



# The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

*Welcoming Young & Old Alike to Join in Remembering the Past and Working for an Even Better Future*

*The District's Oldest Civic Organization –  
Founded December 7, 1865*

*Bulletin #113  
October 4, 2013*

## *President's Message...*

“To preserve, promote and maintain the L’Enfant and McMillan street plans...” is part of the AOI’s mission. Over the years we have had a positive impact on the re-opening of G Street in front of the MLK, Jr. Library, maintaining L & M Streets through the new convention center site, have opposed the closing of both Pennsylvania Avenue and E Street bounding the White House reserve and have written to officials and vigorously participated in community forums to ensure the re-opening of the streets once consumed by the old convention center. Soon, all but a short section of I Street will re-open including the 8-900 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and the 900 block of I Street. The 1000 block of I Street’s street view/streetscape will be maintained and available for emergency services.

The AOI will continue its vigilance to ensure that L’Enfant’s vision for the city’s streets, avenues and public parcels are maintained. We have already provided our...

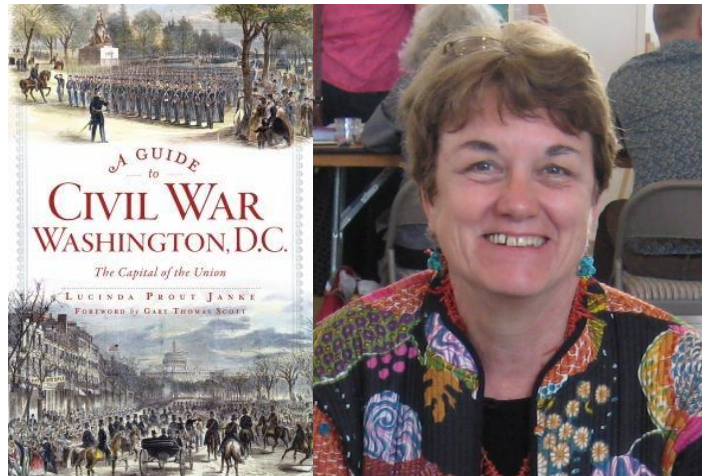
(Cont’d. Page 3)



Old convention site bounded by NY Ave., H, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW. 10<sup>th</sup> & the 900 block of I Streets are to be re-opened.

## October’s Luncheon Event:

**“A Guide to Civil War Washington: Capital of the Union”  
With Lucinda Prout Janke**



*Please join us...*

Friday, **October 18**, at the Channel Inn (free Parking) 650 Water Street, SW. (Maine Avenue via Metro Rail Green to Waterfront Station/SEU or Metro Bus 74 [Circulator Bus discontinued]), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. (\$24 per person - please make your check payable to “AOI” and have it completed prior to arrival or bring exact change). Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., Oct. 16, 2013.

**This voice mail box number is the only means to make a reservation.** Late reservations make planning very difficult for us and **failure by you to cancel prior to Noon on Thurs., 10/17, may result in you being charged.** Please be prepared to leave your name, the number in your party, your guest’s names for name tags, your meal preferences (Filet of Sole w/Scallops, Seafood Newburg, Chicken, Beef, Veggie Plate or Fruit Plate) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or a last-minute cancellation.

## Future Meetings...



The AOI's 148<sup>th</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Nov. 15, 2013 – “Historic Congressional Cemetery” with Paul Williams; Annual AOI Elections

NOTE: All meeting subjects and speakers have been invited to appear, but nevertheless are tentative. If our published RSVP line (202-342-1865) is not answering or appears out-of-order, please call 202-342-1638.

Remember: No luncheon meetings July/August nor December/January

Note: The Board of Directors meets at the Heurich House Museum at 10 a.m. on the Monday immediately prior to a scheduled luncheon meeting.

Be Advised: In case of inclement weather call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

## If You Were Not At Our June Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the Oct. 18, 2013 luncheon.]

The June luncheon meeting of AOI was held at the Pier 7 restaurant of the Channel Inn on June 21, 2013. President **Bill Brown** presided and welcomed the 119 members and guests attending. All guests of members and non-members were subsequently introduced.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes for the previous meeting. Additions or corrections to the minutes were called for, the draft of which were printed in the newsletter. There were no additions or corrections. A motion to accept the minutes was offered and seconded. The motion was carried and the minutes approved.

