furchgott, and a film about Pepsico Sculpture Garden. A lecture on African sculpture focused on materials and methods. There was a papermaking workshop and another on the logistics of working with granite.

1989 Budget
Business meeting information reflected expanding membership in the motion to seek non-profit status, and in the numbers: $8,000 for the conference (including $5,500 for a catalog). The conference was paid for by $3,600 in conference fees, $3,000 donated by Elon, and $1,500 from Tri State. The new budget proposed by Carl Regutti and Joel Haas was voted in.

Officers 1989
President, Joel Haas; Secretary, Bryant Holsembek, replaced by Anna Belle Whiting; Treasurer, Carl Regutti; Membership Chair, Hunter Levinsohn; Newsletter Editor, Kathryn Briggs; Slide Registry, Mark Strom; VA Reps. Richard Gans and William Harrington; NC Reps. Steve LeQuire and Tim Murray; SC Reps. John Avorn and Loretta Kaufman

"Because of the opportunities it offers from commissions, etc.... Apparently, TSS is well enough known that its members receive announcements of public works... TSS has done what I hoped for."

Theresa A. McGeady, 1998 letter
1990
501 (c) (3)

POLICY, PERSONNEL AND BUSINESS CHANGES

The big news: Tri State became a nonprofit corporation as of 3 February 1990. The newsletter reported “this means to us ... that we can’t

"Tri State has always been a support group for sculptors and I think that is still its primary function."

Bill Donnan, 1998 letter

participate in any partisan political activity, we cannot have any shows for profit and donations to Tri State are tax deductible” and “Joel made it very clear that he and Carl Regutti are personally liable for the corporation as they are President and Treasurer, respectively.” Also a real budget was in place!

Other results and changes from the growth of Tri State and from the fact that it had been going strong for ten years: dues and conference fees went up ($50 for the Spring Conference was up from $35 in ‘87). The members who had done so much work for Tri State felt it was time for others to step in so there was a cry for volunteers to serve on the board and host conferences.

Hunter Levinsohn who had been membership chair for eight years stepped down, and the newsletter reported in the president’s column that “Hunter has my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the years’ time and effort she has put in,” and also thanked Jay Levinsohn for writing up and updating “the program that kept track of us all.”

Membership was turned over to Jock Gault, and Ann Rowles agreed to serve as Tri State historian, and Ernie Giavedoni took over the slide registry from Mark Strom. Joel Haas and Carl Regutti felt they had served long enough as president and treasurer.

1990 Exhibitions

included a TSS show at Fridholm Fine Arts in Asheville in April, and the TSS exhibition held in conjunction with the June ISC conference in Washington DC at the Strathmore House Art Center.

1990 Conferences

The Spring Conference at Radford University brought a good review in the Roanoke Times with the headline: “Radford show offers lively variety” and continuing, “Speaking literally and metaphorically, this exhibit demonstrates with ultimate authority the difference between a pound of iron, marble, steel (take your choice) and a pound of feathers.” Sponsored by the new Flossie Martin Gallery and Radford University, the Conference, October 12-14, was organized by Anna Fariello. The fee was $30. The exhibition closed at the end of the conference.

Another Haas-Keller Beach Retreat met at Emerald Isle, April 21-23. Organized by Karyn and Richard Kaz-Jepsen, there was pig pickin’, slides and socializing. Among other noteworthy items on the agenda were “1) getting the pig cooker
back to Andy McLawhorrn and 2) bad slides submitted to the ISC show that Shirley Koller edited in order to save Tri State's face.”

