



Arkansas Governor's Mansion Commission

TO: Governor Asa Hutchinson
Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Chair, Legislative Council
Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair, Legislative Council

FROM: Charlene Reed, Chairman, Governor's Mansion Commission
Patty Shipp, Administrator, Governor's Mansion

SUBJ: Annual Mansion Report

DATE: November 1, 2019

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated 22-3-805, the Governor's Mansion Commission submits this 2019 Annual Report.

Historic Mansion

The fifth year of the Hutchinson Administration was a quieter year concerning renovations at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion. Small steps toward the renovation of the Mansion Library were taken as new drapery was installed. All costs associated with drapery were funded by the Mansion Association.

During April and May, we became aware of the need for crystal juice glasses and crystal iced tea glasses. There were no crystal juice glasses and the inventory of crystal iced tea glasses had fallen to a level that made it impossible to use them when guests numbered above 17. We added both juice and iced tea pieces to the Mansion collection in patterns to complement existing crystal stemware.

The porch ceiling just outside of the Mansion kitchen has long been an area needing attention. We requested Grant ANCRC funds to restore the area, but that project was not funded. The Mansion staff decided to dig into the project and after the aluminum siding that was covering



the ceiling was removed, they determined they could do the repairs themselves. The original bead board ceiling was removed and completely replaced.

The ceiling in the Mansion Library has needed attention for some time. There is a bronze block wallpaper covering the ceiling. There were several areas where the paper had lost its seal and some small tears in those areas. Mike Mace was engaged to reattach the paper. The repair was completed in May. Tim Morris will perform detail paint touchups to blend the torn areas.

Grand Hall / Atrium

The Janet Huckabee Grand Hall continues to be one of the most popular venues in the state for non-profit and award events.

During July, the large commercial water heater that supplies the Grand Hall kitchen and public restrooms began to fail. We consulted several technicians; all confirmed that the equipment was nearing its end of life. Anne Laidlaw, Director of the Arkansas Building Authority, recommended an engineer to spearhead the process of getting bids for the project. Three bids were submitted and the low bid, from Faulkner Plumbing and Mechanical, was accepted. The new boiler was installed the second week of September.

All tile flooring in the Grand Hall was professionally cleaned at the end of FY2018. This revealed the need for a commercial floor-scrubbing unit to maintain surfaces. We purchased a T1 Scrubber from Datek in North Little Rock, Arkansas which is now being used regularly to better maintain tiled surfaces in the Grand Hall.

During the winter months, Arkansas experienced heavy rainfall. The excess moisture caused several leaks in the atrium and First Lady's office areas. Harness Roofing was brought in to do temporary repairs and to evaluate and suggest next steps. Rain continued to cause leaks and in March, Raintight Roofing surveyed the area and offered suggestions. They proposed a temporary solution which when implemented, resulted in no more leaks in that area. This area



In June, a BigTex dump trailer was purchased for use on the grounds. This piece of equipment has been on the wish list for the Horticulturalist and Buildings and Grounds Supervisor for quite some time. Before the purchase, personnel were forced to borrow from another State Agency when such equipment was needed.

Note: the Mansion utilized appropriation funding for all purchases and repairs unless specifically noted.

Miscellaneous

In July and August of 2018, the Mansion staff participated in active shooter training provided by ASP along with CPR and Stop the Bleed training provided by MEMS.

The 2018 Holiday season was again a highlight of the year at the Mansion. This year's theme was "An Arkansas Natural Christmas". The annual Christmas Open House was held on December 2nd. On that day, we welcomed over 1,000 visitors inside the Mansion to enjoy the holiday decorations, visit with Santa and visit the Mansion Gift Shop. Two 15-foot murals, painted by Tim Morris depicting the Spavinaw Creek in Northwest Arkansas, were hung in the Grand Hall. The creek recalled a fond memory for the Governor and First Lady and the account of the First Lady's visit to that area was shared with many of the Mansion's visitors throughout the season.

Attachment

Purchases by the Arkansas Governor's Mansion Association

Powder and Smoke – Cordials and Decanter for Formal Dining Room

Winward Floral and Seasonal Decor – Christmas decorations

D. Stevens Fine Ribbons – Christmas decorations

Regency – Christmas decorations

Hobby Lobby – Christmas decorations

Designer Effects – Fabric for drapery in Mansion Library

RM COCO – Fabric for items in the Guest Cottage

Wildwood Antiques – Urns and bronze plant stands

Topsys – Labor and miscellaneous supplies for fabrication of items in Guest Cottage

Designer Effects – Hardware for the Mansion Library and labor to fabricate items for Guest Cottage

Thibaut Wallpaper & Fabric – Fabric for items in the Guest Cottage

Tipton Hurst items from various vendors purchased at wholesale cost or below – Christmas decor

Orchid America purchased at cost through Shayla Copas Interiors – Coverlet and sheets for Guest Cottage

Fabulous Finds – Waterford pitcher, statuary and fire fenders

Stephanie Anne Art – Heavenly Host Painting

Tablecloth Company – Tablecloths for use in the Grand Hall

Kravet Inv. – Fabric for chairs in the Mansion Library