



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 154th Year!**

**Bulletin #153
February 2019**

“Bye” to 2018...

We concluded 2018 with an outstanding observance of the Centennial of the Armistice that ended World War I. Together with the D.C. National Guard under the command of Maj. Gen. William Walker, we hosted a standing room only program at the D.C. War Memorial on Sunday, November 11th.

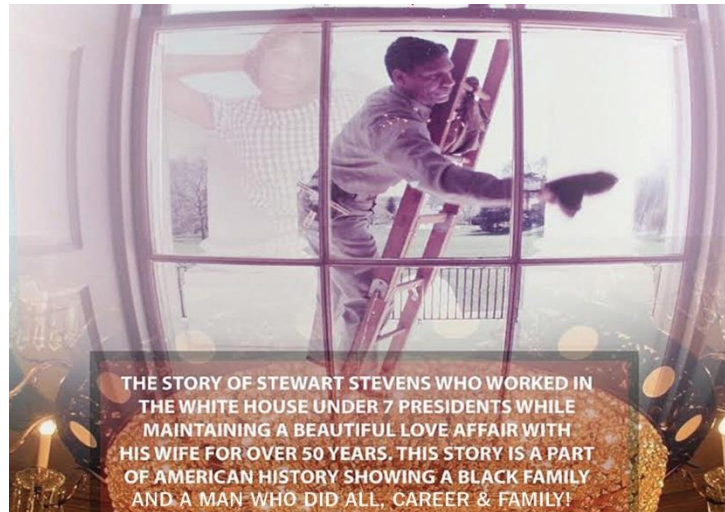


Accompanied by the inspiring music of the 257th Army Band formal remarks were provided by Congresswoman Norton, Council Chair Mendelson and keynote speaker Matthew Margis. The most memorable moment came when members of the D.C. National Guard Youth Challenge Academy, joined by the aforementioned speakers, Gen. Walker and Bill Brown read, as a chorus, the names of all 499 men and women commemorated on the panels of the memorial. In addition to the many AOI members, history buffs and tourists who filled the seats, there were representatives of several local units of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps present (pictured above).

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February's Luncheon Event:

**"The White House Chandeliers"
Stewart & Lynetta Stevens**



Please join us...

Friday, **Feb. 15**, 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. 12, 2019. 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., 2/14, 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 154th Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

March 15, 2019 – Rebecca Roberts, “Suffragists in Washington, D.C.”

April 19, 2019 – Kim Williams, “Lost Farms & Estates of D.C.”

May 17, 2019 – Garrett Peck, “The Great War In America”

June 21, 2019 – Patsy Fletcher, “African American Recreation”



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...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the February 15, 2019 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the eighth luncheon meeting of its 153rd year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, Nov. 16, 2018 with 51 members and guests present. This was the final meeting of the 2018 membership year. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the October meeting, which were printed in the current newsletter. With no further corrections or additions, a motion made by **Joan Gibala** and seconded by **Patricia Clark**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

New Members: There were two new member applications for consideration: **Sherfy Jones (Richard Anderson/Damon Cordon, Wilson H.S. Alumni)**; and, **Gladys Stifel (Associate Membership, George & Judith Paizianos)**.

Nominating Committee Chair **Barbara Drechsler** conducted the annual election of Officers and Directors... After presenting the slate of officers and the nominations being closed upon motion and seconding by **Rise Cole and Abby Martin**, that the slate be voted upon by motion of **Charles Szlinker** and seconded by **Patricia Clark**, the following Officers and Directors were elected to serve the 2019 membership year:

President, Jan A. K. Evans

Vice-president, William N. Brown

Secretary, incumbent John P. Richardson

Treasurer, incumbent Hulit Taylor

Historian, incumbent Nelson Rimensnyder

Directors: Barbara Bates, Thomas Neale and Carl Cole

Margaret Hobbs, Jessica Hodge and Gary Scott will continue to serve out their two year terms and did not require election.

Outgoing President **Bill Brown** took a moment of personal privilege to point out that Jan Evans, DC Brewer

Christian Heurich's granddaughter, is the first woman President of the AOI.

Newly elected President Jan Evans spoke briefly thanking Bill for his near 20 years of service as President of the organization. While not “tech-savvy” Jan noted that her phone number is prominently displayed on the monthly newsletters and for anyone to call her at any time with any concerns, questions or suggestions...

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented the Treasurer's Report:

Membership

- We now have a total of 318 members, 16 of whom are new this year.

