

NEXT MEETING: September 14, 2010

Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society May 11, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Audrey Davis at the Black History Museum at 6:30 p. m. Other members present were Bob Madison, Anne Paul, Ted Pulliam, Amy BreeLove, Henry Desmarais, Bill Dickinson, Linda Greenberg, Peggy Gross, and Laura Mae Sudder. Also present was Lisa Adamo, who will be nominated as a new board member.

Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Paul provided copies of the Treasurer's report and the membership report (enclosed). She reported that the J.Patten Abshire CD had matured at Burke and Herbert Bank and Trust Company and the funds placed in a new 7 month Burke and Herbert promotional CD at an annual percentage yield of 1.25%. She also reported closing the J. Patten Abshire Savings Account and depositing the funds from that account in a regular money market account titled the Abshire Money Market Account at Burke and Herbert with an annual percentage yield of 0.350%. Paul thought proceeding in this manner was preferable to combining amounts from the CD and the savings account in a money market fund. Members of the Board generally agreed. Paul also suggested that the Board consider appointing a finance committee to consider similar problems in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

History Awards: Members of the Board considered that the awards ceremony went very well (program enclosed). Dickinson reported that he had written the supervisor of the two keynote speakers who were substituted at the last moment praising their admirable contribution to the ceremony on such short notice. He also suggested that the Board arrange for a designated photographer for next year's ceremony, and there was general agreement that should be done. Davis reported that the Alexandria Times is to run an article about the ceremony. Paul praised the delicious refreshments, and several members commented on the particularly tasty carrot cake. Davis said she would prepare a check list of things to do in preparation for next year's ceremony, and Gross volunteered to help with preparing the list. Dickenson mentioned how useful in preparing for this year's ceremony was Paul's compilation of documents from past history award ceremonies. Although retiring from the Board, but not from AHS, Paul volunteered to be co-chairman of the awards ceremony next year.

Madison reported that Jim Munson, the first recipient of the main AHS history award, died last month and that Ross Netherton, a well-known Northern Virginia historian, also died during the past month. Davis said she would send a card to survivors on behalf of AHS.

Nominating Committee Report: Davis reported that the nominating committee, Coleman Chair, had developed the following slate of nominees:

Audrey Davis, President

Peggy Gross, Vice President

Ted Pulliam, Secretary

New Board Members:

Tal Day

Lisa Adamo

Debbie Ackerman

These names will be presented to the Society members for election at the meeting and lecture on May 26. A nominee for Treasurer has not yet been selected, but efforts to find a nominee are continuing.

Committee Chairs for Next Year: Davis asked for volunteers to chair various Board committees. Gross volunteered to be Program Chair. Canady was tentatively listed as the Web Master. Although leaving the Board but not AHS, Madison volunteered to answer emails not needing Board attention and to assist with program planning. Still vacant would be the Membership Chair (although Breedlove volunteered to continue working with the data base and web statistics), Publicity Chair (although Bertsch would prepare the newsletter), and HARC Representative.

Dates of Future Meetings: The future meeting dates were listed at the bottom of the meeting agenda (enclosed) and were agreed to, except that it was agreed that there would not be a June meeting in 2010.

Old Chronicles on the Website: Davis reported that Carrie Joyner had signed a letter of agreement concerning scanning old issues of the *Alexandria Chronicles* onto the website. She agreed to work at a rate of \$14 an hour for no more than 20 hours, as the Board decided upon at an earlier meeting, and she already has started to scan the documents.

Civil War 150th Anniversary: Davis reported that the Fort Ward staff director has scheduled two lectures for the coming year as part of the anniversary: James Barber, author of *Alexandria in the Civil War*, will speak on April 6, 2011, and Wally Owen, Fort Ward staff member and co-author of *Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington*, will speak on October 5, 2011, on the Civil War in Alexandria in 3 Dimension.

NEW BUSINESS

New Programs: Davis reported that Coleman had arranged for the first lecture of the new season. Rawn James, Jr., author of *Root and Branch: Charles Hamilton Houston, Thurgood Marshall, and the Struggle to End Segregation*, will talk on the strange legal strategy that defeated segregation on September 22, 2010. Davis also reported that she, Gross, and Madison will meet to select other programs.

Audit Committee: Paul raised the need to select a committee for the annual audit of the Treasurer's books. A committee composed of Breedlove, Dickinson, and Pulliam was chosen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Update: Madison reported that on May 26, Tony Cohen will speak on the topic "Unshackling History: Recreating Experiences from American Slavery," and that on June 23, Barbara Magid will speak on Alexandria pottery.

Newsletter: Davis circulated a copy of the new edition of the newsletter that Bertsch will be mailing soon.

Chronicle: Davis reported that the next issue of the *Chronicle* will be twice as long as the usual issue and will be published soon.

Website Statistics: Breedlove mentioned that this month's report (enclosed) was about the same as last month's. However, she mentioned that there were three times more sessions logged on this past month than there were the same month last year.

Freedmen's Cemetery Sculpture Steering Committee: Davis reported that on April 22, she sent the letter of support of the cemetery design that the Board discussed at the last meeting.

HARC: Sudder reported that HARC was preparing for the June 5 Gala, at which the Thomas Jefferson letter discovered recently at the American Legion facility will be publicly exhibited for the first time. She reported also that the Board of Architectural Review had approved a design for the Gadsby's Tavern icehouse. She also said that HARC also has sent a letter supporting the preliminary design for Freedmen's Cemetery and that the letter raised questions concerning whether the cemetery was to be treated as a memorial, cemetery, or park; whether there would be a memorandum of understanding among the appropriate entities concerning long-term maintenance of the cemetery, and what would be done with flowers, notes, and other commemorative items that might be left by visitors to the cemetery.

Special Thanks: Davis and other Board members expressed the Board's special thanks for the valuable service rendered by retiring Board members Paul, Madison, Desmarais, and Sudder.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam
Secretary