

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

Minutes of the Board of Managers Meeting, 14 December 2000

**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE REVOLUTION
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING
14 December 2000**

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. Cheyney, Coyne, Di Stefano, Fenstermacher, Flood, Frick, Hoyt, Johnson, Lincoln, Loughran, Moak, Moore, Morgan, Morris, Peltier, Proctor, Shirk, Van Gulick, Walkup and Wood.

READING OF THE MINUTES: President Cheyney asked if there were any questions, additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2000. Mr. DiStefano asked that the November Minutes be amended to reflect the correct date of death for PA Soc. ID# 2635, Ezekiel Cooper S. Highley as October 22, 2000 and the death of PA Soc. ID# 4729, Theodore Otto Rogers be reported as 14 October 2000. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved, as amended. The Executive Secretary noted that Mr. Rogers was dropped from the membership rolls in 1997 for non-payment of dues.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: In the absence of Secretary Clattenburg, President Cheyney reported that regrets had been received from Secretary Clattenburg, Messrs. Burke, Byrne, Congdon, FitzGerald, Gordon, Gresh, Groff, Lewis and Captain Salisbury. Congratulations are in order on the announcement of the birth on 11 November of a girl, Johanna Suzanne, to Jonathan FitzGerald and his wife.

The current membership of the Society, as of 1 December 2000, stands at 1,085 active members. The roster includes 17 Life members and three regular members for whom the Society has no current address as well as 26 Junior Life members.

The President reported that since the last Board meeting there were no requests for Old Guard Status, resignations, or transfers.

The Society received one request for reinstatement from John C. May, (PA Soc ID# 4313) a Lancaster County member who resigned in 1974. A \$50 check in payment of dues for the years 2000 and 2001 accompanied his request. No letters of support or recommendation from the Lancaster County Chapter accompanied his written request. President Cheyney asked the Board members to consider past experience to determine the proper procedure to follow in the present instance. Regent Moore recommended the Lancaster County Chapter President or other officer review this request with Mr. May and write a letter either supporting this reinstatement or rejecting it. President Cheyney referred this

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request to the Regent of the Lancaster County Chapter and asked for the Chapter's comments and recommendations before the Board take any action. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Board approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Van Gulick reviewed the current Profit and Loss Budget Comparison Report for the period January through November 30, 2000. He noted that overall, the committees continue to remain ahead of budget both in expenditures and income. He reminded members that year-end is fast approaching and asked that any expenditures to be paid against this year's budget should be sent to the office for payment. Unused fund balances remaining in any committee's budget expire at year-end and they are not carried over to next year's budget.

He also noted that the Society's portfolio has experienced a decline in value and it is approximately \$390,000 below the valuation reported January 1, 2000. This is consistent with present market fluctuations in the NASDAQ.

Treasurer Van Gulick confirmed the receipt of the final 1999 Audit Report from the Society's auditors, ZA Business Services, Inc. There were no material changes from the interim reports associated with the financial statements received in April for the Annual Meeting. The electronic version has also been provided to the Executive Secretary for inclusion in the Proceedings.

In the event an Audit Committee is approved and as part of the Society's engagement of an audit firm in future, the Treasurer recommended that a date be specified for finalization of the audit report, preferably in advance of the Board's summer recess. Presently, a preliminary report is available for the Treasurer's Report at the April Annual Meeting. By establishing a final date, delays at year-end for publishing Proceedings and preparing budgets would be avoided.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Registrar Morgan reported the following deaths: member Henry D. Cornman, III (PA Soc ID# 4058), a life member, who died on March 1, 2000; Cortlandt vanDyke Hubbard (PA Soc ID# 4834), a life member, who died on September 1, 2000; Clifford Lewis, III (PA Soc ID# 2976), a regular local member, died on April, 23, 2000; George Redsecker Rohrer (PA Soc ID# 3793), a regular non- local member, died November 15, 2000 and David Swope, II (PA Soc ID# 4178), a regular local member, died November 29, 2000. President Cheyney asked all those present to rise, and Reverend Proctor led the members in memorial prayer.