Non-Routine Expenses since the October Meeting

- \$19.95 One-year renewal of our website domain name, aoidc.org
- \$500 Grant to Heurich House Foundation. (AOI uses their facilities for Board meetings)

World War I Centennial Remembrance

- Expenses for the WWI 100th Anniversary were \$1,400: This included invitations, postage, programs, small DC flags, and a floral wreath

Investment Account: So far this year, we have earned \$3,600 in interest and dividends

Luncheon Report: Attendance at our October luncheon was 46

Reminder: Lapel Pins and Challenge Coins for Sale: AOI Lapel Pins are \$5.00 each and AOI Challenge Coins from our 150th Anniversary are \$10.00

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support of the AOI and we look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Vice-President's Remarks: **Bill** welcomed everyone and in addition to spouses and family members:

Alex Sastov was **Juliette Smith's** guest; **Dwane Starlin** had with him **Marilynn Bennett**; and **Patricia Clark** had **Elizabeth Burke** and **Gabor Konkoly-Thege** joining her.

Brief Announcements: **Vice-President Brown** remarked how successful and well-attended our joint observance of the Armistice was with the D.C. National Guard on November 11th – Armistice Day/Veterans Day -- and motioned to indicate the series of photos being projected throughout the business meeting portion of the program.

Bill was pleased to announce that after many years of neglect and deferred maintenance that Holy Rood Cemetery (35th Street and Wisconsin Avenue, NW) has been the beneficiary of an agreement between Holy Trinity Parish and Georgetown University that provides for more than \$800,000 in deferred maintenance and improvements and grants Holy Trinity an easement that will allow it to build a columbarium there for parishioners and others. They've produced an informational brochure on plans for restoring the cemetery, on sponsorship opportunities, and on how to purchase a columbarium niche. Their goal is to have the columbarium and cemetery restoration completed by All Souls Day, November 2, 2019.

Bill also called to everyone's attention that member **Skip Moskey** contributed to the fall issue of "White House Quarterly" with his article on President Wilson's trip to Europe for the treaty-signing after the war. You may want to check it out or subscribe.

Prior to introducing the day's speaker, Bill was asked to relinquish the lectern and microphone to AOI Secretary **John Richardson** who, together with Director **Carl Cole**, asked to say a few kind and flattering words about Bill Brown's leadership as President during his tenure.

The Day's Speaker: John Kelly, "Washington Post" writer of "John Kelly's Washington," provided a fascinating look into the District's "Lost Laws," statutes passed in 1872-1873 to provide equal access for blacks and whites to restaurants and other public accommodations. The laws were steadily ignored/bypassed with the end of Reconstruction and were not resurrected until the 1950's, when African-American civil rights activists challenged implementation all the way to the Supreme Court, which upheld the laws' validity. (The argument was made by civil rights opponents that the laws had literally been lost, but copies were readily found in more than one location.) As Jim Crow descended on the country from the 1890's, brave individuals continued to make legal challenges that became part of the eventual confirmation that the laws had never "gone away." Kelly noted that the late Ben Bradlee, who ran the Washington Post under Catherine Graham, was a young reporter on the (then) Metro section of the paper and covered the story as it broke. Kelly also noted that E.M. Hewlett and Robert H. Terrell, two black attorneys who personally challenged restaurant segregation, were later appointed District judges.

Carl Cole, a multi-generation native of Southwest, recounted family stories, one in particular that his grandmother opposed school integration because their black teachers were generally better educated than the whites, and

she feared a drop in black educational levels once the black teachers were sidelined after 1954 and "Brown vs. Board of Education," which finally destroyed school segregation in the United States.

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, February 15, 2019 when Stewart and Lynetta Stevens will tell of Stewart's decade's long occupation of "chandelier cleaner" and window-washer at the White House. Also, we hope to see many members at our annual New Year's Day brunch buffet on Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by John P. Richardson, Secretary

...and "Hi" to 2019!

We rang in the New Year with our annual New Year's Day brunch buffet at the Capitol Skyline Hotel with 49 members and guests attending. Newly elected AOI **President Jan Evans** welcomed everyone and encouraged everyone to enjoy themselves, take advantage of AOI's planned, eight luncheon talks and to contact her with ideas or concerns.



Thank you! to everyone who has already returned their 2019 membership renewal form. As this newsletter went to press, nearly 1/3 of members had already mailed in their renewals. Please don't let your renewal form sit around and become forgotten. We don't want to lose you when we up-date our membership rolls in June. And, "Thank You!" to everyone who made an additional donation.

AOI's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI's web address is: **aoidc.org** and our email address is: **aoiofdc@gmail.com**. You may also 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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Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian 202-546-4668

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Jim Embrey 571-436-7774

Past President:

A.L. Wheeler

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

The Historical Society of Washington, DC and its Kiplinger Research Library are now closed while the Carnegie Library undergoes restoration by Apple, due for completion in early 2019. For information about programs and exhibits, check:

<http://www.dchistory.org>

or call 202-249-3955 for further information.

Directors:

Barbara Bates 202-244-2090
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Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs 202-547-0964
Jessica Hodge 301-704-5133
Thomas Neale 202-333-6946
Gary Scott 202-544-4862



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