



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 #107
Oct. 5, 2012***

President's Message...

Wouldn't \$10mil Go A Lot Further to Enhance Pershing Park Than for a New Memorial in Constitution Gardens?

Congressman Ted Poe's (R-TX) new bill, H.R. 6364, would authorize the [National] World War I Memorial Foundation to add elements in the vicinity of the existing Constitution Gardens not to exceed 1.5 acres and not to cost more than \$10 million to commemorate World War I. Wouldn't the time and effort needed to proceed with this initiative, not to mention the \$10mil., go a lot further to enhance the existing Pershing Memorial in time to celebrate the centennial of the Great Conflict?

The funding could be used to add statuary (in honor of the 'the last dough-boy' Frank Buckles as well as representatives of the other service branches), interpretive signage, a reproduction tank or biplane attraction and a modest visitors' center. In fact, why couldn't space on the ground floor of the John A. Wilson (District) Building be set aside as a volunteer-staffed National World War I Memorial Visitors' Center just as the Commerce Department houses the White House Visitors' Center?



Pershing Park's water feature is shown with the Treasury Department in the background.

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October's Luncheon Event:

Architect Davis Buckley

Buckley discusses the Mall's War Memorials, The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial & Museum and other Washington Projects



The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (photo NLEOM)

Please join us...

Friday, **Oct. 19**, 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. (\$23 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., Oct. 17, 2012.

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., 10/18, 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 147th Year – Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Nov. 16, 2012 – Garrett Peck discusses his new book, “The Potomac River: A History & Guide” & Annual Election

Jan. 1, 2013 – AOI's Annual New Year's Day Reception, 11:30am-2:30, Pier 7/Channel Inn

Feb. 15, 2013 -- Mark Ozer discusses his latest book, “Northwest Washington, D.C.”

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, the AOI follows the closing schedule of the Arlington County Public Schools or call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

If You Were Not At Our Sept. Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the October 19th luncheon.]

President Bill Brown opened our first meeting following the summer break at the Channel Inn Pier 7 restaurant September 21, 2012. There were 104 members and guests attending.

The draft minutes of the previous meeting on June 15 were printed in the newsletter. Bill called for additions or corrections. None were offered. **Mary Pat Gaffney** moved that the minutes be accepted, motion seconded by **Mary Matson**. The motion was readily approved.

There have been five new applications for AOI membership since the last meeting. The applicants were **Christine Hansen** (nominated by Nelson Rimensnyder); **Abbey Martin** (nominated by Sally MacDonald); **Kathleen Meskil** (nominated by Barbara Bates); **Betsey Sherman** (nominated by Barbara Bates also); **Gary Mead** of Fairfax (applied via AOI web site). **Allen Beach** moved that the applicants be accepted, motion seconded by **Cindy Janke**. The motion was promptly accepted.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** reported that we have 350 members, of whom 29 are new. Non-routine expenses since June included \$100 gratuity to driver for our steam pumper in July 4th parade; \$2500 to Historical Society of Washington as a supporting sponsor for their gala in celebration of their reopening (from money AOI members have donated to us designated for HSW or its Kiplinger Library); \$1000 to the Friends of Washingtoniana in support of annual Historical Studies Conference, of which amount \$500 was contributed by an anonymous AOI member. Our investment account as of 8/31/12 was approximately \$199K, an increase of

\$13.7K over the summer.

Bill noted that the gala for HSW on October 30 will honor three Washington families: the Walter Washington family; the Albert Small family; and the Austin Kiplinger family. Bill also reported that new HSW Librarian Jennifer Krafchik hopes that the Library will reopen Nov 1 or 2.

The passing of AOI members **Phyllis Dunan, Blanche Moore, and Janice Hopper** was mentioned.

The 39th Historical Studies Conference will take place October 18-21. Also mentioned was the Conference on Civil War Medicine by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, in Frederick MD on Oct 5-7. **Bill Rice** offered a trivia question on behalf of **Nelson Rimensnyder**.

Today's program speakers were Carol Highsmith and Ted Landphair. Their presentation was billed in our newsletter announcement as a talk on historic Union Station, but it was indeed much more than that. Carol Highsmith is an architectural photographer and Ted Landphair is primarily an author and does most of the writing. They are an amazing wife and husband team. Together they have produced over 50 books and are important contributors to travel literature on American cities and states, as well as many foreign countries. Of course they are experts on the history of Daniel Burnham's Union Station and gave us a great overview of this and its roots in the "City Beautiful" movement over a century ago. We could envision dining at the Savarin Restaurant in the station. We heard Ted tell of the great crash in January 1953 prior to the Eisenhower inaugural, and the subsequent "Pit" and plans for the National Visitors Center. As always, current plans are contingent upon availability of uncertain funding.

Particularly surprising was Ted's and Carol's

candid telling us about their experiences in learning how the publishing business operates, and they figured out ways to benefit from this knowledge. Their book marketing anecdotes were hilarious as well as valuable. Ted pointed out that there can be a vast difference in interests between railroad history buffs and train station history buffs, and how this directly affected the sale of their books about Union Station. Their most recent books are "America Restored" and a book on the Korean War Memorial, and another on the embassies in Washington DC.

Our varied AOI members greatly enjoyed the Q&A session. This event was another gem in our program!

Respectfully submitted

Seymour Selig, Secretary



President's Message Continued...

The AOI continues to promote the concept of re-envisioning Pershing Park as the National World War I Memorial in the Nation's Capital. The American Battle Monuments Commission already considers its memorial to General Pershing to be the National WWI Memorial – do we really need another one? The Commemorative Works Act prohibits additional memorials on the National Mall and the proposal for Constitution Gardens is in conflict with the intent of the act according to Stephen Whitesell, Regional Director, National Capital Region of the National Park Service.



A World War I memorial in Chicago's Oak Park could serve as a model for additional elements.



This view of Constitution Gardens suggests a commemorative work to WWI would be 'lost' in its vastness and somewhat 'off the beaten path' to visitors.



The current statue of Gen. Pershing and the detailed, engraved panels depicting the American Expeditionary Forces' campaigns is conveniently located at the western plaza of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Time is running out as 2014 approaches and the centennial period of the Great War begins. Given this is the third attempt in Congress to pass legislation to establish a National World War I Memorial on the National Mall, are we any more hopeful that this initiative will pass? If history is an indication, it won't and more precious time will have slipped by.

Bill Brown, President

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

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

AOI is a member of Cultural Tourism DC:



AOI's newsletters and publications are printed and assembled by the staff of FedEx Office of Georgetown.



FedEx Kinko's is now FedEx Office

Address Correction Requested

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The Kiplinger Research Library of the Historical Society is scheduled to re-open Nov. 2nd under the direction of new Library Director, Jennifer Krafchik. Check HSW's web site: www.historydc.org for Library News.

View our re-designed web site at:
www.aoidc.org or email us at: aioifdc@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.