There were five new applications for membership since the last meeting. The applicants were: **Edward Levi** (Frances & Richard Snider); **John Lynch** (Charles Robertson); **Peggy Smith** (Barbara Bates); **Earl Williams** (Nelson Rimensnyder); **Shirley Johnson** (web site) and **Calvin Zon\*** (SUVCW). Bill called for a vote and the application was approved by the group.

Announcements of general interest were made.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report on membership and finances. There are 339 members currently, 17 are new and 30 not yet renewed. Those who have not renewed by the end of June will be dropped from membership. Hulit reported that the AOI Board donated \$250 to both John Kelly's "Send a Kid to Camp" campaign and the Boys & Girls Club's "Camp Ernest Brown" named in honor of one of AOI's past Vice-Presidents and former D.C. Police Chief.

AOI Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** had two trivia questions which challenged the audience's knowledge of the District and its history.

Today's speaker was retired Metropolitan Police Department Detective Sergeant Paul Leeper. Long retired from the MPDC, Paul now works for Kenwood Country Club overseeing their security. What distinguished Sgt. Leeper among his peers in 1972 in the MPDC was the fact that he and his undercover team of "Tac" (tactical, undercover, old-clothes) officers volunteered for a radio dispatch that resulted in the three of them singlehandedly apprehending the Watergate burglars on June 17, 1972... 41 years ago this week!

Sgt. Leeper provided a dramatic, highly animated recreation of his team's encounter and apprehension of the subjects (the audio portion of his presentation is available to listen to on AOI's web site: [www.aoidc.org](http://www.aoidc.org)). His talk was punctuated with anecdotes and unbelievable dialog that occurred between the cops, the burglars and even some passing citizens! Sgt. Leeper kept everyone spellbound with his folksy, gritty recreation of the events of that evening, the booking process, his appearances in D.C. Superior Court and even providing testimony before Sam Ervin's Watergate Commission. This was one of those unique programs that AOI is able to offer – primarily due to the connections of its members... in this case South & Joann Lynn – that in all likelihood would never be presented, heard, appreciated or documented.

Submitted by:

Bill Brown on behalf of Secretary Seymour Selig

## If You Were Not At Our Sept. Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the Oct. 18, 2013 luncheon.]

The September luncheon meeting of AOI was held at the Pier 7 restaurant of the Channel Inn on September 20, 2013. President **Bill Brown** presided and welcomed the 100 members and guests attending. All guests of members and non-members were subsequently introduced.

A brief AOI business meeting preceded the talk. President Bill Brown announced 12 new member applications, for a total this summer of 21 new and renewals, bringing AOI membership to 360. The new members and their sponsors are: **Jack Bozarth\*** (Sherwood Smith); **Ashby Chamberlin\*** (South & Joanne Lynn); **John Edwards** (HSW); **Farley Fisher**; **Christine Henry** (Web site); **John Alan Herron** (Web site); **Jeffrey Kirkwood** (Web site); **Edward McKnew** (John Kelly's column); **Pete Morelewicz** (Web site); **Jenny Masur** (Gary Scott); **Iris Holliday\*** (Web site and AOIC connection) and **Tara Tetrault**. Those with an "\*" were present.

A brief treasurer's report noted that the AOI investment account has fluctuated with the market; interest and dividends continue to add up. Bill bravely tackled guest recognition, eased by a substantial number of members of the **Mary Brown** family, in town for a family reunion and Mary's

93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Bill also noted that member **Austin Kiplinger** is celebrating his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday but was unable to attend today's luncheon. AOI Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** told several anecdotes about AOI (Colored), Inc., our parallel organization during times of segregation. Rimy noted that AOI (Colored) initiated two lawsuits against George Preston Marshall and the Washington Redskins demanding team integration. Bill also acknowledge new member Iris Holliday whose father Ira Holliday was one of the last officials of the AOI Colored, Incorporated. Bill is working with Iris and Ida Jones of the Moorland-Spangarn Library at Howard University to accept and preserve Iris' father's papers.

