

***Minutes of the Opening Session of the Semi-Annual Meeting
Board of Regents of Gunston Hall Incorporated (BRGHI)
Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 9:00am EDT
At Gunston Hall***

Call to Order—Virginia Nicholson, First Regent, called the meeting to order at 9:01 am EDT.

God Bless America—Led by Kit Davis

The Lord’s Prayer—Led by Ashley Merrill

The Pledge of Allegiance—Led by Claudia Lane

Roll Call— Carol Howell called the roll. Regents not attending in person (a requirement for voting) are noted as either absent or excused.

Katherine Cammack (*President, National Society*)

Liza Sackson (*President, Virginia Society*)

Virginia Nicholson (*First Regent*)

Mim Hundley (*Vice Regent*)

Nell Payne (*Regent at Large*)

Carol Rush (*Treasurer*)

Carol Howell (*Recording Secretary*)

Mason Bavin (*Corresponding Secretary*)

Nancy Lavelly (*Development Committee, Chair*)

Kathie Shutkin (*Governance Committee, Chair*)

Katie Barney

Susan Aselage – EXCUSED

Homoiselle Bujosa – EXCUSED

Margo Caylor

Kit Davis

Tibbie Field

Ginger Finley

Jeanne Goodwin

Stephanie Hockensmith

Nancy Lamb

Claudie Lane

Christy Love – ABSENT

Diana Madsen – EXCUSED

Nancy McAteer

Ashley Merrill

Anne Monfore

Karen Parker

Kathy Ray

MK Reckis – ABSENT

Lou Perry

Margaret Schutrumpf

Carol Stephenson

Catherine Strauch

Toody Sullivan

Sue Tempero
Paige Trace
Bonnie Ward – EXCUSED
Nancy White

NSCDA National President Remarks—Katherine Cammack spoke about the NSCDA priorities:

1. America 250 Celebration

- A. In the fall of 2024, this celebration kicks off with our newly created “250 Brand,” which complements the Great American Treasures (GAT) brand. This celebration will include a book publication highlighting GAT sites, including Gunston Hall. To mark the book launch next spring, there will be a coastal cruise organized by American Cruise Lines, visiting important American Revolutionary sites and GAT locations, with some of the book’s scholars and writers on board.
- B. 250 by 250 – Efforts are underway to approve 250 female ancestors for inclusion in the register of ancestors by America's 250th anniversary in 2026. Approaching 100 approvals marks significant progress since we had only reached mid-30’s at the beginning of the initiative. Approved women have diverse backgrounds, ranging from ministers, community leaders, and midwives to business owners and rebels. Notably, Debra Sampson, who disguised herself as a man to serve as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, is also included among them.

2. Advancement

- A. Philanthropy
- B. Development
- C. Strategic Planning – our proposed plan has been presented to different focus groups. It will be voted upon at Biennial Council in the Fall and has four primary, measurable goals:
 - 1. The organization's membership base is aging, prompting a need to attract younger women in the future. There is a call for improved outreach to ensure relevance within communities. Recent experiences at GAT sites emphasize the importance of aligning stories and programs with contemporary cultural attitudes to avoid being perceived as out of touch.
 - 2. Supporting our Mission – Building on the public brand GAT by expanding it to include other areas of our mission and work: Great American Immigrants, Great American Heroes, Great American Stories, Great American Landscapes and Gardens, Great American Artifacts. The potential is limitless.
 - 3. Internal Excellence.
 - 4. Communication – The NSCDA is undergoing a significant overhaul of its website to create a more engaging public interface, aiming to showcase the organization's identity and activities as Dames. Emphasis is placed on communicating the significance of the organization's name and history to enhance public understanding.

First Regent’s Report— Virginia expressed gratitude to the Regents and staff for their ongoing efforts to enhance Gunston Hall. Committee structures are now active, aiming to involve every Regent. The Governance Committee is developing a Regent Support subcommittee. Historical insights from previous Regents revealed details about their terms, attire, and committee structures, and much more. Emphasis was placed on storytelling and improving slave interpretation. Past initiatives included a major capital campaign, hiring a lobbyist, and fundraising events. Pre-

vious achievements, such as onsite catering and successful fundraisers, were highlighted. Virginia concluded with appreciation for past Regents' contributions, ending with a cheer of "Hip, hip huzzah!"

Treasurer's Report -- Carol Rush presented the report.

