

## 2022 GMM Business Meeting Minutes

10/29/2022 Call to order at 2:05 pm

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### MEETING ATTENDED BY:

Officers: In-person—Susan Troxell, Chair; Wayne Ingalls, Membership Chair; Compton Reeves, Immediate Past Chair; Joan Szechtman, Secretary

Via Zoom—Deborah Kaback, Treasurer

+ 34 members in person and 24 members via Zoom, of whom 10 were first time GMM attendees.

### 2022 GMM began with a reading of the mission statement of the American Branch:

The mission of the American Branch of the Richard III Society is to bring forward a historically-accurate, balanced, and fair assessment of a controversial English king, and to support educational initiatives to interpret his times. The Branch connects Americans with the global Ricardian community through joint membership with the Richard III Society (CLG) in the UK, and with one another by organizing events that expand on our knowledge of medieval history.

### RECOGNIZING OUR DEARLY DEPARTED:

Since our last in person GMM (2018), several current or past members are no longer with us:

Dianne G. Batch—past Michigan Chapter Moderator, died October 15, 2019,

Jonathan Hayes—past Chair, died February 5, 2020

Jacquelyn Bloomquist—past chair and vice chair, died in 2019

Pam Butler—past Membership Chair, died July 2020

Roxanne Murph—past Chair, co-founder of the Southwest Chapter, died June 23, 2021

Pam Butler—past Membership Chair, died July 2020

Arthur Kincaid—founder of the American Branch, died July 24, 2022

Linda Treybig—member from 1996 to 2016, died Jan. 9, 2022, known for leading Ricardian tours in the UK

Bertram Field— member from 1994 to 1997, died Aug 7, 2022, American lawyer and author of *Royal Blood*, a legal analysis of whether Richard III was responsible for the presumptive murders of the "princes in the tower."

Mary Jane Dean Battaglia—member since 1976, past Secretary, died May 11, 2019

Angelo Battaglia—member since 1985, died June 24, 2022

Recognize Matt Lewis, Chair and Jane Trump, Branch & Group Liaison Officer (BGLO) attending via Zoom:

Matt Lewis: Presented an overview of the Richard III Society future starting with some **good news**—looking to submit a request to examine the bones interred in and urn in Westminster Abbey to be promoted by the society's patron, the Duke of Gloucester.

Lewis then sandwiched in a bit of **bad news**—financially, the societies costs are going up primarily in printing and mailing costs. He projects an increase in 2023 of about £3 per subscription. In addition, mailing costs are rising and they have to be recalculated.

More **good news**—The new edition of Buc, ed. Arthur Kincaid, is nearing publication. Sadly, Arthur Kincaid passed away prior to its publication, but had dotted the final I

and crossed the final t making it ready for publication. No date available at this time, but expected to be announced shortly.

The *Lost King* film should be released in the US, March, 2023.

Lewis concluded with thanking us for all the American Branch has contributed to the society.

Jane Trump: As BGLO, she is the parent society's main interface between the UK and the Branches and Groups globally. She is renewing the Branch & Group quarterly, which is in addition to the current publications of the branches and groups. The first edition under her watch will be published in February.

#### MINUTES OF PAST GMM

The 2020 GMM was done via Zoom, and recorded, but no minutes were taken. The only business conducted was to vote in the officers and to pass the proposed budget. No need to have a vote on this.

#### REPORT FROM CHAIR:

Major achievements/challenges:

**Website redesign**—Engaged Cheryl Greer, Webmaster, to do a full website redesign that went live in December, 2020. Reviews thus far have been highly favorable.

**Special Projects**—Made large donation to Wallace Collection displaying armor used for the *Lost King* movie. Dr. Toby Capwell, armor consultant to the movie, will be giving a Zoom talk to the American Branch on the Scoliotic Knight, January 22, 2023.

**Revised bylaws**—added Directors and Officers Insurance, added three directors who have no stated duties, but are expected to attend bi-monthly Zoom meetings. This will add some oversight and provide a path for those interested in being on the board to learn what the deliverables are for the officers.

**Schallek fellowship**—started as a \$1.3 million endowment. The American Branch made the decision to have the Medieval Academy of America administer the awards yearly as one \$30,000 fellowship and five \$2,000 grants. They advertise the Schallek awards in *Speculum*, their preeminent publication. The current contract with the MAA expires June 2024, and will probably be renewed for another 5 years at the Board's discretion.

**Plantagenet Angel Award**—this is a new award created to honor our major donors. The first person to receive this award is Dr. Bowman Cutter whose generous donations to date have exceeded \$10,000.

**Sales Office**—American Branch sales office has been suspended until further notice due to lack of demand and the resignation of our most recent Sales Officer due to health issues. Note: the UK also had to suspend their sales office due to the company that they engaged going out of business.

