

**Minutes of the Board Meeting  
Richard III Society – American Branch  
June 16, 2024 4pm EST**

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

Mary Miller            Wayne Ingalls            Deborah Kaback  
Sally Keil             Compton Reeves        Joan Szechtman  
Tara Holden

In the Minutes from the prior meeting ‘Schallek’ was misspelled. With this correction, the Minutes were accepted.

**Update from the Membership Chair**

Wayne reports that we have 505 individual members (ie addresses to which publications are sent) as well as 58 family memberships (who each receive one set of publications). Presuming there are 2 people in a family membership, we currently have 563 people as members in the American Branch.

**Update from the Treasurer**

Deborah received a letter from Vanguard advising us that our account is a ‘legacy account’ and that we will need to convert it to a brokerage account. Deborah is going to call Vanguard for more information as she did not know what this meant nor the ramifications for the Branch. Deborah also reported that our accountants filed for an extension on our taxes (extended deadline November 15th). Susan asked that they be told that we really need to file by November 1<sup>st</sup> - before the GMM.

Susan reported that we have \$54,900 in our checking account and \$157,800 in the Vanguard account. The Vanguard account is earmarked for Special Projects only. Therefore, as the Edward 4<sup>th</sup> Roll Project was a special project, the Board approved the transfer of \$5,625 (\$4625 for the roll and \$1,000 for the peer review) to re-imburse the Branch for these expenditures which had been drawn from the checking account.

**Update from the Chairperson**

Edward IV Roll Project: A Peer review of the work done by the students on the Edward IV roll was approved, to be completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Expense total: \$1,000 for two people, both of whom are highly qualified to do this work:

- Dr Sonja Drimmer - Professor UMass Amherst
- Dr. Lisa Fagin Davis - Executive Director of the Medieval Academy of America.

Video Testimonial: In support of the UK’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, they have requested a “Video Testimonial” from all of the regional branches. Susan provided a 2 minute video as requested.

Milestone event: This item was completed, and will be included in the Bulletin and the Branches & Groups newsletter.

Medieval Academy contract

It was unanimously agreed by the Board to sign a 5 year extension of our contract with the Medieval Academy, authorizing Susan to do so.

Solicitation for Donations: It has been unanimously agreed that all donations made to the American Branch from now on will be considered ‘General Fund’ donations. Any special earmarking of a donation for any other intent will have to be discussed and agreed to by the Chairperson of the American Branch at the time of the intended donation. All references to the option to make a special purpose donation must be edited out of our materials, and to make clear that any donation will go into the General Fund. These ‘materials’ include our Membership forms (both online and print), in the Register, the Chronicle, our website, etc.

Update on GMM Dawn expects to have the GMM registration fees and forms finalized before the end of June. Tara is aware that she will be responsible for their printing and mailing out in July. Jackie Hudson has volunteered to be the GMM Registrar. Based upon precedent, the Board approved providing up to \$2,000 to cover a portion of the GMM expenses.

Additional items needing Board formal vote:

1. Dickon Awards winners approved: Bob Pfile, Dawn Shafer
2. The Board accepted the UK's offer to invoice for our family memberships at a reduced rate of £32 per family. The new UK rates for Individual members will be £25 per person.
3. The discussion on "trial memberships" was deferred for a future Board meeting.

American Branch Dues increase

Susan presented the recently done financial analysis of the Branch and asked the Board to carefully review the figures presented. In particular, she wanted to know if any expense might have been overlooked. No one on the Board identified any omissions so the financial analysis was accepted by the Board as sufficient information for the Board to use to consider an increase in our dues.

The Board agreed to propose the following dues structure to be voted on by members at the GMM in Santa Fe, to be effective January 1, 2025:

**\$60 for individual/family (PDF copies of UK publications, No hard Copies) - this was proposed by UK right after the Board meeting and not voted on yet**

\$75 for individual

\$80 for family (2 or more, same household)

\$100 for Fotheringhay sponsorship\*

\$180 for Middleham sponsorship\*

\$300 for Bosworth sponsorship\*

\$500 for Plantagenet sponsorship\*

(\* sponsorships include family memberships, along with letter saying that anything over \$80 is a charitable contribution for income tax purposes)

Other Items

The Board voted to not change the generic password for our website.

The Board voted not to charge members for attendance at American Branch Zoom lectures.

The Board felt that the fee for member attendance at GMM via Zoom should be increased. No figure was discussed.

Future Items

- The idea of trial memberships.
- The idea of not re-investing dividends in the Vanguard account, and instead transfer those monies to the checking account. Deborah reported that we have linked the two accounts so it will be straightforward to do.
- Access to discounts on Zoom thru TechSoup. Joan to explore.
- July 6 Zoom Talk by Susan and Compton

Susan asked that each Board member contact her to advise if they will/will not be standing for re-election at the next GMM. Please let Susan know by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The next meeting of the Board will be on August 11, 2024 at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Keil  
Secretary