

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Board Meeting – Alexandria Historical Society

May 13, 2014

President Bill Dickinson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. at the Black History Museum. Other members present were Debbie Ackerman, Lisa Adamo, Ted Pulliam, Dave Cavanaugh, Jackie Cohan, Sarah Coster, Audrey Davis, Tal Day, Linda Greenberg, and Mark Whatford.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes: Pulliam had circulated the minutes earlier by email and had incorporated comments received in response. Greenberg motioned that the minutes be approved, Day seconded, and the vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

Treasurer's Financial and Membership Report: Adamo had earlier circulated her financial and membership reports for April and May, 2014 (attached) and a detailed membership report for membership year 2013—2014 (summary attached). The financial report for April for the first time contained information on funds received through PayPal and deposited in the AHS checking account. This report covered the period 1 September 2013 (the month the account became operational) through 31 March 2014. During that period, 22 members joined through PayPal. The report also contained the amount paid in fees to PayPal at a little over 4% of amount collected. The report for May covered the PayPal information for that month. The Board thought the results worth the fee.

The AHS membership year ends the end of March, and the detailed membership report covered 1 April 2013—31 March 2014. At the end of the membership year, AHS had 177 members compared with 190 members the end of the membership year in 2013.

As additional relevant financial information, Dickinson reported paying for the room and evening meal of the recent speaker, Alan Taylor, but also recouping that cost by purchasing, with Taylor's help, copies of his book from the publisher's at cost and then selling them, signed by Taylor, the night of his talk at full cover price. Dickinson also sold some books to OHA at cost.

Website Report: Coster reported that during the month of April the AHS website had 328 unique visitors, most to the Homepage and the events section. In April for the first time members were allowed to register for attendance at events through the website, and that process has been successful. In the coming week she plans to upload to the website photos from recent events and information on the History Awards winners.

President's Report: Dickinson reported that the History Awards program had been a great success with 50-60 people in attendance. Ackerman and Davis agreed that it had been successful

as did other Board members. The talk by Patrick O'Neill also was successful with over 60 people in attendance. The Taylor talk drew 100 or so people and was very popular.

He also reported on several other events related to the War of 1812. The showing of "Master and Commander" at the Old Town Theater drew 100 plus people and raised \$2,800 for the U.S. Wounded Warriors Fund, plus \$700 for support of the Alexandria public events commemorating the War of 1812.

A press preview was held at the Decatur House in the District where the District, Maryland, and Virginia presented to the media their programs for commemorating the War of 1812. Both Dickinson and Coster thought Alexandria made a very good presentation.

Dickinson attended an Open House at the British embassy and distributed information on Alexandria's 1812 events (attached), including a boat cruise on June 14. He also carried a 15-star American flag, like the flag flown during the war. The flag had been made and donated to the 1812 commemoration committee by the National Capital Flag Company.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Chronicle: Greenberg reported that the next issue of the Chronicle will be published in the fall. The diary of John Zimmerman, a confederate soldier from Alexandria, will be its subject. She also reported that she had been contacted by a man from Florida who once lived in Alexandria, and he is proposing to write an article on Alexandria from 1941 to 1951, which would be published in a future issue.

Speakers: Ackerman reminded the Board that Mary Ann Jung will present Rosie the Riveter this coming Tuesday, May 20. Her presentation is very kid friendly and will include some audience participation. The June talk will be Char Bah, Audrey Davis, Gwen Brown-Henderson, Christa Watters, and James Henson speaking on their book *Africa Americans in Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the 20th Century*. On May 28, Steve Vogel will talk about his recent book *Through the Perilous Fight: Six Weeks that Saved the Nation*.

Newsletter: Cohan reported that the next edition of the newsletter will be distributed this week. Most copies of the newsletter will be sent by email, but about 50 will go by hardcopy for those members who have not furnished their email addresses.

Membership: Much to the approval of the Board, Whatford volunteered to be the membership chairman, with the help of proposed new Board member Helen Wirka.

