



# 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 151<sup>st</sup> Year!**

**Bulletin #133  
June 2016**

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

On May 12<sup>th</sup> at an awards ceremony at GWU's Marvin Center, AOI presented its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Philip W. Ogilvie Award for Academic Achievement to Megan Stroud. Megan, who works as an event planner at the Jefferson Hotel (1200 16<sup>th</sup> & M Street, NW) achieved the highest grade point average in the School of Business' Masters of Tourism Administration program.



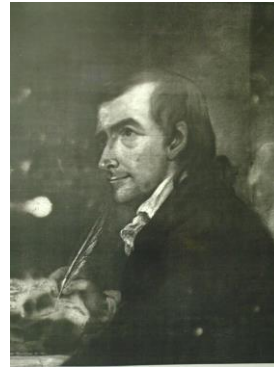
The AOI first conferred a \$500 award to Diedre Fein in 2002 at the urging of AOI Past-President Dr. Phil Ogilvie who had served as an adjunct professor in the school's tourism studies program. When Phil suddenly passed away the following year, the AOI chose to name any future awards in Phil's honor. Since then, we have award 14 Philip W. Ogilvie Awards now in the amount of \$750.

As one of AOI's Sesquicentennial grants in December 2015 to the MTA, a \$25,000 endowment should fund the award for many years to come.

*Bill Brown*

## **June's Luncheon Event:**

**"A Civil Servant Designed Our National Banner: The Unsung Legacy of Francis Hopkinson" with Earl P. Williams, Jr.**



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

Friday, **June 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., June 14, 2016**.

**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., 6/16, 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 (***Sundried Tomato Pesto Crusted Salmon, 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 151<sup>st</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Sept. 16, 2016 – John Michael, “The History of Ft. McNair”

Oct. 21, 2016 – David Hamilton, “Memorials in Washington, D.C.: Controversies & Considerations”

Nov. 18, 2016 -- Melanie Choukas-Bradley, “The History of Rock Creek Park”

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.

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## If You Were Not At Our Last Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the June 17, 2016 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the fourth luncheon meeting of its 151<sup>st</sup> year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon on Friday, May 20, 2016. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the minutes of the April 2016 meeting, which were printed in the May newsletter. After a motion made by **Dudley Brown** and seconded by **Victor Hickman**, the minutes were approved as distributed.

**New Members:** Bill Brown presented the names of two new members, both of whom were present: **Constance Kerwin** (longtime friend of Lauea Johnson DiJoseph and Foxhall neighbor of both Bill Brown and Hulit Taylor); and, **Ruth Cornelson** (Wally Rossmiller's daughter and frequent guest). **Betty Walker** moved for acceptance of the new members and the motion was seconded by **George Hutchinson** and the new members were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Treasurer **Hulit Taylor:**

### Membership

- Our budgeted membership is 340
- We now have 288 members, 12 of whom are new
- 72 have not yet renewed and will be sent a “final reminder” with their June newsletter

### Donated Funds

- Thanks to your generosity, we have received nearly \$4,500 for our Unrestricted Funds

**Non-Routine Expenses** since March Luncheon

- \$500 to Burstein & Associates for filing form

990-EZ for our 2015 Federal Return

### Luncheon Report

- 67 Attended our April luncheon

Bill introduced Richard Hage who is a long-time member but has not been to a luncheon in recent memory. And there were a number of guests and their hosts: **Hopi Aubach was Bill Rice's guest; Patricia Larson and Carolyn Hill were Juliette Smith's guests. We also had a number of member spouses with us today including: Al Brault, Gwynne Cady, Marcia Landers and Suzon Strack.**

Bill noted AOI Member **Darwina Neal** has been selected to be a grant application judge for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities having been nominated by, who else? Us!

**Nelson** offered a series of trivia questions for everyone's consideration:

Q: What is the oldest bridge, 185 years old? A: High Street/Wisconsin Avenue stone bridge over the C&O Canal – Bill Brown knew the answer but declined his prize which was re-purposed later.