Operating Account	\$104,000
Museum Account	\$104,000
Campaign Account	Over \$220,000
Investment Account (end of March)	\$2,040,000
Collections Account	\$979,000
Maintenance Reserve Account	\$860,000
Capital Project Accounts – Mansion Exterior	\$375,000
Capital Project Accounts – East Yard (total project \$2,700,000)	\$200,000 (for detailed planning)
Capital Project Accounts –Archaeology /Maintenance	\$300,000 (for detailed planning)

Budget Presentation – On behalf of the Finance and Investment Committee and the Executive Committee, both of which met jointly yesterday and discussed at length and approved this budget, I am recommending that the budget be approved as distributed. The budget will be voted upon at tomorrow's meeting. There were no questions and no discussion.

Introduction of New Regents – Paige Trace, Chair of the Nominating of Regents Committee, presented the new Regents, who will be sworn in immediately before recess for lunch. These Regents will have full voting rights in tomorrow's meeting.

Ashley Merrill, Florida
Claudia Lane, Illinois
Nancy Lamb, Massachusetts
Susan Aselage, Missouri

Paige also introduced Regents at large and Regents who will be beginning a second 5-year term:

Ginger Finley, Regent at Large, North Carolina
Virginia Nicholson, First Regent, Georgia
Nancy White, Tennessee

Many thanks to Barbara Linville, Gina White, and Toody Sullivan.

Executive Director's Report — A copy of Scott's report is attached and will be posted on the portal.

- Scott introduced the inspiring and dedicated staff team.
- Britain on the Green Car Show April 28. One of the largest and most fun events of the year. Most proceeds go to charity.
- Families in Focus – funded by a significant grant from the Federal Institute of Museums and Library Sciences, it focuses on reinvigorating and enhancing interpretative experiences in the historic core. Ideas generated through this planning process are now being implemented.

- Received another generous grant to enhance our interpretation of indigenous populations that were here in Mason Neck. The project accompanying this grant is nearing completion.
- First Annual Fundraising Gala May 18 – Nicole leads this effort. We have already received over \$30,000 in sponsorship for this event. Over 100 tickets of the 250 available have been sold.
- Reminder: The Governor has not signed the budget yet. We were highly successful in getting four of our five requests included in that budget.
- Building/Developing relationship with descendant community. We hired a genealogist about 2 years ago who has done extensive research to help us identify descendants of those enslaved at Gunston Hall. We have found at least one descendant and are developing draft documents to create a framework for how we will collaborate with these individuals.
- Plans for the 250th: This year is the 250th of the Fairfax Resolves, a critically important document co-written by George Mason and George Washington. There is a joint venture underway with Mount Vernon including scholars from around the world.
- Going through the process of reaccreditation – the gold standard for museum excellence.

Collections Management Policy Presentation—Paige Trace thanked the members of the Collections subcommittee (Mason Bavin, Mim Hundley, Margaret Schutrumpf, Susan Aselage) and staff liaison/curator, Dr. Kate Steir, Tony Pierucci, Virginia Nicholson, and Scott Stroh, who worked together to craft and support this policy. AAM requires us to have a full policy that is agreed upon and updated regularly, with a new policy being created every five years. As a committee, we fully support this document. Kit suggested that this was a great tool to take back to our state societies.

Announcements and Review of Schedule – Retired Judge, Paul Michel, a great friend and generous donor to Gunston Hall, will be here before lunch to administer the oath for Observers. Judge Michel and author Jon Kukla, who will be speaking with us about the Fairfax Resolves, will join us for lunch.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Virginia called for a motion to adjourn. *Nancy Lavelly made a motion for adjournment of the Opening Session. Katie Barney seconded. The meeting was adjourned until Sunday, April 14, 2024.*

Additional reports presented which are not a part of the BRGHI:

1. Report of the Gunston Hall Foundation; and
2. The Lena McAlister Award presented to Nicole Ryan.

***Minutes of the Closing Session of the Annual Meeting
Board of Regents of Gunston Hall Incorporated (BRGHI)
Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 3:00pm EDT
at Gunston Hall***

Call to Order—Virginia Nicholson, First Regent, called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm EDT.

America the Beautiful—Led by Kit Davis

The Lord’s Prayer—Led by Nancy Lamb

The Pledge of Allegiance—Led by Carol Stephenson

Roll Call— Carol Howell called the roll. Regents not attending in person (a requirement for voting) are noted as excused or absent.