1990 Officers
President, Joel Haas; Secretary, Ana Belle Whiting; Treasurer, Carl Regutti; Membership Chair, Hunter Levinsohn; Newsletter Editor, Kathryn Briggs; Slide Registry, Ernie Giavedoni; Tri State Historian, Ann Rawles; VA Reps. Richard Gans and William Harrington; NC Reps. Steve LeQuire and Tim Murray; SC Reps. Mac Boggs and Loretta Kaufman

1991

For Joel Haas

President for four years, slide registry chair for two years, beach weekend organizer, sculptor, got TSS/ITS (501)(c)(3) status, serious beach weekender

“This year's 1991 Tri State Sculptors Exhibition is actually three exhibitions” wrote Sherry Edwards in the exhibition catalog. The work is “an exposition and celebration of the diversity in attitude, idea, use of media, and process engaged in by the participating membership... The guiding philosophy of Tri State continues to provide a cooperative rather than competitive way for sculptors and those interested in sculpture to have a forum for exchange of ideas and information, and to promote awareness and public appreciation of sculpture in the region.”

1991 Conferences
Spring: Emerald Isle, May 17-19. Ana Belle Whiting officiated with Pam Perkins and Rudi Rudisill. Ernie Gaivadoni brought both the TSS slide registry and the Texas Sculptor's Association slides. TSS members showed new work, and Bob Kowski presented slides of Indian Sculpture he had taken while on a Fulbright Scholarship. Pete Melonuk set his sculptures around the houses as totems, and “Andy McLawhorn cooked pig.”

Fall: Boone, NC, September 13-15 on the campus of Appalachian State and supported by TSS, Appalachian State University, and the Watauga Arts Council. TSS work was shown indoors at the Catherine Smith Gallery with small works at the Jones House Gallery and outdoor work around the campus. Jesus Morales, the keynote speaker, showed slides of his studio with its incredible family sculpture operation.

An exhibition catalog was produced beginning with Richard Montgomery’s query: “What am I going to say about such a diverse group of people, a group of artists who range from the traditional, to the sophisticated and avant-garder?”

Of Note in 1991

Membership dropped from 250-200. “Anyone having a guess as to why this has happened please tell Jim (Jock Gault).” Membership dues stayed at $20, a contrast with ISC dues at $40 (which went up to $95 by 1997). The membership statement in '91 makes it clear that artists “living outside the 3 state area are eligible to become associate members.”

The TSS “92 projected Fall Conference fell through twice.” Converse College had to back out due to financial problems. Joel contacted Winthrop College and “after a series of meetings they too declined.”

1991 Exhibitions

Thanks to Loretta Kaufman, the Spartanburg County Art Association exhibited TSS indoor work at The Gallery.

The Landmark Show at the Strathmore Arts Center outside of DC was kept until May of '91. However, Landmark II had to be postponed due to a lack of corporation support.
The third TSS traveling show “is in the works even as Stephen LeQuire winds down the “Second Occasional Show.”

1991 Budget
As of the May meeting, “Joel reported that the organization has approximately $2,700 in our checking account.” The proposed budget for ’91 showed TSS in the black by $250.

1991 Officers
President, Joel Haas; Secretary, Mark Brown; Treasurer, Carl Regotti; Membership Chair, Jock Gault; Newsletter Editor, Kathryn L. Briggs; Slide Registry, Ernie Giavedoni; VA Reps. Richard Gans and William Harrington; SC Reps. Mac Boggs and Loretta Kaufman; NC Reps. Tim Murray and Norma Bradley

1992

For Stephen LeQuire

PRESIDENT IN 1992, NC REP FOR FOUR YEARS, COORDINATOR OF THE 1986 CONFERENCE, ORGANIZER OF THE SECOND OCCASIONAL SMALL WORKS TRAVELING SHOW, SCULPTOR, TEACHER

A letter from the newly elected president, Stephen LeQuire, went to all members in February. It announced a new editor, Ann Rowles, to “solve the communications problem.”

The main import of the letter, however, was LeQuire’s report on a November board meeting: “The majority of the discussion focused on the open exhibition policy which is one of the strongest traditions that tie us together. Basically, what motivated this was the increasing pressure by conference hosts to judge the show. Roger Halligan and Will Harrington have prepared a draft statement which will be on the agenda at the Spring Conference. To summarize...