Activist **Joe Grano** made an appeal for the guests to urge their representatives in Congress to support the "No Representation, No (Federal Income) Tax" campaign in the District of Columbia. He also urged the guests to urge their member in Congress to co-sponsor a bill to issue a postage stamp commemorating Constantino Brumidi, artist of the massive mural on the dome of the Capitol Building. Bill Brown reported Mayor Vincent Gray's budget insertion of \$44 million over three years for construction of a new D.C. Archives building, one of whose champions was the late Dr. Philip Ogilvie, also an AOI president. **Bill Rice** added that a mayoral-level task force on the subject is in formation and urged interested parties to let him know for possible participation.

The featured speaker at the AOI luncheon September 20, 2013 was **Dr. Mark N. Ozer** on "Washington, DC: Streets and Statues," also the name of his recent book. Dr. Ozer, a repeat speaker and AOI favorite, entertained the full house with anecdotes about street-naming anomalies and curious statues.

Mark Ozer illustrated his talk with slides showing a map of Washington, key intersections, and selected outdoor statuary. As always, Ozer proved himself an excellent if idiosyncratic storyteller, e.g., noting that he had not included one or another important statue "because it didn't interest me." Ozer recounted the story of Judge Hagner (of the Hagner real estate family) writing an article in the "Records of the (former) Columbian Historical Society" advocating a street-naming scheme based on Boston, Massachusetts, to insure that no two Washington streets would have the same name. The Hagner system proposed that the second and third "tiers" of east-west streets have, respectively, two and three syllables. The system, which was implemented, featured for the second tier names of former national politicians and government figures; the third tier was based primarily on national place names. Ozer readily acknowledged problems of "misfit" streets that did not fit reworked grids and were named separately. D.C. planner Pierre L'Enfant had intended that the avenues, named after the original thirteen colonies, would feature state-oriented buildings at points of intersection, but the idea was never implemented. With exceptions, northern states radiated outward on the north side of the capitol, southern states to the south, and so on. Georgia Avenue, first located along the Potomac River, was relocated to its present location because the original siting was "uninteresting" to Georgia politicians of the time.

Ozer's comments about Washington statuary

featured ones that he admired, without regard to historic significance. He singled out the fountain in DuPont Circle as the most beautiful circle in the city, despite Admiral DuPont's statue having been moved to the DuPont estate in Wilmington, Delaware. Local sculptor Clark Mills, creator of the Andrew Jackson statue in Lafayette Square and of George Washington on Washington Circle, solved a problem that had bedeviled predecessors: how to show a rearing horse. Mills solved the problem by making the horse's front legs hollow and the back legs solid, buttressed by a large, solid tail. Ozer noted that the statue of South American liberator Simon de Bolivar near the Organization of American States building is the largest statue in the District of Columbia. The talk was interspersed with numerous questions and comments, with Ozer promising to give a talk on his next book if AOI wishes to have him back, which seemed assured.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Richardson, Acting Secretary

### *President's Message Continued...*

... written comments to the NCPC on re-opening D Street when the FBI Building site is redeveloped. Perhaps someday we'll even realize Arthur Cotton Moore's dream of redeveloping Maryland Avenue, SW into a avenue equal in grandeur to Pennsylvania Avenue north of the National Mall.

*Bill Brown*



Crews prepare 10th Street to be re-opened between H Street & NY Avenue, NW.

Our web site is <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply "Google"  
'Governor Shepherd' and we'll pop-up!  
Our e-mail address is: [aoidc@gmail.com](mailto:aoidc@gmail.com)

AOI is a member of Cultural Tourism DC:

**Cultural Tourism**  **DC**

AOI's newsletters are printed and assembled by the staff of:

**GRC**  
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*Address Correction Requested*

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View AOP's web site at [www.aoidc.org/upcoming-events.html](http://www.aoidc.org/upcoming-events.html) and *listen* to Paul Leeper's and Conrad Reid's programs.

Support the Historical Society of Washington's 2013 Gala honoring the Saul and Quander families. See HSW's web site for details: [historydc.org](http://historydc.org).



The Heurich House Museum is the former home of the Historical Society of Washington and served as AOI's headquarters from 1956 until 2003.