



# 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 – Our 149<sup>th</sup> Year!*

*Bulletin #119  
September 2014*

## *President's Message...*

Since 2010 the AOI has sought to call attention to the centennial of the First World War. At the urging of Lee Rogers, we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World War I 16<sup>th</sup> Street Tree Memorial on Memorial Day 2010. Inspired by Joe Grano, we turned our attention to the plight of the District of Columbia War Memorial... its deteriorating condition, efforts to re-designate it a 'national' memorial and, instead, turn attention to the existing Pershing Memorial as an existing site worthy of designation as the 'national' World War I memorial in the District of Columbia. Our efforts continue as we support the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission's efforts to rehabilitate and rededicate the Pershing Memorial and encourage programs to promote the centennial of the Great War.

During the ensuing years, the DC War Memorial became more personal as I discovered that two great uncles are memorialized on the memorial.

AOI member Patricia Daly-Lipe, too, had a great uncle who served in WWI. William Hemmick served as a priest/chaplain during the horrific war and went on to serve in the Vatican. Patricia's excellent research and narrative ties together correspondence and interviews which makes this remarkable man's life a story worth hearing.

*Bill Brown*

## September's Luncheon Event:

**"From Patriot Priest to the Vatican: William Hemmick"**

**With Patricia Daly-Lipe**



*Please join us...*

Friday, **September 19**, 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. **(\$30 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., Sept. 16, 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., 9/18, 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 149<sup>th</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Oct. 17, 2014 – Garrett Peck, “The Washington Brewery at the Navy Yard”

Nov. 21, 2014 – “Washington, D.C. 101” -- Catholic University’s Matthew Green discusses the university’s freshman curriculum which includes an introduction to the District’s history and highlights. Annual Elections and topic to be announced

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 Sept. 19, 2014 luncheon.]

AOI held the fifth meeting of its 149<sup>th</sup> year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel with 92 AOI members and guests present.

Draft Minutes of the May 2014 meeting were approved as published in the June newsletter, with Allen Beach moving approval and Mary Pat Gaffney seconding.

New members **James McKay** (nominated by Nelson Rimensnyder) and **Tischa Cockrell** (nominated by Phil Pannell) were unanimously approved by voice vote having been moved by Juliette Smith and seconded by Patricia Daly Lipe.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Assistant Treasurer **Cindy Janke** gave the Treasurer’s Report, as follows:

- \$500 was given to the Military Road School Preservation Trust.
- The investment account has generated more than \$2500 in interest and dividends.
- The May luncheon had 94 members and guests present.
- AOI’s share of the May luncheon was \$491.
- **Cindy Janke** reported that AOI has 338 members as of this date.

### Announcements

**Military Road School:** **Theresa Saxton** of the Military Road School Preservation Trust expressed the Trust’s appreciation of AOI’s long-standing financial support, going back to the late Phil Ogilvie, who as AOI President first established the relationship. Ms. Saxton announced that the Trust will present three college scholarship awards at a program at the school at 2:00 PM on Saturday, July 19 and invited all present to attend. Ms. Saxton said she had deposited flyers on the back table for Dr. Frank Cooling’s book on Civil War

defenses, as well as for sesquicentennial activities about the 1864 attack on Fort Stevens.

**National World War I Commission:** **Bill Brown** announced that the National World War I Centennial Commission has officially endorsed restoring/re-designating Pershing Park as the World War I Memorial; D.C. Congressional Delegate **Eleanor Holmes Norton** has co-sponsored legislation to the same end. Bill noted that the late Joe Grano had been the driving force behind this initiative.

**St. Thomas Church:** **Bill Brown** reported efforts to block proposals to build a seven-story luxury building on the site of the former St. Thomas Episcopal Church (Dupont Circle).

**Friends of D.C. Archives:** **Bill Brown** reported on the initiative of **Bill Rice, Mary Beth Corrigan, Trudy Peterson**, and others working to protect from budgetary predators the \$44 million budgeted by the D.C. City Council for a new city archives.

