

## DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

*Online Virtual Board Meeting - March 14, 2019*

The Board Meeting of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 online virtual meeting with the use of GoToMeeting. Bruce Laubach President-General of the Society called the meeting to order at 7:30 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:** (13) Bruce Laubach, Lucy Duke Tonacci, Cari Haimes, Alyson Burnett Rawitch, Jim Alexander, Johnny Alexander, Andy Keller, Marianne Brinker, Nancy Wark, Weston Croft, Gus Lamond, Laurie Croft, Donald Ward Jr.

**Minutes:** There was a slight change in the minutes in section c. under New Business Johnny Alexander was changed to Jim Alexander "Jim Alexander is the only person in the society with access to pertinent details regarding the website, Virginia Historical Society and others. This access needs to be broadened."

There was a motion to approve and dispense the reading of the Minutes from the 2018 Connecticut meeting after the correction there was a 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** (see attached) Johnny Alexander reported, as of March 4<sup>th</sup> Balance sheet month to month comparison from January 2019. Next Johnny reviewed the profit and loss statement the gross profit was down slightly due to over estimating some meeting receipts, but there was nothing out of the ordinary. Expenses we are keeping a good handle on, operating expenses are down from what we had budgeted. Membership income we are seeing \$10,000 ahead right now. Overall as of February 28<sup>th</sup> we were under budget by \$4,700.

Johnny also went over the past year and new year planning budget and asked for an input on budgeting for the upcoming year before the annual Philadelphia meeting. There was a motion to accept the budget for the upcoming year there was a 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

**Investment Report:** (see attached) Weston Croft report that we began the year 2018 at \$1,452,138 and ended at \$1,349,950 which was about an 8% loss, but by the end of February 2019 we are up and about even from where were from the start of last year. DSDI policy has been to provide paying out 4-6% of the year end values. There was a motion to accept the investment report there was a 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

**Scholarship Report:** Bruce Laubach reported that they are in the process of receiving and reviewing scholarship applications and will read the names of the recipients at the July 4<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.

**Merchandising Report:** There was a discussion about ordering scarfs and Nancy was looking for approval from the board before ordering them. But the scarfs were accidentally sent to Nancy before approving funds from the board. There was discussion on whether or not we should pay for the scarfs and sell to members or send the scarfs back. There was a motion to pay the artist for the 50 scarfs received with a revised contract there was a 2<sup>nd</sup> and it was approved, one nay.

**Spouses Biography Report:** Bruce reported that one biography has been completed and we are looking for people to participate in the project.

**Registrar's Report:** (see attached) Jim Alexander reads the names of 18 new senior members and 12 new junior members that were accepted. There was a motion to accept the new members a 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved. There was one death reported Walter Vance Hall and Jim also noted that a board member Alan Zdimal had recently passed away and would document in the next report.

**Future Meetings:** 1st Vice President Lucy talked about the upcoming meeting Atlanta, GA Fall 2019 planning for October 4-6 and visiting the Atlanta History Center.

DSDI spring 2020 meeting planning for Trenton, NJ for a family fun event. Nancy also noted to have a trivia game and have the governors provide prizes representing each state for participation prizes.

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

**Governors Reports:** Laurie Croft reported after talking to the Governors we will be short one in Delaware. Gus Lamond will be stepping down as the Virginia Governor since he has moved and is no longer living close to Richmond and Andy Keller said that he would be happy to take the role as Governor for Virginia. Gus was thanked for all of his support and work over the years.

Nancy McBride Wark, North Carolina Governor participated at Cowan's Ford wreath laying and was presented with a lovely long ribbon which will be given to the Historian General at the Atlanta meeting.

Bruce also wanted to get the status of attending board members and Johnny Alexander has agreed to stay on as Treasurer until 2020. Donald Ward Jr. has asked to step down as Secretary General due to a growing family but plans to come back to the board in the future. But will continue to assist with future online meetings.

**Old Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:** Johnny Alexander noted that we are supposed to have a nominating report presented to the members 30 days prior to the annual meeting in Philadelphia. Since a Spirit newsletter will not be issued before the meeting, he recommends that we include the nominee list with the Philadelphia registration letter for the society members to review.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald Ward Jr. Secretary-General of the DSDI  
June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019