

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

Minutes of the Board of Managers Meeting, 11 January 2001

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

8 February 2001

President Cheyney called the meeting to order promptly at 4:00 p.m. in the Grant Room of the Union League in Philadelphia. Chaplain Proctor led the Board in prayer.

PRESENT: Messrs. Burke, Cheyney, Clattenburg, Di Stefano, Fenstermacher, Flood, Gresh, Hoyt, Lewis, Lincoln, Lloyd, Loughran, Morgan, Morris, Peltier, Proctor, Shirk, Van Gulick, and Walkup.

READING OF THE MINUTES: President Cheyney asked if there were any questions, additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2001. Minor corrections in grammar and spelling were noted and accepted for correction. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved, as amended.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Clattenburg reported that regrets had been received from Messrs. Byrne, Congdon, Fitzgerald, Gordon, Groff, Moak, Maiden, and Moore.

The Secretary reported the current membership of the Society, as of 1 February 2001, is 1,033 active members. The roster includes 16 Life members and one regular member about whom the Society has no current address; there are 27 Junior Life members. The total of all classes of members is 1,077.

The Society has received one request for resignation from Derick B. Van Schoonhoven. It was decided the President would attend to a follow-up on this member and to see if another status (Old Guard) was applicable. If no other status is available, the request for resignation will be respected.

A request for reinstatement was received by Blaine W. Scott III (dues paid) and a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the member as reinstated into "active status" in good standing. Notice would be issued from the Secretary of the reinstatement. The Secretary also reported that Charles B. Landreth was a New Life Member.

The Secretary noted that the combined three year edition of the Proceedings was ready for the printer but if any member saw the need for further corrections, edits, or additions are to please report them to the Secretary or the Executive Secretary as soon as possible. President Emeritus Mark Lloyd asked the members to please assist with the final review of

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

Minutes of the Board of Managers Meeting, 11 January 2001

the Proceedings and noted his belief that corrections could still be made over the next two weeks.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Van Gulick reported that the Society had not received the monthly Mellon bank statement for the January period and that only current activity was received on the 2001 Budget report because the Executive Secretary had just received the budget to be loaded into the 2001 year file. A meeting will be held with the audit firm shortly to communicate the concerns from last year and discuss this year's procedures with the managing partner (Dick Carlin) of the firm. Upon motion made and seconded, the report was accepted unanimously.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Registrar Morgan reported the following deaths: Robert Middleton Melville - died January 1, 2001 (1929-2001) and David H, Kollock III - died January 26, 2001 (1916-2001). President Cheyney asked all those present to rise, and Reverend Proctor led the members in memorial prayer.

Registrar Morgan reported that he had also investigated suitable storage space, subject to construction, at the Racquet Club basement that he felt would be adequate for the Society's archival needs, however, no fee or rent was ascertained. He questioned whether the Color Guard might be interested in also securing adjacent storage space for archiving their records. An onsite visit would take place shortly to inspect the area.

The President noted that the Society's lease was due to expire on 28 February 2001 (neither side had given notice). A letter was sent by the President to the Racquet Club manager stating the extension of the lease for at least one full term at the current rent, and noted concerns over the lack of building maintenance, at times. It was brought to the Board's attention that a clause of the present lease contained rent escalations every year (over period of 3 years), but that the Society had never been billed the yearly indicated rental increases. Registrar Howard Morgan added that the Club was in solid financial conditions, major renovations were taking place for the future, and they exhibited a no debt/s status. It was suggested that the outstanding differential (unbilled) rent be paid; in which the Treasurer replied that the Lessor should be aware of accurate invoicing and that we have regularly paid the invoicing from the Club. Comments offered from the Board suggested the handling of this situation occur during negotiations with the Racquet Club manager, President Cheyney, and James Burke (Operations Chairman).

HISTORIAN'S REPORT: In the absence of Historian Groff, President Cheyney reported in his stead. President Cheyney stated that the Society has been paying for storage space for the "Out of Print" book entitled "Standards and Colors of the American Revolution" (Author - Richardson), which is now offered to new members free of charge. He requested that a moratorium be put on this practice due to the fact that a vendor has approached the Society to purchase all the books and offer them for sale (1016 copies) on the open market. It was suggested that the contract be investigated as to the rights of sale, printing and reprinting and asked President Emeritus Mark Lloyd to investigate the book's original

