



# 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 150<sup>th</sup> Year!***

***Bulletin #122  
February 2015***

## ***President's Message...***

The District's two premier animal shelter organizations – the Washington Humane Society and the Washington Animal Rescue League – and the services they provide are a far cry from those Hayden Wetzel will recall at this month's luncheon.

The Humane Society, chartered by Congress in 1870, not only operates a private shelter at 7319 Georgia Avenue, NW but operates the DC Animal Care & Control Facility (under contract by the Dept. of Health) on N.Y. Avenue, NE. It also provides the enforcement component which investigates animal abuse and neglect and responds to citizens' requests for injured or incapacitated wild life. All of my family's cat adoptions over the years have been through the N.Y. Avenue shelter.

The WARL, located on Oglethorpe Street, NW has, for 100 years, provided not only adoptions but now includes a full-service medical facility. WARL has unique programs such as "Boomer's Buddies" and "Pets for Patriots" which promote adoption of 'last chance shelter pets' and 'senior pets' to find them homes, often with reduced fees.

Both organizations support humane education programs that promote animal care, compassion and respect. Suburban jurisdictions all have well run, highly respected shelters and I hope even if you're not considering adopting, that you support them with your donations or by volunteering.

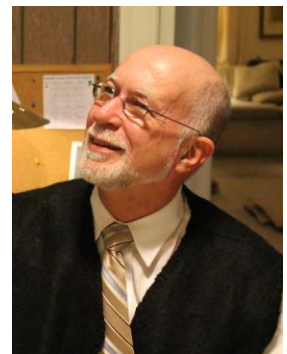
Animal Control has come a long way from the era that Hayden will recount for us.

*Bill Brown, President*

## **February's Luncheon Event:**

**"The Most Melancholy Morgue -- A History of the District Pound"**

**With Hayden Wetzel**



***Please join us...***

Friday, **February 20**, 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. 17, 2014 – EARLIER RSVP TIME!!

**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., 11/19, 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 (***Sun Dried Tomato Pesto Crusted Flounder, 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 150<sup>th</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

March 20, 2015 – Gail Spilsbury and Donald Rothacker, “Washington Sketchbook: The DVD”

April 17, 2015 – To Be Announced

May 15, 2015 – Jerry McCoy, "Peabody Room/Rebirth of a Special Collection: Georgetown Neighborhood Library Fire"

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 20, 2015 luncheon.]

AOI held the eighth and last meeting of its 149<sup>th</sup> year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel November 21, 2014, with 93 registered attendees.

The **Minutes** of the October 17, 2014 luncheon meeting were approved as distributed. Moved by Ginny Daly and seconded by Mark Griffin.

**Annual Elections:** Bill Brown turned the lectern and microphone over to Barbara Drechsler, Chair of the Nominating to conduct this year’s election of Officers and Board members. Austin Kiplinger moved for approval by acclamation and the 2015 Officers and Board were elected.

They are:

Officers:

President	William N. Brown (incumbent)
Vice-president	Jan A.K. Evans (incumbent)
Treasurer	Hulit Taylor (incumbent)
Secretary	John P. Richardson (incumbent)
Historian	Nelson Rimensnyder (incumbent)

Directors:

Carl Cole	2015-2016
Damon Cordon	2015-2016
Lucinda (Cindy) Janke	2015-2016

The following Directors did not require re-election as they have not yet completed their two-year terms:

Jessica Hodge	2014-2015
Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs	2014-2015
Gary Scott	2014-2015

**Membership Report:** 5 new members were approved -- **Delores Christie (Regina Hunt); Anne B. Donohoe (Jan Evans); Joan Evans (unknown/web site); Michael McGovern (Mark Griffin); and, John Suau (HSW Director/Austin Kiplinger).** Steel Lipe made a motion for

approval; seconded by Mary Pat Gaffney... the new members were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Hulit provided an update on the organization’s finances and membership.

**Announcements:** First time members and members’ guests were introduced, followed by:

President Bill Brown publicly thanked Board Members Cindy Janke and Jessica Hodge for spending two days representing the AOI at the Historical Society-sponsored, “Save Our African American Treasures” program. This is a traveling, “Antiques Roadshow”-type event sponsored by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History & Culture to bring awareness to the importance of personal historic documents, artifacts and memorabilia. Jessica and Cindy presented AOI’s exceptional find of the records of the AOI Colored as an example of, “We have already saved an African American treasure...”

Bill called to everyone’s attention the new pop-up banner that has been created to replace AOI’s tired, old B&W plastic placard.