...It will continue to be the policy of Tri State Sculptors that there will be an open exhibition of members’ work at each Fall Conference. An open exhibition is one to which any active member (since before the previous Fall Conference) may select one of his or her works to be exhibited. Hosts may stipulate physical dimensions, request slides of works which will be exhibited, and establish reasonable guidelines regarding logistical arrangements, but may not reject a work unless it arrives physically damaged or poses a physical danger to others.

“The general feeling of the board is that Tri State is in good shape. I think we do need to work on broadening our membership base, have more involvement by our membership, keep mindful that we are an educational organization, and continue the good work and direction set out for us by those whose vision was
for a regional organization of working sculptors
to show together, meet, and share ideas among
themselves and with the public.”

1992 Conferences
The Spring Conference at Emerald Isle, May 1-3,
with a $50 fee, was coordinated by Ana Belle
Whiting. The Open Exhibition statement was
adopted unanimously “as a Tri State policy.”

Fall: Asheville, October 2-4, with the exhibition
at Broadway Arts and some events at UNC-
Asheville. Organized by Dan Millspaugh and
Bonnie Hobbs, there was a poster instead of a
catalog. Greg Mills designed the T-shirt.

1992 Exhibitions
The “Third Occasional Traveling Show”,
planned by Richard Gans with help from Bob
Kowski, is to be called “The Crate Show.”

Fifteen TSS members showed outdoor sculpt-
ure at the Tri State exhibit at the NC State Fair
in Raleigh, a pilot project which it is hoped will
continue to grow. The “Charlotte Southern
Spring Show” staff built a gallery with trees and
a pool for the over twenty-five members of TSS
who participated. Joel Haas was the show’s
project coordinator.

Of Note in 1992
“My goal as editor of the Tri State Newsletter
is to improve communication between the or-
ganization and its membership and between
members themselves.”

Ann Rowles
The first of Will Harrington’s many good con-
tributions appeared in the May-June newsletter.
Ann Froneberger agreed to take over the Ar-
chives. It was decided to have the ’93 Fall Con-
ference in the Spring and the Spring Meeting in
the Fall.

1992 Budget
The Spring Conference treasurer’s report
showed a balance of $3,788.38 in the checking
account plus the CD @ $11,723.58.

1992 Officers
President, Stephen D. LeQuire; Secretary, Mark
Brown; Treasurer, Jim Gallucci; Membership
Chair, Jim Gault; Newsletter Editor, Ann Rowles;
Slide Registry, Ernie Giavedoni; VA Reps. Richard
Gans and William Harrington; SC Reps. Loretta
Kaufman and Mac Boggs; NC Reps. Tim Murray
and Be Gardiner

1993

Critical Mass

Critical Mass is a group show, and
diversity is the key word.

As has happened before, critical reviews of the
TSS Annual Conference Show in Greensboro
began by panning it for what it always is, a large
show that does not have a theme. Tom Patter-
son called it “a whole bunch of work by a lot
of sculptors.” Another reviewer had difficulty
with the number of works. “90 pieces - wildly
disparate in style, none of them diminutive - are
squeezed into three medium sized rooms.”
“Critical Mass: Responding to Contemporary
Sculpture” and “Critical Mass: Art in the Arbo-
retum” in Greensboro were the indoor and
outdoor exhibitions put together for the Annual
Conference.

1993 Exhibitions
“The Crate Show,” Tri State’s “Third Occa-
sional Traveling Show” was produced by Rich-
ard Gans with help from Bob Kowski.
The Tri State exhibition at Washington Square
in Washington, DC included 36 Tri State artists.
Shirley Koller handled it with installation help
from Roger Halligan, Jim Gallucci, and Bill
Donnan.

