

NEXT MEETING: May 10, 2011

**Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society
April 12, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by President Audrey Davis at the Black History Museum at 6:35 p. m. Other members present were Peggy Gross, Jackie Cohan, Ted Pulliam, Lisa Adamo, Debbie Ackerman, Amy Breedlove, Katy Cannady, Mary Ruth Coleman, Tal Day, Bill Dickinson, Linda Greenberg, and Anne Paul.

Minutes: The minutes of the March meeting were approved with minor changes.

Treasurer's Report: Cohan circulated a profit and loss statement for the year to date and a balance sheet prepared by Rob Stalder (attached). She also indicated that she would provide a membership report by email.

OLD BUSINESS

April History Awards:

The annual history awards will be presented on April 27.

Winners of History Awards: Paul, chair of the history awards committee, reported that the committee had met and had chosen winners from five nominations. The T. Michael Miller Award would be presented to Barb Winters, author of *Letters to Virginia: Correspondence from Three Generations of Virginians Before, During and After the Civil War*. Special Awards would be presented to Don Hakenson, author of *The Forgotten Land, Volume II, Biographical Sketches of Confederate Veterans Buried in Alexandria, Virginia*, and to Benjamin Franklin Cooling III and Walton H. Owen II, authors of *Mr. Lincoln's Fort: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington*. She indicated that Mr. Cooling would not be able to attend the April presentation. On a motion by Greenberg, second by Day, the Board agreed to present the award to him during the June program. Paul requested that people making nominations for future awards include contact information for those nominated and that this request be made part of future announcements requesting nominations.

Programs, Publicity, and Proclamation: Paul circulated a revised format for the programs, one that would give additional information on the school history award criteria and recipients. She also will arrange for printing the program. She reported that Bertsch had prepared a press release and a proclamation. Paul will arrange for the proclamation to be framed.

Senator Ticer: Paul reported that there were only four times since the history awards have been given that Senator Ticer, in her capacity as mayor or state senator, has not presented the awards. The board agreed to present her this year with a bouquet of flowers and an appropriate resolution of thanks suitably framed and also to inform her

that these gifts do not mean she will not again be asked to present the awards. Cannady is to purchase the flowers, and Paul is to draft the resolution.

Photographer: Paul indicated that Louise Kraft has agreed to be the photographer for the awards presentation, and Dickinson volunteered to be available as a backup.

High School History Awards: Coleman, chair of the high school history awards, reported that all schools had submitted their nominations for the high school history awards. She and Ackerman had purchased the silver awards, and they were in the process of being engraved. She also reported that the certificates had been sent to the calligrapher and that she will purchase frames for them.

Speaker: Davis reported that Vola Lawson has been confirmed as the speaker for the awards ceremony.

Refreshments: Greenberg reported that arrangements for food (including carrot cake) have been made. Anyone wanting to help setup after 6:30 on the awards day will be welcomed. Davis said that volunteers to stay after the ceremony to help clean up also would be welcomed.

Fort Ward/Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery: Gross circulated copies of the letter and email sent March 10 from AHS to the city council encouraging the city to preserve the graves and history of the early African-American community at Fort Ward and thanked board members for their help with drafting the message. She and Davis reported that Lance Mallamo, Director of OHA, reported that the council had received 12-14 letters in support of preserving the graves and history, and that they were well received.

Nominating Committee for Next Year's Board: Coleman, chair of the nominating committee, reported that the nomination for treasurer next year will be Jackie Cohan, rather than Rob Stalder. She also reported that Dave Cavanaugh and Adrienne Washington had agreed to serve as new members on the board and that Katy Cannady had agreed to continue as the Archaeology Commission representative.

The Board thanked Amy Breedlove for her excellent service on the Board and particularly for her work on the website statistics. Lisa Adamo will take over the website statistics duties next year.