Q: What is the oldest university in DC? A: Georgetown – Connie Kerwin knew the answer... and Lauea DiJoseph knew the date it was founded: 1789.

Q: What Republican Representative who wanted to relocate the Capitol has a circle named for him? A: Logan – John Herron provided the answer.

Q: What is the oldest church within the original L'Enfant City? A: Christ Church near the Navy Yard – Vicky Schwartz provided the answer

Q: The first draft of a constitution for New Columbia called for 40 delegates or representatives. It was finally narrowed down to how many? A: 25 – Patricia Clark came closest to the answer with 23.

Today's guest, Robert W. Patrick, discussed the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP). Patrick, who is retiring as Director of the project, served more than 20 years as an officer in the U.S. Armed Forces before joining the VHP in 2006. The Veterans History Project was established by Congress in 2000 as a program of the Library's American Folklife Center. Patrick noted the original bill was introduced by Senators and Representatives who were veterans, and was passed unanimously by both houses of Congress.

The Project's mission is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans, from World War I through the present. Patrick explained that the most important contributions are personal accounts by veterans, including recorded interviews and written memoirs. For instance, Frank Buckles, the last surviving American World War I veteran, made audio and visual interviews before his death at the age of 110 in 2011. Today, securing interviews with World War II veterans is one of the project's most urgent priorities, as WW II vets are passing away at a rate of 1000 per day. The VHP also collects memoirs, letters, v-mail, and post cards, and visual materials, such as photos, drawings, and scrap books.

Patrick recounted a significant recent acquisition — two manuscript collections, kept by friends George Washington Percy and Robert F. Augur, recounting their experiences as World War II POWs in the Philippines. Percy gave his memoir to Augur for safekeeping before being sent to Japan aboard a ship that was tragically torpedoed by a U.S. submarine. Augur survived the war and forwarded Percy's memoir to his family, who donated it to the Project in 2015. Augur's relatives, who were unaware of the Percy memoir, learned of the bequest through a "Google" search, and donated their uncle's papers, which doubled the Project's collection of rare POW reminiscences from the Philippines.

The VHP relies on a nationwide grassroots network of interviewers to locate veterans, persuade them to record their stories, and ensure that their reminiscences are transmitted to the Library of Congress. These include local congressional offices, veterans' services organizations, public libraries, school and community groups, and especially Girl and Boy Scouts. The Project remains consistently popular with Members of Congress and the general public. Its web site provides further information, including interview

instructions and a Veterans History Field Kit on the Veterans History Project web site, at <http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html>.

In February of this year, the Project logged in its 100,000<sup>th</sup> collection. Of these, more than 20,000 interviews and other collections are accessible to the public at the project web site or by visiting the Library of Congress. Patrick noted that more than 22 million living vets have yet to give their reminiscences. He hopes that more volunteers will continue to come forward to interview them and preserve their photographs, letters, and other correspondence to inspire future generations of researchers and citizens.

*Submitted by Bill Brown and Thomas Neale  
on behalf of John P. Richardson, Secretary*



**Robert Patrick, retiring Director of the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, describes the program for AOI members and guests.**

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)

Check out our redesigned Home Page and listen to the audio of 2016 luncheon talks by our esteemed guests.

*Address Correction Requested*

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

This is your final AOI  
newsletter! Please see inside for  
information about renewing your  
membership.

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**The Historical Society's June Programs:**

~ Historic Carnegie Library Tours: Every Tues. &  
Thurs. 1-1:45 PM  
~ Hands-on Street Photography Workshop: Sat.,  
6/11, 10-12:30 PM & Collections  
Workshop: 1-2 PM  
~ Introduction to Archival Processing Workshop,  
Sat., 6/25, 9:30 am – 3:00 PM  
Call 202-249-3955 for further information or check:  
<http://www.dchistory.org/events/2016-06>



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