1993 Conferences
Fall in Spring, June 18-20 at the Greensboro
Cultural Center, was hosted by The Greenhill
Center for North Carolina Art, and supported in part by the NC Arts Council, the Greensboro Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Greensboro Beautiful, Inc., and Tri State. The conference focused on contemporary art criticism with a panel discussion moderated by ISC’s Suzanne Ramjiak and an evening program called “Artists Speak Out”, a series of exchanges between artists and the general public. The Conference Chair was Roger Halligan with Carolyn Owen as the “Art in the Arboretum” Coordinator.

Spring in Fall at Emerald Isle, October 8-10, thanks to Ana Belle Whiting, Mark Brown, and T-shirt designer Connie Brown. Big news was Ana Belle Whiting’s invitation to host a Tri State conference in Tucson, AZ “when the desert is in bloom.”

Of Note in 1993

A dialogue started in the newsletter by Roger Halligan’s article, The Room of Shoes elicited an immediate response from Will Harrington beginning, “Your observations on the Holocaust Museum were powerful and pertinent.”

Ana Belle Whiting and Shirley Koller “have become eligible now for Tri State’s official sainthood status”; Ana Belle for organizing great beach retreats and Shirley for the D.C. shows. Troubles with some Tri State members included pulling work out of the Arboretum show early and beach reservations not kept. “They didn’t show, didn’t pay and Tri State was out the money for a fourth beach house.” The newsletter also reported vandalism and theft at the Arboretum Show.

1993 Budget
Income = $9,530, Expenses = $5,726, plus ‘90 CD = $12,269.75

1993 Officers
President, Roger Halligan; Secretary, Mark Brown; Treasurer, Jim Gallucci; Membership, Jim Gault; Newsletter Editor, Ann Rowles; Slide Registry, Ernie Giavedoni; VA Reps, Richard Gans and William Harrington; SC Reps. Loretta Kaufman and Mac Boggs; NC Reps. Tim Murray and Be Gardiner

1994 Sculptors Do It With Form!

Tri States’ dreams as announced in the newsletter include a TSS exhibit for St. Petersburg, Russia, and reimbursement “for mileage and other expenses incurred with members attending meetings.”

1994 Exhibitions
“The Crate Show” was in Kinston, NC at the Community Council for the Arts during the summer. Due to Richard Gans absence at the fall business meeting it was stated “that the Traveling Show is somewhere.”

TSS was invited to present “a special exhibition of outdoor sculpture” at the NC State Fair, co-sponsored by Tri State and the Wake County Men’s Garden Club. “We have reason to believe we will be invited back for 1995 in spite of the handful of complaints concerning the public display of nudity by the Ms. Morso Torso sculpture.”

Thanks to Shirley Koller, TSS members were again invited to show at Washington Square in DC. A single fee of $35 would be charged for one or more sculptures accepted.

1994 Conferences
Ana Belle Whiting’s Emerald Isle retreat took place Oct. 14, 15 for $55.00 per person. “All-in-all another success. Again we have Ana Belle Whiting to thank for the organization as well as supplying fresh sourdough bread direct from
San Francisco, an inordinate amount of garlic and bizarre quasi-ritualistic fires on the beach.”

The Fall Conference, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, was hosted by the Department of Art at UNC-Charlotte. The newsletter reported that “Winston Tite was responsible for running a thoroughly planned and very engaging conference... the catalog documented both exhibition and conference” (a first). The keynote speaker was Larry Kirkland, and over one hundred sculptures were shown.

Of Note in 1994
Membership in ’94 down to 160. A new rule for exhibitions stated that, “Any paid member as of December 31 preceding the conference may show in the conference exhibit.”

The archives continued their various venues: from Ann Rowles, to Ann Froneberger and then to Susan Hise. Confidential, need-based conference grants were initiated. A limited number would be made available, the recipients decided by the president, treasurer, and conference organizer.

The possibility of putting the TSS slide registry on the internet was raised. SOS! NC got in touch with Tri State. The newsletter is to be a quarterly affair. Jim Gault became Jock Gault.

