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Opinion

# Around Town: ‘Polly’s Wagon’ taking pals to hall of fame

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Eastward ho! This year’s Oklahoma Hall of Fame banquet and induction will take place Thursday at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel and Convention Center in Tulsa. Traditionally, the prestigious black-tie event is scheduled close to Statehood Day on Nov. 16, and the location alternates between Oklahoma City and Tulsa each year.

A group of friends has been invited to board “Polly’s Covered Wagon” (actually, a luxurious passenger bus) at 3:30 p.m. Thursday to head for the induction, with the return trip set for 9:30 p.m. It will depart from Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club.

Provisions will be covered by hosts Gene and Ed Barth, Karen and Bob Browne, Nancy and Bob Ellis, Kirk and Royce Hammons, Sue Ann and Dudley Hyde, Karen and Rob Luke, Carol and Mac Troy and Kathy and Russ Walker. Those folks on the bus are going to not only enjoy the banquet and induction ceremony, but they’re also going to have a great time traveling to and from Tulsa.

Presented by the Oklahoma Heritage Association, the hall of fame is in its 82nd year. The inductees through the years have been the cream of the crop of Oklahomans – natives or transplants. Those recognized will join that outstanding group of men and women.

The hall of fame inductees and their presenters are C. Kendric Fergeson, chairman and CEO, NBC banks, Altus, presented by Robert C. Lynch, Washington, D.C., president and CEO of Americans for the Arts; Marlin G. “Ike” Glass, Newkirk, CEO of a family trucking firm, by former Hall of Fame inductee John Massey, Durant; V. Burns Hargis, Stillwater, Oklahoma State University president, by former inductee T. Boone Pickens, Dallas, founder, chairman, BP Capital Management; Polly Nichols, Oklahoma City, philanthropist and civic leader, by former inductee Christy Everest, chairman, CEO, Oklahoma Publishing Co.; Lee Roy Selmon, Eufaula, by son Christopher D. Selmon, Tampa, Fla., cancer research associate at St. Joseph’s Hospital; Vice Chief Justice Steven W. Taylor, McAlester, by former inductee Clayton I. Bennett, Dorchester Capital chairman; and the late Wayman L. Tisdale, Tulsa, noted jazz musician and basketball player, by Greg Price, president of Oklahoma Tank Lines/United Petroleum Transports.

Hargis had to make a hard choice this year. Did he want to go into the hall of fame or did he want to continue as the famous co-emcee for the induction with partner Michael C. Turpen? While Turpen will miss his co-host, he’s looking forward to a prettier one – former Miss America Jane Jayroe, a Laverne native.

Featured vocalist at the ceremony will be Leona Mitchell, Enid, world-renowned operatic soprano, also a hall of fame inductee. Bishop Edward James Slattery, Tulsa, bishop of the Diocese of Tulsa at Holy Family Cathedral, will give the invocation. Tom McDaniel, president of Oklahoma City University, is chairman of the Oklahoma Heritage Association and Shannon Nance is president.

If you can’t get to Tulsa, you can watch a televised version Saturday night at 8 p.m. on OETA.

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