

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
Richard III Society – American Branch
December 11, 2022 4pm EST**

The meeting was called to order by Susan Troxell, Chair. The following were in attendance:

Mary Miller
Wayne Ingalls
Joan Szechtman
Susan Troxell
Deborah Kaback
Carole Bell
Sally Keil

Susan began the meeting by asking each Board member to introduce themselves, and talk a bit about their background with the Richard III Society – American Branch.

Final Report on the 2022 General Membership Meeting (GMM) & Membership Survey

Susan Troxell gave the final report on the October 2022 GMM, which was held in Washington DC. A copy of this report was provided to each Board member and is incorporated into these minutes as Addendum A. Thirty five (35) people attended the GMM in person with another 20 via Zoom. Susan reported that the event got great reviews from those who attended. Unfortunately, however, it lost money despite savings achieved in many aspects, e.g., Carol Ann Lloyd decreased her speaking fee from \$750 to \$500; the A/V contractor worked a full extra day for no additional charge; we filed for & received Exemption from VA Sales Tax saving an additional \$500 in sales tax; we were not charged for the hotel meeting space since we achieved the required minimum guest room bookings; and Compton Reeves waived his speaking. The 'net' was that we had \$10,000 in income and \$14,689 in costs. One of the higher costs was for the AV support needed to be able to offer a Zoom attendance option. Susan reported that it was very much worth the expenditure as no one in the Society has the needed expertise to produce a hybrid in person and a Zoom presentation. A discussion ensued about this cost, incurred so that we can offer a Zoom attendance option. No specific vote was taken on whether we should continue to offer a hybrid in person/Zoom option (although the verbal consensus was that we should), because we still don't know the venue, what public health regulations might be in place then, and what would best serve our membership at that time.

Susan also reported on the 2022 Membership Survey, which is incorporated into these minutes as Addendum B. Twenty two people responded and provided their thoughts and preferences for future GMMs and the overall direction of the American Branch and the benefits it offers to its members. From this survey we learned that outreach to younger people was viewed as the top priority. The next GMM will be in 2024 in Santa Fe New Mexico; Dawn Schafer will be heading up the planning for it. Dawn has experience with this, as she put together the GMM in Denver CO in 2016.

Membership Chair Report

Wayne Ingalls reports that we currently have 360 members. He will do an email blast to lapsed members to ask why they ended their memberships, and see if that might encourage renewals.

Liz Bateman, the Chapter Chair for the Tidewater VA chapter has asked for the production of a Membership Directory. A discussion ensued but it was generally agreed that there was no need for a printed directory, and that the membership database can be accessed and a report set up in the system that will show the members in any regional area. Wayne will look into these Chapter Listing reports that all Chapter Chairs can access, and advise those Chairs about the availability of these reports as well as send them directly to the chapter chairs who would prefer not to have to access the report themselves.

Treasurers Report

Discussion was held regarding the unpredictability of the CLG's issuance of its invoice to us, and the impact that has on our fiscal year reporting. Deborah Kaback reported that we have \$57,000 in our checking account but have not yet received the CLG invoice. Additionally we have \$151,000 in our Vanguard savings account.

Susan Troxell reported that the CLG is having a Special General Meeting (SGM) in March 2023 with the intent to vote on raising their membership rates. They will also be considering doing away with the 'senior rate', the rate that the American Branch is charged, starting in 2024-2025. Combined with a possible increase in overseas mailing charges, we will in all likelihood be looking at an increase in our costs coming from the CLG. While we have set aside funds so that we can initially absorb this increase, the possibility of raising our membership rates will have to be discussed in future meetings.

Schallek Fellowship Awards

Susan Troxell reported on the latest recipient of the Schallek Award, Amy Danielle Juarez, who is pursuing her PhD at UC- Riverside. Once the Medieval Academy of America (MAA) issues a press release on this award, Cheryl Greer will add it to the News Blog on our website. Additionally Joan Szechtman will add this copy to the next issue of The Ricardian Chronicle and The Ricardian Register.

Susan Troxell reported that the American Branch has asked to have Compton Reeves added to the Review Board that reads all applications for the Schallek Fellowship. No promises were made to honor this request by the MAA, however.

It was reported that the current balance in the Schallek Fellowship Award account is \$1.6 million. Susan Troxell reported that, as required by the terms of the contract, the awards were drawn from the earnings of this account and that principal is not distributed. Susan will be getting a financial statement on the endowment.

