

## **A message from President Brenda Stiles**

It is an honor to be serving as your SMMA President in this 89<sup>th</sup> year of our organization. In our SMMA Yearbook, names of past presidents are listed indicating the years they have served. I feel proud knowing that my name will go down in history along with these women and man who have served in the great tradition of such a time-honored organization. It will be a challenge to follow in the steps of our retiring President, Joan Menchetti. Our Board thanks her for her time, talents and tireless energy in this past year. It is with sadness that we also have to inform you of the passing of former President Mrs. Leslie (Betty) Kinser. Betty served from 2007 to 2009. Our condolences go out to her family.

Executive Officers for this year will be Sonya Wise, Vice-President, Susan Daniel, Secretary and Janet Ellison, Treasurer. Also serving on the Executive Committee are Publicity Chair Jan Harris, Ways and Means Chair Cam Thieme and Membership Chair Karen Sweeney. Trustees serving our Board for the 1<sup>st</sup> term are Loretta Knutson, Cam Thieme, Brenda Stiles, Gloria Eskew, Janet Ellison and Carol Pyles. We welcome these new Trustees and thank the following Trustees serving their 2<sup>nd</sup> term: Margie Barbato, Belinda Blinzler, Joyce Jones, Sarah Kapp and Suzanne Rohman. We are thankful to the outgoing trustees Delores Bauer, Lea Landon, Sharon Nahon and Ruth Penaherrera-Norton for their 6 years of service.

At the SMMA Annual Meeting held on May 27, 2015, the 2015/2016 budget was presented and accepted reflecting a \$10,000 commitment to the Museum. Once again, this will place SMMA in the Leadership Society, the top donor level for SAM. Our total donations to SAM for the 2014/2015 year were over \$59,000. We continue to be astonished at the generosity of all SMMA groups and members and look forward to another year of supporting the Springfield Art Museum and the arts in Southwest Missouri as we have for the past 89 years.

Speaking of generosity, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Bee Payne-Stewart Foundation and Lora Stewart Thomas and Susan Stewart Daniel for their splendid gift of \$10,000 to SMMA. Their support of SMMA is truly appreciated.

Our Board of Trustees recently approved a Funds Management/Finance Policy. The Finance Committee also recommended a dues increase in response to increased expenses. The increase that was accepted by the Board set the dues structure as follows:

Resident Art Group - \$35  
Supporting - \$60  
Family - \$50  
At-Large - \$40

There will not be any increase for Extension Art Groups, Students, Sustaining Life or Life.

SMMA Board of Trustees do not meet during the months of June and July. Our next scheduled meeting will be held August 26, at the Springfield Art Museum with coffee at 9:30 and the meeting at 10:00AM. Trustees and Art Group Chairmen are expected to attend or send a representative. All SMMA members are welcome.

Our Membership Committee has already been meeting this summer in preparation for a large membership drive this year. It is exciting to hear many new ideas about ways to expand the SMMA

Membership Roster. We will be telling you about all their plans in the upcoming months. We welcome new members at any time. Please contact our Executive Secretary Leslie Janzen by email at [Ljanzen@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:Ljanzen@springfieldmo.gov) or call our office in the Springfield Art Museum at 837-5700 if you are interested in becoming a member. You may also visit our website [artmuseumassociates.org](http://artmuseumassociates.org) to learn more about our group and to see our list of activities and upcoming events. Check out our new colorful logo and like us on our Facebook page.

Sonya Wise and her Fashion Show Committee are busy preparing for our annual Fall Fashion Show/Silent Auction. This year's theme is "To Russia With Love" and if last year's show is any indication, this will be an event you will not want to miss. Members of the Springfield Ballet Nutcracker cast will be performing and we are looking forward to that. This event will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 10:30AM at White River Conference Center.

SMMA members, family and friends are invited to participate in an exclusively chartered Luxury Danube River Cruise being planned by Adelman Discoveries. You would depart October 6, 2015 for a 7 night cruise aboard the 5-star Amadeus Elegant. Adelman will donate \$50 to the Springfield Art Museum for each SMMA member who books this cruise. Contact Cam Thieme, SMMA Ways and Means Chairmen at 417-888-4488 to make reservations for this exciting adventure.

SMMA has been proud to once again be the lead sponsor for Springfield Art Museum's Watercolor USA, 2015. The opening reception was well attended on Friday, June 5 and this popular exhibition continues through August 23, 2015. Don't miss the opportunity to view this year's exciting Watercolor USA. When you are in the Museum, stop in and see all the new items we have in the SMMA Museum Shop or visit the SMMA office to talk with Leslie and volunteer your services to our group. We need each and every one of you!