Nelson Rimensnyder asked two trivia questions: One regarding the issue for run-off elections in D.C.; and, the other:

Q: Why did ‘Washington’ disappear from DC License Plates?  
A: Technically, in 1871, ‘Washington’ ceased to exist.

Bill recounted for everyone the success of the Historical Society’s Making History Awards gala which recognized the Cafritz Family/Foundation and the Washington *Blade* newspaper.

The day’s program introduced the AOI members and their guests to the “D.C. 101” freshman curriculum at The Catholic University. Matt Green, Associate Professor & Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Politics at Catholic and Dr. Maria Mazzenga, Education Archivist at the American Catholic History Research Center and University

Archives at Catholic University developed an interdisciplinary team made up of faculty from many departments including history, architecture, political science and social work.

To give the students an idea of the complexity and uniqueness of the city, the curriculum is divided into three parts: The Symbolic City, The Political City and the Living City.

The first introduces students to the city's architecture and monuments. The Nation's Capital is a planned city. The designers of the city included men like L'Enfant, Ellicott and McMillan. Plans were made and altered because of everything from reality -- L'Enfant's lovely grid plan did not work well when it came to hills and streams -- to more whimsical problems like how many statues of early leaders on horseback could the city contain?

The second component explains the strange and little known political reality of the Nation's Capital. It is the seat of the government of the people but has very little representation. Congress meets here, but they are attuned to their constituents and their needs and largely use their control of the city's government for their own agendas. National political protests and the challenges of dealing with foreign embassies and their communities are also included in the Political City. Local politics, the City's governing systems and its lack of home rule are covered here.

Finally, the Living City, looks beyond the official parts of the city at the people who live in the city, at the kind of local politics that do exist here, at the role of tourists, business and culture. In this section, the class also studies the African American experience, the neighborhoods, change and gentrification.

In conclusion, the speakers pointed out that Washington is a great city for this kind of study. The city is a lab where students can study monuments and then go through the process of planning one including proving the need for it. They can study CUA's neighborhood Brookland to look at urban development, transit options and the rise of an artists' District.

There was much interest by the audience about the book, Washington 101. The speakers said that it only exists in textbook form now (and was very pricey) but that they are hoping that it will be in paperback in 2015.

Respectfully submitted by  
Bill Brown and Maggie Hobbs on behalf of  
*John P. Richardson*, Secretary

## ***AOI Luncheon Expenses...***

When we learned (on extremely short notice) in March 2014 that our luncheon venue was no longer available, we scrambled to find a new location convenient for our members, their guests and our programs. With a suggestion from a member we contacted the Capitol Skyline Hotel, met with their staff to discuss AOI's needs and quickly determined that this new location, just 8 blocks from our old one would be our new home. When we left our previous location the luncheon price was \$25. With the move to the CSH, the price (including tax and gratuity) increased to just over \$34 per person. The AOI Board determined that for the remainder of the year, AOI would underwrite the difference to keep the meal price at \$30 per person to help lessen the "sticker shock." Together with a flat \$100 bartender fee, which AOI also agreed to absorb, the AOI's portion of members' and guests' meals for 2014 was \$3375. Our new rate for 2015 is \$27.75 per person and with tax and gratuity comes to \$36.08 per person. AOI will cover the \$1.08 difference for each meal plus the bartender's fee, setting the 2015 lunch price at \$35. When you consider this includes 3-hours of parking (valued at \$10 or more), all room set-ups including the audio-visual support, this is reasonable. We also should consider the following: in 1995 the lunch cost was \$15... in 2000 it was \$17... in 2005 it was \$20... in 2010 it was \$21 and in 2014 it was \$25 then \$30. This is equivalent to a 2.1% per year over 20 years.

The management and staff of the Capitol Skyline Hotel have been most accommodating and we have selected them to host our December 5<sup>th</sup> Sesquicentennial Gala. The AOI Board works to ensure that the menu selections are agreeable to our members and we are open to discussing changes or variations to our current offerings.

We hope that you and your guests will continue to join us at our monthly luncheons. The fellowship, accommodations and guest topics cannot be beat and we hope that you agree.

*Bill Brown, President*

Our e-mail address is: [aoiofdc@gmail.com](mailto:aoiofdc@gmail.com)

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

AOI's newsletters and publications are produced by:



*Address Correction Requested*

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**Officers:**

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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, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am to 2pm at the Kiplinger  
Research Library of the Historical Society's Carnegie  
Building. For further information, check:  
[www.dchistory.org](http://www.dchistory.org).

**SAVE THE DATE!** Saturday, December 5, 2015 –  
AOI's 150<sup>th</sup> 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.**