



The Association of the 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*

*Bulletin #111
May 3, 2013*

President's Message...

Memorial Day and the D.C. War Memorial

For 76 years, the D.C. War Memorial Corporation has held its commemorative event the Sunday before Memorial Day at the D.C. War Memorial. Last year I was asked to provide remarks. This year I was advised by Thomas Kouyeas, the organization's director, that due to 'sequester'-imposed cuts to the Park Service's budget, NPS would not be able to provide support for the event and the corporation could not afford to cover the expenses. Hence, there will be no 77th official observance of Memorial Day this year. This is truly a shame; however, we should not allow this turn of events to deter us in our remembrances of those brave sons and daughters of the District who gave their lives in the Great Conflict.



The Memorial Day Foundation (N.Y.) places 499 bouquets of silk roses at the D.C. War Memorial each Memorial Day weekend.

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May's Luncheon Event:

**“Anacostia: The Village That Shaped Us”
With Dianne Dale**



Photo: Library of Congress

Please join us...

Friday, **May 17**, at the Channel Inn (free Parking) 650 Water Street, SW. (Maine Avenue via Metro Rail Green to Waterfront Station/SEU or Metro Bus 74 [Circulator Bus discontinued]), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. (**\$24 per person** - please make your check payable to AOI and have it completed prior to arrival or bring exact change).

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., May 15, 2013.

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., 5/16, may 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 (Filet of Sole w/Scallops, Seafood Newburg, Chicken, Beef, Veggie Plate or Fruit Plate) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or a last-minute cancellation.

Future Meetings...



The AOI's 148th Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- June 21, 2013 – Paul Leeper (Sgt., MPDC, Retired), “The Watergate Break-in and Other Behind the Scene Stories
- July 4, 2013 – Annual Palisades Fourth of July Parade
- Sept. 20, 2013 -- Reminiscences
- Oct. 18, 2013 – Cindy Janke discusses her book “A Guide to Civil War Washington”
- Nov. 15, 2013 – To be announced; Annual AOI Elections

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 April Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the May 17th 2013 luncheon.]

AOI held its April 2013 meeting at the Pier 7 restaurant of the Channel Inn on April 19, 2013. **President Bill Brown** welcomed the 96 members and guests who were attending to the third AOI luncheon of its 148th year.

The draft of the minutes of the March meeting was considered for approval. No additions or corrections were noted. **Austin Kiplinger** moved, seconded by **George Hutchinson** to accept the minutes as presented in the newsletter. The motion was approved.

Six new applications for membership have been submitted since the last meeting. The applicants are **Judy Back** (nominated by **Grace Heitmuller**). Judy in turn recruited her friends **Dorothy Hartland** and **Mary Scott** to sign up also! **Doreen Conrad** was nominated by **Gary Scott**. **Charles Robertson** was nominated by **Anne Sellin**. Bill noted that Charles is Anne's brother. **Nancy Starr** was nominated by Barbara Bates. **Robert Proudley** moved, seconded by **Helen Tsintolas**, that the applicants be accepted for membership. The motion was quickly approved.

Treasurer Hulit Taylor presented her report. There are currently 314 members, which is consistent with data from past years. Hulit discussed our Ogilvie Award, which has presented an AOI grant to the outstanding student in the Masters in Tourism program at George Washington University for 11 years. Phil Ogilvie was an outstanding president of AOI and an adjunct professor in the GWU tourism program. Subsequent to his death the grant was renamed in his honor, and has been supported by AOI member contributions. The AOI Board recently voted to increase the stipend to \$750 from its former \$500 amount.

Hulit discussed a change in our newsletter operation and its contractor. The firm of GRC Direct will handle its printing, addressing and mailing at favorable competitive rates, and this will relieve Bill of many hours of labor which he spends in order to produce the newsletter in a timely and cost saving manner. The new contractor, in addition, emplaces helpful tabs which keep documents from unfolding while being handled in the mail. The new procedure will save time and be more cost effective when all labor is considered, i.e. Bill Brown and his wife have been addressing, stamping, and mailing the newsletter with considerable and diverse personal effort. This effort will now be provided by the contractor. Our total

newsletter costs, including these new duties, will increase our cost approximately \$100, but provide relief for the personal labor (including much "gopher" time) donated by our conscientious, overextended, and uncompensated staff of Browns.

Our investment account continues to do well and now has exceeded \$1,400 this year in dividends and interest.

