



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 150th Year!***

***Bulletin #124
April 2015***

President's Message...

In 2001, Historical Society Library Director Gail Redmann wrote in *Washington History*, "In 1909, the District Commissioners, in recognition of the association's support for the city, passed a resolution allowing AOI to create a permanent meeting place in the old Union Engine Company building at 19th and H Streets, N.W. There AOI shared the building with the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association, which had been granted use of the building in 1891 and had established a museum of firefighting equipment and memorabilia. AOI met for the first time at the Union Engine Company on July 11, 1911, and continued to meet there until 1956, when the building was demolished for the construction of the International Monetary Fund headquarters. At that time, part of the valuable fire equipment collection was donated to the Smithsonian Institution and part to the Columbia Historical Society (now HSW), where the association subsequently held meetings."

One-hundred and four years since welcoming the remaining few members of the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association into our organization in order to preserve their charter, the AOI is taking the next step to turn over to the Friendship Fire Association Museum the four pieces of apparatus and two bells for which the AOI has served as custodian all these years. Together with the AOI-donated artifacts that the HSW presented to the FFA Museum in October 2014 (see Nov. newsletter), this transfer of property (see Resolution page 3) will result in all of DC's historic firefighting memorabilia being under one roof.

Bill Brown, President

April's Luncheon Event:

**Rear Admiral Mark Rich Discusses the Washington Navy Yard and
the Naval District of Washington**



Please join us...

Friday, **April 17**, 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., April 14, 2015.

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., 4/16, 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 (*Panko Crusted **Baked Cod** with lemon butter 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 150th Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- May 15, 2015 – Jerry McCoy, "Peabody Room/Rebirth of a Special Collection: Georgetown Neighborhood Library Fire"
- June 19, 2015 – Rex Passion, "The Lost Sketchbooks: A Young Artist in the Great War"
- Sept. 18, 2015 – Rohulamin Quander: "400 Years of the Quanders in America"

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 April 17, 2015 luncheon.]

AOI held the second meeting of its 150th year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel on March 20, 2015 with 68 registered attendees.

The **Minutes** of the February 20, 2015 luncheon meeting were approved as distributed in the March newsletter. Moved by **Kaye Eckles** and seconded by **Carl Cole**.

Membership Report:

Three new members were approved: **Doris Margolis*** (Gary Scott), **Stewart Lilliard*** (Sally MacDonald), and **Ruth Anne Sando** (from the website). **Patricia Daly-Lipe** moved and **Wynford Lyddane** seconded the motion for approval.

*=Present at today's luncheon meeting

We now have 280 paid-up members, which is in keeping with recent years. (This figure represents only those who have renewed their memberships; the total should approximate last year, ca. 365 members.)

Treasurer's Report: **Cindy Janke** gave the Treasurer's Report in lieu of **Hulit Taylor**, who recently broke her kneecap and was unable to attend the luncheon.

Designated Funds

- Thanks to your generosity, we have received a little over \$4,000 in donations to our Designated Funds.

Non-Routine Expense Since February Luncheon

- \$142 for the Directors' Fidelity Bond.

Investment Account

- Our investment account has earned \$330 this year in dividends and interest.

Introductions and Announcements: First-time members and guests were introduced, followed by these announcements;

- Last month many members signed a "Get Well Dudley Brown" sheet for long-time member

C. Dudley Brown, who is much revived and was present at the luncheon.

- The long-awaited Textile Museum and the Albert Small-funded Washingtoniana collection museum at George Washington University officially open March 21.
- Final editing is underway for **John Richardson's** biography of Alexander Shepherd biography. The book will be published by Ohio University Press in their spring 2016 catalogue. The U.S. Capitol Historical Society (USCHS) and Don Kennon, senior historian, are the sponsors for John's long-awaited project.
- **Barbara Bates** noted that March is Women's History Month and she asked everyone to support the Sewall-Belmont House about which John Kelly recently wrote. It is located at 144 Constitution Ave., NE and at: www.sewallbelmont.org.
- The luncheon fish selection for next month will be cod as we are 'testing' several fish selections.

Nelson Rimensnyder posed several trivia questions, preceded by noting that Georgetown citizens groups are calling for an archaeological dig at the former residence of Yarrow Mamout to ensure that he is not buried on the property, in advance of any development activity. The late **Joe Grano** supported holding a tax rally April 15 at the East Front of the U.S. Capitol; permits have been issued. Also Nelson reported the bronze statue at 5th and F Sts., NW honoring arson investigation dogs has been defaced in an act of vandalism.