1994 Budget
$612.00 in checking and $12,305 invested in a four year CD as reported by the treasurer, Jim Gallucci, at the fall business meeting.

1994 Officers
President, Roger Halligan; Secretary, Mark Brown; Treasurer, Jim Gallucci; Membership Chair, Jim Gault; Newsletter Editor, Ann Rowles; Slide Registry, Paul Kritz; VA Reps. Richard Gans and Anna Farrello; SC Reps. Loretta Kaufman and Gretchen Lothrop; NC Reps. Tim Murray and Winston Tite

1995

Taking Care of Business

We don’t need no stinking NEA; we got a grant from Tri State Sculptors........

Roger Halligan

The Tri State commitment to education of the public was furthered by Roger Halligan representing TSS at a NC Arts Council meeting. As a panel member of a planning meeting for NC visual arts organizations he suggested that the NC Arts Council avoid projects “detrimental to the artists involved” by asking artists “to work for less than Normal people” (that quote is now part of the public record of the State of North Carolina). He also asked for clarity and brevity in Arts Council grants, applications and publications, and protested that the artists’ already small share of arts grants not be decreased.

Ann Rowles, newsletter editor reported that she was moving to Atlanta and planned “to continue as expatriate newsletter editor from Atlanta until someone comes along who is all fired up to do the job better.”

Hunter Levinsohn was all fired up by Greg Shelnutt’s seminar at the Fall Conference on artists’ writing about art. She suggested a writing workshop at the beach and a hat show to provide “something to write about.”

A letter from Ana Belle Whiting published in the spring newsletter admonished artists to eat greens because they would “take radiation and heavy metal poisoning out of your system!” She added that if “garlic or aloe won’t fix it, it must be in your mind.” A recipe for collards and pasta was included.
1995 Exhibitions
“The Crate Show’s” last site was at Roanoke College in VA. TSS is again to exhibit at the State Fair in Raleigh. Ten sculptors will be exhibiting in the flower show area.

1995 Conferences
The Fall Conference at East Carolina was arranged by Carl Billingsly who also saw to the pouring of 5,960 lbs. of iron at the great IRON POUR weekend. He had good help, however, in Hanna Jubran, Donna Laufer, Anne M. Dudley and Norm Keller. He continued the Tri State tradition of encouraging students to participate in TSS conferences.

Mel Edwards was the keynote speaker, “An approachable and likable man... it was a pleasure to meet him and hear his presentation. ... The conference ... was extremely pleasant and laid back ... unless you were pouring iron.”

The Spring Conference, May 19-21, at Litchfield Inn near Myrtle Beach was organized by Ernie Giavedoni. He had giveaways and door prizes from vendors plus a trip to Brookgreen Gardens. Dinner was at the Litchfield Fish House. Business was taken care of early so Sunday could be a fun time.

Of Note in 1995
Membership leveled off at 180, fee still $20.

Claire Cooperstein's book, Johanna: A Novel of the Van Gogh Family was published in '95 by Scribners.

Unanimous approval was given for TSS to give a $1,000 grant to the Southern Exposure Symposium at Greenhill Gallery for NC Art in Greensboro, NC. In return TSS would receive publicity and discounts for attending members.

1995 Budget
$6,000.80 in checking, the CD will mature in '97 for an estimated $16,000.

1995 Officers
President, Roger Halligan; Secretary, Mark Brown; Treasurer, Jim Gallucci; Membership, Jock Gault; Newsletter Editor, Ann Rowles; Slide Registry, Paul Kritzer; VA Reps. Richard Gans and Anna Fariello; SC Reps. Loretta Kaufman and Gretchen Lothrop; NC Reps. Tim Murray and Winston Tite

1996
Sculpture Extra Large

“Is your state museum or state arts council ... as relevant to you as, for example, Tri State Sculptors, or a new Lowe’s hardware ... just down the street?” These and other of Robert Halligan’s thoughts were inspired by “Southern Exposure,” a conference held early in '96 at the Greenhill Center for NC Art that Tri State helped support with money and bodies. Over two hundred artists attended discussions on the current art scenes South and North, and the relevance of arts organizations to the artist.

