

**WHEREAS:** The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia is the District's oldest historical organization; and,

**WHEREAS:** The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia was founded in December 1865 as an organization dedicated to preserving the memories and history of the District of Columbia; and,

**WHEREAS:** During its 156 year history the organization has operated, somewhat, continuously and without interruption; and,

**WHEREAS:** The AOI Officers and Board have carefully and successfully managed its day-to-day operations during the Covid-19 Pandemic year of 2020 and into 2021; and

**WHEREAS:** The current Officers and Board members committed to extend their terms beyond the 2020 membership year as there was no opportunity to recruit, nominate and elect a new slate of Officers and Board members in order to continue the mission of the organization and, regrettably, even planned for its organized demise; and,

**WHEREAS:** The March 2021 Membership Survey, responded to by more than 50% of the organization's membership, revealed that while there is great interest in the organization continuing its informational, educational, DC-centric programs – via luncheons, on-line meetings or a hybrid approach – there was only a small contingent of the membership who stepped forward and expressed their willingness to facilitate the continuation of the organization by serving in an elected capacity; and,

**WHEREAS:** The AOI Officers and Board of Directors voted unanimously on April 12, 2021, for a transition plan, to wit:

- a) Tom Neale will continue to serve as AOI president for the 2021-2022 program years.
- b) Directors intending to step down this year (four confirmed) declared their intention at the April 12 meeting and will exit the board as of the election of the new Board and Officers.
- c) AOI members who expressed willingness to serve on the board will be interviewed individually by directors named at the April 12 meeting to determine their seriousness and suitability for nomination.
- d) The AOI board, serving as a committee of the whole, will nominate new directors not to exceed the number of openings created by retiring directors, bearing in mind that the organization's officers are counted in addition to the other directors.
- e) It is not necessary for the maximum number of directors allowed in the bylaws to be elected. Open spots can be filled at any time.
- f) The AOI membership will vote to approve the new board at a Zoom meeting at a future date certain.
- g) The reconstituted board will meet to decide who will serve as Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary announcing the results by mail to the membership.
- h) The new Board will take responsibility for all AOI affairs as of the election.
- i) AOI will revert to adherence to its bylaws as of the November election, if not earlier; and,

**WHEREAS:** The AOI Officers and Directors having developed a transition plan met with those members at its May 17, 2021, Board meeting to discuss the organization's future and leadership; and,

**WHEREAS:** Those six members have agreed to serve as Directors along with remaining President Thomas Neale, Historian Nelson Rimensnyder, Directors Gary Scott and Margaret Hobbs and Past-Presidents Jan Evans and William Brown toward the goal of organizing among themselves to fill, at a date to be determined, the positions of

Secretary and Treasurer for the remainder of 2021 and the 2022 membership year and the service period/cycle of the Directors;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That AOI members Dr. Cindy Gueli [Vice-President\*], Barbara Hopkins [Director\*], Carolyn Michell [Treasurer\*], Richard Marino [Secretary\*], Ned Rich [Director\*] and Marcia Rock [Director\*] together with incumbent President Thomas Neale, Historian Nelson Rimensnyder, current Directors Margaret Hobbs and Gary Scott are hereby nominated and stand for election at a September 2, 2021, Zoom meeting of the membership.

Approved the 12th day of July 2021.

SEAL



By: /S/ John P. Richardson

Title: Secretary

\*The new Directors among themselves and with the guidance of the incumbent Board determined the Officer positions for which they were willing to serve at an orientation meeting held on July 26, 2021.