Q: The Evening Star did not publish an issue on December 7, 1865, the day of AOI's founding. Why not?

A: No one was able to answer the question.

Question for April: The Evening Star of December 6 carried a story about a Washington Board of Trade proposal to consolidate Washington City, Georgetown and Washington County into one legislative entity. What else important happened that day?

Bonus Question:

Q: What important piece of congressional legislation for the nation's capital was passed in 1846?

A: Approval of retrocession of the Virginia portion of the 10-mile square to the state of Virginia (**Barbara Bates**).

Today's program: The program was different from a regular speaker, since it featured a documentary film still in production: "The Potomac River and Environs," by **Don Rothacker**, with narration by **Gail Spilsbury**, author of "Washington Sketchbook," containing sketches of the Potomac River area by Robert Dickinson, M.D., toward the end of World War I. The 25-minute documentary interspersed images of Dr. Dickinson's sketches with footage of various points along the watershed. Gail made comments after the film, supported by Francine Krasowska, who assembled the music for the film as well as played several pieces on the piano. The completed film is expected to be available later this year. AOI has financially supported various aspects of Gail's book and the music portion of the film and looks forward to the final product.

After the film discussion, Bill made remarks concerning the status of the Franklin School, since the film narration of a year ago was positive about intended conversion of the building into an arts center – now cancelled by order of Mayor Bowser.

Bill announced that the April speaker will be Rear Admiral Mark Rich, Commandant of the Naval District of Washington at the Washington Navy Yard.

Respectfully submitted,
John P. Richardson, Secretary

Menu Item Trial Run...

As we discussed at our March luncheon, we are going to test drive a new fish selection this month. The Capitol Skyline Hotel's Ass't. Manager/Executive Chef John Schumacher is preparing **Panko Crusted Baked Cod served with Lemon butter sauce, saffron Rice and herb roasted vegetables** as our April seafood selection. We will be seeking your comments at the luncheon.

AOI's newsletters and publications are produced by:



AOI Membership Approval Required...

Having been provided sufficient notice, the members present at the April 17, 2015 luncheon meeting will be asked to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia incorporated the last surviving members of the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association into its membership in 1908; and,

WHEREAS: As part of the AOI's affiliation with the Veteran Volunteer Fireman's Association and beyond the tenure of their last living member, the AOI came into possession of an extensive collection of antique firefighting artifacts and memorabilia; and,

WHEREAS: In 1973, the AOI donated a number of these artifacts to the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. and, by resolution in September 2014 approved of the deaccession of these items and their transfer to the Friendship Fire Association Museum; and,

WHEREAS: The only remaining Fire Department-related artifacts in the possession of the AOI are four vehicles (1905 American La France Steam Pumper; 1909 Robinson Fire Apparatus Chief Engineer's Buggy; 1853 Rogers Hand Pumper; 1870s Parade Hose Reel) and two bells (1956 Jones & Hitchcock Bell (mounted); and, an unknown year/make smaller bell (un-mounted)); and,

WHEREAS: The Friendship Fire Association now supports a publicly accessible museum at its location in Engine Company 3, 439 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., which already contains a significant number of AOI-related Veteran Volunteer Fireman's artifacts; and,

WHEREAS: The Officers and Board of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia have voted to approve this resolution; and,

WHEREAS: The By-laws of the AOI of DC require 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);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The membership of the AOI of DC approves the recommendation of The Board of Directors of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia to transfer these four vehicles and two bells to the Friendship Fire Association Museum and that the conveying documents clearly state the origin of the objects to be the "Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, custodian of these artifacts by virtue of the AOI's relationship with the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association."

Our e-mail address is: aoiofdc@gmail.com

Our web site is <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply "Google" 'Governor Shepherd' and we'll pop-up!

Address Correction Requested

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

Officers:

William Brown, President 202-342-1638
4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW, Wash., DC 20007
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
Jim Embrey, F.D. Liaison 571-436-7774

Past President:

A. L. Wheeler 202-337-0030

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

Weekend Research Hours at the Historical Society --

Saturday, April 18th, 10am to 2pm at the Kiplinger
Research Library of the Historical Society's Carnegie
Building. To make an appointment, contact them at:
library@dchistory.org

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, December 5, 2015 –
AOI's 150th Anniversary Gala. Mid-day event, elegant
luncheon, reception, entertainment, awards and more.
Mark your calendars now!

Directors:

Carl Cole 202-889-8813
Damon Cordon 301-215-7022
Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs 202-547-0964
Jessica Hodge 301-704-5133
Lucinda (Cindy) P. Janke 202-425-6614
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.**