

DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Online Virtual Board Meeting - October 12, 2017

The Board Meeting of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was held on Thursday, October 12, 2017 online virtual meeting with the use of GoToMeeting. Bruce Laubach President-General of the Society called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance and due to the nature of the virtual meeting an image of the American flag was used.

Present: (15) Bruce Laubach, Lucy Duke Tonacci, Cari Haines, Gene Mayhew, Hart Clements, Hope Middleton Wood, Jill Haines, Jim Alexander, Johnny Alexander, Lawrence DiCapua, Marianne Brinker, Nancy Wark, James Bainbridge, Laurie Croft, Donald Ward Jr.

Future Meetings: 1st Vice President Lucy talked about the upcoming meeting in Stratford Hall, VA and outlined the weekend activities. Lucy also asked if we should budget more money for the weekend activities and subsidize the funds for the activities versus having a line item for each one on the meeting registration form. This would also help make all of the activities open for anyone attending the meeting. There was a motion to approve these funds a 2nd and approved.

Marianne Brinker discussed an upcoming fall meeting in Litchfield, CT Sept 28-30, 2018. Litchfield is the home of Signer Oliver Wilcott. Lucy also talked about other proposals for future meetings at Homestead in Greenbrier.

Jim also noted that we should include the nearest public transport options for members either on the website or in the registration form so members are aware of the nearest airport, train or bus station to the meeting location.

Minutes: There was a motion to dispense the reading of the Minutes from the 2017 Philadelphia meeting there was a 2nd and approved.

Registrar's Report: (see attached) Jim Alexander due to the nature of the meeting the report the names were not read, but there was a motion to accept the new members a 2nd and the 27 new senior members and 19 new junior members were accepted. Jim mentioned that there was a change to one of the junior members registration. Junior member 1531 Austin Thomas Quillinan was added as a junior member. The attached report has the correction.

Webmaster: Jim Alexander reported that the host server for our website went down and he been unable to send or receive emails through his DSDI registrar general email. Jim said that he tried to get in touch with the host of server company and they have not been responsive. Jim mentioned that he was in the process of looking for a new host for the website and Jill Haines stated that she knew someone that could help and volunteered to assist him. There was a motion the switch the host of our website it was 2nd and approved.

Treasurer's Report: (see attached) Johnny Alexander reported as of September 16th we have collect annual dues from 365 members. There were 6 members that have not paid dues for a

while and Johnny was unable to contact them, and he asked that they be moved to the inactive members list.

Johnny also wanted to discuss membership types lifetime memberships versus annual memberships. His concern is that more members will see the benefit of lifetime membership and although we are not hurting financially now he is concerned that this could be a problem in the future as the annual member dues could decrease. To help offset this the past two years Johnny has been frugal and has not used all of the money recommended from the life member fund to support operations. Johnny gave examples of how other organizations process dues while still offering an annual or life membership option. Johnny proposed two options to help us financially in the future. The first option would be to increase the life membership dues from our current ratio of 13 1/3 years to 20-year ratio which would equal \$900 or 30-year ratio which would equal \$1,350 or 40-year ratio which would equal \$1,800. Option two would be to do away with new life membership and just have annual dues. Johnny stated that he would like to collect more data on the number of years the majority of life members are a part of the DSDI to get a more accurate ratio if we want to adjust to option one. There was some discussion on this and it was decided that more research was needed before we make a decision. There was a proposal to create a committee to further investigate life and annual membership dues. The committee consists of Bruce Laubach, Johnny Alexander, Gene Mayhew, Laurie Croft, Hope Middleton Wood and Donald Ward Jr.

For the financial report Johnny stated that our investments are doing well our assets are up \$143,000 from August 2016 to August 2017.

Annual Giving: Jill Haimes stated that Cari Haimes is working on the annual giving letter and plans to have them shipped out in November. Hope mentioned that she would be happy to help if she has any questions and Lucy noted that she had scanned and email Cari copies of the past annual giving letters to assist her.

Scholarship Report: Jill Haimes nothing new to report. Johnny mentioned that all of the scholarship checks were cashed by the universities and we did receive reimbursement from the Mitchel Trust for the software used for the scholarship applications. Jill mentioned that the process went well this year and there were no issues.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Bruce Laubach introduced Nancy Wark as the new governor of North Carolina. Bruce said that some state governors have asked for addresses of DSDI members in their state. Jim said that it has been done.