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

Minutes of the Board of Managers Meeting, 11 January 2001

contract. In addition, there was also a need for a member scholar to become familiar with the book's content to be able to represent the Society and "stand behind" the important information of the book for possible future presentations to the public.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The President reported his concern over the delay in achieving some resolution to the projector program for the Valley Forge National Historic Park Visitor's Center. He reported on his review of a criticizing article (Easton, MD newspaper) about the film's depiction of the social makeup of the army at Valley Forge. The principal criticism is that the film does not reflect significant social inclusiveness. A committee has been formed by the Valley Forge National Historic Park Board to investigate the film, and to consider concerns of the critical groups. It was noted that Lockhead Martin has apparently backed away from a commitment to provide one third of the new projector's cost (\$30,000-35,000). Ms. Donna McDermott of Valley Forge National Historic Park has confirmed to us that their budget will meet at least one-third the costs of the new projector. The President would like to complete the remediation of the deficient projector, and receive a final proposal and agreement with the Park Service within the next 60-90 days; he asked Richard Walkup (Co-Chair of Special Projects) to communicate with Ms. McDermott on this project so that it can go forward and approach or achieve completion before the Annual Meeting in April.

The President also reported his conversations with the Director of Clivden-Upsala. They may be requesting funding assistance and participation of the Society and its Color Guard for the reenactment program planned for 2002. We requested one of our Board Officers or members of the PSSR Board (such as Historian Groff) be placed on the Clivden-Upsala Board to facilitate closer ties and coordination in planning, especially if funding is to be proposed and Color Guard joint activity is consistent with our mutual goals.

The President also discussed a concern of Historian Jeff Groff regarding the Board's discussion on the CARS contribution for 2001. The President reported the Historian's request for a \$5000 contribution from the Board and he seeks a similar grant from the Color Guard to match the Society's grant. The Board has requested a proposal from CARS to describe specific goals and uses for the grant's educational purpose. President Emeritus Lloyd pointed out that Historian Groff had the Board's discretionary authority to contribute the \$5000 in question but it seemed that the appropriate proposal had not been received from CARS. The suggestion that the contribution could be funded in part from a carryover of unused year 2000 appropriations to the Historian's budget and unused at the close of the 2000 budget was discussed. The Treasurer reported that there was no historical precedent, nor actual funds carried over from previous budgets. President Cheyney stated he would relay and discuss the Board's sentiments and funding authority (discretionary) available within the Historian 2001 budget, subject to receipt and review of an appropriate proposal to fund a desirable grant to CARS. Upon receipt of a satisfactory proposal, the Color Guard would receive the referral of the proposal for their independent review and discussion on contributing.

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

Minutes of the Board of Managers Meeting, 11 January 2001

President Cheyney also discussed development of a project for restoration and repair of Fort Mifflin and requested additional comments. President Emeritus Lincoln stated that it would cost approximately \$40,000 for renovations to the two main doors of the Fort and that the Fort Mifflin Board would like to complete the project as soon as possible, in anticipation of increased tourism. President Emeritus Lincoln discussed the Society's review of Fort Mifflin's request for financial assistance in the form of a formal Statement of Proposal. The President noted that he had received such a request with a packet of information concerning the restoration project. The President commented on his respect for President Emeritus Lincoln's suggestion on the worthiness of the project and to provide for its evaluation and to be a guide for the Board to consider and deferred the request to the Special Projects Committee for a recommendation for funding, at any level of participation, and for responding to Fort Mifflin on this project. He asked that the Co-Chairmen of Special Projects/American Heritage Committee, Richard Walkup and Jeff Groff review the proposed information and report at the next Board meeting on recommendations, if any.

President Cheyney noted that as the Society was soon approaching the Annual Meeting on 12 April 2001, and he was in the process of reviewing potential guest speakers. President Emeritus Darby had discussed and recommended William Sommerfield of the Players to portray George Washington before the Society. It was recognized that such a speaker would be a departure from the traditional speakers of the past but that this suggestion was under consideration along with two other potential speakers. The second speaker considered related to the movie project - Battle of Paoli - which is still ongoing. Colonel Craig Nanos has agreed to submit a proposal to direct this project; we are also soliciting a proposal from the History Channel's Digital Ranch. Since this project is very important to the President and he has personally been trying to develop a proposal, budget and locate a screenwriter for a one-hour television production, he suggested a speaker to relate on the status and possibilities for this project. It was hoped that this project could attract network interest as well as promoting suitable education value for distribution to schools and other groups for educational purposes. Thirdly, a speaker is available from the National Constitution Center or the University of Pennsylvania History Department. Following a review of the potential speakers, the question of which the President suggested to be the most interesting for the Society was presented to the Board and a discussion followed. The President received the Board's sense that Mr. Sommerfield's more lighthearted but informative presentations on General Washington would be this year's preferred choice.