An ad hoc committee met to review the circumstances surrounding the storage and retrieval of membership files and Society records at the Iron Mountain facility and the increased costs associated with this practice. A review is underway to investigate present practices and determine the number of records held before any changes in location or procedures is initiated.

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HISTORIAN'S REPORT: In the absence of Historian Groff, President Cheyney reported in his stead. He asked the Board for a decision regarding Historian Groff's proposal to allocate \$5,000 from the Special Projects Budget to support the 225th Anniversary of Revolutionary War campaigns such as Brandywine and Germantown. The \$5,000, which the Color Guard is willing to match, would be spent in 2000 for exhibition panels and publications. CARS is not yet a 501(3)© corporation so this contribution could be made directly to them in December 2000 with clear restrictions for use. It is unlikely that they would have completed fabrications of completed materials or printed publications by year-end, which would allow the Society to pay vendors directly. Having receipt of the Society's contribution in 2000 will serve as "seed" money and allow them to leverage additional money from other funders, including heritage, tours and agencies. CARS represents all the key revolutionary war sites in our area.

During the ensuing discussion, it was pointed out that Historian Groff has the discretion to spend the balance of funds remaining in his budget and does not need the "approval" of the Board. However, if he commits the funds for 2000 but they remain unpaid at year-end, it will just entail a bookkeeping adjustment to allocate the funds. The Society has supported other CARS projects in the past. There was consensus and support by the Board members for expending \$5000 for this project, provided the funds be restricted to educational and publication purposes.

It was also agreed that this CARS contribution did not preclude the Society from making other contributions in 2001 to entities that may come under the CARS umbrella, such as Cliveden, Brandywine, etc.

The Valley Forge Historical Park has reported that they have the support of a co-sponsor to fund, along with the Society, the upgrade for a new film projector. The project is estimated to cost \$4,600 and the Society's 50% share would be approximately \$2,300. President Cheyney asked both Mr. Walkup and/or Mr. Groff to finalize the details with the Park and earmark the balance in the 2000 Special Projects budget be spent for this upgrade project.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Cheyney reported that after much effort he has learned that repairs to the General Wayne statue falls under the purview of the City of Philadelphia's Arts Committee. The city will not allow any "outside" stonemason to cut and repair the marble needed to replace letters and numbers on the base of the monument. The city will not consider moving the Wayne monument as they believe it is in the most prominent spot of all city monuments. But for the Society's willingness to pay for the replacement of letters and numbers, this would not take place. The City will undertake the needed repairs, sometime before June 2001, and forward the bill to the Society. The funds can be withdrawn from the 2000 balance in the American Heritage budget.

Regarding the Society's continued relationship with the staff at Sunoco Welcome America, President Cheyney reported that Mayor Street has fired last year's staff and new personnel has not yet been appointed. He has made further efforts to appraise the Mayor that the

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Society President is customarily invited to sit on the Sunoco Welcome America Board of Trustees in view of the \$20,000 contribution made to support this public event. This situation may have a direct impact on the Society's public ceremony on the 4th of July and President Cheyney called the Board's attention to remaining diligent until the matter is finalized. At the present time, the city has not focused attention on any July 4th project whatsoever.

President Cheyney congratulated Reverend Proctor on the recent publication of the Society's Newsletter. It is an edition all can be proud of and he looks forward to the next publication slated for February. Regent Moore asked that 50 copies be sent to the Lancaster County Chapter for distribution to men interested in membership.

Finally, President Cheyney reported that the Proceedings have been completed and sent to the printer for typesetting. It will be available for preliminary editing in a few weeks and volunteer proofreaders will be needed. President Cheyney thanked President Emeritus Lloyd, Secretary Clattenburg and the Executive Secretary for their diligence and hard work on this project. The Board was asked to consider future protocol in publishing the next Proceedings, e.g. should it be posted yearly to the website for three years and then compiled into a single publication covering the three-year period or should the Society resume its annual publication. President Cheyney recommended delaying the decision until the Board has an opportunity to review the first three-year publication and determine whether the Proceedings are manageable in that format.