There was discussion about trademarking DSDI due to a letter that was issued from someone outside of the DSDI who was getting automatic withdraws from his checking account and not receiving anything for it. He confused our organization with a company called DSDI Dropship, whom has apparently gotten a bad reputation with their customers. Bruce wants to make sure this is not harmful to our society as we try to get new members and wants to make sure we are protected. Jim mentioned that he looked into this when defining our website and does not think the DSDI has been trademarked. James Bainbridge the DSDI Chancellor General mentioned that

he had circulated an email a few weeks prior to the meeting asking what the cost would be. He mentioned that although he is not an IP lawyer he does work with them and wanted to know if we wanted to trademark the DSDI acronym or trademarking the name of the entire organization? He said the ballpark cost for filing fees would be about \$300.00 per application and then if we use an attorney to fill out the forms to make the application it could be additional \$300.00 up to \$1,000.00 per application. And there could be additional fees if we decide to search for other organizations using the DSDI trademark name. Laurie mentioned that we may be able to tie it altogether under one fee by trademarking the organization. James said he would need to look into it further to see if it could be combined into one trademark or if we would need separate applications for the DSDI acronym, web domain and organization, but felt that it would be good to have the organization trademarked so we don't run into future issues and would give us control over the name and logo.

Trailing on the DSDI trademark discussion Bruce said that we had a request from one of our members to have a laser etching of the DSDI insignia on their gravestone. This would be an electronic image of the DSDI insignia that we would supply the gravestone manufacture to be laser etched on to the gravestone instead of having the bronze plaque mounted on the gravestone. One of Bruce's main concerns before handing out the image is that if it is a non-trademarked image he wants to make sure that this can not be used for nonmember gravestones. If the DSDI is trademarked, then we would have better control on who could use the DSDI insignia. Nancy Wark noted that she has had a similar experience with the DAR grave markings. Nancy stated that the way DAR handles it is that members have to request a template from the Historian General and the Historian General has an approved list of companies that the marker can be created by. If the members try to go to someone that is not on the approved list, they cannot use the DAR insignia.

After further discussion it was decided that we needed to do more research on trademarking the DSDI and Johnny recommended that we have Hart Clements the Assistant Historian General write a letter to the DAR's Historian General about the steps they took trademarking the DAR insignia to help find the best steps to take.

It was agreed upon that we should trademark the DSID, but we needed to have further investigation on trademarking the DSDI insignia and organization before we move forward. Gene Mayhew motioned that we set aside \$1,500.00 for trademarking registration fees after future investigation. Johnny mentioned that we should set aside the funds for the next fiscal year after May 1st 2018 once we have more information to present to the board. There was a 2nd and approved by the board. James said he would also look into it more and get a more accurate budget and list of requirements for us.

Bruce mentioned that he wanted to try and move us more into the digital age and wanted to start by creating an official DSDI Facebook page to help get some of the younger members more involved. Cari Haimes the 2nd Vice President of the DSDI mentioned that from her experience the younger generations are a social media generation (Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, etc..) and currently the only thing we have is a nonofficial Facebook page.

Cari purposed to have an official DSDI members only Facebook page. There was discussion to have some policies in place to manage the Facebook page. Cari noted that there is a way to screen members asking to join and a way to screen and approve any messages or photos posted to the Facebook page. After further discussion it was decided that we needed to create a social

media committee Cari, Lucy, and Hart volunteered. Cari suggested that we create a test Facebook page and review it at the spring board meeting. There was a motion to approve the test page 2nd and approved by the board.

Future Meeting

Bruce mentioned that we are quickly approaching the 250th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence and we should start to think about what we would like to do to honor this anniversary at one of our future meetings.

Governors Reports:

Lucy mentioned that the statue of Roger Brooke Taney was recently removed in Maryland by the Governor of Maryland Larry Hogan. Lucy wrote a letter to Larry Hogan asking if the Maryland Liberty Bell, which resides at St. John's College could be moved to the Annapolis State Circle where the statue Roger Brooke Taney used to be. Lucy was asking the board to see if this was something that the DSDI wanted to get involved with and/or have support from the board. Lucy wanted to know if she should press this issue further as an individual or from the DSDI. It was suggested that this should be pressed by Lucy instead of the DSDI organization.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald Ward Jr. Secretary-General of the DSDI
April 4th 2018