AOI IS EASY TO JOIN
Complete the application below and send it with your $10 processing fee. You will receive a letter with the time and location of our next meeting, plus information about modest annual dues.

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE OLDEST INHABITANTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007-2010

Name (please print): ______________________________
Address: _____________________________________
_____________________________________________
City: ___________________St: _____ Zip ___________
Phone: _______________________________________
Email: ________________________________________

(Please indicate qualifications you meet)

☐ I am 40 years of age or older; and,
☐ I have lived, worked or operated a business in DC for at least 20 years; or,
☐ I am descended from people who meet the above qualifications

Those ancestors’ names are: _______________________________________________

My occupation is: ______________________________

☐ I don’t meet the qualifications but would like to be an Associate Member
☐ I am a graduate of (D.C. High School): _______________________________

How did you hear about the AOI? ______________________________________

Signature: ______________________________
Date: _____/_____/__________

Don’t let our name mislead you!
AOI welcomes young and old alike to join in remembering the past and working for an even better future.

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE OLDEST INHABITANTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Email: aoiofdc@gmail.com
Visit our website: www.aoidc.org

FASCINATING FACT ABOUT OUR FOUNDING
Founded December 7, 1865, eight months after the Civil War ended, the AOI is the oldest civic association in the District of Columbia. When Congress debated moving the nation’s capital west, prominent bankers, developers, newspaper publishers and two former Washington mayors founded the AOI with one urgent goal: to persuade Congress to keep the seat of government where it is today. Aren’t you glad the AOI was founded? Can you imagine where we would be if that movement prevailed?

The Heurich House is the former home of the Historical Society of Washington and served as AOI’s headquarters from 1956 to 2003.
WHO ARE THE OLDEST INHABITANTS?
There’s more to Washington, D.C. than the Capitol, the White House, the Supreme Court and all those marble monuments and government buildings. Statesmen and lawmakers may come and go “inside the Beltway,” but several hundred thousand of us have lived and worked here and called Washington and its suburbs home for more than two centuries.

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia represents such long-term citizens. On December 7, 1865, 31 esteemed District of Columbia residents met to finalize a new organization dedicated to the preservation of the history of the District of Columbia. Among its founders were some of its earliest residents including two former mayors and it was presided over by Benjamin Ogle Tayloe, businessman and diplomat. Early members included W.W. Corcoran, a founder of Riggs Bank; brewer Christian Heurich; florist Zed Blackistone; and, Evening Star editor-in-chief Theodore Noyes.

Concerned that the influx of veterans, government workers and newcomers to the Nation’s Capital would overwhelm the city and tax its infrastructure, resources and services, the AOI’s founders dedicated themselves to “keep alive the reminiscences of the past and the social and communication of the present and future.” Their goal was to ensure that the first 65 years of the District’s history would not be forgotten. The AOI is the city’s oldest civic organization. Since its founding, the mission has continually adapted to meet changing civic challenges and demographics. Throughout its history the AOI has remained one of the most active and engaged organizations among its peers.

Today, the organization is noteworthy for its well-attended and educational monthly luncheons; participation in public events; the maintenance, preservation and promotion of the L’Enfant and McMillan street plans; and for its support of preservation causes and heritage initiatives through conferences, talks, publications and our web site.

WHAT WE DO
Our members’ recollections and reminiscences are regarded as “The District’s living archive.” At its luncheon meetings (6-8 each year) members and guests look back with nostalgia and affection for the past while looking forward with hope and faith in a bright future. The AOI supports modest goals for the city’s enhancement, encourages worthwhile charitable and civic ventures, and constantly seeks to recognize and develop the dynamism and diversity of this unique urban environment.

HOW WE FUNCTION
The association operates through its officers, an elected Board of Directors and a number of committees which pursue short- and long-term goals. Additionally, members through directed contributions help support: the maintenance of the Governor Shepherd Statue; the Kiplinger Library of the Historical Society of Washington; an annual academic award at George Washington University in honor of past-president Dr. Philip W. Ogilvie; and, research, academic and scholarly initiatives. Luncheon meetings featuring a speaker are held most months at a convenient location in D.C.

WHO CAN JOIN?
Anyone who is forty or more years of age and has lived, worked or operated a business in the District of Columbia for at least twenty years or anyone who is descended from people who met these qualifications is eligible to join. If you do not meet these qualifications, you may be an Associate Member with all the privileges of membership except holding office or serving on the Board. The application fee is $10. With annual dues currently $20 (due each January and subject to change), it is still considered a “bargain” by Washington, D.C. standards.

TESTIMONIALS
Washington’s Living Archive
“The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants, founded in 1865, has, against all logic, been born again. Or at least, become younger, more inclusive and more vigorous in the past year.”

“The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants remains the oldest civic organization in Washington and has been a major force in collecting and preserving historical objects relating to the Nation’s Capital.”