Donation to AHS: Davis reported talking with Special Collections branch of the Alexandria Library and the Lyceum about their receiving two items recently donated to AHS by Hayden M. Wetzell: an old blotting paper with the name of Robert Bell, Alexandria Bookseller, printed on it and a poster printed in 1858 advertising the horse Ephraim as standing at stud under arrangement with William B. Scarce of Alexandria. Davis said that both organizations were interested in the items but that neither wanted to accept them as loans. After discussion, the Board agreed that AHS should donate the items to the Lyceum. The Board thought the items were more useful if displayed than kept for research and the Lyceum was more likely to display them yet still would make

them available to researchers. Davis was to arrange for the donation to the Lyceum, and Paul wrote a letter to Mr. Wetzell acknowledging his donation and thanking him for it.

AHS Grants: Davis reported that consideration of AHS making grants to worthwhile projects would be an item on the agenda for the next meeting. At the February meeting, Coleman, Davis, Wilkins, and Gross were appointed to a committee to investigate this idea and report back to the board.

NEW BUSINESS

Civil War Festival: Davis announced that there would be a Civil War Festival at Market Square on Saturday, May 21, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. She said that AHS was offered a table or a shared table at the festival at no charge. The Board agreed to man a shared table and to hand out copies of articles on the Civil War that have appeared in issues of the *Chronicle*, particularly the article in the recent edition by Amy Bertsch on the Volusia plantation and an article that would appear later this month by Diane Riker on the treatment of Alexandria citizens suspected of disloyalty to the Union. Ackerman volunteered to man the table, and Coleman tentatively volunteered. Davis urged other members also to consider volunteering.

Banner for AHS: Dickinson suggested that AHS should have a banner with the AHS logo on it that would be suitable for display on the podium at lectures and at events such as the Civil War Festival. The suggestion met with general agreement.

Answering Emails for AHS: Davis reported that Bob Madison had been answering emails that AHS received but would like to pass that task to someone else. Greenberg and Adamo agreed to talk with each other about assuming that responsibility.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Update: Gross reported that the March program with Dr. James Kelley speaking on “English Faces: Virginia Places” about royals for whom Virginia counties were named had been successful with an attendance of 83 people. She reported that Barb Winters, author of *Letters to Virginia*, would be the June speaker and that Ted Pulliam, author of a forthcoming history of Alexandria, and Don Hakenson, author of *Forgotten Land*, will speak in the fall. All authors will be able to sign and sell their books as part of these programs.

Newsletter: Davis requested, on behalf of Bertsch, that any request for items in the May newsletter be submitted to Bertsch by April 25.

Chronicle: Greenberg reported that an article by Diane Riker on the treatment of Alexandria citizens suspected of disloyalty to the Union would be in the next issue, which will come out later this month.

Web Statistics: Breedlove reported on the latest compilation of statistics on the use of the AHS website (attached).

Archaeology Commission: Cannady reported that James McCall of the Archaeology Commission had spoken on behalf of the Archaeology Commission at a recent Planning Commission meeting on the city's waterfront plan. His comments mentioned inclusion of a report on the history of the waterfront prepared by the Archaeology Commission as an appendix to the plan but pointed out several items of the report's recommendations that should be included also as part of the waterfront plan itself. The head of the Planning Commission made comments favorable to the history report, which was encouraging for inclusion of the Archaeology Commission's items in the plan.

She also reported that past and present city budgets have eliminated funds for staffing the Archaeology Museum on Sundays, even though that is the day of the week that the museum receives the most visitors, 400 this past Sunday. The Museum has been kept open with volunteers and one paid Archaeology staffer who has shifted one of her normal workdays to Sunday. Thus on Sundays she does her normal work and is available to the volunteers if needed. This is a difficulty that could be remedied by only an appropriation of \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year.

HARC: Day reported that HARC recently sent a letter to the city limited to supporting the arts and history aspects of the waterfront plan and taking no position on other aspects.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam
Secretary