

The September 20th meeting of the executive board of the American Branch of the Richard III Society was called to order at 1:11PM. Present were Jonathan Hayes, Nita Musgrave, Wayne Ingalls, Sally Keil, Mary Retallick, and Susan Troxell. Joan Szechtman joined the conference call later.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Jonathan discussed the need to amend the bylaws to change the general meeting from annual to biennial. He also recommended that the task of organizing the new General Membership Meeting be changed from the immediate past president to someone else. Sally suggested the Regional Chapter Coordinator do it and that the suggestion be put to the membership at the 2016 General Membership Meeting.

Jonathan mentioned that he had sent out a copy of the bylaws on June 22nd, but would resend them.

There was a discussion of the Schallek scholarships. It had been raised as a possibility that the responsibility for these be given over entirely to the Medieval Academy, but Jonathan said he opposed it because he thought it was not in accordance with the wishes of the Schallek family. Nita said that the money was given to us and we had a moral obligation to do what the Schallek family wanted with it. Susan said we needed to adhere to the terms of the bequest. (At this point Joan joined the meeting). Joan asked if the society could have some say so over the candidates for the scholarships. Nita said that we had turned over the responsibility for that to the Medieval Academy. Joan said she thought a copy of the scholarship winners papers' should go to our non-fiction library. Jonathan mentioned that the Medieval Academy had a 5 year contract to do the scholarships. It was decided to leave the scholarships as they are.

Jonathan talked about Amazon Smile as a possible fundraiser. Amazon Smile is a program that allows Amazon customers to designate a charity to receive a small contribution every time they buy something from the Amazon Smile website. Mary mentioned that she was the treasurer for an organization that participates in the program, but they had not received any contributions yet, so she did not know how well the program worked. Jonathan said there was no cost to us and recommended asking Lisa Pince to set this up. Joan recommended checking to see if our bank would charge us anything to do the bank transfer, Jonathan said we should ask Lisa.

The 2016 General Membership Meeting will be held in Colorado. Nita said that the organizers had already picked dates--September 23rd to September 25th. Possible places to go included the Denver Art Museum which has a medieval exhibit. It was suggested that Dominic Smee, the re-enactor who has scoliosis like Richard and has a suit of armor made to fit him, be invited to be a presenter. There was a discussion of what expenses should be paid for him, such as air travel, registration and hotel. Jonathan said Dominic was interested in coming to the US and we could invite members of the Canadian branch of the society as well.

Sally talked about the new membership database. It is now possible for her to make lists of members in a certain geographical area and make them available online. She has already make a list for New England and is working on Illinois.

Wayne said that the society's Facebook page was getting good traffic. Sally said there were 17 new members. She talked about what she needs to do to make it possible for US members to buy things from the UK society and mentioned that she could make a list available to the UK society of who is a member of the US society for them to use rather than her having to make a special contact. She mentioned that the UK society has outsourced their sales to another company. Jonathan said that if it was only 3 or 4 times a year, that Sally shouldn't make the membership list available.

There will be board elections at the 2016 General Membership Meeting.

The next meeting will be on January 10th starting at 1PM PT (4PM ET).

Susan said that the damage done to the non-fiction library has largely been repaired thanks to donations from the membership. She recommended that those who had donated should be allowed a free item from the surplus and then the rest be put up for sale to the rest of the membership. Things left of could be donated to a library.

Joan suggested adding a \$10 fee to the registration to pay for the expenses in bringing Dominic Smee to the meeting. It was mentioned that the McGee fund was supposed to pay for things like that. Jonathan recommended that we wait to see if Dominic is definitely coming before continuing the discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10PM PT.