

**Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi**  
**General Meeting**  
December 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Renee Flynt.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the December 2, 2012 were read and approved.

Committee Reports:

Standards Committee: Ann Baker reported that the Guild extended membership to 30 new members, and 9 new fellows.

Fundraising Committee: Renee Flynt reported that we secured \$250,000 funding in bond money from the legislature, with the assistance of Representative Rita Martinson. We will also be calling on you to continue to touch base with your representative in your area. We will provide you with bullet reports.

Vice President's Report: Ken McLemore thanked everyone, and reported that the Woodturning Studio is now the Craftsmen's Studio. Robert Pickenpaugh and he are talking about painting it to create a homier atmosphere. We will also be hiring an architect for the project. The Guild needs \$110,000 to match the Woodturning grant by July 1, 2014. If the Guild is unable to secure matching funds by said date, grant funds will have to be returned. The Studio will have a clay area and a gallery. Ken encouraged growing the Guild and inviting new members. We will be working with Holmes Community College to get new members

Executive Director's Report: Nancy Perkins introduced the staff and thanked the volunteers. She gave a brief summary of the 2013 Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi accomplishments, which included a Guild Gathering workshop/retreat for Guild members, hosted "Everybody Loves Julia" a salute to former executive director Julia Daily, hosted the Mississippi Tourism Association's Legislative Reception, developed a new identity/branding package, added the multi-media equipment and screens to "tell our story," partnered with Ridgeland Tourism in the Ridgeland Arts Festival, developed New Friends brochure and hosted Friends informational luncheon, hosted the Fourth of July Community Gathering, upgraded the Permanent Collection Wall, upgraded and introduced the dedication of the George Berry Sr. Gallery, secured major retail presence at the Visitor Services Center at the new Outlets of Mississippi in Pearl, paved the center's parking lot, held four week-long Creative Camp Sessions, held free camp sessions for Operation Shoestring participants, hosted the annual gathering of the Madison County Creative Economic Council, and sponsored the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Chimneyville Crafts Festival.

Carmen Castilla, Gallery Manager reported she has been working closely with staff to determine what's selling, and that the Outlets of Mississippi in Pearl opened November 14<sup>th</sup>. Our items are on display in suite 535, which is a 1,400 square foot space. We are not paying for rent or labor. We have 5 kiosks representing 5 regions of Mississippi.

Ken McLemore reminded everyone to complete their Festival survey and evaluation forms.

George Berry gave heartfelt thanks for us honoring him and dedicating a gallery in his name.

Renee Flynt thanked everyone for their support, and stated that the Guild is blessed to have a growing number of members, friends, sponsors, grantors, volunteers, and patrons.

Meeting adjourned

Carol McCrackin, Secretary