**Local Chapter Challenge**—need to find ways of keeping them going and creating new chapters. Part of the challenge is we are so spread out geographically in the US. We also need volunteers to organize and coordinate chapters.

Future Outlook: Probable increase in subscription rates. We are also looking to create more online events and talks.

## REPORT FROM MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Number of members has increased since 2020 when we had 325 members to 357 as of the 2022 GMM.

We have experienced some confusion with renewing with the American Branch where one or two members have sent their renewal payments directly to the UK instead of to the American Branch Membership Chair. To renew (or join), members should go to our website at “r3.org/for-members” to “Manage your Membership” and renew through this page, either online or by check to our membership chair (currently—Wayne Ingalls). If you do land on the UK site, you should be redirected to the American Branch site.

Recognition of top three members attending in person who have longest length of service:

Compton Reeves—since 1968

Bonnie Battaglia—since 1977

Dawn Shafer—since 1988

And a recognition to our newest member attending: Deanna Blake Michie

## REPORT FROM TREASURER:

Our year over year income is stable at around \$24,000/year. In addition to income from dues, we receive approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000/year in gifts, and earn about \$3,000 to \$4,000/year in dividends.

The American Branch also has a cash account of about \$48,000 that is used to pay ongoing expenses to the CLG for US membership subscriptions, mailing costs for the UK publications, *Register* and miscellaneous printing costs, associated US mailing costs, account fees for managing our various accounts and for filing 501c3 federal and state tax returns, and for the NEON membership system. Other “out-of-pocket” expenses include covering GMM costs that weren’t recovered from registration and raffle and auction sales.

Instead of dipping into our Vanguard fund (currently worth about \$150,000 (down from about \$170,000 due to market fluctuations) the American Branch is using this cash account to pay for speaker fees, fiction and non-fiction books for our libraries, and special projects such as the donation to the Wallace Fund this year and the conservation of the Edward IV roll in past years.

Once all the bills are paid, we expect to finish the year with about \$30,000 in the cash account.

VOTE\* ON PROPOSED 2023-2024 budget: 96 for and 0 against

VOTE\* ON PROPOSED BYLAWS TO REPLACE EXISTING ONES: 88 for and 1 against

Discussion of why meeting was changed from the first weekend closest to Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Richard III’s birth date to the weekend closest to Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, date Richard was made Duke of Gloucester in order to avoid conflict with the UK’s AGM (on or near Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>) so our members don’t have to make a choice whether to attend our GMM or the UK’s AGM and to avoid conflict with other religious holidays that tend to cluster in October.

Discussion of potential conflict of interest when one officer is allowed to hold two board positions. Resolved in section 6.17 of the bylaws where the two positions can’t be in conflict, the officer has only one vote, but has the duties of both positions, and the Chair and Treasurer can NEVER be held by the same officer.

Discussion on Directors & Officers (D&O) Insurance: added to bylaws to protect directors and officers from having to cover legal fees for any suits challenging a director or officer. The insurance currently costs about \$500/year for \$1 to \$2 million.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Election of Susan Troxell to serve as Chair: 88 FOR | 0 AGAINST

Vice Chair will remain vacant until the Board appoints someone to serve as Acting Vice Chair if a volunteer comes forward after the 2022 GMM.

Election of Deborah Kaback to serve as Treasurer: 88 FOR | 0 AGAINST

Election of Wesley “Wayne” Ingalls to serve as Membership Chair: 88 FOR | 0 AGAINST

Election of Sally Keil to serve as Secretary: 89 FOR | 0 AGAINST

Election of Carole Bell to serve as Director-at-Large: 88 FOR | 0 AGAINST

Election of Mary Miller to serve as Director-at-Large: 88 FOR | 0 AGAINST

Election of Joan Szechtman to serve as Director-at-Large: 88 FOR | 0 AGAINST

Election of Dr Compton Reeves to continue as Immediate Past Chair: 88 FOR | 0 AGAINST

\* All vote tallies include in-person and zoom attendees and emailed and mailed in ballots.

\*\*All positions for the American Branch to serve from the time of the 2022 GMM until the time of the 2024 GMM.

NEXT GMM LOCATION—Dawn Shafer, Colorado Chapter will host the 2024 GMM in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ADJOURN—Bob Pfile motioned to adjourn, seconded by Compton Reeves—meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm (Eastern).

Note: During the banquet, Dickon awards were given to Pauline Calkin for her contributions to the fiction library, and to Liz Bateman for her herculean work on hosting this GMM for the Tidewater Chapter.

Dr. Compton Reeves was awarded a membership for life to the society for his decades of service.