

June 21, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Glenda Forosisky, Gala Chair

(814) 942-6832

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator

(724) 238-6015

## **SAMA GALA TO CELEBRATE AMERICA**

Loretto – Uncle SAMA wants you to come to the Gala. This summer, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto will celebrate America at its 39<sup>th</sup> annual Gala fundraiser. The “Red, White and Blue” Gala will be held Saturday, July 22 on the campus of Saint Francis University. Glenda Forosisky is chair of this year’s event, with Dorothea Nelson honorary chair.

Guests will arrive to a red-carpet welcome along a flag-festooned border. Uncle SAMA himself will be on-hand to greet guests and pose for pictures. Nearby, a World War II-era Jeep will be on display, filled with craft beer packed on ice. Mingling with guests will be members of the Keystone Pinups, a local non-profit group of young women who follow in the footsteps of the World War II “canteen girls.”

In the Museum, guests will enjoy a champagne reception along with the featured exhibitions, *Labor and Landscape: 100 Paintings of the Allegheny Mountain Region* by Ron Donoughe and *Fred Staloff: A Selection of Works from the Butler Institute of American Art*. As an added salute, there will be an exhibition of flags and uniforms from every branch of the U.S. military, on loan from the Cambria County War Memorial.

The tent will be decorated with the stars and stripes, as well as bunting, beautiful floral arrangements and a Statue of Liberty glowing in the night sky. A *M\*A\*S\*H*-style sign post will point out the various Museum and Gala locations, such as the silent auction, the casino, and the famous raw bar. For dinner, guests will be treated to gourmet all-American cuisine.

Returning to the Gala this year will be the Flood City Brass Band. Formed in 2002, the 9-piece horn band from Johnstown features two lead vocalists and a dynamite rhythm section. The band has performed at festivals and events throughout the region and was voted Best Band in Johnstown by readers of the *Tribune Democrat*.

The live auction will offer 13 spectacular items, highlighted by a Fred Danziger painting of the *USS John P. Murtha*. SAMA will donate a portion of the proceeds raised by the sale of the painting to Veterans Community Initiative. Scholarships, vacation and sports packages will be among the auctioned items, as well as a Helen Gorsuch ceramic sculpture, a brass sculpture in the style of Curtis Jere, and spillway bowls donated by Tussey Landscaping. One of the most popular items is sure to be a beautiful, all natural, woven alpaca fur rug. Donated by Forney Financial Strategies and Warriors Mark Alpaca Farm, the rug features natural colors, design and

softness. And if that wasn't enough, the winner of the rug also receives a "farm experience" cocktail party at Warriors Mark Alpaca Farm for up to 15 people. The party includes hearty appetizers, an open bar, plus the opportunity to meet the alpacas whose fur was used in the rug.

The Gala will begin at 6 p.m. on July 22. Tickets are \$175 per person. Reservations are required by July 14. For tickets or more information, please call the Museum at (814) 472-3920. Advertising and sponsorship opportunities remain available.

Over the past nearly four decades, the Gala has evolved into one of the most sophisticated and complex outdoor social events in Pennsylvania. The proceeds from the event enable SAMA's four museums – Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier Valley and Loretto – to remain open to the public free of charge. The Gala also helps underwrite the Museum's exhibitions and innovative Arts-in-Education and Museum/Healthcare Partnership programs. For more information on the Gala or SAMA, call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).

The "Red, White and Blue" Gala is sponsored by Kooman & Associates, LLC and UPMC Health Plan. Also contributing to the Gala is Sheetz, Inc.; Dr. Magdi and Karen Azer; Benzel's Bretzel Bakery; Blue Spark Capital Advisors; Jim Cayce and Tom Dosh; Dr. Betty Cottle; Cassandra and David Davies; Glenda and Michael Forosisky; Jeanne and Robert Gleason; Kooman & Associates, LLC; Kranich's, Inc.; Laurel Auto Group; Diane and Dr. Scott Q. Little; Jeria and Steve McKnight; Marian and Dr. Owen K. Morgan; Newborn Enterprises, Inc.; Barbara and Ed O'Brien; Michelle and Steve Passarello; Penn State Altoona; Janet and Bob Pennington; Sylvia and Donald Robinson; Nancy Sheetz; Margaret and Michael Strueber; Patrick Torchia; Chantel Ventura; WJAC-TV; Aline and Gerald Wolf; and Dr. Paul V. Woolley and Janet M. Turjan.