

## **NEXT MEETING: October 9, 2012**

### **Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society**

**September 11, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Dickinson at the Black History Museum at 6:44 p.m. Other members present were Lisa Adamo, Ted Pulliam, Debbie Ackerman, Dave Cavanaugh, Audrey Davis, Linda Greenberg, and Adrienne Washington.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the June Board meeting and June 27<sup>th</sup> membership meeting were approved. The Board also made changes to a draft roster of Board members for 2012-2013.

**Treasurer's Report:** Adamo circulated a Treasurer's Report for 1 July through 31 August 2012 and a Treasurer's Membership Report for 1 April through 31 August 2012 (attached). She mentioned that error noted in the report was due to a bank's depositing the proceeds from the matured Abshire CD in the AHS checking account rather than the Abshire Money Market Account. That error has been corrected. She also indicated that the Membership Report included only the paid members. The report notes that to date there are 45 fewer members than last year, an indication that some of last year's members have not yet paid their dues for the current year. Greenberg and Ackerman volunteered to call those old members who had not yet paid letting them know about some of the Society's future activities and urging them to send in their dues. They were to obtain a list from Cohan to use in making the calls.

Dickinson reported that he was preparing a letter to be mailed to new and returning Society members that would tell them of upcoming activities and include a questionnaire concerning future programs, members' interests and talents, and similar items. He indicated that he would circulate a draft of the letter to Board members before sending it.

Adamo also indicated that the annual audit of the Society's books had been carried out over the summer and had found no unresolved discrepancies.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Amendments to AHS Constitution and Bylaws:** Adamo indicated she would obtain the final copy of the amended AHS Constitution and Bylaws from Peggy Gross and post it on the website.

**Election of Linda Greenberg:** Adamo moved and Ackerman seconded a motion to elect Linda Greenberg to a vacant position on the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

**Rosenwald School Special Lecture:** Dickinson reported that the Alexandria school system still is considering holding an event to celebrate the Rosenwald School and Seminary Schools that were located in Alexandria. He also indicated that author Stephanie Deutsch would like to be a part of the event. Davis reported that Linwood Smith is interested in constructing a model of the Rosenwald School; however, he underwent a medical procedure last month, and it is not clear when he might be able to work on the model. Dickinson reported that he is urging former city councilman Ludwig Gaines, who now heads a city civil rights group, to be a prime sponsor of the event.

**Past AHS Presidents' Plaque:** Ackerman reported that with the help of Greenberg, Cohan, Paul, and Davis she almost has completed her search for contact information on past presidents

or relatives of past presidents. The information would be used to invite them to the ceremony presenting the plaque honoring past AHS presidents. The ceremony is to be held at the October lecture. It was generally agreed that when the plaque is presented, the name of each past president and the time when he or she served as president would be read.

A short reception for the past presidents and relatives is to be held after the lecture. Ackerman and Greenberg volunteered to work together to provide cookies and lemonade for the reception. Davis suggested that a photographer also was needed for the event, and Ackerman agreed to ask Day to be the photographer. Greenberg suggested that the past presidents be provided with nametags.

**War of 1812 Events in Alexandria:** Pulliam reported that the city committee on commemorating the War of 1812 was generally inactive over the summer. Dickinson suggested that the committee consider at its next meeting putting together a task force to investigate chartering a boat in August – September 2014 to travel from Alexandria down the Potomac River to Fort Belvoir to commemorate American and British actions in Alexandria and on the Potomac in 1814. The public would be invited on the paddle-wheel *Cherry Blossom* or the dining boat *Odyssey* to hear 1812 historians, like Patrick O’Neal or Carole Herrick, and interact with 1812 living history docents as they passed by scenes where important events on the river took place during the British invasion of 1814. Dickinson also mentioned that the presentations on board could cover ecological subjects. The *Cherry Blossom*, for example, would cost about \$5,000 and hold about 350 people. Sponsors could be sought, such as National Harbor, the Potomac Riverboat Company, and the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association. Pulliam agreed to present this idea to the next meeting of the city’s War of 1812 committee.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Alexandria Chronicle:** Greenberg reported that the next addition of the *Chronicle* would be published in mid-October. It would contain an article by Dan Hicks on runaway slaves in Northern Virginia in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Program Update:** The next lecture will be held on September 26. Carole Herrick, author of *August 24, 1814: Washington in Flames*, will talk on events in the War of 1812 that took place in Washington and Alexandria.

**Newsletter and Program Flyer:** Adamo and Dickinson suggested that, considering the closeness of the next lecture, the newsletter and flyer could be sent out by email as well as regular mail. Adamo reported that the Board has email addresses for about half of its members. Dickinson urged maximizing attendance at the next lecture. Davis indicated that the lecture information and possibly the flyer could be inserted, with the approval of Office of Historic Alexandria’s director Lance Mallamo, in the weekly email message from OHA on history-related events. Greenberg was to supply Cohan with addresses for news organizations, which need to be notified two weeks in advance of the event in order to include event information.

**Website Statistics:** Adamo circulated to Board members earlier today by email the website statistics (attached). She suggested that she do the same in the future and that the website statistics not be a separate agenda item unless someone wanted to discuss them.

Adamo also reported that there were only three issues of the *Chronicle* that were not on the website. Greenberg mentioned that Cohan at the city Archives had copies of them.

**Archaeology:** Washington reported that organization of Fort Ward descendants and the Alexandria Archaeology Office were having discussions about the amount of archaeology remaining to be done at Fort Ward. She indicated that at this point some 44 graves have been located outside the graveyard that earlier had been fenced in but that there probably were more graves at the Fort Ward site that had not been located.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Fort Ward Event:** Washington announced that the Fort Ward descendants' organization is sponsoring a lecture by author and historian C. R. Gibbs on Alexandria and the Underground Railroad to be held from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Oakland Baptist Church on September 22.

**Strategic Objectives for 2012-2013:** Dickinson reported that he is working on possible objectives for AHS that will be presented for discussion at a later time.

**AHS on Facebook:** Coster earlier had circulated a memo on Facebook and Social Media for AHS (attached) but was not able to attend tonight's meeting. There was a short discussion of the subject in which it was generally thought that the idea was a good one, particularly in its potential for attracting young people to AHS. Concerns, however, also were noted, such as the need to maintain the Facebook page, which must be updated at least weekly; to establish clear goals and expectations for the page; and to keep followers of the page engaged. The discussion was to be continued at the next meeting.

**Parker-Gray Community Exhibition:** Davis passed out cards about the current exhibition at the Black History Museum entitled "The Spirit of a Neighborhood Revisited: The Parker-Gray Community, 1985-1986" featuring photographs by Carol G. Siegel. A reception to view the exhibit is to be held at the Black History Museum on Thursday, September 27 from 6-8 p.m.

**Southern Viewpoint on the Civil War:** Dickinson mentioned being approached by Ellen Tabb, a former history teacher in Alexandria, about balancing Alexandria's depiction of the Civil War by giving more expression to the point of view of the South. A short discussion ensued that was to be continued at the next meeting when program-chair Gross is expected to be available.

**Death of Carlton Funn:** Davis announced that Carlton Funn died this morning. He was a longtime teacher and historian, a dedicated supporter of African American history and of the Black History museum, and a founder of the Alexandria Society for Preservation of Black History.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam, Secretary