

**Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**May 16, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President Debby DeLashmet.

Members in Attendance: Sharon Williams, Carol McCrackin, Nancy Perkins, Debby DeLashmet, Ken McLemore, Charles Buster, Joe Dove, Becky Mercier, Rhonda Blasingame, Andy Young, and Charles Griffin

Absent: Hap Owen, Lyle Wynn, Natalie Maynor, Chris Savell, Tara Wren, Don Coulson, Michelle Burrell, Martha Spencer, Victor Pittman, and Brian Beckham

**President's Report:** Debby DeLashmet welcomed new board member, Charles Griffin. She also tabled the approval of the minutes and a request for Emeritus status until we had a quorum.

**Staff Reports:** Nancy distributed a copy of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Inc Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison, dated July 1, 2018 through May16, 2019. She gave a brief review of Tomeka Cheatham's financial, membership, and Chimneyville report, also Sheri's retail, education, and rental report. *Please see attachments 1 and 2*

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from February 21, 2019 were approved and carried unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report:** Nancy gave a brief overview of her report on recent events, financials, grants, Friends Campaign, Chimneyville, fundraising events, Amfed fundraiser, and the Mississippi Bureau of Building light fixture replacement project. *Please see attachment 3*

**Discussion Topics:**

Becky Mercier (By-laws) distributed a copy of the bylaws and gave a brief update review.  
Nancy Perkins (Friends Campaign) distributed a "Unique Giving Opportunity" flyer, and a donation card.  
Ken McLemore (Board Giving) gave several suggestions on how the board can support the Guild.  
Rhonda Blasingame (Standards) stated they will be going to a blind jury and streamlining standards.

Debbie DeLashmet (President Report) read a written request for Emeritus status from Henry Bufkin.  
Ken McLemore made a motion to accept, and it carried unanimously.

**Important Dates:**

**Board Meetings**

Thursday, August 15 at 11:30 am  
Thursday, November 21 at 11:30 am

**Upcoming Events**

WitchCrafted: An Enchanted Evening (fundraiser) – October 17, 2019  
Chimneyville – December 6-8, 2019

Meeting adjourned

Carol McCrackin, Secretary

# Attachment 1

## Membership/Financial Report

CGM Board of Directors

Meeting May 16, 2019

### Membership/Standards

Members of the August Review will receive notices in the next week of their review. We are looking forward to seeing more beautiful work!

- Submissions for the August 10 review are accepted July 22-31, 2019. Deadline is Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 5pm.

### Chimneyville

The Chimneyville Arts Festival is December 5-8, 2019. The applications became available on the member's website on Thursday, April 25, 2019. Today, we have 27 applications and looking forward to many more. This year, we are introducing a new layout, which consists of quad booths and more half booths. The quad booths are priced at a lower rate (\$455) than past years corner booths (\$530) hoping to generate more income and more artisans being able to afford to show. In addition, the artist will receive the early bird discount of \$50 per booth if their application and payment received by Monday, July 15. In the past, there has been a decline in corner booth(s) requests; therefore, hoping this new layout would help with this concern. So far, I have received positive feedback of the new layout and am looking forward to a bigger show.

*(Please see attached the 2019 Chimneyville Arts Festival Layout)*

### Financials

Profit/Loss attached.

In addition, are copies of five-year financials for the MS Craft Center and the Pearl Galleries. One copy reflects the Guild's fiscal year, which is July-June and the other is calendar year.

### Point of Sale Research

Due to the galleries' ageing version of CounterPoint, the manufacture will no longer support it. Therefore, the Guild will have to have a POS in place by August 1, 2019. In the past months, we have interviewed with Resale World, CounterPoint (newer version), and Artisan POS systems. As I shared with Nancy, no system is a perfect fit!

Due to the Guild has many interstates (different transactions/accounts), which makes it difficult to find that "PERFECT POS". So, I support any decision made in the direction of a new POS and will do whatever it takes to make a smooth change over. The only concern I have with Artisan and Resale World in the short time we have to make this change is that, the 20,000+ items will have to be manually entered into the systems, which brings along human-like mistakes that could take years to cleanup as it did with the system we have in place, today. In addition, the two systems do not support some of the things that we have now, such as employee's time clock, easier exporting information into QuickBooks, Bridal Registry, etc. just to name a few.