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE: Richard Di Stefano, Chairman, advised that there was no report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: In the absence of Benjamin Frick, Chairman, President Cheyney advised the Board that there was no report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: In the absence of Harland Johnson, Chairman, President Cheyney advised the Board that there was no report.

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

Minutes of the Board of Managers Meeting, 11 January 2001

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Counselor Di Stefano, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented and distributed the text of a proposed resolution to be known as the Audit Committee at the request of the Board to provide for a new standing committee and what the duties and obligations would be (see attached). Following the reading of the resolution, together with an enabling and structuring motion, the question of how the Lancaster Chapter and the Color Guard's accounts could be incorporated for entire unification, participation, and representation in the audit was asked. Treasurer Van Gulick presented how presently the audit timing affects the cost. President Cheyney asked that the Board review the proposed Resolution and consider the accompanying motion, and that this new Administrative Committee and outline of duties, scopes and membership details can most likely provide a leadership example for the other state societies and the General Society. A motion was called by the President for the consideration of the Audit Committee Resolution; it was approved as presented and if approved it will be presented to the Society at the Annual Meeting.

President Cheyney commented that after review of the draft Proceedings he was amazed at what our Society has accomplished and the value these proceedings provide for Society accountability. He suggested that the General Society should re-institute the publishing of the General Society Triennial Proceedings to better inform the State Societies of the programs and activities of the General Society beginning with the 2000 Triennial. Counselor DiStefano was asked to consider this suggestion and to present an outline of a Resolution to be directed to the General Society. President Emeritus Lloyd, during the President's comments, drafted an outline for such a Resolution which was read to the Board and was given to the Counselor for consideration (see attached).

AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE: Chairman Walkup stated that he had met with Col. Craig Nanos regarding the Paoli film project and feasibility to meet completion before the Triennial Meeting (2003). He stated that Col. Nanos feels the project is feasible and significant so as to raise the "seed money" for funding of this project and he is interested in developing a proposal and submit it as a package to a higher Director for assistance with script writing, actors, consultants, etc., with an approximate two-year completion time. Other production avenues, such as Digital Ranch in California, are also being considered.

INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE: Chairman Fenstermacher stated there would be a committee meeting in early March and that the park permit (fee waived) had been obtained from the Park Service. The use of large screen monitors is being explored by the National Park Service to facilitate the audience participation in the Bell Ringing Ceremony and the Washington Square Ceremony. Mr. Lewis noted that updated event information should be put on the website and continually monitored to provide the most current programming information.

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

Minutes of the Board of Managers Meeting, 11 January 2001

NEW CITIZENS' RECEPTION: Chairman Hoyt reported that the Committee has scheduled several New Citizen's Receptions: Thursday - April 19, Thursday - June 28, and Thursday - November 15 following the oaths of citizenship administered by Judges Van Antwerpen and Tucker. It was requested that for greater Board participation, the Executive Secretary email reminders to the members of the Board concerning the date and time for each ceremony and the Board sponsored reception.

SARATOGA-YORKTOWN ANNIVERSARIES COMMITTEE: Chairman Morgan reported his committee had no further information on the Musket Ball (2001) than previously reported at the last meeting.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: In the absence of Historian Groff, President Cheyney advised the Board that there was no report additional to the report of Co-Chairman Walkup.

VALLEY FORGE COMMEMORATION: In the absence of Chairman Wood (due to illness), President Cheyney advised the Board that the annual church service would take place at St. George's Episcopal Church in Ardmore and a reception to follow at the Merion Golf Club. The date and time have been established and preparations for the event were nearly complete. The full committee, it was reported, is engaged and collectively working on the details of the event.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY PARTY COMMITTEE: Chairman Morris reported that arrangements for this event were in place and all responses (preferable in writing) were requested to be sent and received by the Society's Office by February 14th. A chamber music group was engaged from the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra to play during the reception hours/dinner.

YOUNGER MEMBERS: Chairman Fenstermacher reported that a meeting of the Committee of Younger Members would be scheduled shortly, and a Younger Members after-hours party is planned for the Union League immediately following the George Washington Party; the Chair invited Board members to join the Younger Members. President Cheyney requested that the leadership of the Younger Members provide particular attention so that no premature departure from the Society's party occurs so as to diminish the event.

