



The Association of 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 – Our 153rd Year!***

***Bulletin #145
February 2018***

President's Message...

Ring in a New Year, AOI's 153rd and the Centennial of World War One...

We welcomed 2018 with 52 members and their guests at our New Year's Day brunch (see aoidc.org for photos) and commenced our year-long observance of the centennial of the First World War.

I want to publicly acknowledge Barbara Bates' immense contribution not only to identify activities, programs and WWI-related sites in our area which we have published on our web page but her stories of the 10 District women memorialized on the DC War Memorial and as part of the 16th Street Tree Memorial. Her compendium of their lives and service is also on our web site.

As a further demonstration of Barbara's commitment to this cause and to acknowledge Board members Maggie Hobbs and Thomas Neale, everyone should be aware that Maggie and Barbara are working with Paul K. Williams and the staff of Congressional Cemetery to acquire V.A. headstones for two of these DC women buried at Congressional but in unadorned graves and to obtain either a V.A. medallion or similar marker for a third who is interred with her brother but with no mention of her service.

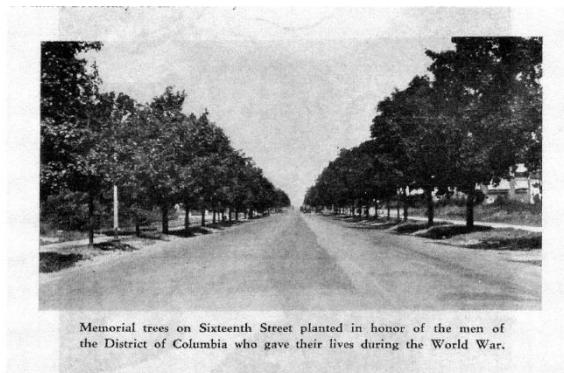
Tom, Barbara and I met with NPS officials on January 31st to coordinate Tom's plans for an official November 11, 2018, "Centennial of the Armistice" program to be held on the grounds of the DC War Memorial.

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February's Luncheon Event:

"African Americans in World War One"

with Matthew Margis



Memorial trees on Sixteenth Street planted in honor of the men of the District of Columbia who gave their lives during the World War.

Please join us...

Friday, **Feb. 16**, at the **Capitol Skyline Hotel** (free Parking) 10 I ('eye') Street, SW. (Metro Rail to Navy Yard Station), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m.

(\$35 per person - please make your check payable to "AOI" and have it completed prior to arrival or bring exact payment).

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, not later than noon **Tues., Feb. 13, 2018.** **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., 2/15, will 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 (***Grilled Salmon with Kang Pao sauce, Grilled Skyline Chicken Breast, Grilled Black Angus Flank Steak, or Braised Ratatouille of Vegetables***) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or a last-minute event cancellation.

Future Meetings...



The AOI's 153rd Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

March 16, 2018 – Elizabeth Foxwell, “In the Own Words: American Women in WWI”

April 20, 2018 – John DiFerrari, “Bygone Industrial D.C.” reviving our tradition of member reminiscences

May 18, 2018 – W. Douglas Fisher & Joann H. Buckley, “African American Doctors of WWI: The Lives of 104 Volunteers”

June 15, 2018 – Loretta Neuman Smith, “The Battle of Ft. Stevens & the Civil War Roundtable”

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 Last Meeting...

[Here are the draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the Feb. 16, 2018 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the eighth and final monthly luncheon meeting of its 152nd year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, November 17, 2017 with 60 members and guests present. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the October meeting, which were printed in the November newsletter. There being no corrections or additions, a motion made by **Darwina Neale** and seconded by **Barbara Ioanes**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

New Members: One new member was nominated: **Marie Savoy** (a past guest of Marion Buelken's has decided to join the AOI of DC and was present). A motion was made by **Allen Beach** and seconded by **Wally Rossmiller** to approve the new member who was approved enthusiastically.

Hulit Taylor presented the Treasurer's Report:
Membership

- Our membership for the year now totals 340

Donations

- Thanks to your generosity, this year we have received a little over \$5,000 in donations – another record.

Non-Routine Expenses since the October Meeting

- \$500 grant to the Heurich House Foundation

Income and Expenses for 2017

- We are on budget for both income and expenses.

Luncheon Report

- Attendance at our October luncheon was 74.

Board Decisions for 2018

- At our Board meeting earlier this week, we

made two decisions

- We will be able to keep the Luncheon cost at \$35.00. This includes a served full meal, plus tax and gratuity; free parking; and a program
- We are able to maintain membership dues at \$20
The best deals in town!

The business meeting was then suspended and the microphone turned over to **Barbara Dreschler** representing the Nominating Committee to conduct the election for AOI's 2018 Officers and Directors. The following were elected by acclamation upon motion by **Patricia Daly-Lipe and Patricia Clark** to close the nominations and by **Patricia Clarke and Barbara Ioanes** to accept the slate. For **President**, incumbent **William Brown**, for **Vice-president**, incumbent **Jan A. K. Evans**, for **Secretary**, incumbent **John P. Richardson**, for **Treasurer**, incumbent **Hulit Taylor**, for **Historian**, incumbent **Nelson Rimensnyder** (not present today), and for **Directors: Margaret Hobbs, Jessica Hodge and Gary Scott** (not present today). **Barbara Bates, Thomas Neale and Carl Cole** will continue to serve out their two year terms and did not require election.