Katherine Cammack (*President, National Society*) - EXCUSED

Liza Sackson (*President, Virginia Society*) - EXCUSED

Virginia Nicholson (*First Regent*)

Mim Hundley (*Vice Regent*)

Nell Payne (*Regent at Large*)

Carol Rush (*Treasurer*)

Carol Howell (*Recording Secretary*)

Mason Bavin (*Corresponding Secretary*)

Nancy Lavelly (*Development Committee, Chair*)

Kathie Shutkin (*Governance Committee, Chair*)

Katie Barney

Susan Aselage – EXCUSED

Homoiselle Bujosa – EXCUSED

Margo Caylor

Kit Davis

Tibbie Field

Ginger Finley

Jeanne Goodwin

Stephanie Hockensmith

Nancy Lamb

Claudie Lane - EXCUSED

Christy Love – ABSENT

Diana Madsen – EXCUSED

Nancy McAteer

Ashley Merrill

Anne Monfore

Karen Parker

Kathy Ray

MK Reckis – ABSENT

Lou Perry

Margaret Schutrumpf - EXCUSED

Carol Stephenson

Catherine Strauch - ABSENT

Toody Sullivan
Sue Tempero
Paige Trace
Bonnie Ward – EXCUSED
Nancy White

Vote to Accept Consent Agenda—It was requested to leave out the Budget FY2025, so that it can be discussed and voted upon separately. The items on which we are voting are Minutes of the BRGHI Annual Meeting 2023, and the Actions of the Executive Committee November 2023 through February 2024. Virginia called for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. *There being no discussion, Nell Payne made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Sue Tempero seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. Paige Trace was not present at the 2023 Annual Meeting and abstained from approving the minutes.*

Vote to Approve the Budget FY2025-- Carol Rush, the Treasurer, presented a deficit budget to the body, approved by both the Finance and Investment and Executive Committees. Projected income is \$3,148,000, while expenses are estimated at \$3,615,000, resulting in a deficit of \$467,000. To balance the budget, \$344,000 will be drawn from investment accounts, permitted under the investment policy. The deficit largely stems from increased staff salaries based on the Gallagher Study recommendations, approved by the Board previously. Despite some returns not yet realized due to a transition period, investments in programs and staff are to be maintained until returns catch up, as advised by Scott. Despite some financial challenges, advisors express confidence in future returns and economic circumstances. *Virginia called for a vote on the FY2025 Budget. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. There was one abstention, and one Regent in opposition.*

Vote to Approve Collections Management Policy -- Virginia called for a motion to accept the Collections Management Policy. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Nell Payne moved that the Board enter Closed Session. That motion was seconded by Katie Barney. A vote was taken and the proposal to go into Closed Session was unanimous. Mim Hundley moved that the Board enter Open Session. That motion was seconded by Katie Barney. The motion carried. Virginia certified that the only topic discussed during the Closed Session was the garden project. A roll call vote was taken, and all members affirmed Virginia's statement.

Gala Update – So far, we have brought in a projected revenue of \$36,000 through sponsorships. This amount covers all our main expenses, such as catering and the large tent. We have sold between 100 and 115 tickets to date and are approaching the halfway point of our goal. Sandra Viera has done a fantastic job of promoting this event with advertisements and social media. Tasteful Affairs will cater a plated meal with passed hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. The auctioneer will be providing his services in kind, and we will give him tickets so that he can enjoy the event with his wife.

Scarf Update – Ginger Finley gave special thanks to Jane Bargaineer, Homoiselle Bujosa, Barbara Linville, Virginia Nicholson, Kathy Ray, MK Reckis, and Ann Schaeffer. Jane created the concept for the scarf. After that, we hired Margaret Goldman, a George Mason descendant and designer of the first Virginia scarf. The scarf is 27" by 72". The fabric is modal cashmere. The design includes the house and some of its architectural elements, plants and flowers from the garden, George Mason's coat of arms, and his signature. We have ordered two hundred scarves to

be sold at \$150 each. They will be sold through the Gunston Hall gift shop. The first fifty are reserved for Regents and staff, and the 10 percent discount will be honored on these purchases.

Announcements/Dates for Annual Meeting—Nancy White provided details about our field trip to the National Museum of the U.S. Army. Mim followed up on the collection we held to celebrate Scott's 10th anniversary as Executor Director. Scott and his family were able to attend the opening season game at Washington Nationals Park. His favorite Philadelphia Phillies won. The next meeting of the BRGHI will be the last weekend of September, beginning Saturday, September 28, at Gunston Hall.

Adjournment—Virginia thanked everyone for all their work behind the scenes preparing for this Semi-Annual Meeting. She called for a motion to adjourn. ***Mason Bavin made a motion to adjourn. Stephanie Hockensmith seconded.*** The meeting was adjourned at 4:29pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Rush, acting Recording Secretary