

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING TAKEN ON FEBRUARY 8, 2024

The Board of Direction met on February 8, 2024, at the James Center conference room in Richmond, Virginia.

The Board of Direction meeting was called into session at 2:05 p.m. on February 8, 2024, by President James Green. Participating in the meeting was Stuart Butler, acting secretary, Vice-President General Paul Walden, and Councilor Michael Weyler. Due to the large number of absentees from the Board on account of health and prior commitments, the Board lacked a quorum to conduct normal business. However, the Board preceded in discussion of pertinent matters of importance to the Society as a whole and deferred any board votes on certain financial matters to be conducted by email or at the June muster. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Green. Paul Walden conducted the invocation in lieu of Thad Hartmann. President Green agreed that the reading of the minutes of the preceding session (June 2023) be waived and accepted for the record.

President James had asked that a moment of silence be conducted in honor of the recent deaths of some of the Society members whose passing will sorely be missed by the Society as a whole. Obituaries for several have been placed on the website.

Officers reports:

President James reported that he had attended the Triennial meeting of the General Society of the War of 1812 held at Plattsburg, New York on September 7-10, 2024. He reported that it was very successful meeting and pointed out the great extent the town observed the pivotal events of the battles of Plattsburg, and the American naval victory on Lake Champlain which help end the war in 1814. He also recommended two books which he bought as excellent accounts of the battle of Plattsburg: They are: *The Battle of Plattsburg* by Keith A. Kerkalo and *Nine Days a Soldier*, a fictional account by Joy A. Demarse. He said that he had learned a great deal about the battle and its significance. He also learned that Massachusetts is close to becoming inactive, with Georgia also in trouble over inability to report its activities.

There was no report from the 1st Vice President Kenneth Hawkins nor 2nd vice president Dale Corey, both unavailable. The Society secretary James Russell had previously resigned, and Stuart Butler, as noted above, assumed temporarily the duties of that office.

J. Shane Newcombe, Treasurer, sent in his usual thorough and complete reports concerning the Society's financial condition. The Board finds that the Society is in sound financial shape. Also included are the total membership figures which show: 144 members: 32 life, 9 dual and 2 honorary. The President received the report and filed it. It is to be later voted on by the Board as a whole either via email or next meeting.

Carter Furr, the Society's counsel passed away last year and he will be sorely missed. His position will have to be filled at some later time.

Registrar Hugh Markham, absent due to a medical appointment, reported earlier to the President that six new members have been recruited since last June meeting. He expressed concerns that fewer people are willing to join the Society.

Vice-President Paul Walden reported that he had heard unexpectedly from the farmers co-op members who have expressed an interest in providing a space for a historical highway marker to be placed on Route 7 in Fairfax, Virginia. This would be close to that site of the original location of Wiley's Tavern. The Society had already pledged \$1300 towards the cost of the sign which had to be approved by the authorities in Fairfax, Virginia. Walden will be in contact with the co-opt to further pursue the matter.

Councilor Weyler had no additional information to pass on other than his comments on intricacies of the rules of order he discussed with the group.

Mike Lyman, Grave Marking chairman and Publications chairman recently passed away in October 2024 which leaves this position open to be filled. The Board all agreed that this this would be a difficult thing to achieve given Lyman's tireless and dedicated effort to arrange for grave marking ceremonies and to pursue publications, in particular, the continuation of the book, *Burials of War of 1812 Veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia*. Lyman's passing has left much to do in these endeavors. The Board needs to assess the extent to which he had worked on these projects and what their status was at the time of his death. Weyler suggested that the President seek out 1st VP Hawkins on this matter since he had been involved in the publication of the burials book and familiar with the project and scope of the work to be done. He also mentioned that Hawkins may be in possession of the flags of the Society which Lyman had. President Green would follow up on that suggestion. Walden suggested that it would be better for all concerned if the database that Lyman was working on could be adapted and in some way be placed on the Society website in such a manner that names could be added to the list without resorting to the costs and time creating a published book when enough names were assembled to do so. Insofar as grave marking activities for the Society going forward, Walden indicated that the Society does not have any bronze grave markers for any future grave marking activities. He had been in contact with the Centec Company which makes aluminum based circular grave marking symbols which could be attached to the grave stones themselves. He was notified that the Centec company had finally sent 4-5 of these markers to Mike Lyman's home the same week that Mike Lyman passed away, and does not know if the markers had arrived and if so, where are they now. President Green indicated that he would send an email to Lyman's son, Dwight, who is a member living in Georgia, and inquire about the status of the markings and any other objects at Lyman's house. Alternatively, the Society would have to order grave markers of the bronze stake-in style if we wanted to do that. The cost with rod and symbol would be \$85 each. Grave marking ceremonies should be suspended for the time being until the status of the Centec order is clarified. Walden also stated that Centec already has the die cast for the Society symbol and any additional orders could be provided from that die.