THE COLOR GUARD: In the absence of Captain Salisbury, President Cheyney reported that the Color Guard and members of the Board have been invited to participate with the New York Society and its Color Guard for presenting the colors in a march from City Hall to Fraunces Tavern on Flag Day (Saturday, June 16th). Until the Color Guard officers can consider the invitation and review the details for logistic, further discussion was deferred for comment.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: In the absence of Chairman FitzGerald, President Cheyney reported to the Board that the invitations for the Annual Meeting are being

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

Minutes of the Board of Managers Meeting, 11 January 2001

prepared by the Executive Secretary and will be mailed immediately following the next Board meeting in March. Because of our desire to increase membership, the Membership Committee Chair was asked to communicate with his counterparts at the state societies of Tennessee, Oregon, and Washington to learn of their programming successes that have increased their membership. In addition, the application instruction letter is under review for revisions to make the process more understandable.

NEWSLETTER: Reverend Proctor stated that February 23rd was the deadline date for receipt of newsletter articles and material; a newsletter target date for publication is the end of February, beginning of March 2001.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: Vice President Burke reported that the Society had the new digital camera ready for use to record Society events and for the Society website. The Executive Secretary has been taking pictures during the meeting and can release email pictures of the meeting in the next few days. He pointed out the goal was to have each committee appoint a member to operate the camera at each Society event for possible use in the newsletter and on the website. A joint meeting of the Technology/Operations Committees is scheduled to be held on 9 February 2001 with major consideration aimed at the operating office automation system and for an imaging system for data storage and retrieval. A demonstration by a vendor will be presented on document imaging at this meeting in reference to archiving the Society files. A follow-up combined Operation/Technology committee meeting is scheduled for 10 March 2001 for further review and discussion of the proposals, the failing office automation, word processing and computerization, and fax systems and an internet access system.

New accommodations for Society subsidized parking locations have also been arranged. Board subsidized parking for Board meetings is now available at Liberty Place (Parkway Corporation), along 16th and 17th Streets, between Market and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia. In addition, parking validation for meetings held at the Racquet Club, and at which a substantial number of Board and Committee members need to attend (10 or more), have been arranged (validation - Club's front desk) at Central Parking Garage on Chancellor Street between 16th and 17th Streets north of Locust Street.

Comments were requested about the distribution of minutes to Board members. Options to consider were: 1) to have the minutes distributed at the beginning of each meeting for review, and mail, after approval, corrected minutes to Board members not attending, 2) mail the proposed minutes to each member before the meeting and also distribute a copy at the meeting for review and also provide copies as in No. 1 (to Board members not attending), 3) to post the proposed minutes on the website for the Board to review in advance of each meeting and also to proceed as in No. 2 (see above), and 4) to email the minutes to the Board members in advance of each meeting for review by the Board members and to proceed thereafter as in No. 2 (see above). Emailing the past minutes for preview before the meeting was the preferred choice of members.

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

Minutes of the Board of Managers Meeting, 11 January 2001

INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGIES: In the absence of Chairman Gordon, President Cheyney requested that the Board review a copy of the Committee report attached to the minutes and that comments and discussion be presented at the next meeting. The Society's webpage remains the singular most regular and current outreach, but expensive program of our Society and its content and expense should be husbanded closely by the Committee and the Society. The President thanked Chairman Gordon for his work and the whole Society's commitment to the website.

REPORT OF LANCASTER COUNTY CHAPTER: In the absence of Regent Moore, Vice-President John Shirk reported the Lancaster County Chapter's activity regarding New Citizen's Day but did not have the date for this event. The President was advised that the Lancaster Chapter reported substantial interest in attending the 2001 Annual Meeting

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GENERAL SOCIETY: In the absence of Vice President Johnson, the President advised the Board there was no official report.

OLD BUSINESS: President Cheyney asked the Executive Secretary to request from the Chairman of the Triennial Committee a report for the next Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: President Emeritus Mark Lloyd asked for the Board's attention to a resolution suggested by President Emeritus Jeff Maiden to be directed to the General Society and to facilitate the Society's implementation of the Hess Trophy with potential funding from the Whitaker Fund. After President Emeritus Lloyd read the resolution (see attached), President Cheyney requested that it be given to Counselor DiStefano for review by the Resolutions Committee but also noted that this was not a Board resolution, rather a member's personal resolution. The President moved that further consideration be tabled given the late hour. The motion to so "table" was seconded and accepted by the Board. There was no further New Business.

There being no further business to be presented for consideration by the Board, President Cheyney requested a motion to adjourn the meeting and invited all in attendance to gather for social time and informed discussions following the meeting. Chaplain Proctor led the Board in prayer and President Cheyney accepted the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore Clattenburg, Jr.
Secretary

Attachments