

Salute Luncheon for Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Old Salem Museums and Gardens

The Winston-Salem Foundation



Front Row (left to right)

Anthony L. Furr, Chairman, Board of Trustees – Old Salem Museums and Gardens

Lee F. French, President and CEO – Old Salem Museums and Gardens

Peggy Low, Senior Vice President, Technology - Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce

Paul Wiles, Chairman, Winston-Salem Foundation Committee – The Winston-Salem Foundation

Scott Wierman, President – The Winston-Salem Foundation

Second Row (left to right)

Jeff Green, Vice President, Sales & Marketing – The Winston-Salem Journal

Rodessa Mitchell, Vice President, Education and Membership - Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce

Terry Barber, Director of Catering – Twin City Quarter

Steve Kenney, President - QC Engraving

In 1919 Col. Francis Fries established The Winston-Salem Foundation with a gift of \$1,000. The Foundation is now a 90-year-old community foundation and has \$251 million in current assets and more than 1,200 funds created by charitable individuals and organizations.

The foundation's key services in the community include assisting individuals and organizations with their charitable giving, making grants to nonprofit organizations, providing financial aid to college students, and providing community leadership to bring together diverse voices and groups to address issues and support high-impact opportunities.

In 2009, the Foundation granted more than \$17 million, of which almost \$2 million was directed to its Community Grantmaking program, which provides grants for valuable community programs in areas from education to the arts, and from health to human services. In the 2009-2010 school year, the Foundation provided more than \$1 million in scholarships, grants and loans to students in our community.

Our mission is to invest in our community by making philanthropy and its benefits available to all. The Winston-Salem Foundation is proud to utilize its knowledge and resources to improve the quality of life in Forsyth County, its surrounding areas, and points beyond.

Old Salem Museums & Gardens is America's most comprehensive historic site. Its restored townscape, two unique museum collections, and award-winning heirloom gardens engage visitors in a memorable experience about those who lived and worked in the early South.

Salem was founded in 1766 by the Moravians, a Protestant faith that began in what is now known as the Czech Republic. The Moravians were missionaries who established an earlier settlement in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, before beginning "Wachovia" in the North Carolina backcountry in 1753. In the Wachovia Tract of nearly 100,000 acres, Salem was the central administrative, spiritual, craft, and professional town surrounded by five outlying congregations.

Salem was also well-known as a trades town in the North Carolina Piedmont. The town's craftsmen produced essential goods like tools, ceramics, furniture, metals, and food. Today, Old Salem's costumed tradesmen and women re-create life in the 1700s and 1800s by producing these goods using traditional eighteenth- and nineteenth-century practices.

In 1950, a group of dedicated volunteers established Old Salem Inc. as a way to begin preserving and restoring the town of Salem for future generations. As Old Salem grew, more buildings were restored and new facilities were added—including the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) in 1965.

Old Salem Museums & Gardens encompasses 90 acres of restored and reclaimed landscapes that include 107 buildings, seven nationally acclaimed gardens, and seven retail stores. The museum currently employs over 200 people and welcomes about 100,000 ticketed visitors a year.