



Minutes of Board meeting May 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Susan Troxell, Carole Bell, Compton Reeves, Wayne Ingalls, Liz Bateman, Maureen Chelak, Mary Miller, Joan Szechtman, Deborah Kaback, Tiffany Holmes, and Tara Kolden

Minutes from March 22, 2025, were approved.

Report from the Chair

- Update on the Wikipedia Project
 - ✓ The volunteers will meet on May 30, 2025, at 10 A.M. Tiffany, Maureen, and Susan have volunteered for this project.
- UK Treasurer contacted Susan re: the Last Will & Testament of Peggy Ann Dolan (DOD 2/14/24) which listed the "Richard III Society, Inc" as a residual beneficiary. Some confusion about whether she intended the bequest to go to the UK Society or the American Branch. It was confirmed that Peggy was a member of the American Branch for over 40 years (1971-2013) and the UK Treasurer agreed her intent was to give the gift to the American Branch not the UK Society, as the UK is not an "Inc." but the AB is. UK Treasurer told the lawyers that they need to communicate with Susan now on. The Petition for Administration of the estate was filed in 2025. It is unknown how much money will come to the Branch, but her will says it should be used for "research". The Board will have a separate Zoom meeting to discuss in further detail.

Report from the Vice-Chair

- Update on the planning of the War of the Roses Conference (WofRcon, scheduled for February 13-15 in Linthicum, MD).
- Maureen called Ashia about the three-day event. They have added a combat demonstration and a gaming space for Medieval gamers.
- Everyone in the meeting agreed the Branch should secure a table for promotion. Susan is authorized to sign the contract with the event planner.
- We discussed setting up and staffing a table with brochures, past issues of our magazines and a reusable banner for future use. Will need to recruit volunteers to staff the table.

Treasurer Report

- Update on American Branch tax filing for 2024
 - ✓ The Federal and N.Y. State taxes were filed electronically.
 - ✓ There were no capital gains or other taxes on the distribution from the Vanguard account since we are a non-profit organization.
 - ✓ We paid an Administrative fee of \$50 to maintain our status as a non-profit.

Membership Chair Report

- Any glitches with new dues that started January 1st?
 - ✓ The difference between the digital membership at \$60 and the individual membership with mailed literature at \$75 was confusing for some people
 - ✓ We now have 425 individual and 29 family memberships, some people switched to digital, which is a difference between \$80 and \$60. Wayne noted that we are trending downward a little bit in terms of membership numbers. Maybe because of the increase in dues that went into effect January 1st.
 - ✓ Auto-renewal with the new rates was confusing on the website.
- Mailings of the Bulletin
 - ✓ Most of the Board members have received their Bulletin from the UK, but many had sliced exterior wrappers.

Secretary Report

- Donor appreciation guidelines
 - ✓ We had an extensive discussion regarding the Donor Appreciation Guidelines
 - ✓ We all felt that there needs to be guidelines for consistency.
 - ✓ We questioned whether membership levels that exceeded the Middleham level should be considered partially a donation, given that they received a tax benefit; however, we decided that this was a separate type of donation.
 - ✓ See attached for the Guidelines as finalized, although no one made a motion to accept them, nor were they voted on. (Susan will present the final version at the next Board meeting for vote/approval)

- ✓ Wayne will inform Liz of whom she should write a thank-you letter to and send a tax-exempt letter to.

Reports from Committee Chairs (Editor, Chapters Coordinator, Webmaster, PR) if in attendance.

- Editor—
 - ✓ The Register is complete but has not yet been distributed to members. Tara will look into what is holding up timely mailing to members from our distributor SunGraphics.
 - ✓ The March Register is on the website.
- Chapters – At the “Cocktail Party”, it was announced that anyone needing assistance with a chapter or setting up a chapter could contact me. I have not heard from anyone.
- Webmaster – no Report (not present)
- PR – No Report

Old Business

- Status of the GMM planning scheduled for November 2026
 - ✓ Joan has looked into New Haven, Connecticut for the next GMM.
 - ✓ The Omni Hotel is a possibility and is a nice hotel. We’ll try to keep the nightly room cost below \$200.
 - ✓ There is the potential for touring Medieval manuscripts at the Beinecke Rare Book library.
- When/how often do we want to repeat the gathering like the “Cocktail Party”?
 - ✓ Susan suggested October for the next Zoom “get-together”. We will need to come up with a theme.

New Business

- How do we pick the “best of the best” articles from Branch’s journal, Ricardian Register, for the UK website?

- ✓ We need to review previous Ricardian Registers and identify 5 or 6 articles to submit.
- ✓ It would be great if we could find an article that was a prediction that the Princes did survive.
- Dr. Compton Reeves was congratulated for having his chapter, which is included in ***'Loyalty Binds Me' Yorkist Studies for Peter and Carolyn Hammond, edited by Richard Asquith and Christian Steer.***
 - ✓ Dr. Reeves' chapter begins on page 183 and is entitled Edward IV's 1461 Enemies List.

Other reports/announcements

- The Smithsonian Associates is offering a program called Uncovering the Cheapside Hoard. August 6, at 6:30 P.M., presented by Carol Ann Lloyd Stanger. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members.
<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/programs/cheapside-hoard>

Next Meeting – July 20, 2025 at 4:00 P.M. EDT

Respectfully Submitted,
 Liz Bateman, Secretary
 Richard the Third Society, American Branch