



# 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 #127  
October 2015***

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

Since 1907 the AOI has had in its care a number of pieces of fire apparatus and two bronze bells that were once the holdings of the Veteran Volunteer Fireman's Association (VVFA). When the membership of the VVFA became such they no longer qualified as a D.C. organization, the remaining members joined the AOI so their records, history, memorabilia and historic headquarters would survive. During the intervening 108 years, the AOI served as custodian for this collection. Many items were donated to the Smithsonian Institution, the Columbia Historical Society (now Historical Society of Washington, D.C.), the Navy Museum and other entities.

The four pieces of fire apparatus and the two bronze bells needed to be turned over to the Friendship Fire Association Museum (FFAM) where they could be properly maintained, displayed and preserved. Two of the four pieces of apparatus and the bells were part of the VVFA when they joined the AOI. The 3rd and 4th pieces of apparatus, a 1909 Robinson Chief's Buggy and a 1905 American La France steam pumper, were deeded to the AOI by the District of Columbia Commissioners in 1922 and 1933, respectively, when the apparatus were condemned. The Friendship Fire Association Museum is the official historic archive and museum of the District of Columbia Fire & Emergency Medical Services (DCFEMS) and is the appropriate repository for these historic artifacts.

The membership of the AOI, after receiving proper notification, voted unanimously on April 17, 2015, approving a resolution to transfer the above-described items to the Friendship Fire Association Museum.

*Bill Brown, President*

(Photos appear on Page 3)

## **October's Luncheon Event:**

**“Georgetown's Historic Oak Hill Cemetery”**

**With George Hill, President and Dave Jackson, Superintendent of Oak Hill Cemetery**



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

Friday, **Oct. 16**, 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., Oct. 13, 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., 10/15, 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 150<sup>th</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Nov. 20, 2015 – Carole Ottesen: “The Smithsonian Gardens”
- Dec. 5, 2015 – AOI's Sesquicentennial Gala (by invitation only for AOI Members & Guests)
- Feb. 19, 2016 – To Be Announced
- March 18, 2016 – Cindy Gueli: “The Lipstick Brigade” (Women Workforce in World War II)
- April 15, 2016 – Stephen Grant: “Collecting Shakespeare: The Story of Henry & Emily Folger”

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 Oct. 16, 2015 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the sixth luncheon meeting of its 150<sup>th</sup> year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, September 18 with 76 members and guests attending. The draft minutes of the June meeting were approved as circulated.

AOI Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented the membership and treasurer's reports:

### Membership

- We had a number of renewals over the summer and now have 349 members.
- Those who did not renew have been dropped from our Membership List.
- Membership Report: Three new members were approved: **Todd Curran** (Elkridge, MD); **Michael Febrey** (Darnestown, MD recommended by John Richardson); and, **John Kammerer** (Gainesville, VA who was recommended by Markie Daly McKaig)

### Non-Routine Expenses since the June Meeting

- \$135 Gratuity to driver of the Steam Pumper for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade
- \$500 Grant to Yarrow Mamout Archeology Project
- \$1,000 for legal services

Gala: We have received a number of paid RSVPs and there have been a couple of expenses for the Gala, such as the invitations. However we will report on all of the income and expenses after the event.

### Luncheon Report

- Attendance at our June luncheon was 66.
- AOI's subsidy for the luncheon was \$237.58 (\$1.08 per meal plus the bartender fee).

Bill Brown then introduced first-timers and listed personal milestones, noting the recent deaths of four members, including long-time director and friend **Sherwood Smith**. Other deaths were **Markie Daly McKaig**, sister of

past Director **John Daly**; **Mildred Vigderhouse**, a past Director; and **Conrad Reid**, a Security Storage executive who had given a luncheon talk in 2013 on the history of his firm, which for a number of years stored AOI's antique fire apparatus.

**Nelson Rimensnyder** challenged everyone for next month's challenge to name another native Washingtonian other than Alexander Shepherd for whom a federally commissioned ship was named. He then offered several esoteric trivia questions, as follows:

- 1) Q: What happened when members of Congress marched on the White House on August 6, 1841 to protest President John Tyler's **veto** of the Second National Bank?  
A: The City Council called out the police (then the Auxiliary Guard).
- 2) Q: In 2001, what D.C. building was proposed as the home for the city's mayor?  
A: Heurich House
- 3) Q: In 1976, what DC elected official appeared before Congress and quoted the Declaration of Independence calling for DC representation?  
A: Marion Barry
- 4) Q: In 2001, what other D.C. official said that D.C. residents should be treated as territorial residents as long as they had no representation in Congress?  
A: Eleanor Holmes Norton

Bill Brown then introduced the day's speaker, the **Hon. Rohulamin Quander**, a retired Administrative Judge whose topic was the history of his distinguished African-American family, soon to be published in book form. Judge Quander served from 1998 to 2010 as the D.C. Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation. In 2013 the Quander Family was recognized by the Historical Society of Washington as a Legacy Family of the District of Columbia.

Judge Quander, whose wife Carmen was in the audience, spoke eloquently about the 300 years of documented history of the Quander family, which has links with Mt. Vernon and George Washington, along with other

iconic American figures. Although records of enslaved African-Americans are often missing and at best spotty, the Quander family's records in America can be traced to 1671 in the Tidewater region. Judge Quander noted that both free and enslaved Quanders are documented. It is possible that the Quanders originated in Angola, where a similar family name still exists. Under different spellings, the Quanders appear in the 1684 will of a Barbados resident who came to North America and manumitted a Quander male. Quander-owned property records are traceable to 1696. Mt. Vernon records identify George Washington as having purchased Quander slaves from Maryland, and a descendant of Washington's nephew, Bushrod Washington, was also named Quander. Henry Quander, a slave at Mt. Vernon, guarded George Washington's tomb on the property. Quander descendants include Nellie Quander, a school mistress who established the D.C. YWCA and brought civil rights champion Dorothy Haight to Washington to serve as its director. Nellie Quander organized a 1913 African-American women's suffrage rights march alongside their white counterparts, ignoring the white group's attempts to exclude them. In 1984 the Quander family celebrated its tricentennial anniversary. Judge Quander closed his talk by reading a poem by Louis Lear Quander that poignantly described the challenges of slavery and of the resolve never to give in. A Washington, D.C. street named after the Quanders has been approved, and signage awaits only the developer who will build the designated area.

Bill Brown said that the next AOI program will be held on October 16 at the Capitol Skyline Hotel and will feature a talk on Oak Hill Cemetery.

Respectfully Submitted, *John P. Richardson*, Secretary



**In Memoriam**

Sherwood Smith, 1924-2015

Past Secretary (2000-2007) and Director (2007-2013)

**President's Message (Cont'd.)...**



AOP's Jim Embrey, Damon Cordon, Hulit Taylor, Carl Cole, Lisa Nickerson, Bill Brown, Jan Evans and Nelson Rimensnyder appear with FFA's Walter Gold (center) and FFA Museum Curator Mark Tennyson (right).



FFA's Walter Gold and Jim Embrey accept the fire apparatus and bell transfer documents from Bill Brown.

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!

Our newsletters are produced by:





*Address Correction Requested*

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

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**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

**Historical Society's annual Making DC History**

**Awards** -- Thursday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 6-9pm. For more information go to:

<http://www.dchistory.org/programs/making-d-c-history-awards/>

**HSW Saturday Workshop** – Oct. 17, check schedule at:  
<http://www.dchistory.org/events-calendar/>

**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.**