

NEXT MEETING: February 8, 2011

**Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society
November 9, 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 Peggy Gross, Jackie Cohan, Ted Pulliam, Lisa Adamo, Debbie Ackerman, Amy Breedlove, Tal Day, Bill Dickinson, Linda Greenberg, Anne Paul, and Karen Wilkins.

Minutes: The minutes of the October meeting were approved on motion by Paul, second by Breedlove, and unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Cohan presented the treasurer's report from Rob Stalder (attached). Over the course of the last month, AHS received \$290 in membership fees and donations.

OLD BUSINESS

April History Awards Assignments:

General Assignments: Davis circulated the assignments for the April History Awards:

History Awards Chair: Anne Paul, Co-Chair: Lance Mallamo

Committee: Lisa Adamo and Peggy Gross

High School History Awards Chair: Mary Ruth Coleman/Debbie Ackerman

Presentation Pieces: Mary Ruth Coleman

Guest Speaker: Margaret Spellings, former Secretary of Education – invited

Reception/Refreshments: Jackie Cohan and Linda Greenberg

Program: Amy Breedlove

Proclamation and News Release: Amy Bertsch

Speaker: Davis reported that she had sent a letter to Margaret Spellings, former Secretary of Education, inviting her to be the main speaker. Davis had requested that Secretary Spellings reply by early February. Davis also asked for suggestions for possible alternatives. Paul suggested Vola Lawson, former city manager, a suggestion that met with general approval.

Refreshment Donations: Greenberg volunteered to write a letter to Whole Foods about a donation of refreshments for the awards program.

Senator Ticer: Ackerman volunteered to write Senator Ticer sometime in December inviting her to be a part of the program.

Proclamation: Paul suggested that AHS have Gary Eyler frame the proclamation this year. This suggestion received general approval. Paul said she would arrange the framing.

Nominating Committee for New Board Members: Davis asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to nominate board members and officers for next year. Bill Dickinson volunteered to be Chair and Peggy Gross and Debbie Ackerman volunteered to be members of the committee. All were so assigned. A non-board member of AHS would be chosen later.

Board Positions: Davis confirmed 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 Tal Day would become the new AHS representative beginning in 2011. Davis also announced that Cohan will be in charge of publicity.

NEW BUSINESS

Honorarium for AHS Speakers: Gross asked for a clarification of the AHS policy on honorarium for AHS speakers. The board agreed that the policy was to offer speakers, whether from in town or out of town, an honorarium of \$250 each. It was recognized that some speakers, such as city employees, would not be able and others may be unwilling to accept the honorarium. It was thought appropriate in those cases, if the speaker desired, the speaker could designate a charity, preferably one connected with history activities, to which AHS would pay the honorarium. It also was agreed that in special circumstances, on a case-by-case basis, the board could allow additional funds to a speaker for unusual expenses, for unusual effort in preparing a presentation, or for other reasons that the board determines justify the additional funds.

Civil War Commemoration Kickoff: Davis announced that a meeting would be held at Fort Ward at 6:00 p.m. on November 10 for anyone interested in helping plan the kickoff on May 21, 2011 at Market Square of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Davis also circulated a mission statement for the kickoff event prepared by Susan Cumbey, Director of Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site (attached). Generally the mission statement stated that the event “will enhance the public’s awareness of and appreciation for Alexandria’s Civil War heritage and the Civil War era in general by supporting the Sesquicentennial theme adopted by the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, ‘Alexandria: Witness to War and Reunion.’”

Davis also announced that Amy Bertsch will be responsible for publicity for OHA events for the 150th anniversary and that the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association would be holding a meeting on November 19 (signup at 8:00 a.m., meeting starts at 8:30 a.m.) at Gadsby’s Tavern on marketing the Civil War in Alexandria. Anyone may attend.

Taping of AHS Lectures: Davis reported she had talked with Jerry O’Conner of COMCAST about our obtaining DVDs of AHS lectures that COMCAST had recorded previously. COMCAST was interested in provided the DVDs but needed a list of the AHS lectures it had recorded. Anyone with knowledge of which lectures were recorded should contact Davis.

Adamo suggested that the recording of the lectures might be placed on the AHS website. This was thought to be a good suggestion as long as there were no copyright problems with placing them on the website.

Concerning AHS itself recording future lectures, Day reported that good digital recording equipment could be purchased for under \$500. Davis said she had asked genealogist Char Bah about a digital recorder she uses to record oral histories, and that Bah was to get back to her.

Horace Day Portraits of Black Alexandria: Davis provided each board member with a new catalogue of the exhibit of paintings by Horace Day entitled *Style and Identity: Black Alexandria in the 1970s, Portraits by Horace Day* that is being shown at the Alexandria Black History Museum through April. Horace Day is the father of board member Tal Day.

FACEBOOK: Wilkins suggested that AHS might want to have a presence on FACEBOOK in order to attract younger people to Alexandria history. A general discussion ensued in which Adamo and Davis mentioned the necessity for keeping the entry updated frequently. Day suggested that this could be done partially by placing quotes concerning history on the site and changing them frequently. It was suggested that reporting on the high school history awards would be a good subject for the site. Wilkins volunteered to look further into this possibility.

Washington Civil War History Museum: Paul reported on a recent article in the Washington Post describing plans for a Civil War history museum in the building on 7th Street where a few years ago over 2,000 relics related to Clara Barton were discovered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Update: Gross reported that over 90 people attended the lecture by Steve Shepard and that the event was filmed by COMCAST. COMCAST probably would air the lecture in Alexandria in December. She also reported that James Kelley had been invited to speak in March on “English Faces: Virginia Places” about royals for whom Virginia counties were named and that Kim Holien had been invited to speak in May on the Civil War in Alexandria. She is waiting for them to respond. Dickinson suggested that considering the success of CSPAN recording of Tony Cohen’s lecture on Unshackling History, AHS should continue to cultivate our contact with CSPAN.

Newsletter: Paul suggested that future editions of the newsletter urge people to donate their objects related to Alexandria history (letters, school yearbooks, photographs, books, etc.) to the Local History/Special Collections branch of the Alexandria Library or to AHS for donation to Local History/Special Collections. A general discussion followed in which it was suggested that the board keep a list of things donated to AHS in this way and post it on the website. It also was suggested that AHS should provide a bookplate to place in or with the article indicating that the article had been donated by AHS and by the original donor. Greenberg volunteered to look into providing such a bookplate.

Chronicle: Greenberg reported that the next issue will be published in March or April 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.

Archaeology: Pulliam reported that the Alexandria Archaeology Commission had prepared a report on the history of the waterfront and that the report has been forwarded through HARC and by the Commission to city planners responsible for preparing a plan to improve the Alexandria waterfront. Pulliam also reported that the 2010 Ben Brenman awards for historical preservation and education had been awarded to Wesley Pippenger, author and editor of numerous books on Alexandria history; Ellen Pickering, activist for historic preservation; and Judy McConville, a recently retired teacher in Alexandria City Schools.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam
Secretary