



# 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 Historic Organization –  
Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 156<sup>th</sup> Year!***

***Bulletin #164  
September 2021***

## ***Letter from the President***

Dear AOI Members,

The AOI Board has worked diligently and tirelessly through these past 16 months to ensure that the business of our organization has continued to include socially-distanced Board meetings throughout 2020 and 2021.

Deliberations ranged from the worst case scenario of the AOI ceasing operations to finding a way forward including new, enthusiastic members willing to serve as Officers and Directors and continue the fine traditions of the organization.

After the current Board agreed to extend their terms of service into 2021 to provide continuity and continue operations, members were surveyed and the results were shared and discussed further during our first-ever Zoom membership meeting in April with 75 members participating.

Much thought has gone into what you will be asked to vote on during our Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> membership meeting. Members will consider two important Board Resolutions at the meeting. Resolution #1 will ensure the continued leadership of the organization, given the challenges of this pandemic era. Resolution #2 will ensure that the organization's two main missions endure: preserving D.C. history and preservation advocacy.

Please read the Resolutions on the following pages and join the Board on Sept. 2 with a vote of your support.

*Thomas H. Neale, President*

## **September Membership Meeting**

**“Membership Meeting & Elections”**



**Thursday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1PM (EDT)**

**AOI of DC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82587152104?pwd=OStnemFtWURxazBvSkRWYzdEcHZpQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 825 8715 2104**

**Passcode: 474549**

**One tap mobile**

**+13017158592,,82587152104# US (Washington DC)**

**+13126266799,,82587152104# US (Chicago)**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)**

**+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)**

**+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**

**+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**

**+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)**

**+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)**

**Meeting ID: 825 8715 2104**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kGvhB6GL>**

We will be using Zoom's polling function to record your votes. Those phoning in will be asked to vote “aye” or “nay” on each question.

**Future Meetings...**



The AOI's 156<sup>th</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

With conditions improving, we're hopeful that we can resume some form of program/luncheon/meeting in October or November.

**RESOLUTION No. 1**

**WHEREAS:** The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia is the District's oldest historical organization; and,

**WHEREAS:** The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia was founded in December 1865 as an organization dedicated to preserving the memories and history of the District of Columbia; and,

**WHEREAS:** During its 156 year history the organization has operated, somewhat, continuously and without interruption; and,

**WHEREAS:** The AOI Officers and Board have carefully and successfully managed its day-to-day operations during the Covid-19 Pandemic year of 2020 and into 2021; and

**WHEREAS:** The current Officers and Board members committed to extend their terms beyond the 2020 membership year as there was no opportunity to recruit, nominate and elect a new slate of Officers and Board members in order to continue the mission of the organization and, regrettably, even planned for its organized demise; and,

**WHEREAS:** The March 2021 Membership Survey, responded to by more than 50% of the organization's membership, revealed that while there is great interest in the organization continuing its informational, educational, DC-centric programs – via luncheons, on-line meetings or a hybrid approach – there was only a small contingent of the membership who stepped forward and expressed their willingness to facilitate the continuation of the organization by serving in an elected capacity; and,

**WHEREAS:** The AOI Officers and Board of Directors voted unanimously on April 12, 2021, for a transition plan, to wit:

- a) Tom Neale will continue to serve as AOI president for the 2021-2022 program years.
- b) Directors intending to step down this year (four confirmed) declared their intention at the April 12 meeting and will exit the board as of the election of the new Board and Officers.
- c) AOI members who expressed willingness to serve on the board will be interviewed individually by directors named at the April 12 meeting to determine their seriousness and suitability for nomination.
- d) The AOI board, serving as a committee of the whole, will nominate new directors not to exceed the number of openings created by retiring directors, bearing in mind that the organization's officers are counted in addition to the other directors.
- e) It is not necessary for the maximum number of directors allowed in the bylaws to be elected. Open spots can be filled at any time.
- f) The AOI membership will vote to approve the new board at a Zoom meeting at a future date certain.
- g) The reconstituted board will meet to decide who will serve as Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary announcing the results by mail to the membership.
- h) The new Board will take responsibility for all AOI affairs as of the election.
- i) AOI will revert to adherence to its bylaws as of the November election, if not earlier; and,

**WHEREAS:** The AOI Officers and Directors having developed a transition plan met with those members at its May 17, 2021 Board meeting to discuss the organization's future and leadership; and,

**WHEREAS:** Those six members have agreed to serve as Directors along with remaining President Thomas Neale, Historian Nelson Rimensnyder, Directors Gary Scott and Margaret Hobbs and Past-Presidents Jan Evans and William Brown toward the goal of organizing among themselves to fill, at a date to be determined, the positions of Secretary and Treasurer for the remainder of 2021 and the 2022 membership year and the service period/cycle of the Directors;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That AOI members Dr. Cindy Gueli [Vice-President\*], Barbara Hopkins [Director\*], Carolyn Michell [Treasurer\*], Richard Marino [Secretary\*], Ned Rich [Director\*] and Marcia Rock [Director\*] together with incumbent President Thomas Neale, Historian Nelson Rimensnyder, current Directors Margaret Hobbs and Gary Scott are hereby nominated and stand for election at a September 2, 2021, Zoom meeting of the membership.