However, again, I support any decision made towards the new POS and will do whatever it takes to make this a smoother change over. Therefore, Nancy will make the final decision in the next week.

## Attachment 2

### Board Report for May 2019

#### Events

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Am Fed put together their Art Show and the proceeds were given to the Guild. Our new Young Artisan program will benefit from the \$10,000 we received. This was an increase over last year (\$6000).

Keep the Rez Beautiful was held here again this year. A great partnership for the Guild.

We had our first Bridal Event in April. We did not have the turnout I would have liked, but we did have some traffic. We will continue to do these on a quarterly basis to promote our bridal registry and venue.

We participated in the Ridgeland Arts Festival - Eryn McCarthy and Rhonda Blasingame were the craftsmen responsible for the activities. Weather did not cooperate this year.

Groups/companies are using the building more during the week.

MS Artist Guild continues to enjoy meeting here and their attendance for the monthly meetings has risen dramatically.

#### Education

- Field Trips - we have finished the school year. There were 9 new schools/groups that visited this school year. We do have a couple scheduled for the summer.
- Operation Shoestring Camp - we will do a one day camp this year for 30 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.
- Spring Classes - We have offered Blacksmith, Pottery with Sam Clark (2 sessions), Kathy Perito Weaving Class and Lyle's private blacksmith classes are a big draw for visitors to see.

- We put together the MS Art Educators Association 2-day class. 5 of our craftsmen taught the classes. The members of the association received CE credit through MAEA.
- Weaving Class continues to be full each time it is offered.
- Adult Retreat is coming together - June 10-21, I have lined up teachers and Nancy is working on the PR piece to get it out. We are close to being able to sign people up!!!!
- Camp- Creative Craft Camp and Young Artisans Sessions are set and on the web site. People have begun to sign up for Creative Craft Camp.

## **Sales -**

- Pearl store no change
- Gallery at the Craft Center - we are down another employee. We only have 2 people working the Gallery. I am filling in where needed.
- POS - Tomeka, Nancy and I have been reviewing 3 POS systems -Artisan, Liberty and Counterpoint (our current system). Good and bad to all 3. Nancy will be making the decision on which system we will go with.
- Inventory and a new POS system on the horizon. A full summer wait for us!!!

Please feel free to ask any questions about the above areas.

Thank you.

Sheri Cox

Director of Operations

## **Attachment 3**

### **Executive Director Report – 5.16.19**

Recent Events – State of the Art Reception in March, Project Rezway and Trash Reimagined exhibit and competition in March; A Night Just for Brides in April

Financial – cash flow is still very tight and need to pay down loan.

Secretary of State's office decided to pick us for a random audit of all financials for FY17. Required big time investment from all three full-time staff but we completed it to their satisfaction.

Grants – MAC grant panel went well, will know about FY20 amount in July; MAC final report submitted, expecting 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of \$10,500 in June; Applied for Entergy Mississippi grant, awaiting result. Applied for MDA Tourism grant for Chimneyville.

Friends Campaign – Updated Friends perks to reflect changes to Chimneyville. Added other art sponsorships as options for giving. Plan to mail out next week and send online.

Chimneyville– BKD is first in at \$2500. Plan to have called on all previous sponsors by end of June. Chimneyville application and all other info is online. Members can apply and pay online. Invitations to apply to select group of fine artists will go out next week.

Fundraising Event – newly formed advisory council is coordinating WitchCrafted: An Enchanted Evening on October 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be a wine/dinner with several small courses paired with wines with “experiences” available for auction

Amfed hosted another fundraiser for us, raising \$10,000 for our Young Artisan Program. We are hoping to host a teachers' workshop to plan activities for the program for FY20 and to map out long range plans.

The Mississippi Bureau of Buildings is working with us to get the defective overhead light fixtures they acquired for us a few years ago replaced. We hope this can be done in the next several months.