

Pensacola Opera

LOOKS AT THE NEXT 25 YEARS

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Pensacola Opera Guild Kicks Off 2008/2009 Membership Year, Events

This past Thursday, July 10th, members of the Pensacola Opera Guild gathered at the newly-renovated Donald H. Partington Opera Center to kick off their 2008/2009 membership year. The Guild is the Opera's volunteer support and fundraising organization, bringing together the opera's patrons dynamic skills and talents to make Pensacola Opera the vibrant, thriving organization it has become over the past 25 years. The Guild provides volunteers to plan and run the Opera's fundraising events, to assist with the Opera Center's administrative needs, and to help both main stage productions and outreach and education events, all while creating a community of arts lovers having a good time. The kickoff party provided a chance for members to sign up for volunteer opportunities, but help is still needed!

The Guild hosts a social every second Thursday of the month; the first of these for the new year will be August 14th, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at 1912 The Restaurant in the Crowne Plaza downtown. Come join us for lunch and learn what the Guild is all about and has to offer!

The Opera Guild is led by its president, Betty Roberts. Kathleen McBride serves as Vice President of Operations, Dave Sibley as Vice President of Special Events. Sandee Houston is the organization's secretary, and Eleanor Aspliden serves as its treasurer.

The Guild's primary fundraising efforts lie in Pensacola Opera's signature events. The first of the 2009 season is Jukebox Gala, September 13th at New World Landing. Join us for this annual musical highlight, as Pensacola Opera favorites and the stars of the upcoming main stage season serenade guests tableside - feed the jukebox and have some of the greatest hits of opera, musical theatre, and

standards sung directly to you! October 17th and 18th, the Guild collaborates with the Opera's teen volunteer group, Operazzi, for our annual Diva's Closet Sale, held at the Opera Center. Pensacola Opera's flagship event, the Operazzi Ball, returns March 28th, 2009.

The Opera Guild continues its 2008/2009 membership drive through August, and there are opportunities to help throughout the year on many levels. Guild dues are \$35 for an individual membership, and \$50 for a family membership. More information and a guild membership form can be found at pensacolaopera.com. Contact Erin Kelley Sammis, Development and Marketing Coordinator at 433-6737 for more information.