Our contract with the MAA comes up for renewal in 2024. A discussion ensued about how we might increase the number of applicants. The current scope of the research we support is very specific (English history from the 1300-1500's) and thus limits the number of applicants. No decision was taken.

Organizational Vacancies

The American Branch is lacking a Chapters Coordinator, Vice Chair, Events Planner and Assistant Editor. The importance placed on outreach and member recruitment is impacted by local chapters and thus the importance of the Chapters Coordinator position cannot be over stated. Additionally, Joan Szechtman intends to retire at some point from her many duties in producing our publications (both print and online) and needs an assistant so that she can train this individual to take over the role of Editor at some

point in the future. Again, the importance of filling this position cannot be over stated. Wayne Ingalls will do an email blast to the full membership with the job descriptions and wording to try to encourage members to raise their hands to volunteer. Additionally a copy will be put on our web site (by Cheryl Greer ostensibly) discussing our need for additional volunteers.

Programs and Special Projects

The need to heavily promote Dr Toby Capwell's Zoom talk the American Branch is sponsoring this January was put forward by Susan Troxell. We only have 15 people signed up as of this date, and Dr Capwell's extensive experience in the field of medieval armor should be widely advertised to encourage attendance. Other possible speakers could be Compton Reeves, who has also suggested that Joel Rosenthal might be interested.

While no vote was taken at the Board meeting, there was verbal agreement that we should financially support the digitization effort using the Digital Mappa platform of the E4 roll held at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Susan reported that this project is headed up by Laura Blanchard: many on the Board know her and have confidence in her work, and thus gave verbal confirmation of our commitment to providing assistance. The figure of \$3,000 was presented by Susan: she was also advised that our financial support would best be given directly to the undergraduate students doing the work rather than as a grant to an institution. To be discussed at a future meeting would be confirmation of our total financial commitment to this project and the manner in which it would be distributed.

Once begun, the American Branch should seek publicity regarding our support of this effort in support of our outreach goal. It was also discussed that the undergraduates being paid by us to do this work could submit reports on their efforts that we can publish in our publications, both online and in print.

Discussion was held about the possibility of using the new movie The Lost King in some fashion to promote membership, but no specific plans were presented.

Susan mentioned the invitation from the UK CLG to participate in their 100th anniversary celebrations on July 6, 2024 (R3's coronation date) - they are looking for branches to do something "locally" and to coordinate with the CLG for maximum publicity.

Susan also mentioned that there is going to be a new quarterly R3S Branches & Groups electronic newsletter called "Ricardian Herald" and the American Branch has been invited to contribute to it.

As the meeting had now been going on for two hours, it was decided to end the meeting at 6pm EST. It was agreed that the next meeting will be on February 12, 2023 at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Keil
Secretary

Addendum A

FINAL ACCOUNTING ON 2022 GMM (HYBRID ZOOM + IN PERSON)

INCOME GROSS RECEIPTS - 35 registered to attend in person; 20 to attend by Zoom

Eventbrite \$4,400

PayPal \$1,200

By Check \$3,650

Donations at Event: \$750

TOTAL INCOME \$ 10,000

EXPENSES

Food & Beverage \$7,732

AV equipment & technician* \$2,370

Speakers (2) \$1,000 (\$500 each)

Musicians (3)* \$1,500 (\$500 each)

Printing & Mailing** \$1,380 (announcement, inserts to March & Sept *Registers*,

GMM packet, Proposed Bylaws)

Promotional \$ 70 (podium banner)

Eventbrite Fee \$ 335

Reimbursement \$ 300 (decorations, goodie bags, raffle/auction)

TOTAL EXPENSE \$ 14,687

NET LOSS \$ 4,687

*These expenses were incurred specially for the 60th Anniversary of the American Branch and because we were doing hybrid Zoom/In-Person and needed additional AV technical support and Equipment.

** Printing and mailing expenses were unusually high because we were proposing new Bylaws (over 12 pages) and it was imperative that all members get those.

Addendum B

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY - 2022 GMM

22 COMPLETED SURVEYS RECEIVED

How long have you been a member?

Average length of membership: 15 years

What interested you and made you decide to join the Richard III Society-American Branch?

Interest in medieval studies with focus on R3.

Connect to other Ricardians.

Paul Murray Kendall.

Princes in the Tower.

Finding his bones.

Feedback on the GMM

Is this the first time you came to a GMM?

10 said YES; 12 said NO

What made you interested in attending the 2022 GMM?

Speakers & Location & Fellowship

How do you rate the venue for the GMM? (1=poor/10=excellent)

Almost everyone rated it 10. Two people gave it lower marks, one for "cold bedroom" and the other for unspecified reasons.