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Di Stefano, Chairman, reported that the Admissions Committee met on 11 December and the members were delighted that President Cheyney was able to join them. The Committee did not have any Proposals for membership to consider, an event that has not occurred for some time.

The following two young boys were approved by the Committee and they are recommended to the Board for election to Junior Life membership for those under age 18: Eric Raymond Buckwalter, age 11, and his brother, Evan John Buckwalter, age 6. Their ancestor is John Buckwalter.

The following seven applications for regular membership were also approved for election by the Board

John Eric Buckwalter, age 43, a life member (ancestor John Buckwalter), David Joseph Coldren Cohen, age 21, a regular younger member (ancestor Thomas Barnet), Reon Glessner Hillegass, Jr., age 74, a regular non-local member (ancestor George Peter Hillegass), Matthew Wesley Holt, age 19, a regular younger member, (ancestor John Tarrant), Howard Franklin Horne, Jr., age 78, a regular non-local member, (ancestor Heinrich Horn), James Hayes MacBride, age 48, a regular member (ancestor David Goddard), and Thomas Tupper Maiden, age 31, a regular non-local younger member, (ancestor Andrew Sinnickson).

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The Admissions Committee also approved the application for transfer from the California Society by Dayton Maxwell Lummis, Jr. (ancestor John Maxwell).

Chairman Di Stefano moved that the proposed candidates for membership and transfer be approved by the Board of Managers and elected to membership in the Pennsylvania Society. Second and unanimously approved.

The Chairman also reported that William Theodore Clattenburg, a former junior life member and the son of Secretary Clattenburg will assume regular life membership having achieved aged 18 on 1 October 2000.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Vice President Frick stated this is the second reading of the 2001 budget report necessary for final approval. The members also received a copy of the Resolution regarding Total Return Transfer from the Permanent Fund.

The current report contains updated budget information through November 30, 2000 and adjustments from the 1999 Audit Report. The report contains the following changes from last month: a slight increase in income after factoring in the current market value of the portfolio and increases for the New Citizens Committee, Saratoga Yorktown Committee and the Annual Meeting.

The Resolution is necessitated by Pennsylvania Law concerning Total Return Transfers and only applies to the permanent fund, not the general fund. It is necessary for our records because the use of monies in the permanent fund is restricted. The proposed spending rate for 2001 is 3% which falls below the appropriate spending rate of 4-5% for non-profit organizations.

Upon motion made and seconded the 2001 budget was unanimously approved.

Mr. Johnson moved that the Resolution with respect to permanent fund transfers for the fiscal year 2001 be approved. Seconded and carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Vice President Johnson, Chairman, reported that as of 1 November 2000 the market value of the Society's portfolio stood at \$3,091,000 and at close on 7 December it was \$3,231,000. The Finance Committee is holding its own and overall the portfolio is slightly below last year's value.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Counselor Di Stefano, Chairman, had no report.

AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE: Chairman Walkup stated that he had nothing further to add to the remarks made by President Cheyney for Historian Groff's report.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE: In the absence of Chairman Byrne, Chairman Fenstermacher stated there was no report. In view of the current situation with Welcome America, Mr. Frick recommended the Let Freedom Ring Chairman contact Ira Rosen and determine payment for his services and ensure permits are filed in a timely fashion.

NEW CITIZENS' RECEPTION: Chairman Hoyt reported that his Committee hosted a reception on Thursday, 16 November in the ceremonial courtroom of the U.S. Courthouse on Sixth and Market Streets. Approximately 98 citizens attended, along with their friends and family. Immediately following the ceremony, Banjo Joe Dougherty played patriotic songs and the guests enjoyed light refreshments of fruit, cheese, cake, coffee and juice. The festivities were well received and enjoyed by all.

