

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
Richard III Society – American Branch
August 20, 2023 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

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The process whereby Minutes get uploaded to Google docs for Board review and then to the web master for loading onto our web site was discussed. It was agreed that the process would be for the Secretary to forward the draft of the Board meeting Minutes to the Chair. Following any input from the Chair the Minutes would be uploaded to Google docs, and the web master advised that they were available for uploading to the web site.

Open Editor Position

The two candidates for the open Editor position were invited to attend this Board meeting; neither was available to do so. There was extensive discussion about the selection process for a new Editor, the training of a new person in this position and the transfer of the responsibilities of the Editor from Joan Szechtman to the new person. Considering the tremendous importance of this position to the American Branch, the manner in which this is handled is extremely important.

Four people responded to the call for volunteers for this position. After being interviewed it was decided that two people were viable candidates: Tara Kolden and Lisbeth Maxwell. However, after raising her hand to be considered for the Editor position Lisbeth Maxwell has expressed concern that she may not have the time available at this moment due to personal circumstances. It was agreed that we would keep her in mind for the future and perhaps circle back to her in the coming months to get an update on her availability. In the meantime Susan Troxell is going to set up another Zoom interview with Tara Kolden to be able to meet Tara in person, discuss the Board's expectations, and confirm Tara's capability to meet this challenge. No vote was taken on whether or not Tara will be officially offered this job; Susan wishes to extend to Tara a provisional appointment, starting off by working with Joan on the digital newsletter. The Board will be invited to attend this interview.

Wayne Ingalls will reply to the two other candidates who were not chosen, to say 'Thanks, but no thanks'.

A discussion ensued about what a 'Plan B' may look like if the individual(s) who take on the Editor position don't work out. Joan has researched the costs of outsourcing the production of our print and digital publications to both freelancers as well as companies that do this type of work; Susan also talked to a friend who works in this arena. Joan will keep a file of this information for reference should we be unable to find/retain a viable Editor once Joan fully retires.

Membership Chair Report

Wayne reports that our current membership is at 434, with 12 new members in the month of August alone. Our membership count a year ago was 356. We have 110 Twitter followers and 2700 FaceBook followers.

It was agreed by the Board that the American Branch Zoom Lecture Series is a benefit of membership in the Branch and priority will be given to members of the American Branch. A few days before a scheduled lecture, if there is space available (our Zoom account has a maximum number of 100 attendees), any non-American Branch people who have requested to attend will be given the ability to do so. Wayne Ingalls will take responsibility for keeping a list of these individuals and sending them the link if there is room for them.

The 'Refer a Friend/Get a Discount' idea is difficult to implement with our current CRM software. This idea was tabled for the present time.

The idea that there should be some sort of organization of the Americans traveling to the UK for the 2024 celebrations was raised by Susan. It may be further discussed as the time draws closer.

Treasurer's Report

Deborah Kaback reports \$57,000 in Checking account, \$3,000 in PayPal and \$152,000 in our Vanguard account. She reports that we have sufficient cash on hand to pay the upcoming invoice from the UK.

Deborah and Susan will be meeting with our accountants this week for a quarterly/YTD review. They will also ask if the accountant would be able to be our registered agent.

As of this Board meeting Deborah had not yet linked our Vanguard account to our Bank of America checking account. She intends to do so soon. (Note: she reports making this link in an email exchange the day after the Board meeting. She further confirms that interest/dividend income from the Vanguard account is being reinvested automatically.)

Research Library Report

Susan reports a noticeable uptick in new members requesting books.

Chair's Report

Susan raised the topic of what the American Branch might want to do for the Centenary Celebration July 6, 2024. We need to tell BGLO what our event is no later than September 1st, in order to make the announcement in the December issue of *Ricardian Register*. Compton Reeves in a previous Board meeting had raised the idea of a Zoom presentation of Ann Sutton's book on the coronation. While a good idea, no one has yet raised their hand to put together such a talk. As Compton could not attend this Board meeting, there was no further input from him. Susan is going to reach out to him regarding preparing such a lecture and writing up an announcement of it to meet the September 1st deadline for publication in the *Ricardian Register*. (Note: Following the Board meeting Susan did communicate with Compton. It has been decided that Compton and Susan will jointly prepare and give the presentation. The write up on the talk was circulated to and approved by the Board, and was sent on to the BGLO in order to meet the deadline.)

The idea of a Book Club has been tabled for now, as the Board is too busy at this moment to pursue it.

Edward IV Roll project: please see the email update that is attached at the end of these Minutes.

The topic of the 2024 GMM was raised: when should we ask Dawn for an update on her planning? Mary Miller has spoken with Dawn and will take on this responsibility to check in with Dawn and get an update.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on October 22nd at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Keil
Secretary

Edward IV Roll Project

Dear Susan,

Thank you for checking in. We are making good progress with the roll. We seem to be on target to transcribe and translate 4/7 sections by the end of this month (we have two more meetings). I wish we could have completed the whole roll, but it's pretty difficult work, and we would surely need another 50 collective hours to do it. The translator, Emma, turned out to be an indispensable aid in transcription, so she's been translating all along.

We would love to continue working on it and finish it, if there happens to be funding to continue.

With thanks for the opportunity,
Emily

(This email is dated August 18, 2023.)