**Joe Grano:** Both **Bill Brown** and **Nelson Rimensnyder** commented on the late Joe Grano’s funeral, held in Force, Pennsylvania, which Nelson and Lisa Nickerson attended. He was buried in the cemetery attached to the Catholic Church where his parents, immigrants from Italy, were married. Bill described the process by which Joe’s epitaph “Joe used his talents to inspire others to action” came to be put on his tombstone.

**Trivia Questions:** **Nelson Rimensnyder** asked a series of trivia questions, the “prizes” for which came from Joe Grano’s collection of books and photos:

- 1) Which U.S. President appointed the first black D.C. Commissioner? (Answer: John F. Kennedy)
- 2) Following President Theodore Roosevelt’s introduction in 1907 of the idea of Territorial Government for D.C., which President was next to endorse it? (Answer: Dwight D. Eisenhower).

- 3) Which citizen first recommended D.C. height limits to President George Washington? (Answer: Thomas Jefferson)
- 4) Which Founding Father first called for no taxation without representation for D.C.? (Answer: Benjamin Franklin)

The luncheon speaker was Mike Canning, who has recently published "Hollywood on the Potomac," a book about 70 years of feature films from Hollywood studios that have made use of Washington as the setting or backdrop. The entertaining presentation included still photos as well as short clips from several films, including "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "No Way Out," "All the President's Men," and "In the Line of Fire." The speaker highlighted what he called "goofs" – accidental or deliberate – most notably "No Way Out's" Georgetown Metro stop (none exists). The speaker commended the accuracy of the U.S. Senate set created for "Mr. Smith" in Los Angeles, an exact replica of the original. The speaker demonstrated an encyclopedic knowledge of his topic, although he appealed – successfully – to the audience to identify the location of a memorable rooftop chase by Clint Eastwood in "In the Line of Fire," promising both use and a citation in the next edition of the book. Juliette Smith correctly identified the location as in the vicinity of the old Tivoli Theater at 14<sup>th</sup> St. and Park Road, NW. The Q/A time after the talk demonstrated AOI membership's solid grasp of Washington geography.

**Bill Brown** reminded the audience that today's program ends the AOI program year, although weather permitting, the July 4 Palisades parade will feature the AOI steam pumper, a perennial crowd favorite. The next AOI program event will be in September.

Respectfully submitted,  
*John P. Richardson, Secretary*

### ***Military Road School Celebrates 150...***

"Honoring The Legacy" Gala

The Military Road School Preservation Trust  
Celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the  
Historic Military Road School

Sunday, September 28th

Join Military Road School Alumni, Honored Guests &  
Mr. Dexter Manley ~ Former Washington Redskin  
Ms. Karen Gray Houston ~ Former Fox 5 TV News Reporter  
Featuring Music by the James Burrell Trio

Holiday Inn College Park  
10000 Baltimore Avenue

College Park, MD

Reception 4:00 PM – Dinner 5:00 PM

Seats are \$75 per person or table(s) for eight @ \$600 each.  
Please make check / money order payable to "MRSPT" and  
mail to P.O. Box 56425, Washington, DC 20040-6425

Visit [www.mrspt.org](http://www.mrspt.org) (Calendar page for more information & reservations via Eventbrite) or Call 202-241-7276 or 202-577-6956 for additional information.



**The Military Road School**

### ***First Anniversary of the Washington***

***Navy Yard Tragedy...*** On Tuesday, September 16, 2014, at 6PM in Canal Park at Canal & L Streets, SE (near National's Park), the Capitol Riverfront community and nearby Capitol Hill and Southwest neighbors will mark the one year anniversary of the tragic Navy Yard shooting.



The memorial service will include prayers, readings, meditation and music to honor the Navy Yard victims, survivors and the heroic civilian and military first responders who acted to save lives.

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

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

AOI's newsletters and publications are produced by:



*Address Correction Requested*

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

---

**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

Visit the **Window to Washington** exhibit at the  
Historical Society featuring the Kiplinger Collection.  
Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit historic **Congressional Cemetery** every Saturday,  
11AM, April through October for a free docent-led tour  
of the cemetery. Tours last approximately an hour. Meet  
inside the front gate near the Gatehouse.

**Directors:**

Carl Cole 202-889-8813  
Damon Cordon 301-215-7022  
Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs 202-547-0964  
Jessica Hodge 301-704-5311  
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.**