Approved the 12th day of July 2021.

SEAL

By: /s/ John P. Richardson  
Title: Secretary



\*The new Directors among themselves and with the guidance of the incumbent Board determined the Officer positions for which they were willing to serve at an orientation meeting held on July 26, 2021.

**RESOLUTION No. 2**

**WHEREAS:** The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia is the District’s oldest historical organization; and,  
**WHEREAS:** The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia was founded in December 1865 as an organization dedicated to preserving the memories and history of the District of Columbia; and,  
**WHEREAS:** During its 156 year history the organization has supported programs and initiatives to preserve the city’s design, such as: The L’Enfant, McMillan and The Capital Framework Plan through advocacy and preservation initiatives; and,  
**WHEREAS:** The AOI has carefully and successfully managed its financial assets for the past sixty-plus years; and,  
**WHEREAS:** That successful financial management has provided the AOI with a robust, growing portfolio of successful investments which has not been tapped other than the 2015 Sesquicentennial Grants; and,  
**WHEREAS:** The organization wishes for its legacy of historic preservation and preservation advocacy to be continued; and,  
**WHEREAS:** The March 2021 Membership Survey, responded to by more than 50% of the organization’s membership, revealed that while there is great interest in the organization continuing its informational, educational, DC-centric programs – via luncheons, on-line meetings or a hybrid approach – there was little to no membership interest in carrying out the time-consuming and daunting tasks required of advocacy and preservation, to wit: researching, writing and presenting testimony before public boards, commissions, Congress or the D.C. Council and/or actively participating in exploring new concepts, means and methods of preserving AOI’s past successes with historic preservation; and,  
**WHEREAS:** The Officers and Board of Directors of the AOI of DC believe that the membership should support our heritage partners by paying forward our financial support to these organizations in concert with the AOI’s 156 year tradition of advocacy and preservation; and,  
**WHEREAS:** The By-laws of the AOI of DC requires the approval of the membership for expenditures and disbursements in excess of \$5,000 (Section VI “Board of Directors,” AOI By-laws, Revised Sept. 21, 2007); and,  
**WHEREAS:** The Board has identified two, long-term affiliate organizations which can continue to promote AOI’s advocacy and historic preservation in the Committee of 100 on the Federal City and in the Historical Society of Washington, D.C./The Washington History Center;  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** The Board of Directors of the AOI of D.C. is authorized by the membership to establish two Donor Directed Funds to establish endowments to provide a \$10,000 per annum donation to each organization for 15 years based on the performance of its investments. The funding of these two endowments will retain sufficient funds for the AOI to operate, administratively, as it has for the past 25-plus years.

Approved the 12th day of JULY 2021.

SEAL



By: /s/ John P. Richardson  
 Title: Secretary



AOI’s Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI’s web address is: [aoidc.org](http://aoidc.org) and our email address is: [aioifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aioifdc@gmail.com). Please check out our Home Page and listen to the audio of 2016-2020 luncheon talks by our esteemed guests at [www.aoidc.org](http://www.aoidc.org). Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org](https://www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org) which may contain more timely events and calls-to-action than our web site.

*Address Correction Requested*

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants  
of the District of Columbia  
4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW  
District of Columbia 20007-2010

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
INSIDE!**

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**Officers:**

Thomas Neale, President 202-333-6946  
Jan A. K. Evans, Vice-President 301-968-4749  
John P. Richardson, Secretary 703-534-3577  
Hulit Pressley Taylor, Treasurer 202-625-0203  
Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian 202-546-4668

**Directors:**

Barbara Bates 202-244-2090  
Bill Brown 202-342-2019  
Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs 202-547-0964  
Jessica Hodge 301-704-5133  
Gary Scott 202-544-4862

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

This Washington History Center and the Kiplinger  
Research Library have reopened.



Check their hours and appointment procedures for  
research at: [www.dchistory.org](http://www.dchistory.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.**