

# *League of Allied Arts*

## **General Membership Meeting**

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Courtyard Marriott Hotel  
13480 Maxella Ave.  
Marina Del Rey, CA

Hosted By: Thomasina Pleasant and Yvette LaVigne

### **Minutes**

**Attendees:** Deborah Beavers Watford -President, Mabel Duncan -1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Barbara Mason Taylor -2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Jean Davis Clements -Financial Secretary, Karen McClain Roberson-Treasurer, Carol Hall Holliday-Parliamentarian, Suzanne Simmons, Mary Ann Greene, Thomasina Ayers Pleasant, Liz Miles, Lillaurie Drousseau, Yvette LaVigne, Shirley Stark Wallace, Susan Anderson, new members; Francine Coleman Battle, Bertha Hurd, Joan Thomas, and Wilma Willis, Patricia Ryder- alumnae member, and Ellen Love-Contracted Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Patricia Gibson, Bernie Robinson, Janet Francis, Dorothy Thornhill, Cheryl Horn-Member at Large, René Cooks.

Meeting was called to order at 11:50 AM by President, Debbi Beavers Watford. She welcomed the new members to their first official meeting.

Mary Ann Greene recited an inspirational prayer.

Debbi spoke about how wonderful the New Member's Tea was and thanked those who attended and those who sent her Thank You notes. Debbi mentioned that the League Retreat has been rescheduled from August to May 2010. It will be a no host meeting at Debbie's aunt's home @ 3044 Hillcrest, L.A., CA 90016, dubbed the Leagues' Clubhouse. Items to be discussed at the Retreat will include: the plan for the next calendar year, the closing event and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

#### **New Member Induction** – Mary Ann Greene

The new members were introduced and Mary Ann led the "Swearing In" ceremony. Debbi spoke briefly about the League's rich history and the importance of bringing in new members. She welcomed all new members and thanked them for their commitment to keeping the arts central in our community.

Debbie thanked Thomasina and Yvette for hosting the meeting this month. She acknowledged member Carol Hall Holliday's birthday.

#### **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala** – Debbie Beavers Watford

Debbi stated that she and Susan Anderson met with LA County Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thomas on March 31, 2010, where they presented the League Proposal to sponsor the Anniversary Gala

Reception, 100 inner-city youth to attend the play Thurgood and busses to transport them. Mark loved the idea and has agreed to the sponsorship. He also informed Debbi and Susan that the League is eligible to apply for a student intern through his office. Suzanne Simmons has agreed to assist with writing the grant for the intern. Debbi spoke about how developing the relationship with the Supervisor will cement the League as the premier organization that supports minority children in the arts.

Karen McClain Roberson and Suzanne Simmons are working on securing sponsorship for the Tribute Journal. Debbi stated that the Langston Bar Association is willing to work with the League to outreach to high school students. The Langston Bar Assoc. may also co-sponsor the Gala. Debbi also mentioned that the Supervisor will provide assistance with Media outreach. Susan explained that all parties will benefit from the relationship with the Supervisor's Office, the Geffen and the League.

Francine moved and Lillaurie seconded the Executive Board proceed with the partnerships and co-sponsors. Debbi thanked Susan and Suzanne for all their help. League members were encouraged to begin spreading the word about the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Once a graphic designer is identified to create the invitation, that individual will also create something to send by email.

#### **Executive Board Meeting** – Debbi Beavers Watford

The Executive Board Meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, April 28, 2010

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes from the March and April General Meetings will be distributed to Board members and approved at the Executive Board Meeting April 28, 2010.

#### **Correspondence**

The League received a Thank You letter from the Legacy Ladies for the \$500 donation to their Sister-t-Sister Project. However, the actual amount the League donated was \$620. Debbi will make sure the correction is made.

#### **Financial Report** – Jean Davis Clements

Jean passed out copies of the Financial Report. Jean stated that the 2009 taxes have been filed. Suzanne requested a copy of the League's Designation Letter to submit with her grant proposal. Carol Hall had a copy that she loaned to Suzanne. Susan recommended that all the League's important files should be placed on the website in the Member's Only section. Lillaurie mentioned that the financial information must remain confidential and should be sent out through the email function on the website. Mary Ann moved and Suzanne seconded adopting the Financial Report.

### Treasurers Report – Karen McClain Roberson

Karen passed out Treasurers Reports for January, February and March. Account balances are as follows:

#### **As of 1/29/10**

- Business Account balance - **\$11,496.91,**
- Scholarship Account balance - **\$14,374.65**

#### **As of 2/26/10**

- Business Account balance - **\$10,413.41,**
- Scholarship Account balance - **\$14,374.65**

#### **As of 3/31/10**

- Business Account balance - **\$10,973.41**
- Scholarship Account balance - **\$14,374.65**

Shirley moved and Carol seconded adopting Treasures Report.

### Membership – Mary Ann Greene

Mary Ann thanked Debbi for her all her assistance with the New Member's Tea. Liz Miles and Patricia Gibson joined the Membership Committee. Mary Ann asked the new members to join a committee. She also reminded all members to look at and respond to meeting Evite invitations and to look at the Hostess Schedule to learn when their meetings are scheduled. The new members introduced themselves and gave a brief background. Carol asked about the possibility of bringing in new members at this time. Mary Ann stated that the committee had decided to have two intake periods a year—one in March and the next one in September. She asked Carol to wait until September to bring in another new member.

### Archives – Susan Anderson

Debbi mentioned that an email was sent to all active members requesting all archival material. Susan is open to all input on how to get past members and officers involved in collecting the archival material. Susan requested that anyone submitting archival material put their names on all boxes submitted.

### Publicity – Suzanne Simmons

It has been learned through Cheryl Horn that Northrop Grumman is moving to Washington, DC and that the League should apply for a scholarship grant as soon as possible. Suzanne is willing to write the grant proposal. She mentioned her concerns about what to do with the funds already received from Northrop. Carol stated that Cheryl has confirmed that the funds that have been received can be used for scholarships. Mary Ann reminded the group that one of the aspects of the League's mission is to educate and make aware to the community the resources available. Mary Ann recommended using the new grant to extend the League's outreach to youth in foster care and other areas beyond schools.

### Technology – Carol Hall Holliday

Carol stated that the Members Only section of the website is being worked on. The Gala information will be on the front page of the website. Suzanne told the group about an organization that helps non-profit organizations set-up their site for donations to be made. A discussion was held about the pros and cons of donating and selling tickets online.

### Announcements

Carol made an announcement about the Towne Street Theater play, Nicholas and Langston. Several League members are planning to attend. Debbi mentioned the production of The Buddy Holly Story that her son, Arthur is doing. She invited all members to attend.

The League Retreat will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM at Debbi's aunt's home, which has been deemed the League Clubhouse. This will be a working meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Ellen Love, Contracted Recording Secretary

*"Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for." - Joseph Addison*