On membership renewals, it was agreed that the first contact with members asking them to renew their memberships would be made on July 1, as in the past. For the first time and on a trial basis, the contact would be made electronically for those whose email addresses AHS has. The possibility that the email would be buried in other emails that arrived in a member's email site was considered, but it was thought that the electronic contact should be tried. As in the past, follow up contact would be in September. It also was thought to be a good idea to re-approach

people who have dropped their membership in the past membership year. Adamo and Cohan would work together on the wording for the July 1 message.

Dickinson and Adamo mentioned problems with using the Lyceum mailbox as the mailbox for AHS. The possibility of renting a regular post office box rather than using the Lyceum mailbox was discussed. It was agreed that the Board would rent a post office box and that while this is being done, Jim Mackay, prospective new Board member and Director of the Lyceum, could keep a close watch on AHS mail in the Lyceum mailbox.

HARC: Day reported that HARC was going to meet with the staff of Fort Ward on May 20th to learn more about the Fort Ward management plan and particularly how areas of ground within the fort were to be dealt with in the plan.

Nominations: Greenberg submitted the report of the nominating committee, consisting of Greenberg, Davis, and Cohan. The slate of nominations is:

President: Debbie Ackerman
 Vice President: Audrey Davis
 Treasurer: Tal Day
 Secretary: Ted Pulliam

Board Members nominated for expiring Board seats or seats vacated by the occupant's becoming an officer (resumes of new members to the Board are attached):

Mark Whatford
 Helen Wirka
 Mark Hill
 Dennis Hensley
 Jim Mackay

Greenberg moved that the slate be accepted for presentation to AHS members at the annual meeting on May 28, Cohan seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

AHS Brochure: Greenberg is to work with Adamo on a new brochure.

Not-for-Profit Mailing Privileges: Greenberg reported that she had filed the paperwork to obtain the proper approval.

Financial Support for War of 1812 Commemoration Events: Dickinson asked whether the Board wanted to provide financial support for the War of 1812 commemoration events that were free to the public, not for the ticketed events. He said the events, particularly the signature event on August 31, would need to provide and pay for police presence, emergency personnel services, portable toilets, literature, and similar services and items. Whatford offered to match the amount

AHS provided. After a discussion, Coster moved that AHS provide \$500 out of the savings account. Day seconded the motion, and the motion was approved

Videotape of the Vogel Lecture: Dickinson noted that the Board had approved spending \$300 to videotape the Taylor lecture, but that Taylor had not wanted his lecture taped. Dickinson suggested using the \$300 to tape the Vogel lecture instead, if Vogel approved. Pulliam moved that the \$300 be used to tape the Vogel lecture, and Day seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Letters on the Edmondson Sisters and the Elsworth Plaque: Dickinson reported that he had not yet drafted letters on the language for the Edmondson statute or the plaque on Elsworth for the Monaco Hotel but would do so soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Sponsorship of the Lambert Lecture in September: Dickinson asked whether AHS should sponsor the lecture in early September by Andrew Lambert on Admiral Sir Charles Napier, the captain of one of the British ships that sailed up the Potomac River to capture Alexandria in 1814. This issue was postponed until the next meeting.

AHS Booth at August War of 1812 Signature Event: Dickinson asked whether the Board wanted to have a booth at the signature event to distribute information about AHS. It was agreed that AHS should have a booth at the event.

Annual Audit: Cohan, Day, and Davis volunteered to be on the committee to perform the annual audit of AHS finances. Cohan would be the chair of the committee.

Annual Filings: Adamo said she would submit the annual filings required of AHS by the U.S. and Virginia governments.

End of Year Review: Dickinson said he would prepare the review. Board members are to prepare a summary of their activities to include in the report.

Hermoine Project: Adamo mentioned that the *Hermoine*, a reproduction of the ship that carried General Lafayette to America in 1780 with troops and supplies to support the American Revolution, will be in Alexandria on June 19, 2015. The ship now is being built in France. Lafayette visited Alexandria in 1824 and possibly earlier.

Pride of Baltimore: It was announced that the *Pride of Baltimore* would dock at the Colonial Farm on the Maryland shore of the Potomac in July.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Pulliam, Secretary