

NEXT MEETING: November 9, 2010

**Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society
October 12, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Audrey Davis at the Black History Museum at 6:32 p. m. Other members present were Peggy Gross, Rob Stalder, Jackie Cohan, Ted Pulliam, Lisa Adamo, Debbie Ackerman, Amy Bertsch, Amy Breedlove, Katy Cannady, Anne Paul, Tal Day, and Linda Greenberg.

Minutes: The minutes of the September meeting were approved on motion by Paul, second by Day, and unanimous vote. Pulliam circulated copies of the roster of Board members for 2010-2011 (attached).

Treasurer's Report: Stalder presented the treasurer's report (attached).

OLD BUSINESS

April History Awards Assignments:

General Assignments: Davis circulated a list of the assignments for the April History Awards (attached).

Speaker: Davis reported that she had talked with the office of Margaret Spelling, former Secretary of Education, and submitted a request for the former Secretary to be the main speaker at the awards presentation. The person whom Davis talked with was positive about the idea but said that Secretary Spelling had a number of speaking engagements and was planning to do a lot of traveling during the coming months. More would be known in January about her schedule.

Davis asked the Board to be thinking of possible alternatives. Day suggested it would be timely, with cutbacks in humanities programs in colleges and universities, for someone to speak who could make a good case for preserving the humanities.

Awards Selection Committee: Davis announced that the selection committee needed a member who was not on the Board and asked Board members to let her know of someone who would be appropriate.

Refreshment Donations: Davis announced that the person at Whole Foods with whom AHS dealt successfully last year about a donation of refreshments for the awards program was no longer with the organization. As a result, we would need to submit our donation request to the company early for this year.

Board Positions: Davis announced that Laura Mae Sudder would continue to be the AHS representative on HARC for the rest of 2010 (the remainder of her term) and that

Day would become the new AHS representative at the beginning of 2011. Davis earlier circulated by email a report from Sudder on recent HARC activity (attached).

Davis also announced that Cohan will handle publicity for the lectures and Bertsch offered to help her.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee: Davis reported that a committee to nominate new officers and Board members for 2011-2012 should be in place by November in order to have a full slate ready for the society meeting in April. She also announced that she would be stepping down as president at the end of her current term.

Future Lectures: Gross asked for volunteers for various positions for the upcoming lecture by Steven Shephard on October 27. Greenberg volunteered to be the greeter. A position of helping with the Power Point program was left open. Gross also discussed the distribution of flyers advertising the program.

Gross circulated a list of possible speakers for lectures in the spring and fall of 2011 (attached). A general discussion of listed speakers and alternatives followed. Paul suggested that the AHS membership might take a night-time tour of the United Daughters of the Confederacy headquarters on Prince Street as one program and said she would check with the UDC about this possibility. Day suggested that Edmund Ruffin, the person who fired the first shot of the Civil War, would be a good subject for a program.

It was pointed out that some of the several suggested Civil War speakers and ideas for programs would not need to be presented next year but could be good programs during the ongoing commemoration of the War over the next four years. There was general agreement that the speakers list and other ideas were good. Gross said she would begin to contact people on the list to see about their availability.

Taping of AHS Lectures: Davis reported that former Board member Bob Madison, had mentioned to her that audio tapes of past AHS lectures probably had been stored in the Local History/Special Collections branch of the Alexandria Library. She raised the possibility that the tapes could be placed on the website. There was general agreement that this was a good idea.

Concerning recording future lectures, Day offered to look into the cost of certain recording equipment with which he was familiar, and Davis said she would check with genealogist Char Bah about a digital recorder she uses to record oral histories.

Children's Drawing Program: Davis suggested a possible future children's program AHS might want to sponsor. She reported that Leisa Collins teaches children drawing and sketching, and Davis suggested a possible AHS program would be for Collins to teach children to draw historic Alexandria houses. Bertsch suggested such a program might be good for children and grandchildren of AHS members. Members were to think about this suggestion for discussion at a future meeting.

Authors' Book Signings: Paul pointed out that a number of authors of very good books had lectured at past AHS events. She suggested a possible future program would be for AHS to invite some of them to the Lyceum or some other venue before Christmas to speak briefly about their books and sign copies of them.

Civil War Commemoration Kickoff: Davis reported that Susan Cumbey, Director of Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, announced that there would be a meeting at Fort Ward the end of October to plan the kickoff on May 21, 2011 at Market Square of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Davis said she would let Board members know later the exact date of the planning meeting. Anyone interested in attending the meeting and helping with the planning should contact Cumbey by phone or through the Fort Ward website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Update: See the earlier section on Future Lectures.

Newsletter: Bertsch announced that the October newsletter has been mailed. Paul said she thought that issue of the newsletter was very impressive. Davis suggested that Bertsch might do a newsletter in February, and Bertsch agreed to do so.

Bertsch suggested that the Board investigate distributing the newsletter electronically in the future in order to save money on postage, paper, and printing and possibly to have a beneficial effect on the environment. She reported that the last mailing consisted of 240 newsletters. Adamo suggested that if the newsletter is to be distributed electronically, it not be attached as a file. Instead, the forwarding e-mail should include a link to the AHS website where the newsletter would be posted. There was general agreement that receiving the newsletter electronically should be presented to the AHS membership as an option. Bertsch said she would present the option as a possibility in a future newsletter or in the spring membership renewal request.

Chronicle: Greenberg reported that the latest edition of the *Chronicle* was published in late September, and it contained the article by Diane Riker on lamp lighting in Alexandria. The next issue will be published in March and will contain an article by Board member Bertsch on Volusia, a plantation just outside the boundaries of Alexandria that in the early days of the Civil War was the home of slave owners who were loyal to the Union. It was reported that Bertsch gave an excellent presentation on this subject as a recent Morrison House event.

Website Statistics: Breedlove presented the statistics for the AHS website for September 6 – October 11, 2010 (attached). She also reported that AHS now has 281 individual members in 212 households.

Archaeology: Cannady reported that the Alexandria Archaeology Commission had prepared a report on the history of the waterfront, written mainly by Commission member James McCall, and that the report is available on the OHA website. Among other things,

the report describes what took place at particular parts of the waterfront during particular eras.

Cannady also reported that the Commission will be awarding its Ben Brenman Archaeology and History Awards on October 26.

Cannady and Davis reported that Steve Shephard of the Archaeology Office staff will be retiring at the end of this year. Paul suggested that the Board give him a special certificate of thanks for his numerous presentations to AHS over a number of years. There was general agreement that this should be done.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam
Secretary