

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Richard III Society Inc., American Branch



Susan Troxell

2023 Annual Report from Chair

I chaired all meetings of the American Branch's Board of Directors, and also met "virtually" with representatives of the UK Society to discuss issues ranging from future increases in dues to what kind of events are being coordinated for the UK's Centenary in 2024. The use of Zoom has allowed for much improved communications and better coordination, internally and with our overseas partners, and it's one of the reasons we were successful in mounting large projects in 2023. But nothing can replace the energy and commitment of our volunteers, and I thank all of them for their time and dedication.

The year 2023 saw many achievements, including the following:

- Huge increase in membership numbers
- Successful PR TixPix Campaign for "The Lost King" movie
- Successful Inaugural Program of American Branch Zoom talks
- Creation of Twitter, BlueSky, Instagram & private YouTube channel
- Local Chapter activity - Tidewater is active again!
- Special Project - FLP Lewis MS E201 - the "Edward IV Roll"
- Promotional activities at 3rd party events - Stratford Shakespeare Festival
- Increased presence in the UK's Ricardian Bulletin magazine
- Increased presence at the UK's AGM
- Secured a new Editor for American Branch publications

As you will see in the Treasurer's Report, we carry into 2024 a healthy cash balance, and that, combined with rebounding trends in our investment accounts, means we are in good fiscal shape right now. However, with the increases in the UK Society's subscription rates coming in the future years, and with the increasing costs of printing, paper, and mailing our research journal, the American Branch will have to reassess its current dues structure. This will surely be one of the issues for the membership to discuss and vote on at our next General Membership Meeting on November 1-3, 2024, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

I look forward to seeing you in Santa Fe!

2023 Report from Treasurer

Deborah Kaback

Income	Jan-Dec 2023	2022
Dues	\$32,925.41	\$29,230.13
Gift General Fund	\$16,933.82	\$5,904.90
Dividends	\$4,784.67	\$3,699.22
Amazon Smile	\$112.07	\$167.00
Interest	\$ -	\$ -
Gifts in Kind — Goods	\$ -	\$1,209.71
Gifts McGee Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Gift Schalleck Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Gifts Weinsoft Fund	\$40.00	\$ -
GMM Registration Fees	\$ -	\$9,250.00
Additional Registers	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$54,795.97	\$49,461.16
Non-Cash Gains/(Losses)	\$3,729.57	\$(26,328.99)
Investment Income Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	\$14,961.76	\$20,552.54
Expenses		
UK Society Dues	\$14,961.76	\$20,552.52
UK Overseas Direct Mailings	\$8,977.05	\$12,160.18
Grant Research - UPENN Edward IV Roll Project	\$4,250.00	
Ricardian Register Printing/Production/Mailing Costs	\$2,748.42	\$4,425.75
Fiction Library Expense		\$204.71
Non-Fiction Library Expense	\$37.74	\$1,448.59
Bank Wire		\$ -
Acc Federal NY State Tax Filing Fees		\$50.00
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$1,603.11	\$1,570.14
Zoom Subscriptions	\$204.00	\$193.08
Conferences, Conventions & Meetings	\$500.00	\$14,712.95
Travel		\$378.00
Sales Office Expense		
Insurance		\$1,002.00
Printing and Copying		\$65.58
Reimbursement		\$ -
Charitable Donations		\$3,400.00
Website	\$239.88	\$531.39
Accounting Fees	\$4000.00	\$3,000.00
Total Expenses	\$37,521.96	\$63,697.91

2023 Report from Treasurer cont.

	Jan-Dec 2023	2022
Net income	\$21,003.58	\$(40,565.74)
Beginning Balance		
Vanguard Total Bond Market Fund Index	\$149,304.36	\$171,934.13
Bank of America Business Fundamentals Checking	\$41,086.26	\$50,044.04
PayPal	\$3,636.99	\$12,615.18
	\$194,027.61	\$234,593.35
Ending Balance		
Vanguard Total Bond Market Fund Index	\$157,818.60	\$149,304.36
Bank of America Business Fundamentals Checking	\$50,459.44	\$41,086.26
PayPal	\$6,753.15	\$3,636.99
	\$215,031.19	\$194,027.61

The Schallek Fellowship Awards Program endowment, which was originally valued at \$1.34M when it was gifted to the Branch in 2003, was valued at \$1.7M as of year-end 2023. Each year, a total of \$40,000 is drawn from the endowment to pay for one \$30,000 dissertation fellowship and five \$2,000 awards. The program is administered by the Medieval Academy of America and its financial manager (UBS Financial Services), which also manages other endowments it holds in trust for grant programs. The MAA draws a sum of money, not to exceed 0.5% of the fund, to pay for its costs in administering the program.

2023 Annual Report from the Membership Chair

Wayne Ingalls

Membership totals for the Richard III Society, American Branch had an overall increase in 2023 from 356 to 480 memberships, with an additional 26 family members. This brings the overall total of American Branch members to over 500. Interest in King Richard III and the Yorkist era was generated by the movie "The Lost King" in early 2023 and, near the end of the year, the Princes in the Tower episode of "Secrets of the Dead" (PBS). It's our challenge to maintain that interest by providing our membership with great value for their membership dues. Part of that value comes from publications sent directly to American Branch members from The Richard III Society, CLG, in the UK. Issues with Royal Mail caused either delays or missing publications beginning with the annual Ricardian in late 2023. With a few exceptions, Ricardian Bulletins continued to arrive (more or less) on time. The number of lost or missing publications from the UK has decreased over the last few years but underlines the need for American Branch members to keep the Membership Chair apprised as to changes of address. Please note that updating a change of address via a member's login and password on the American Branch site does not automatically change the address in the CLG's membership database. Overall, the outlook from Membership remains strong if we continue to provide our members with outstanding value at a time of rising costs.