

Minutes of the Semi-Annual Meeting
Board of Regents of Gunston Hall Plantation

April 6, 2013

OPENING SESSION

First Regent, Mrs. Henry R. Raab, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Roll Call – Recording Secretary, Mrs. Marshall George Linn III

Mrs. David Thomas Moody, President, NSCDA
 Ms. Laura Reynolds Towers, President, Virginia Society
 Mrs. Henry R. Raab, First Regent
 Mrs. James Irby Barganier
 Mrs. William B. Blaylock
 Mrs. William Allan Blodgett
 Mrs. Dana Gibson Bowman - EXCUSED
 Mrs. Roger H. Box - ABSENT
 Mrs. Roberts Wyckoff Brokaw III
 Mrs. Richard S. Cleary
 Mrs. H. Bartholomew Cox
 Mrs. John P. Cooke
 Mrs. George Crockett
 Mrs. Robert B. Field, Jr.
 Mrs. David L. Goodyear - EXCUSED
 Miss Jean Cameron Grainger
 Mrs. Cary T. Grayson, Jr.
 Mrs. Price Gripekoven
 Mrs. Raymond Dale Hardesty
 Mrs. John Mathews Harney, Jr.
 Mrs. Harry Leonard Hatton
 Mrs. Harry R. Hill, Jr.
 Mrs. Marshall Colville Hunt, Jr.
 Mrs. John A. Jenkins
 Ms. Winafriid Avery Jenkins
 Mrs. Michael van Doren Johnston
 Mrs. Walker Kennedy, Jr.
 Mrs. John Heddens Kingston - EXCUSED
 Mrs. Peter I. C. Knowles II
 Mrs. Todd S. Liebow
 Mrs. Marshall George Linn III
 Mrs. David Castello Loughlin
 Mrs. Frederick W. Martin
 Mrs. Thomas Hooke McCallie III - EXCUSED
 Dr. Jean Gray McGinnis
 Mrs. Robert Andrew McMillan - EXCUSED
 Mrs. Hugh A. Merrill
 Mrs. Charles E. Millard, Jr.

Former Regents:

Mrs. David M. Abshire
 Mrs. V. Cassel Adamson, Jr.
 Mrs. Robert Nisbet Holt

Mrs. Richard Marshall Norton
 Mrs. Steele Bartley Osborn
 Mrs. William Anthony Peters III
 Mrs. Henry Laurence Bee Ravenel
 Mrs. James Ward Riley, Jr. - EXCUSED
 Mrs. Morin Montagu Scott
 Mrs. Ronald Albert Snider
 Mrs. Hugh McMaster Tarbutton
 Mrs. Benjamin Walter Taylor, Jr.
 Mrs. John Van Allen
 Mrs. Jonathan T. Walton
 Mrs. Jerry Wayne Wilcox

Approval of the minutes:

Mrs. Snider moved that the minutes be approved as electronically distributed. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Remarks of the First Regent - Mrs. Raab

Welcome home, ladies!

It is gratifying and very important that we are enjoying nearly the highest attendance ever for this Board. I believe and hope that by the time you leave here you will feel as though you have a whole new job managing a whole new museum property. The hard work that has taken place over the past few months has a single fundamental objective: to give all of us the tools we need to honor our mission, the mission you articulated in October.

Our parents taught us that whatever we do, we should give 100% ... sound advice unless you're donating blood. Many people have given that much and more to bring us to this moment. We cannot over-appreciate our staff: Frank Barker, a part-time employee, bore the responsibility of the Education department single-handedly, with a cheerful and positive attitude, for over two years. Now we joyfully welcome Lacey Villiva ... energetic, engaged, and full of innovative ideas for our future. In the fall, we had an opportunity to thank Mark Whatford for his exceptional leadership last year and now he has assumed the well-deserved role of Deputy Director for Programming. Lena McAllister, who is all things financial and human resources and has a photographic memory, deserves a Purple Heart for her sacrifice and relentless work ethic. Dana Ross abandoned her well-earned retirement out of deference to a long-standing loyalty to the Regents, just when we needed her. Susan Blankenship bears, without complaint, the responsibility for not only Friends (more than a one-person job) but PR (more than a one-person job) and Development (more than a one-person job). We must find the means to lighten her load. Patricia Nyland and Louise Higgins do marathon duty at the front desk, scheduling tours, greeting visitors, covering the shop, and offering the finest, most welcoming first impression imaginable to everyone visiting Gunston Hall. Berto Delfi-Hernandez and Buddy Mongold somehow maintain 550 acres 365 days a year, and now Berto is in charge of all personnel who answer a maintenance call here. Karen Bazzle has made our museum shop one of the most impressive in existence, and Pam Muirheide's daily posts on Facebook are a treasure! They promote not only the shop, but all activities offered at Gunston Hall. Dave Shonyo remains a stalwart, hard-working, and methodical curator of our archaeological efforts.

