

Agenda Regular Board Meeting Jan 19, 2025

Note: Please record this meeting for Mary Miller



MEMBERS PRESENT

- Susan Troxell
- Wayne Ingalls
- Deborah Kaback
- Carole Bell
- Joan Szechtman
- Liz Bateman
- Tara Kolden
- Guest: Maureen Chelak

MEMBERS ABSENT

- Mary Miller
- Compton Reeves

Please note that the Zoom link for our Meetings will always be the same:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83578660265>

Filling out Volunteer positions

- Tiffany Holmes
 - ℞ From Minnesota
 - ℞ Volunteered to write a summary of Matt Lewis's talk
 - ℞ She is on planning committees for a small non-profit organization.
- Chat with Maureen Chelak about Vice Chair position
 - ℞ Maureen has read the By-Laws
 - ℞ Asked about the UK and American Branches and learned they were two separate organizations
 - ℞ The UK Branch wants to know that the American Branch is actually viable.
 - ℞ Wayne reports to his UK counterpart quarterly & at the end of the year.
 - ℞ We have 10% of the UK membership
 - ℞ We work with the UK on exhibits
 - ℞ Amanda Geary is the new UK Chair, and Philippa Langley is the new Vice-Chair
 - ℞ Next Sunday Matt Lewis will give his talk on King Richard's Parliament.

- Vote on Maureen's appointment (as per Bylaws, the Board can appoint someone to fill any vacancy, and that person will serve out the remainder of the term until the next vote at the 2026 GMM)
 - ℞ **Ayes – 100%**
 - ℞ **Nays – 0**
- **Add Maureen Chelak to all relevant circulation lists and Contacts (web and print)**
- **Tiffany Holmes** is still interested in becoming Director at Large (Susan has been in touch with her and can fill in the Board on her experience/skills)
 - ℞ **Should the Board invite her to the next meeting?**
 - ℞ **Yea's 100%**
 - ℞ **Nay's – 0**
 - ℞ **Ask Tiffany to submit a bio to the Board (Susan)**

Report from the Chair

Schallek fellowship awarded to PhD student at University of Toronto \$30,000

- ℞ Should we ask him for a brief summation of his thesis?
 - ✓ Susan will ask the Medieval Academy about this idea.
- ℞ Invoice from UK received and paid in December 2024 (~\$25,500 with 25% discount on overseas mailings)
- ℞ The amount of the Schallek Fellowship will be increased from \$30,000 to \$40,000 and the Schallek research awards will be increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Significant monetary donations from Dr Cutter from the Cedars Foundation (\$6,000), Anthony Collins (\$1,000), and Karen Lubieniecki (\$500) have been received

- ℞ Karen Lubieniecki received
 - The tax-exempt letter
 - A personal Thank you note
 - A white rose pin
 - An invitation to attend the lectures by Matt Lewis, Annie Garthwaite and the Tidewater Chapter discussion on The King's Mother
- ℞ Anthony Collins received
 - The tax-exempt letter
 - A personal note
 - A Richard III ornament
- ℞ Dr. Cutter, The Cedars Foundation received
 - A personal letter from Susan Troxell
 - Dr. Cutter has moved to Key West.

10th Anniversary of Richard's Reinterment - lots of events in Leicester - UK Society sent email blast

Wars of the Roses Con (WotRCon) - event scheduled in early February, 2026 outside Baltimore - does the Board want to talk about our branch's potential sponsorship of this? Volunteers for table? Bargain to get discounted tickets for our members? Wayne is going to this event.

Maureen will follow up with the Wars of the Roses Con event organizer, Ashia Terrell, <https://tinyurl.com/wotRCon> to see if they are progressing in their planning and looking for sponsors to host a table for distributing our literature/ and recruit membership.

Scheduled another Zoom talk for members, **December 7th at Noon Eastern, Topic: Richard III's Christmas, speaker: Toni Mount; Fee requested: £75 (\$92); the other speakers on our 2025 program (Matt Lewis, Annie Garthwaite, and Lisa Fagin Davis) have all waived their fees or did not ask for one**

American Branch Annual Report 2024 is due in March, and will be posted on our website <https://r3.org> (Chair, Membership, Treasurer).

Treasurer Report

Correct the Draft Treasurer's Report for 2024 (prepared by Wojeski & Co) - **issue with how GMM income is reported by including the Eventbrite income from the GMM**

- What do Accountants (Wojeski & Co) need from Vanguard for Tax Filing purposes?
- Deborah might have to call Vanguard
- Get the requested Capital Gains/Loss Income Tax form from Vanguard showing the 2024 sale of shares to pay for the Edward IV Roll project (Deborah)
- Deborah is sending Liz a check to cover Donor gifts and the \$30.00 Liz had to pay for the larger safe deposit box for (King Richard's Great Seal)

Membership Chair Report

- Fix the Neon membership database to adjust to the new membership tiers (digital, individual or family) and dues structure. (Wayne).
- We currently have 495 members, but that includes many "family" (multi-member households), so in reality, we have well over 500 total individuals

Report from Secretary

- **How to handle donors? We didn't have enough time to discuss how donors are thanked, and will table this discussion until the next Board Meeting.**
- I wrote a thank you and sent the letter about our tax-exempt status to Karen Lubieniecki for a \$500 donation plus a white rose pin that she was thrilled about.
- I sent a thank-you note to Anthony Collins, who donated two checks for \$500 each, for a total of \$1000. He is getting a nice RIII ornament.
- Dr. Cutter - sent a check for \$6,0000 from the Cedars Foundation. in Key West, FL. Aside from the thank-you from Susan, should we send a Foundation any "Thank you gifts" aside from, perhaps, a link to the Foundation members to one of our esteemed speakers?

- Are there any other donors (individuals) I need to thank? I do have modest but nice thank-you gifts. For example, I have three more white rose pins for ladies and 4 white boar mugs.
- **We should have a standard for donations above a certain amount, especially from individuals.**
- **A system that "kicks out an automatic thank you letter" seems impersonal and cold.** At a minimum, we should send a warm personal note in addition to the tax-exempt letter.

2026 GMM

- Wayne and Liz could not get anyone else to volunteer for 2026 GMM (Maria Torres is still the only one)
- Maria has said that as long as she can commute to a venue, she can look into a location for the next GMM.
- Possible places to visit during the next GMM include the Cloisters.

Discussion Topics for the next Board Meeting::

- **Should Zoom talks have a budget, with speaker fees being the primary expense?**
- How about a speaker's budget **aside from the GMM?**
- There were no other reports & announcements.

Next Meeting - Mar 16, 2025 at 4 pm Eastern