

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Richard III Society – American Branch
February 12, 2023 3pm 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
Compton Reeves

The Minutes of the previous meeting had been approved by all via email.

Membership Chair report

Wayne Ingalls reported that the American Branch had 370 members in all.

Treasurers Report

Deborah Kaback reported that the branch's finances were in good shape. After having paid the annual member invoice from the CLG there remained approximately \$41,000 in our checking account. In our Vanguard account we have some \$152,000 that is being invested in a bond fund and is earning interest. The next major expenditure upcoming will be the printing costs for the Register. Susan Troxell asked Deborah to have the accountants separate mailing costs we incur from the UK from the ones we incur domestically. Deborah said she would do that.

Secretary's Report

Sally Keil has been contacted by Philippa Langley who, on behalf of the company charged with distributing the new film The Lost King in the US, has asked for a list of cities in the US where there may be a 'cluster' of members of the American branch. The idea is that the distribution company may wish to set up special 'by invitation' pre-screenings of the film and invite American branch members. At Sally's request Wayne ran searches of the membership database to determine number of members in various cities. Sally sent this information back to Philippa on February 13th. Philippa replied that the following US cities were being looked at as possible candidate locations: Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston and LA. Sally was asked, and agreed, to have her contact information passed along to the production company should they want/need any follow up.

Sally also reported that copy on the American Branch's activities (sent around to the Board for review/comment on January 23rd) had been sent to Susan Grant-Mackie, Editor of the Ricardian Herald, on January 30th . Ms Grant-Mackie acknowledged receipt and asked for a photo to accompany the copy. That was subsequently sent and received.

Chairperson's Report

Susan reported that we received very good reviews of the Toby Capwell Zoom talk, the first presentation in the Branch's Lecture Series for 2023. This program is off to a good start!

Susan reported that she will be going to Brooklyn to personally visit with Ann Howe to examine the framed Sir Lawrence Olivier letter that Ms Howe would like to donate to the Branch. The discussion of this proposed gift was followed up on later in the Board Meeting when the issue of a 'gift policy' arose. There was discussion surrounding the need for such a policy and what it should include. It was agreed that the Branch should have such a policy in writing; Susan Troxell and Deborah Kaback will put together a draft policy for the Board's review at the next Board meeting.

There was discussion of Nance Crawford's request that we consult with her about finding a suitable venue for the production of her play 'Kings Games'. It was unanimously agreed that no one on the Board has any expertise in this area, and that we cannot be of any help to her. While not stated, it is assumed that Susan Troxell will relay this decision to her.

There was discussion surrounding Jeffrey Wilson's book Richard III's Bodies; a review copy was sent to the Branch and read by Susan Troxell. It was agreed that we would put Dr Wilson on our list of potential Zoom presenters for the 2024 or 2025 Lecture Series. Again, while not stated, it is assumed that Susan Troxell will relay this decision to him. Susan will be writing a review of the book for submission for publication in the Ricardian Register.

There was discussion regarding the papers of Sharon Kay Penman, currently being held in Susan Troxell's office. This archival collection was donated to the CLG by the estate of Ms Penman. Susan Troxell is in discussions with Matt Lewis regarding the manner in which these items should be shipped to the UK (proper shipping cartons are needed). The topic of a gift policy was again raised, as there was a thought that perhaps the American Branch should find a home for these papers in the US, as Ms Penman was an American. However, our inability to house such a collection – from a liability as well as an access perspective – was reviewed. Also, the idea that we undertake finding a more suitable location for these items in the US was critiqued by Mary Miller who shared her work experience as the librarian responsible for gifts and donations: she said that such donations are rarely wanted and, if taken, are either dispersed or sold off.

There was discussion surrounding Kim Harding's request that the Branch assist the 'Windows for the King' fundraiser by soliciting donations from American Branch members and then act as a clearinghouse for collection of such funds and then passing the total donated amount on to her. It was agreed that we will not act as a financial clearinghouse, but if she would like to write up a request for funds/project description flyer, we will do an email blast of it to our membership for their review, and individual follow up. Again, while not stated, it is assumed that Susan Troxell will relay this decision to Ms Harding.

Editors Report

Joan reports that the Ricardian Register is coming out soon.

Other Business

We have not yet received an updating request for funding from the Edward IV Roll Digital Mapping project. Therefore, no vote can be taken on it. This will be taken up again at the next Board meeting.

Board agreed to Keil/Reeves/Rosenthal as the speakers for the 2023 Zoom Lecture Series.

As required in the By-Laws we need to write up the Annual Report for 2022. It was agreed that Joan Szechtman would write it up and complete it no later than May 1, 2023. Further, the Annual Report will be published electronically to the membership, not printed/mailed.

In reviewing ideas for the American Branch's participation in the CLG's July 2023 100th Anniversary celebrations, the suggestion that a delegation of American members attend brought up the need to have a clearer idea of the CLG's proposed agenda. Susan Troxell was tasked with contacting them to gather this information. This will be taken up again at the next Board meeting.

The next meeting of the Board will be on April 23, 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):