

FEB-23-80



MISS. ARTISTS TO BE HONORED — Governor William Winter and Dr. Noel Polk, both charter members of the Board of Governors of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters (MIAL), recently met at the Governors Mansion to announce the names of other members of the board. MIAL will annually honor three Mississippians for their contributions in the fields of music, art and literature.

JACKSON — The Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters (MIAL), an organization founded to reward Mississippians who are practitioners in the creative arts, has announced the charter members of its Board of Governors.

MIAL is designed to encourage creative artists (who live in, or are closely identified with Mississippi) with cash awards for the state's best in the fields of art, music and literature.

Nominations for awards will be made by MIAL members to an awards committee and then submitted to independent, nationally known scholars and critics for judging. An annual formal awards presentation and banquet is planned for members and the winning artists.

Members are encouraged to submit the names of local artists, writers and musicians whose work is known locally to insure that everyone who works in the creative arts will have a chance to compete.

"We hope the tangible rewards given to the artists will be substantial enough to recognize their merit, and we believe that the formal appreciation of their constant enrichment of our lives will appeal to all Mississippians," said Dr. Noel Polk, president and director of MIAL Board of

Governors.

Governor William Winter, a charter member of the organization said, "I am happy to be associated with the Institute. Many Mississippi artists have received the admiration of the nation and the world; now the Institute will give our citizens a chance to honor their own. We have long needed an organization like this and I hope every Mississippian will support it. I believe that it can make a real contribution to the culture of our state."

Other charter members of the Board of Governors and their professional affiliations are: Ray Bass, Bass Pecan Orchards; Ms. Charlotte Capers, Director of Information and Education, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; M. J. Czarniecki, Director, Mississippi Museum of Art; Dr. Lewis M. Dalvit, Director, Jackson Symphony; Mrs. Joe Rice Dockery, Member Metropolitan Opera National Council; Stanley Gaines, former Chairman, Mississippi Library Commission; Mrs. Stewart Gammill, III, Board Member Hattiesburg Civil Light Opera; Hon. Evelyn Gandy, former Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi; Dr. Jack W. Gunn, Dean of Liberal Arts, Delta

State University; Josephine Haxton, Novelist and Short Story Writer; Mrs. Sara Dodge Kimbrough, Artist; Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas, President, University of Southern Mississippi; Dr. Charles Moorman, Vice President of Academic Affairs, USM; Paul McMullan, President First Mississippi National Bank; Lee McCartv, Artist. Dr. Cora

Norman, Director Mississippi Committee for the Humanities; Dr. Noel Polk, Assistant Professor of English, USM; Mrs. Lida Rogers, Executive Director Mississippi Arts Commission; Dr. Estus Smith, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Jackson State University; Dr. Gerald W. Walton, Dean of Liberal Arts, University of Mississippi; Thomas Ward, Sr., President Phil Harden Foundation; and Peyton W. Williams, Jr., Professor of English Mississippi State University.

Membership in MIAL, a tax exempt, non profit organization chartered by the state, is open to interest Mississippians. Memberships are \$25 each and are available by sending that amount to Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, Box 9268, Southern Station, Hattiesburg, Ms. 39401. For additional information about the Institute and MIAL membership call Noel Polk at (601) 266-4168.

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