All of these dedicated employees, and I, found new footing in the outstanding leadership of Patrick Ladden. We are so blessed, Patrick, to have your intelligence, experience, gentle and

kind management style, and Lord knows your wit. In six months you have made a mark on Gunston Hall that will be felt, quite literally, forever.

Sara Hill and the Search Committee are not only back on the track, but moving into the backstretch. The Strategic Planning Committee, ably chaired by Hilary Gripekoven, will speak for itself over the next few hours.

We are working closely with Richmond on financial matters and educational programming; we have a strong ally in Senator Puller, with whom Sara and I visited on Thursday; the Board of Visitors works methodically on our behalf, and we are blessed at every turn by the loyalty, hard work, and exceptional insight of Tim Sargeant; our welcome is being felt and appreciated by the community, thanks to Patrick and his staff; many new events are on the calendar; and very importantly, we have a long-overdue collaboration with the docents who work around the clock to share our educational resources.

Our, the Board of Regents', role is also greeting a new day. We are indebted to Dr. Brent Glass and Mr. David Crosson for helping us to define a new path and for guiding us through this transitional process.

As members of the governing board of an important museum property, you, the trustees, **MUST** have an on-going knowledge and understanding of all the pivotal aspects of this, your 'non-profit company'. That understanding includes an intelligent grasp of our finances. Our treasurer, Elaine Blaylock, is well-equipped to translate that information into a meaningful overview for you, so I will now turn you over to her.

This is going to be *fun ... and rewarding!* Let's get to work, ladies!

Recess

The meeting was recessed until Sunday, April 7, 2013 at 3:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 7, 2013

CLOSING SESSION

The First Regent, Mrs. Raab, reconvened the meeting at 3:15 P.M.

Roll Call – Recording Secretary, Mrs. Marshall George Linn III

Mrs. David Thomas Moody, President, NSCDA
 Ms. Laura Reynolds Towers, President, Virginia Society
 Mrs. Henry R. Raab, First Regent
 Mrs. James Irby Barganier
 Mrs. William B. Blaylock
 Mrs. William Allan Blodgett
 Mrs. Dana Gibson Bowman - EXCUSED
 Mrs. Roger H. Box - ABSENT
 Mrs. Roberts Wyckoff Brokaw III
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 Mrs. Benjamin Walter Taylor, Jr.
 Mrs. John Van Allen
 Mrs. Jonathan T. Walton
 Mrs. Jerry Wayne Wilcox

Report of the Treasurer - Mrs. Blaylock presented the proposed budget for 2014. Mrs. Martin moved that the budget be approved. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Liebow. The motion carried.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. Peters has written a note to Mr. and Mrs. Peter I. C. Knowles II thanking them for hosting our reception for the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia at the historic Commonwealth Club in Richmond. Mrs. Peters is circulating get well cards for Mrs. McCallie who has had knee surgery; Mrs. Hatton who had knee surgery; and Mrs. Riley who has a serious back problem.

Report of the Nominating Committee - Mrs. Van Allen reported that the Nominating Committee met on Friday, April 5, 2013. The Committee will be selecting Regents to fill these positions:

- First Regent - 2 years
- Vice-Regent - 3 years
- Recording Secretary - 3 years
- Nominating Committee Member - 4 years

Report of the Search Committee - Mrs. Hill brought us up to date regarding the work of her committee. The committee spent the summer studying the kind of person and the qualifications the person should possess in order to be hired as Executive Director. The salary for the new Director was in question, and the issue could not be settled in a timely manner with the Commonwealth of Virginia so it was decided to hire an interim director. We were able to move forward when the Commonwealth approved our request to supplement the salary of the Executive Director which is paid by the Commonwealth. The position was posted in February 2013. We have received approximately sixty applications and we have selected four to be interviewed next month. We are hoping to have the position filled by June 2013.

Report of the Strategic Planning Committee - Mrs. Gripekoven thanked the Regents for their involvement and caring, wonderful ideas. The Recording Secretary was thanked for taking notes during the presentation of the committee on April 6, 2013. The new volunteers for the Working Groups are encouraged to review the information the groups have assembled and to offer suggestions. The governance recommendations need an NSCDA touch and will be reworded and circulated to the board.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business First Regent called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and carried.