

DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Charleston, South Carolina General Meeting – October 11, 2014

The General Meeting of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was held on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the Harbour Club in Charleston, South Carolina. Laurie Croft called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon. Hope Middleton Wood led everyone with the Society Prayer. Johnny Alexander led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bobby Walters, a high school senior from Pawley's Island, SC, delivered a 6-minute oration focusing on the power of the opening words from the Declaration of the Independence.

Minutes: A motion was made and 2nd to dispense the reading of the July 4, 2014 Philadelphia, PA minutes and these minutes were approved at the board meeting.

Registrar's Report: Wendy Bushey reported and read the names of the 26 new Senior Members and 4 new Junior Members. There was a motion and a 2nd to accept these members, which passed unanimously. Wendy also read the names of 2 deceased members.

Treasurer's Report: Johnny Alexander reported as of August 31, 2014 the organization has a list of assets under management totaling \$1,181,021.47. After balancing the income and expenses from May to August of 2014, the organization has a Net Loss of \$22,032.71. Johnny noted meeting expenses and that the revenue from current meeting will lower deficit. Bruce Laubach suggested members put their member number on their dues' check. There was discussion on the protocol for members who are in arrears. Johnny noted the web site is now updated to clear up confusion on membership reinstatement. The policy: reinstatement fee (\$45) plus the current year's dues (\$45) for a total of \$90.

Historian-General: Nina Hopkins reported on documents being collected for the Virginia Historical Society, including newsletters and meeting notices.

Annual Giving: Hope Middleton Wood reported that the annual letter will be mailed November 1, 2014. She mentioned that if you leave DSDI in your will, the donor gets a pin in appreciation. Hope closed by encouraging all members to give.

Merchandise Report: Laurie Croft passed around a DSDI Jefferson Cup and let everyone know that pins and DSDI badges are also available for purchase through Ruth Hagan.

Scholarship Report: Laurie Croft was pleased to report the scholarship checks

from the Mitchell Trust were sent out on August 8, 2014 in time to meet most recipients' 1st semester tuition invoices. Jill Haimes and her scholarship committee are gearing up for another application cycle, which will be slightly extended.

Old Business: IRS Form 990 filed for 2013 and any previous missing filings brought up to date by an outside CPA.

Treasurer-General position transition accomplished with all necessary paperwork to cover existing bank and investment accounts. Previous resolution to permit changing to a national bank doing business in the Treasurer-General's state of Oregon will be implemented in the upcoming months.

St. John's Church in Richmond, VA (site of Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech and our fall 2009 meeting) has been apprised of DSDI's pledge of \$5,600 towards its renovation needs, and the powers to-be-there were very appreciative to say the least. Providing a DSDI plaque for the church is in discussion.

Update on the George Read Plaque installation at Immanuel Church in New Castle, Delaware.

Broken DSDI Centennial CD problem addressed with replacements to be distributed in a better protective envelope.

New Business: A certification of incorporation issue surfaced and was resolved with a suggested By-Law amendment to be posted in the next Spirit Magazine and/or website with approval set for the spring meeting.

Discussion of what type of insurance policies are needed by DSDI. A General Liability Insurance policy will be added.

Discussion of a member's proposal to raise the number of scholarships and reduce the merit factor. Not approved.

President-General's remarks: Laurie Croft closed his remarks with this comment, "One of the greatest rewards of being PG is sharing time with members who have a concert of purpose to not let the Signers and their principles be forgotten. Such purpose requires dedication and the desire to educate. I am thankful we are striving to get the message out. Planting seeds in the minds of our youth will eventually lead to a bountiful harvest of historical insight that will help future generations appreciate what was endowed to them in 1776."

Roll Call:

Oliver Wolcott	3	John Morton	3
Philip Livingston	3	George Ross	1
Francis Lewis	1	Benjamin Harrison	1
Richard Stockton	2	Thomas Nelson, Jr.	4
John Witherspoon	4	Carter Braxton	1
John Hart	10	William Hooper	8
Robert Morris	1	Thomas Heyward, Jr.	10
Benjamin Franklin	1	Arthur Middleton	1

Evening Activities:

After dinner at the Carolina Yacht Club, our guest speaker was Dr. Nicholas Butler, a historian for the Charleston County Public Library. Dr. Butler transported us back into the Colonial period of Charleston and explored the role of music. We learned how music influenced the four South Carolina signers, and why it was an important contributor to the Revolution.

Submitted by,

L.D. "Morgan" Shank, IV
Asst. Secretary-General