On Roger Halligan’s wish list was a “spiffy quasi-medieval gold chain and medallion to wear for special occasions.” His account of the ISC Conference added that “This is what the president of the Royal Society of British Sculptors gets to wear.”

1996 Exhibitions
Montgomery College in Rockville, MD invited TSS sculptors for an exhibition of outdoor sculpture. Jan Chenowith selected seven. $1,000 was to be split among them. Charlotte Douglas International Airport hopes for a long-term relationship with TSS beginning with an exhibit in the airport’s Queen’s Court Promenade. Work was picked through the slide registry.
Wintertime Washington Square exhibits born on ice may be moved up to spring with the 1997 exhibition. "Color in Sculpture" will run from May 4 - August 4. Shirley Koller also announced that White Flint Mall in Bethesda, MD "is interested in additional sculpture for spaces provided there."

1996 Conferences
Spring: May 17, 18, 19, the beach retreat was housed in Boomerang at Emerald Isle and organized by Ana Belle Whiting. The fee went up to $60. The newsletter noted that the retreat was for families, children usually stayed in the room with their parents, and "Privacy is obtained by taking a walk on the beach." However, this year TSS lost money due to a low turnout.

Fall: Coordinated by Gretchen Lothrop "with missionary zeal" at Spartanburg, SC, 70 members attended. The newsletter called it "Easily the most interdisciplinary and entertaining conference we have had." The USC campus was transformed by outdoor sculpture. "USC-Spartanburg students stopped in their tracks, even though it was cold and rainy, to look at the sculptures that had sprung up like mushrooms across the campus" reported The State, Columbia, SC.

Indoor work was in the USC Humanities building and at the Greer Campus of Greenville Technical College. Thirty-seven members showed over ninety pieces. There was "Opera, poetry, transcontinental reclining bicycles" and much much more.

Of Note in 1996
President Roger Halligan represented TSS at the ISC conference in Providence, RI in June. "My main focus was networking between the various and diverse sculpture groups," he stated in the newsletter. (However, see Halligan's wish list, above).

Student memberships were instituted at the February Board Meeting. For $10 and a valid ID a student has the rights of a regular member. The TSS archives were retrieved from Ann Froneberger's barn.

TSS web page on the Internet is to be launched with about a hundred images, links and text. The Server will donate space, but members will have to pay for their images to be scanned in.

Special awards were announced by Gretchen Lothrop after the Fall Conference: "Best Stamp: Sonia Williams of Rock Hill for the hologram in the form of a stamp. Best Crate: Andrea Wheless. I had to call twice for instructions. Best Fun: Ana Belle and Kansas Verdeojos y Pecos for the incredible performance piece."

Some TSS members commented that the newsletter is not published regularly. Editor Ann Rowles answered that she saw no point in publishing a newsletter "when there is nothing to report."

1996 Budget
$5,781.00 in checking, the CD is estimated at $16,000.

Deficit of $2,500 for the fiscal year, "but this figure does not reflect a deposit of conference money or recent dues."

1996 Officers
President, Roger Halligan; Secretary, Mark Brown; Treasurer, Jim Gallucci; Membership, Jock Gault; Newsletter Editor, Ann Rowles; Slide Registry, Paul Krizer; VA Reps. Richard Gans and Anna Fariello; SC Reps. Sharon Licata and Gretchen Lothrop; NC Reps. William Brown and Winston Tite

"I like showing around the region, seeing different places like other universities."

Mary Mintich 1998 phone conversation
1997

For Roger Halligan

FOUNDERING MEMBER OF TRI STATE, PRESIDENT FOR FIVE YEARS, FIRST TREASURER, RE-ELECTED TWICE, COORDINATOR OF THE 1993 CONFERENCE, SCULPTOR

Jim Gallucci remarked that he is impressed by how much we get done on only $20 yearly membership dues, and when the subject of discounted student memberships was again raised, it was remarked that it is hard to see how $20 can be discounted much.