President's Remarks: **Bill** welcomed everyone and in addition to spouses and family members, the following guests: **Faith Cole and Candace Cole** were both **Allen Coles'** guests and **Milton Pressley, Treasurer Hulit Taylor's** cousin, visiting from New Orleans. **Bill** also noted that today's luncheon was the last one that **Patricia Daly-Lipe and Steele Lipe** will be attending as they are relocating to Florida. They plan to continue to stay in touch and perhaps their visits back to this area will coincide with future AOI luncheons.

Bill also reported that: AOI Director **Gary Scott** has returned home from his stint at Ingelside and continues to recover nicely and hopes to join us in the New Year.

Brief Announcements: The AOI has taken a position encouraging the DC Council and others to help mitigate the tremendously imposing fees that DC Water levies on the city's cemeteries. The Impervious Surface Water charge has increased Congressional Cemetery's monthly water bill by \$3,000 per month and due to their extensive road network and number of mausoleums has increased Rock Creek Cemetery's fees to \$14,000 per month. This is unacceptable and we are supporting efforts by Ward 4 Council Member Brandon Todd and others to introduce and pass legislation to relieve cemeteries of these devastating fees.

Bill Rice on behalf of traveling **Nelson Rimensnyder** challenged everyone with several DC history trivia questions:

Q: What New Yorker was the only delegate to the Constitutional Convention to recognize that residents of the new seat of the Federal Government would not have a vote? A: Alexander Hamilton – **Dwayne Starlin** provided the answer.

Q: Long time AOI member Joseph Grano led the successful effort to have Congress recognize an Italian born fresco artist who was...? A: Constantino Brumidi -- **Betty Monkman** knew the answer.

Q: In 1845 this former First Lady was assigned a reserved seat in the US House to recognize her for her many civic and charitable activities in the District? A: Dolly Madison – **Ruth Sando** provided the answer.

The Day's Speaker: Bill introduced the day's speaker, **Janet McFarland** who spoke on "Boundary Stones – the Birthstones of our Nation's Capital." Ms. McFarland, who is with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), described the efforts taken in 1791-2 to survey the boundaries of the brand-new national capital. It took surveyor Andrew Ellicott 34 days to do the surveying and 1 ½ years to clear a 40-foot path through the woods and install the 40 boundary stones along the four sides of the 10 miles square. The stones were sandstone, quarried in Aquia, Virginia. All the stones on the Virginia side were in place in 1791; the Maryland side stones were completed in 1792. Self-taught surveyor, astronomer, and almanac writer Benjamin Banneker made the stone placement calculations for Ellicott's map and laid the first stone (near today's Woodrow Wilson Bridge). Two major efforts at locating/identifying the original stones were made in 1897 and early in this century, when the District of Columbia Chapter of the DAR officially "adopted" the stones and erected protective fencing. Up-to-date surveying techniques have made it possible to gain much

more precise information. 39 of the 40 stones are extant, although a missing few have replicas; others have been moved for logistical reasons (e.g., highway construction).

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, February 16, at the Capitol Skyline Hotel, when speaker Matthew Margis will kick off our year of World War I centennial talks about African Americans in World War I. Also, the AOI will host its traditional New Year's Day breakfast on Monday, January 1, 2018 from 11am until 2pm.

Submitted by John P. Richardson, Secretary

President Message (Continued from page 1)...

If things proceed as we hope, there will be a reading of the 499 names of the District's fallen, a musical program, remarks by invited guests and a brief history of the memorial... all geared toward "the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11 month." As plans proceed, Tom will be seeking the assistance of fellow AOI members to help make this event a reality.

Also, when you see her at a luncheon please 'thank' Barbara for the effort she has made to provide us with four, terrific WWI-related speakers for our luncheon meetings throughout 2018.

While I hope there is an uptick in WWI-related programs and activities as the year progresses, at this point it seems unlikely that there will be sufficient progress on the Pershing Park WWI Memorial for a (re-)dedication event this year... which is unfortunate.

Bill Brown

AOP's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOP's web address is: **aoi.org** and our email address is: **aoiofdc@gmail.com**

Please check out our redesigned Home Page and listen to the audio of our luncheon talks by our esteemed guests at www.aoi.org. And, follow us on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/www.aoiofdc.org** which may contain more timely events and calls-to-action than our web site.

Address Correction Requested

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Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

The Historical Society of Washington, DC and its Kiplinger Research Library, together with portions of the Washingtoniana Division of the DC Public Library, are operating from temporary quarters in the Newseum while the Carnegie Library undergoes restoration by Apple, due for completion in Dec. For information about programs and exhibits, check: <http://www.dchistory.org> or call 202-249-3955 for further information

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