

NEXT MEETING -- Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society

June 10, 2014

President Bill Dickinson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. at the Black History Museum. Other members present were Lisa Adamo, Ted Pulliam, Katy Cannady, Audrey Davis, Linda Greenberg, and Julie Randle. Also present were newly elected Board members Dennis Hensley and Helen Wirka.

Dickinson welcomed new Board members Hensley and Wirka to the meeting. He also indicated that at the September meeting, new members will receive a notebook with basic information about the Board, such as copies of the by-laws and the constitution.

CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda: The agenda for the meeting circulated earlier by Dickinson was approved.

Minutes: The minutes for the May Board meeting circulated earlier by Pulliam were approved with amendments. The minutes for the annual membership meeting held on May 29th also were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Adamo reported that she would circulate the Treasurer's report before the end of the week, and she indicated that it would contain no problems that needed to be addressed.

On behalf of the Board and AHS, Dickinson thanked Adamo for her outstanding work as Treasurer and Board member. She indicated that although she no longer would be a member of the Board, she would still be a member of AHS and would continue to help with the annual history awards program and possibly other activities.

Website Report: Adamo reported that website manager Wild Apricot had upgraded the website. Dickinson and Hensley indicated their approval of the site and the way it is operating.

President's Annual Report: Dickinson reported that press of other activities had prevented him from preparing the report but that it soon would be completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chronicle: Greenberg reported that the fall issue of the *Chronicle* will contain the second article by Jack Sullivan on Confederate soldier John Zimmerman's Civil War diary, including a discussion of how Zimmerman's perception of events differed from events as they are perceived by some modern historians and the reasons for the differences.

Speakers: Dickinson reported that the recent talks on the War of 1812 had been very well attended. He also mentioned that Mary Ann Jung's presentation of Rosie the Riveter had not been so well attended, although he understood the presentation had been excellent. Greenberg and Pulliam agreed that it had been excellent. Greenberg mentioned that Mary Ann Jung portrayed other historic characters and that she was good in involving children, which could attract parents with young children to AHS lectures and possibly lead to an increase AHS membership.

The AHS speakers on June 25 will be Char Bar, Audrey Davis, Gwen Brown-Henderson, Christa Watters, and James Henson talking about their book *African Americans in Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the 20th Century*.

Newsletter: Adamo reported that the next newsletter will be published in late August.

Archaeology: Cannady reported that this year is the 40th anniversary of Alexandria's adoption of its archaeology code, the first such city code in Virginia. A committee of the Archaeology Commission soon will be making its recommendations for the recipients of the Ben Brenmann Award, awarded by the City Council for contributions to Alexandria archaeology and history.

OLD BUSINESS

AHS Brochure: Adamo reported that she soon would download a new brochure and that she and Greenberg would try to have a new brochure available for the August 31st 1812 Signature Event. Greenberg reported that she had found a supply of the old brochures that also could be used. Wirka mentioned that at Carlyle House she had worked with a good printer who might be useful to AHS.

Not for Profit Mailing Privileges: Greenberg reported that AHS has received approval from the Post Office Department for using the not-for-profit mailing privilege but that there still is another step that she must take before AHS can use it.

Letters on Inscriptions for Edmondson Sisters Statue and the Ellsworth Plaque: Dickinson thought it might be good to check with the director of the Office of Historic Alexandria on the status of these items before sending the letters. Davis agreed to check with the director.

Lambert Lecture: Dickinson reported that the lecture by Englishman Andrew Lambert on Admiral Charles Napier, the captain of one of the British ships that sailed up the Potomac River to capture Alexandria in 1814, would be held at the Masonic Temple on September 4. After a short discussion, it was agreed that AHS would not co-sponsor the talk.

AHS Table at the War of 1812 Signature Event: Greenberg, Pulliam, and Cannady indicated that they would help man the table on August 31. Hensley also volunteered to help man it. At the table, Board members will pass out literature on AHS and encourage people to join.

Annual Financial Audit: Adamo said that the audit would need to be scheduled after the close of the fiscal year, which closes on June 30. Day, Cohan, and Davis are on the audit committee.

Collection of Membership Dues: Adamo reported that an email would be sent automatically from the website to members whose email addresses we have reminding them to renew and that letters would be sent to the few members whose email addresses we do not have. She also indicated that the text of the letter and email should be improved. Greenberg suggested using part of the President's annual report in the letters and emails or perhaps inclosing or attaching a copy of it.

Hensley asked whether there was a difference in the membership year and the fiscal year. Adamo answered that there was because of the need to have membership information to fill out certain reports due at the end of the fiscal year.

A discussion was held about changing to rolling memberships using the capability of the new website. It was generally agreed that this subject should be addressed more fully in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming 1812 Events: Dickinson reviewed the upcoming 1812 events, which are sponsored and supported by such organizations as AHS, the Masonic Temple, OHA, Gunston Hall, and the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association. He also reported that the river cruise on June 14 was sold out, that the British-American cricket match was to be played in the District, rather than Alexandria, and that during the Signature Event, among other activities that day, a boat would be cruising by the waterfront shooting off a cannon every so often.

Wirka mentioned that Carlyle House is holding concerts of 1812 music every Thursday night in June at Carlyle House from 7:30 to 8:30 p. m. She also reported that the Saturday before the 1812 river cruise, she would be passing out information on the event at the National Mall in D.C. from 2:30-4:00 as part of an event called "Raise It Up," which will celebrate the Star Spangled Banner.

Davis reported that the Black History Museum is planning on showing films related to the War of 1812.

President Dickinson: On behalf of the Board and the membership of AHS, Greenberg expressed appreciation to Dickinson for the outstanding job he has done during his terms as president. Dickinson advised that the Board in the future try to work with other history organizations toward common goals and to exchange information with them about the best way to accomplish these goals.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam, Secretary