Bill told us of the recent deaths of three important AOI members. They were all active in AOI and their lives lead us to celebrate them as well as to mourn their passing. **Father Michael O' Sullivan** died March 11th. He was 81 years old, attended our meetings frequently, and tended his Capitol Hill Catholic parish with intense devotion. The Washington Post bio is fascinating. **John M. (Jack) Wigglesworth** was 99 years old, also died March 11th. He would have been 100 on April 12th. He worked for the CIA and retired in 1973 after 23 years with the directorate of intelligence. He founded a travel agency after retirement. **Evelyn Christian** passed away April 12th. She was 98 and left many children, grandchildren, and was a great-grandmother as well. Three exemplary lives, all passing away about the same time.

Bill introduced guests, offered announcements of possible interest, and informed us of new developments and plans for the historical society.

Historian Nelson Rimensnyder presented a trivia question. It dealt with the event at Griffith Stadium on April 17, 1953. What was it? It was opening day for the Washington Senators and Mickey Mantle hit a 565 foot home run out of the stadium. Member **Vince Scalco** was there that day, knew the answer to the trivia question and was presented a 'prize' by Nelson.

Our speaker for today was **Conrad Reid**. He was Executive Vice-President for Security Storage for many years. There is much history of our AOI interactions with Security Storage over the years, as that company took care of AOI's antique fire apparatus for considerable time. Today Conrad presented us with a truly unique talk, "Moving the First Families." In it he related historical anecdotes of some of the experiences of moving departing US President's possessions from the White House after their terms ended. Security Storage traces its founding to 1890, and has managed to secure contracts for the departing presidential moves mainly since then. They moved Woodrow Wilson, of course way before Conrad's time. When Conrad came out of the Marine Corps much later, Security Storage offered him a job, which he accepted, successfully working his way up to the Board of Directors after retirement. Part of the requirements for success in dealing with projects for the White House is the need for discretion in the handling of

information. This, together with the excellence in the physical aspects of handling and moving, established Security Storage as an important well qualified resource in this area. Conrad delighted us with many stories drawn from his experiences with these presidential moves. He very much enjoyed working with the first ladies at the White House since they were more involved with the actual logistics of these moves. Using that noted discretion he told us of his favorites --there were many, and the sometimes unusual demands of the job on his family and wife. All of these were delightful stories. Among his White House favorites were Barbara Bush, Lady Bird Johnson, and surprisingly Mrs. Agnew (not a first lady but vice presidents were also moved, including Al Gore and family). Conrad told of spending 7 days with Mrs. Johnson on their move; by then he was permitted to be on the resident floor (a higher security area) when a Johnson daughter came through with the brand new grandchild. Turning to Conrad, she said "Here, hold this" and Conrad reacted fearfully, moving to the nearest chair possible while praying that someone would come right away and take the baby from him. Someone did, but Conrad said that never stopped shaking from that. (Clearly he's a Washington mover and shaker). He continued on with many amusing events. He told of how Jimmy Carter rented a U-Haul to take away some of his personal papers, and parking it inappropriately close, only to find later that the Secret Service had towed it away. They had to tow it back! He continued with stories from the Nixon and Reagan moves, up through the Bushes. Conrad is a wonderful raconteur and relates these stories in a clear well timed manner. There was a very interesting Q&A session following the talk.

This was another extremely enjoyable program that presented a special learning opportunity.

Respectfully submitted
Seymour Selig, Secretary

President's Message Continued...

Congressional legislation has now established a World War I Centennial Commission which is based in Kansas City, MO, the location of the National WWI Museum. The AOI still firmly believes that Pershing Park is an existing and worthwhile site to be designated a National World War I Memorial and we hope that the new commission will keep Pershing Park in mind during their deliberations.

Bill Brown



Bill Brown, Joe Grano, Hulit Taylor, John Richardson and Roger Thiel at the D.C. War Memorial on Memorial Day 2012.



A Scottish Honor Guard from New York City departs the D.C. War Memorial after placing their organization's wreath.



C.R. Gibbs and Bill Brown stand with the AOI's wreath on Memorial Day 2012 at the D.C. War Memorial.

Please visit us at our web site at <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply "Google" 'Governor Shepherd' and we'll pop-up!

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AOI is a member of Cultural Tourism DC:

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Address Correction Requested

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Important Note: D.C. Department of Transportation advises that **Maine Avenue, between Ohio Drive and the fish markets, will be under repair through June. Allow extra time for your drive to the May and June AOI luncheons.**

View AOI's web site at:
www.aoidc.org or email us at: aoidc@gmail.com



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