

100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE Report for Southern Highland Craft Guild's Annual Meeting on April 18, 2026 @ FOLK ART CENTER on Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville, NC

Committee Chair – Jim Gentry (1970) FIBER

Committee Members:

1. Larry Allen-Leeds, AL (1999) CLAY
2. Douglas Dacey-Columbus, NC (1982) CLAY
3. Mary Daschiell-Meadows of Dan, VA (1992) CLAY
4. Anne Freels-Knoxville, TN (1989) NATURAL MATERIALS
5. Laurel Horton-Seneca, SC (1982) FIBER
6. Sue Jennings-Thornton, WVA (2000) WOOD
7. Susan Leveille-Sylva, NC (1983) FIBER
8. Jim Sams-London, KY (1979) WOOD
9. Tommye Scanlin-Dahlongega, GA (1979) FIBER

Mid-year, 2025 I received an email from President Tamela in which she informed me that the board and staff were in agreement that I should be asked to chair a committee to plan our 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY Celebration in 2030. After conversations w/Tamela and much consideration I said yes.

Following more conversations w/Tamela and other members I submitted a “big picture” plan to the board on Dec. 13, 2025; on Feb. 9 of this year I attended board, committee chairs & staff for an overview of plans.

Key elements:

1. Time Frame-Launch @ Annual Meeting -2026, Primary Celebration Event (s) @ ANNUAL MEETING-2030 W/major exhibition and premiere of new SHCG documentary film.
2. Planning team of nine members/one representing each state in our region. Meetings via ZOOM. Would serve five years.
3. Time Frame-on-going: Each year, 2026 through 2030, two decades will be the focus. Guild history, accomplishments, events, members will be amplified through existing channels (e-news, graphic connections through our shops/galleries, Guild Fairs and news releases)
4. Two Major Projects: Exhibition & Documentary film. Input from committee members and members at large will be important for these. Further, these projects will require much time (budget, timetable, content,)
5. HONORARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE – An honorary celebration committee w/ unlimited number will be comprised of children of deceased members, former staff

members, architects, bankers, community leaders, craft school leaders & representatives of our education centers. Members will be recognized through print listings.

By the time I share this information with you on the 18<sup>th</sup> our committee members will have received the “Big Picture” document and the committee roster with contact information. In addition we will be planning our initial ZOOM meeting. We have a remarkable committee and all states are represented except Maryland. I believe there are only four counties in MD listed as Appalachian counties; and only two members residing there. Due to health/personal concerns our member residing there felt she couldn't serve. As result we have two members from NC. Upon consult w /staff and board members it seemed appropriate w/our origins and operations in the state.

In the coming weeks & months we will be introducing our committee members. As committee chair, and, on behalf of the committee I welcome ideas/input from members. Finally, I thank the board for entrusting me with this gargantuan task! We have exciting tasks ahead as we approach 2030-100 Years for Southern Highland Craft Guild.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Gentry

