

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2012

**Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society
February 14, 2012**

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, Tal Day, Linda Greenberg, Adrienne Washington, and Karen Wilkins.

Minutes: The minutes of the November board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Paul circulated a treasurer's report for the period November 1, 2011 to January 31, 2012 (attached). Paul noted the low interest on the Abshire CD, which matures soon, and she suggested the Board might want to consider moving the CD to a different bank.

Dickinson announced that AHS had received a donation of \$400 from Carol and Catherine Nackenoff in memory of former AHS president, Doug Thurman. The Nackenoff's hoped that the funds could be used in an appropriate way to memorialize Doug. In the discussion that followed, it was mentioned that Doug had suggested that a plaque with the names of all the past presidents of AHS be purchased and displayed at an appropriate place. A motion was made by Greenberg and seconded by Adamo that a part of the funds be used to pay for engraving of names of past presidents of AHS to be mounted on a plaque that would hang in the Lyceum. The motion passed unanimously. Ackerman will pick up the plaque and have the names of the past presidents engraved.

Paul suggested that the Board decide in which AHS bank fund donations of unrestricted funds should be deposited. Adamo moved and Davis seconded a motion to deposit donations of unrestricted funds, including memorials, in the endowment fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul also presented recommendations for other practices that AHS treasurers should follow, such as making deposits the same month they are received and making timely filings with the State Corporation and the IRS. The practices were listed on the second page of the Treasurer's Report. Paul clarified one item as meaning that the treasurer should pay all bills within thirty days. Pulliam moved that these recommendations be adopted as Board policy for the treasurer. Greenberg seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

BUSINESS SINCE LAST MEETING: Dickinson responded to a letter asking about the location of the Convalescent Camp in Alexandria during the Civil War. Also, an email discussion was held among Board members about a request from a video production company to tape AHS lectures and put them on our website. After several

emails, it appeared that there were many points to consider and the offer was not accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership:

Paul circulated a report of label and membership changes from November 7, 2011 to today (attached). She said she would prepare a new membership roster in April. Cohan said she would circulate a current membership roster.

Copyright of the *Chronicle*: Dickinson asked Day to address procedures for copyrighting the *Chronicle*. Day indicated that in order to be able to sue to enforce a copyright, AHS would need to register its copyright for each issue of the *Chronicle*. He also mentioned that we might want to copyright the *Chronicle* name. Bertsch mentioned that there also was the possibility of labeling the *Chronicle* as part of a “creative commons,” which would have the effect of asserting AHS’s ownership of the *Chronicle* but allowing general use of an article as long as the user cited the article or information taken from it as appearing in the *Chronicle*. Greenberg said that AHS did not want to prevent people from using information in the *Chronicle*, but we did want to get credit for bringing the information to people’s attention. Day said he would draft appropriate language for labeling the *Chronicle* as “creative commons” for consideration at the next meeting.

Use of Excess Copies of the *Chronicle* for AHS Membership Recruitment: Dickinson reported that he had left copies of the Spring #2 issue of the *Chronicle* along with a membership form at several places in Alexandria, and they seemed to have been well received. Ackerman, Pulliam, and Greenberg indicated they also had passed out copies and membership forms. Dickinson indicated that there were more copies available and suggested that they be handed out at future Alexandria Civil War events. Two upcoming events mentioned were a balloon ascent at Fort Ward on April 28 and a celebration of the Fort Ward African-American community at Fort Ward on June 2.

AHS 2012 Awards: Arrangements for the annual awards programs set for April 25 were discussed.

Refreshments: Greenberg volunteered to be in charge of the refreshments at the event, and Cohan offered to help her.

Speaker: Paul suggested Margaret Spelling as the speaker, and Davis volunteered to write to Spelling about that possibility. The new Alexandria city manager was suggested as a possible backup speaker.

T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award: Paul indicated that a letter had been sent to various people and organizations seeking nominations for the T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award. One nomination had been received so far, and Paul would like to receive more nominations. March 5 is the deadline for receiving nominations. Paul hoped to select recipients by March 20. Members of the committee to consider the

nominations are Cavanaugh, Davis, Dickinson, Paul, Lance Mallamo, George Combs, and Wanda McDowell.

High School History Awards: Ackerman reported that this week she will be making contacts with the appropriate teachers at the schools about their nominees. Ackerman will purchase the awards.

Printed Program: Dickinson indicated that finding someone to prepare the program will be an early item on the agenda next month. Paul volunteered to take the draft program to the printer.

Constitution and Bylaws: Gross circulated copies of suggested amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws developed by a committee that she chaired (attached). The amendments were favorably received during an extensive discussion during which some changes were suggested. Gross will make the changes generally agreed on and resubmit amendments to the Board before the March meeting. The Board will consider the resubmitted amendments at the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Officer and Board Nominating Committee: Dickinson appointed Gross to chair a committee to nominate officers and Board members for the coming year that begins in June. Pulliam, Cavanaugh, and Wilkins were appointed members of the committee.

Rosenwald School Special Lecture: Dickinson circulated a new book entitled *You Need a Schoolhouse* by Stephanie Deutsch. The book is about Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald, and the building of schools for African Americans in the segregated South. Dickinson suggested that AHS sponsor a lecture by the author in conjunction with other organizations, such as the NAACP. Such a lecture might be held at T. C. Williams High School. Washington mentioned that T.C. Williams was built on the site of a Rosenwald school. The suggestion met with general approval, and Dickinson said he would pursue the possibility.

Future History Events: Davis reported organizations were beginning to plan for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Davis also reported that on February 21st at the Lyceum from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. the Virginia Historical Society will hold a workshop to learn how to use a new Virginia Slave Name Data Base. Also, Arlington House and the Alexandria Black History Museum are developing programs on slave life at Arlington House. In this connection, the National Park Service is rededicating the North Slave Quarters at Arlington House on February 18 at 1:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Update: Gross reported that the speaker for March will be Michael Johnson, retired Senior Archaeologist of Fairfax County, who will speak on what recent archaeological and historical research has revealed about the Dogue Indian tribe, the last to inhabit Alexandria and Fairfax and Prince William Counties. The May speaker will be

Anthony Pitch, who will speak on his new book about the Abraham Lincoln assassination. The June speaker will be Michael Pope speaking on his new book about the time when Alexandria was part of the District of Columbia.

Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery: Wilkins reported that by the December meeting of the committee to choose a design for the statue at the Cemetery 38 people had submitted proposals for the statue. The committee plans later to settle on three of the proposals to submit detailed designs and hopes to choose a final design by the end of the summer.

Newsletter: Paul suggested that the March newsletter indicate that the Board was seeking people interested in being officers or Board members and that anyone interested should contact Gross, chair of the nominating committee.

Chronicle: Greenberg reported that the next issue of the *Chronicle* would be published in April, and it would contain an article on the burial of George Washington at Mount Vernon.

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. She also will circulate later the latest web statistics.

HARC: Day reported that HARC earlier had sent a letter supporting the historical elements in the City's waterfront plan. He also reported that at a retreat in January to discuss the future of HARC, the members had agreed to emphasize supporting the preservation of Alexandria's historical structures, encouraging support of historical features and stories unique to Alexandria, and encouraging preparation and preservation of neighborhood history. In addition, he reported that OHA was pursuing a blanket accreditation for all Alexandria history museums. OHA also soon would begin procedures leading to the submission of a historical resources plan to the City Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam
Secretary