From the column of President-Elect, Mark Brown, “I joined Tri-State 12 years ago for one primary reason - the exhibit. At the time the cost of membership dues was essentially the same price as a juried exhibit entry fee so I figured...what the heck? But in my years with the organization I have received so much more...but what really holds us together is camaraderie and the knowledge that there are others of us in the world with the same problems and concerns. Not a bad deal for something that still, twelve years later, costs about the same as an entry fee.”

1997 Exhibitions:
Washington Square, spring exhibition located on Connecticut Ave. in Washington, DC. Entry fee $35. USC Spartanburg Outdoor Exhibition of TSS work over May 10. TSS exhibited at Montgomery College in MD, but was disappointed with the mailer.

1997 Conferences
The spring meeting was at “Boomerang,” the same house at Emerald Isle as before. Hunter Levinsohn announced that “let us eat cake” was to be the theme and a cake competition would be held. The summer newsletter announced that “The TSS Beach conference was simply marvelous. Great weather, great food, great people...we saw slides of members' work, played volleyball, ate frequently and to excess...special thanks to Ana Belle and Kansas Verdejos y Pecos and Hunter Levinsohn.”

In the fall, TSS met at the Fayetteville Museum of Art. Thanks “go out to Tom Grubb and his incredible staff who hosted a wonderful conference at Fayetteville.” The Art in the Age of Technology theme produced workshops on “Traveling on the Internet” and a panel discussion on setting up a computer center for the Business of Art. There were 93 works exhibited at the Fayetteville Museum of Art and the Arts Center of Fayetteville/Cumberland Co.

Of Note
The 2nd Fun Fourth Festival project for TSS volunteers in Greensboro is being set up by Tom Severa.

An award for “significant development of the sculptors’ role in the community” was again considered. It was decided that TSS members would hold a competition for the award: “$500
maximum commission to the winner for construction of a work to be awarded to the recipient. A TSS selection committee was formed. Tom Severa was quoted in the newsletter, “Giving an award to our members is both unprofessional and dangerous. It is a sure way to generate bad feelings.” adding, “Are members in a position to reward members?”

The Web Page will be launched with an image of one work from fifty to seventy members displayed; annual fee, $25.

A new officer’s election policy was voted in: TSS election for president, secretary, treasurer and state reps will be held approximately one year before the end of the term for current officers. The summer newsletter had a Letters to the Editor page.

**1997 Budget**

In October, Tri State had $2,649.41 in checking and $12,000 deposited in a 4 yr. CD, the yield at maturity in October ‘97 to be $14,794.

**1997 Officers**

President, Roger Halligan; Secretary, Mark Brown; Treasurer, Jim Gallucci; Membership, Jock Gauli; Newsletter Editor, Ann Rowles; Slide Registrar, D’Jean Jawrunner; VA Reps. Richard Gans and Anna Fariello; SC Reps. Sharon Licata, Gretchen Lotbrop; NC Reps. William Brown and Winston Tite

---

1998

**Sculpture is All Around**

**For Mark Brown**

PRESIDENT OF TRI STATE AND COORDINATOR OF THE 1998 CONFERENCE, SECRETARY FOR SEVEN YEARS, SCULPTOR

“Sculpture is all around; just look ... In Greensboro, right now and for the next two months, is an exhibition so large, so diverse, that it sprawls across four galleries, has its roots in two outdoor venues, and will wind up in a museum by the time it’s all over.

“It’s the Tri State Sculptors exhibition, called ‘Tri State at 20’.

“The Greensboro Arboretum became an outdoor art gallery Saturday .... Hundreds of people attended the opening of the ‘Art in the Arboretum’ sculpture exhibit.”