How do you rate the speakers? (1=poor/10=excellent)

Carol Ann Lloyd: She received high ratings

Kelly DeVries: Some said he was difficult to understand (mumbling, lack of enunciation)

Do you feel that the content of the lectures presented by our speakers was

98% said both were "just right"

Carol Ann Lloyd _1 vote_ too basic

Kelly DeVries 2 votes too advanced

What did you like best about this weekend's GMM?

People liked the social connections, and the presentations the best

What did you like the least about this weekend's GMM?

Sunday Continental breakfast was too meager.

Could have used a longer "rest break" before Saturday Banquet (90 minutes was too short)

What do you think could be improved upon at future GMMs?

2 people said they wish more people were wearing medieval costumes

Would you consider going to a future GMM?

In person? Everyone said YES

By Zoom? 3 people said NO to Zoom

Is there any person in particular whom you would like to hear give a future educational talk?

Turi King, Matt Lewis, Sally Keil

Is there any particular subject or topic you would like to hear at a future educational talk?

International links to England; DNA discovery of R3; Depiction of R3 in popular culture and historiography; Richard's Family; Eleanor Butler

Do you think In-Person GMMs and gatherings are

100% said still an important part of being a member

___ not as important as they used to be

___ not important at all to being a member

Survey on our Local Chapters

Most people seemed aware of their local Chapter and/or were involved with it. But there was a consensus that activity had slackened off and almost everyone said to me (privately) that they thought Zoom needed to be leveraged as a way for local members to interact.

One chapter chair said she needed HELP from a chapter coordinator to support their group, their local events, gatherings, etc., and was not getting the guidance she needed

Are you aware of a local Chapter in your area?

If you are aware, are you a member of that Chapter?

If there's a local Chapter near you, would you want to receive emails and updates from that Chapter?

Have you ever served as a volunteer or committee person for any of our local Chapters?

What kinds of local Chapters activities would appeal to you and make you want to join a Chapter? (these can range from educational talks to book clubs to casual gatherings to group trips to see "The Lost King" movie, etc.)

Do you have an interest in starting up a new local Chapter or reviving an inactive Chapter?

Would you like to be contacted about how to do that? (note- it only takes 3 people to form a Chapter, so it's not an overly formal process)

If so, please give us your name, email, and phone number:

Priorities of the American Branch

Going forward, what would you like to see from the American Branch?

More in-person meetings, more Zoom talks, a "virtual online Chapter"

Do you feel that the benefits of membership are worth the dues you pay now?

100% said YES

Please rank how valuable the following benefits are to you as a member of the American Branch, using the following scale

The LEAST valuable were discounts to UK venues; and access to lending libraries. Everything else was highly rated as a benefit.

1 = most valuable; 2 = somewhat valuable; 3= least valuable

___ Reading the American Branch journal *Ricardian Register*

- Reading Am Branch electronic newsletter *Ricardian Chronicle*
- UK Quarterly Magazine *The Ricardian Bulletin*
- UK Annual academic journal *The Ricardian*
- Attending online (Zoom) educational talks
- Keeping up-to-date on historical Ricardian research
- Getting news about Ricardian events & happenings in America
- Meeting others interested in Richard III
- Attending the GMM of the American Branch
- Having access to Lending Libraries (fiction & non-fiction books)
- Getting discounted admission to UK venues such as Bosworth

In the future, would you like to see any of the following from the American Branch? If so, check all those that apply using the scale

Ranked in Order of Highest to Lowest Priority:

- #1 - outreach to younger people**
- #2 - more online events, talks, meetings**
- #3 - TIE between more public education & group trips**
- #5 - more original articles & research**
- #6 - funding special projects**
- #7 - more presence on social media**

1 = highest priority; 2 = moderate priority; 3 = low priority

- More online events like educational talks or book groups
- More of a presence on Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, IG)
- More original articles and research
- Funding more special projects like artifact preservation
- Doing more to educate the public about Richard III
- Hosting group trips, locally and/or overseas
- More outreach to younger people (such as funding a National History Day school essay prize)

Do you intend to renew your membership in the American Branch?

100% said YES

If not, why not?

Please give us feedback about anything else, we really do welcome hearing from you!

2 people would like organized trips locally and/or to UK

1 person urged the branch to capitalize on "The Lost King" movie and related interest in Society

1 person said that Board members should be introduced to new members, maybe paired up with a new member?

If you wish, please provide your name and email address (not required):