

Richard III Society –American Branch Board Meeting – January 13, 2013

Present: Jonathan Hayes, Sally Keil, Joan Szechtman, Wayne Ingalls, Diane Hoffman, Mary Retallick, Susan Higginbotham

Call to Order : 1:04PM PST

After discussion, the minutes were accepted as presented.

There was a discussion of matters relating to the AGM. It will be held in Richmond, VA from September 27th to 29th. Susan asked about the hotel price. Jonathan talked about possible speakers and recommended getting someone from the University of Virginia history department. The Society for Creative Anachronism and the Renaissance Faire were also mentioned as possibilities. Mary suggested that since Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy, perhaps a comparison of the Wars of the Roses to the American Civil War might be an interesting topic for the locals. Jonathan suggested that this might be a good idea for a panel discussion.

Jonathan brought up the topic of honorariums for speakers. He said that they had been \$100-\$200 in the past. He suggested that, if we get a speaker from the University of Virginia, we should ask how much they usually get.

There was a discussion of the latest news about the Leicester dig. Everyone was looking forward to getting the test results.

Sally talked about how she had taken over responsibility for membership from Amber McVey and had put the membership information in a new software program. She said that she would start sending out reminders to renew memberships by email and by snail mail. If someone doesn't respond to the first reminder, a second reminder would be sent. She wants to be easy with people before deciding to remove them, but she is also aware that we need to report to the Parent Society the current members as we are charged based on that.

Sally said that she was planning to send letters to those who had made donations to the Society to thank them. The membership renewal form allows people to designate separate monies for dues and donations. She suggested that we send a handwritten letter to acknowledge major donations.

Sally reported that as of today we had 317 members and 8 of them were past due on their dues. We have been getting new members and she suggested adding 10 members to the report to the Parent Society to account for those.

A message was sent to members about the facial reconstruction to be done from the skull of the Greyfriars skeleton if it turns out to be Richard.

Sally proposed sending a snail mail letter to members asking them for their email addresses. Jonathan proposed that we start sending the Register as an e-book rather than printing them.

Jonathan reminded everyone that the bylaws state that regional members must belong to the national Society, but he did not think that this should be a sticking point. We have not defined geographical boundaries for chapters. Sally mentioned that the database can be set to show all members from a particular state. The Parent Society uses membership numbers and it was discussed about the possibility of assigning numbers to members for tracking purposes. There was a question about how the Parent Society uses membership numbers and it was suggested that we contact Phil Stone to ask about this. It was restated that members should be instructed to communicate with Sally and not Amber.

Jonathan mentioned that the price of international mailings was going to increase.

There was discussion on how we should date memberships: one year from when the person last paid or calendar year.

It was proposed that the Branch set up a Facebook page and that an article be put in the next Register to ask for a moderator and/or a researcher to maintain it. The article could also ask members for input on the idea.

There was a discussion of the Google Ad Words campaign. There is a limit of \$100 per month and there has been an influx of new members, but that the new members could have joined because of the Leicester dig.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47PM PST.

Next meeting: March 17, 2013 – 1:00PM PST

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Retallick, Secretary