*Greensboro News and Record*

---

**Of Note in 1998**

A number of changes came out of the TSS November Strategic Planning meeting in Fayetteville, NC. A budget was to be formulated and published, along with an annual report. Five standing committees were formed to be chaired by board members: Budget, Jim Gallucci; Membership, Jock Gauli; News/Communication, Ann Rowles; Nominating, Hunter Levinsohn; Education, Sharon Licata and one Ad Hoc, Conferences.
Mark Brown, new TSS President, made a plea to members in his newsletter column: “We need VOLUNTEERS,” and Roger Halligan, ex-President, wrote “Whatever was accomplished during my terms could not have been done without the assistance of such people as Jim Gallucci, Ann Rowles, Jock Gault, Mark Brown, Gretchen Lothrop, Bob Kowski, Jenny Moore, Tom Grubb, Bill Donnan, Shirley Koller, Hunter Levinsohn, Richard Gans, Carolyn Owen, Carl Billingsley, D’jean Jawrunner, Paul Kritzer, Winston Tite and Ernie Giavedoni. Let’s not forget Will Harrington, Ana Belle Verdejojos y Pecos, and all the state representatives.”

A discussion of expanding newsletter costs: per issue (in 1993-$279 and $230 compared to $739 and $900 in 1997) was followed by Jim’s statement that “despite rising costs, we still have a surplus,” and President Mark Brown announced that “the most recent newsletter is outstanding.” At the spring meeting Ann Rowles reported that mailing costs of the newsletter were reduced to 78 cents per issue.

Jan Chenoweth agreed to handle the slide registry, TSS archival material will go to the UNC Library, membership is at about 250, and Ernie Giavedoni continues to make all sorts of material available to TSS members through his column in the newsletter, SCULPTORS’ RESOURCES.

As for the web site: “It was proposed that in the absence of a skilled nerd, TSS would fund Rowles to take a web page workshop and expand her skills.”

1998 Conferences
Spring at Emerald Isle: “HAIL HUNTER LEVINSOHN, QUEEN OF THE BEACH!”
The weather was uncooperative, but the company was great, and Hunter, armed with a seemingly endless trunk of costumes, a book on using numerology to help dress yourself provided by Ana Belle, (lost somewhere in the west), kept everyone busy. The weekend ...was an incredibly welcome respite!

The ISC (International Sculpture Center) Conference in Chicago took place in May. Mark Brown officially represented TSS. He reported that at a slide showing of works at the International Sculptors Group, “Our work stood up to any other group’s in attendance...and was pleased to see such a strong Tri State contingent (19 members!).” Pat Levitin added a discussion of workshops, panels, quoting from a panel on art criticism: “It is our obligation to bite the hand that feeds you!” She added, “The five days spent in Chicago were terrific. I was exposed to so many different artists, media, visuals, exhibitions, museums, culture and people.”

The upcoming Fall Conference at Greensboro, NC is being put together by Mark Brown, Pat Levitin, and others. It will include Luis Jimenez and Joyce Scott as speakers, a “Bring You Own Bat Baseball Game,” and indoor and outdoor sculpture shows at The Greenhill Center for NC Art, The Greensboro Artists’ League, Greensboro College, The Greensboro Arboretum, and as always, much, much more!

1998 Budget
$3,000 in checking as of April.

1998 Officers
President, Mark Brown; Secretary, Gretchen Lothrop; Treasurer, Jim Gallucci; Membership, Jock Gault; Newsletter Editor, Ann Rowles; Slide Registry, Jan Chenoweth; Nominating Committee, Hunter Levinsohn; VA Reps. Richard Gans and Marvin Tadlock; SC Reps. Sharon Licata and Don Creech; NC Reps. William Brown and Mike Lyda
Archival information from interviews, recollections and documents was compiled and presented by Carolyn Owen and Mitzi Shewmake. Photographs digitized by Maggie Houston. Booklet designed by Tenley Shewmake, and printed by Universal Printers.

Thanks to those members who contributed information and photographs.