Stuart Butler, the Society webmaster, indicated that he placed three postings on the website since June muster. He has begun a new feature on the site that would feature specific historical events associated with the War in general, and in Virginia particularly. He has also replied to two inquiries about War of 1812 service, and is still in correspondence with one.

There was no report from Historian, Peter Broadbent, as he had a prior medical procedure scheduled for today.

Color Guard chairman, Charles Belfield, was not present, but President Green stated - as he had before- that color guard activities are an excellent source for gaining new members, and again stated that the Society would offer up to \$500 to compensate members who wish to become part of the color guard.

Old Business:

Stuart Butler, to whom the task was assigned previously, stated that despite several attempts to contact the authorities at Montpelier, Madison's home, to gain permission to place a plaque or marker either within the cemetery or on the cemetery wall at the Madison cemetery on Montpelier, he has received no responses to his inquiries. He thinks if Montpelier, as they have in the past, sponsors a host of patriotic organizations and societies on Madison's birthday, March 18, including the Society, that would be another opportunity to inquire about the project. He would determine if Montpelier is sponsoring such an event, and if so, he might go there at that time. President Green also stated that he may go as well.

The Board of Direction members present discussed the continuation of the annual essay contest that the Society had sponsored for several years. It was decided that the Society would continue to support the essay contest under the same provisions it had done so in the past. Paul Walden suggested that the Society retain the \$1000 first prize and \$500 second place prize. Because the motion required a quorum to vote on the matter, Walden had arranged for a vote to be ascertained through google drive to solicit the approval for the matter.* Walden suggested that the rules and procedures for the contest be placed upon the Society's web site for all to see and that the winners be announced on the website as well. Butler said it would be placed shortly. Paul Walden and Stuart Butler volunteered to be judges.

President Green stated that he would look into furthering the prospect of a grave marking ceremony in Southampton County concerning one of his ancestors. As soon as grave marking symbols are decided upon, this will be done at an appropriate time.

Flags and wreaths in the possession of Mike Lyman are most likely to be in the possession of IVP Kenneth Hawkins and President Green will follow up on this. Green has a ceremonial wreath in his possession at this time.

Stuart Butler followed up on his project of seeing what can be done about securing name tags for newer members. He reported that a firm in Williamsburg, Fleming's Engraving, can produce a simple name tag with name and the Society title for around \$10-11 each; there is no bulk rate for larger purchases. To include the

insignia of the Society would cost initially much more. Paul Walden said that a company by the name of Queensberry (Queenbury?) can produce name tags as well; and once they have the insignia cast, multiple name tags could be produced. He would look into that possibility. He believed that the company already had the insignia from an item he had ordered years ago.

New Business:

President Green stated that the location of the June 2024 muster will be at the Pilot House Restaurant at Topping, Virginia. The date is June 22, 2024, and times and location particulars will be announced on the website. This is the same location the Society had last year. A speaker for the occasion is needed. Anyone wishing to suggest a name is encouraged to do so. Contact James Green or Stuart Butler.

President Green brought up the subject of publication of the Society's recruitment brochure and the best means by which it can be distributed and produced. The present brochure is outdated and has names and addresses that are no longer valid. Paul Walden said that he would see to it that the brochure is updated and circulate it with the board via email.**. He said that once the proposed brochure is approved that it could be sent to Vista Print to copy in bulk whatever is needed at a reasonable cost.

President Green suggested that the Society participate in the upcoming observances of President Tyler and President Monroe's birthday ceremonies. Tyle's birthday observance is due March 29 of this year; the Monroe birthday in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, is set for April 28. However, the date for the Monroe birthday celebration at the Monroe restored home in Westmoreland has not been released. Peter Broadbent, Vice President of the Monroe Memorial Association usually informs us of those dates. A listing of these dates and places will be announced on the Society website.

A nominating committee is needed to form to procure names of new officers for the years 2024-26. Stuart Butler volunteered to help in that function, but needs someone else to help canvass the membership for names to fulfill this vital function.

The benediction was performed by Paul Walden and the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Sine die.

*This was done the following day and the motion carried.

**This was done the following day and circulated to the President and Stuart Butler