

NEXT MEETING: February 14, 2012

Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society November 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Dickinson at the Black History Museum at 6:36 p.m. Other members present were Peggy Gross, Anne Paul, Ted Pulliam, Audrey Davis, Debbie Ackerman, Lisa Adamo, Amy Bertsch, Dave Cavanaugh, Jackie Cohan, Linda Greenberg, and Katy Cannady.

Minutes: The minutes of the October board meeting were approved with some changes.

Treasurer's Report: Paul circulated a treasurer's report for the month of October (attached). Paul indicated that the \$84 listed in the report as a disparity referred to a check made out to Minutemen Press that had not been cashed. She also reported that all board members had paid their dues. Dickinson suggested that future Treasurer's Reports include the number of individuals and the number of families who paid dues that month. Paul said she would include those figures.

OLD BUSINESS

Feedback on Last AHS Lecture: Dickinson and others reported that the October lecture given by board member Pulliam was well attended and went well. A discussion was held concerning increasing publicity for future talks. Cohan volunteered to help with publicity for future lectures.

Banner and Sign for Events: Dickinson displayed the banner bearing the AHS logo and indicated that this banner and one for the podium had cost less than the amount agreed upon in the last meeting. He also reported that both had been used successfully at the October lecture. The banners met with general approval.

Acknowledgement of New AHS Members: Greenberg circulated a draft of letter to be sent to new members (attached). She earlier had emailed it to board members, and there was general agreement that the draft should be used for future new members.

Membership and Annual Dues: Paul and Cohan reported that 14 new members had joined AHS so far in this membership year. Paul reported that anyone joining after March 31 in any year was considered a new member for the following fiscal year July 1-June 30. Cohan reported that she was about to send out second notices to members who had not yet renewed their membership and circulated a list of those members (attached). She also said she would include in the accompanying membership form a request for the member's email address.

AHS Budget: Dickinson indicated that an AHS budget would be helpful with planning for the future, particularly in setting goals, developing a strategic plan, and growing the

organization. He circulated a draft budget (attached) and indicated that anyone with comments should email him. He particularly was interested in comments on the categories that he used for budget items in the draft. He also suggested that AHS needed a purchase order system, which met with general agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Use of Excess Copies of the *Chronicle* for AHS Membership Recruitment: Dickinson reported that he had passed out at the October lecture and at the fund raiser for the Gladwin Record copies of the Spring #2 issue of the *Chronicle* along with a membership form. He suggested that they also could be passed out at other places frequented by people who might be interested in joining AHS. The following people agreed to take copies to the following places: Ackerman—Lyceum and Gadsby’s Tavern, Pulliam—Special Collections/Local History and Duncan branches of the Alexandria Library, Dickinson—Burke and Beatley branches of the Library, and Greenberg—Carlyle House. Greenberg indicated that for future such handouts, it might be possible to get a special reproduction rate from Kinko’s. Greenberg and Cavanaugh suggested that greeters pass out similar handouts at AHS lectures.

Copyright of the *Chronicle*: Dickinson suggested it would be good to ensure that the *Chronicle* was given copyright protection. He suggested that this subject should be discussed at a subsequent meeting when board member Day was in attendance. It was suggested that the writers of articles needed to be informed of the status of copyright protection for *Chronicle* articles.

AHS 2012 Awards: Dickinson indicated that it was time to begin planning for the 2012 City and High School AHS History Awards. Paul and Davis were named co-chairs of the Alexandria History Awards. It was suggested that Coleman might be willing to continue her past role with the High School Awards. All board members were urged to think of a possible speaker. (Coleman later reported that Ackerman had agreed to take over as chair for the High School Awards.)

Coordination with the Virginia Historical Society: Paul mentioned that in the past the VHS had met with its Alexandria members and suggested that we might want to establish a connection with VHS. In a following discussion, it was suggested that such a connection might be useful in finding out about VHS events and in locating future AHS speakers. It was suggested that AHS might become members of VHS, and Paul agreed to investigate the cost of a membership.

American Legion Building: Davis reported that the old American Legion building in the Parker-Gray Historical District is for sale. If purchased within 14 months, the building will be preserved. If not, the current owner is free to tear it down.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Update: Gross handed out a new list of future speakers that included speakers for March, May, June, and September of 1012 (attached).

Newsletter: Bertsch reported that the next newsletter will be published in March. Paul praised the letter from President Dickinson that was contained in the last newsletter.

Chronicle: Greenberg reported that the fall issue of the *Chronicle* was published in October.

Website: Adamo reported that she will continue to add to the website copies of the *Chronicle*, the newsletter, and the Board minutes as she receives them.

Archaeology: Cannady reported that the fundraiser for preservation of the original Gladwin Record, the written record of the names of the contrabands and freedmen buried at the Contraband and Freedmen's Cemetery, had been a great success. The Library of Virginia, which has the Record, needed \$1,500 to preserve it, and as of the day after the fundraiser, \$5,000 had been raised. The excess over \$1,500 would be used to help pay expenses for celebration of the opening of the Contraband and Freedmen's Cemetery.

Constitution and Bylaws: Gross reported that she was arranging a meeting of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for early January.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam
Secretary