SARATOGA-YORKTOWN ANNIVERSARIES COMMITTEE: Chairman Morgan reported his committee came in \$47 under budget for 2000. Arrangements for 2001 are under way and a new location is being sought as the Philadelphia Country Club is being refurbished. The Rotunda at the State Capital in Harrisburg is one possibility that Win Carroll is pursuing as there is no rental cost involved. Caterers, hotel facilities and arranged transportation are also being explored. Holding the event in Harrisburg will expand opportunities for members in the western part of the state to participate in this event. The focus for planning the 2001 event is to be more innovative and involve more members outside the Philadelphia area.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: In the absence of Historian Groff, President Cheyney had nothing further to add to his earlier remarks.

VALLEY FORGE COMMEMORATION: Chairman Wood stated he had no report at this time.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY PARTY COMMITTEE: Chairman Morris reported that he has confirmed that the speaker will be "Martha Washington" (Bonnie L. Bachman) and a deposit check will need to accompany his letter of confirmation. A letter of confirmation and a deposit will also be sent to Jack Keller. The invitation has been revised. However, the arrangements for parking need to be finalized before the printer can receive the revisions for printing.

The Chairman of the Younger Members, Mr. Fenstermacher, asked if it is possible to include an announcement about the younger member subsidy in the same envelope as the invitation. The Executive Secretary will explore that possibility with the printer and determine the added cost for handling and separating the mailing list for a younger member insert.

YOUNGER MEMBERS: Chairman Fenstermacher reported that the event co-sponsored with the Colonial Dames at the Lemon Hill Mansion on 10 December was well attended.

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However, the attendance of Society Officers and Managers was less than expected and it is hoped their presence at future events will show greater support.

THE COLOR GUARD: In the absence of Captain Salisbury, President Cheyney reported that Capitol Day in Lancaster on 27 September and the Annual Meeting of the General Society in Princeton, New Jersey on 5-7 October have been added to the Color Guard calendar and the flags will be paraded at these vents. Lieut. Smith has been in touch with members of the New Jersey society to coordinate the Pennsylvania Society's participation in the General Society Annual Meeting and to further the goals of this Society.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: In the absence of Chairman FitzGerald, President Cheyney reported that 15 members, as indicated on the Year End Delinquent Report, who have not paid dues for 2000. These members will receive their final request for payment along with a notice that they will be dropped from the membership rolls if payment is not received by the next Board of Managers meeting 11 January 2001.

NEWSLETTER: Reverend Proctor reported members have returned a number of surveys and an analysis of the findings will be reported shortly.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: In the absence of Vice President Burke, President Cheyney reported that the new Executive Secretary will be starting in January. The present secretary will remain for a short training period. Operations will review the proposal received concerning the information systems and technologies proposal and schedule a planning meeting.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGIES: In the absence of Chairman Gordon there was no report.

REPORT OF LANCASTER COUNTY CHAPTER: Regent Moore reported that the Lancaster County Chapter has finalized arrangements for a dedication ceremony in Lancaster Square on 21 September 2001, when a flagpole and flag will be raised. The Chapter members are donating a bronze plaque that will be installed at the base of the flagpole and Regent Moore asked the Board to determine whether all the words on the plaque should be the same size or should some be of diminished size. The Board recommended all letters of equal size.

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GENERAL SOCIETY: Vice President Johnson stated that the new General Society General President will be inaugurated in February 2001. There was nothing to report on the Triennial 2003. President Cheyney will appoint a Triennial Committee that will be on the agenda for January 2001.

Under **OLD BUSINESS** President Cheyney asked the Board to approve Vice President Burkes request to purchase a digital camera to assist with the website and newsletter. The

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Board recommended Vice President Burke purchase of a reasonably priced camera as he proposed.

There was no **NEW BUSINESS** to come before the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Cheyney invited all in attendance to gather for Christmas cheer in the Pub immediately following the meeting. Chaplain Proctor led the Board in prayer and President Cheyney adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore Clattenburg, Jr.
Secretary

Attachments