



**MINUTES
OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2014
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Board of Directors
2013**

Jerry Papazian (H '71-72)
President

Beth Ambrose (H '91)
1st Vice President

Chris Cobey (H '65-67)
2nd Vice President

Bill Peard (H '02)
Treasurer

Vance Morrison
Secretary (S '52-56)

Ellen McConnell
Blakeman (S '72)

Bob Borsari (S '57-58)

Jeffery Clark (S '69)

Peter Darby (H '83)

Ali Davis (H '91)

Jason Rae (S '04)

Joe Stewart (S '53)

Duane Taylor (H '78)

Miles Taylor (H '05)

Shelley Thomas (H '90)

Sean E. Tucker (H '84)

I. Called to order: By President Papazian at 7:07 p.m. EST via teleconference. Participating: Chris Cobey, Bill Peard, Vance Morrison, Ellen Blakeman, Bob Borsari, Jeffery Clark, Peter Darby, Ali Davis, Jason Rae, Joe Stewart, Duane Taylor, Miles Taylor, Shelley Thomas, and (non-Board Member) Seth Andrews. Jerry acknowledged a quorum for the meeting and thanked all participating Board members. He also acknowledged Board member Joe Stewart's presence at the meeting who told the Board that he liked the gift he received for hosting a very successful fund raiser at his home last summer.

II. December 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes: Approved by voice vote.

III. Election of Board Members (Jerry): The following Board Members were up for re-election: Borsari, Cobey, Davis, Morrison, Papazian, Rae, Taylor, Tucker – for two year terms ending in 2015. A motion to approve all for re-election was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

IV. Election of Officers (Jerry): The following Board Members were up for re-election for two-year terms ending in 2015: President, Papazian; 1st VP, Ambrose; 2nd VP, Cobey; Treasurer, Peard; and Secretary, Morrison. A motion to approve all for re-election was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

V. Committees and Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee (Papazian/Miles Taylor):

1. House Page Program Update (Seth Andrews/Miles Taylor):

- a. Seth Andrews (House '95): Founded a charter school in New York City in 2005, Democracy Prep, which received national attention and took students from failing schools to a school with 100% matriculation. Now he operates 10 schools in New York, New Jersey and Washington, DC (soon). He told the Board that the program was in excellent hands with Miles Taylor. Seth said he was inspired as a House Page and incorporated those lessons into the rest of his life. He is proposing a Washington Leadership Academy that will incorporate the best Democracy Prep practices, building on Page history and located in the former Page schooling site, the Library of Congress. The school will include on-site schooling for about 100 students and include an expanding "Massive Open Online Course" (MOOC) that will offer the best of the Page academics to the rest of the world. As many as 10,000 students are envisioned online. The principal goal of the academics would be an AP prep course that departing students could take with them and transfer to their home school elsewhere. School courses would be offered in the morning with a "work component" in the afternoon. He considers this to be an exciting and bold new concept

with details still to be determined. The Charter School application will be submitted March 3rd. Assuming approval, about 1 ½ years would be required to recruit suitable faculty and staff. Students will be recruited, initially, from Washington, DC and chosen by a lottery process.

- b. Seth then took questions from various Board members. The following subparagraphs summarize Seth's and/or Miles Taylor's replies.
- c. This concept would be a close partner to iCivics Online. The concept needs to be sold to the House who need to be convinced that they are getting best value for their money. The goal is for the students to obtain a world-class experience in their classroom.
- d. The DC Public Charter School authorities must approve the school, not the House. Miles and Seth will submit the application next week. House support will be required, however, to use the Library of Congress (old Page School) attic space.
- e. The school will be open to all and funded by DC tax dollars, about \$15 thousand per year per pupil. Some might need a nearby residence during their school stay; that would require more funding. DC approval (or not) should come soon, probably in April or May. The first item requiring funding will be for the school facility and the residence component (dormitory). The old House Page dormitory is no longer available as an option.
- f. Perhaps funding will be obtained from the House in the future. The students will not be House employees thus, all initial funding will come from the DC school system.
- g. Support for the effort can come from our own Alumni Association Board - as advisors and our ability to rally support elements. We can help with financial support and attendance at the public hearing that will be part of the application process. The approach will be non-confrontational and non-aggressive. Issues will be quietly resolved, "back channel" when possible.
- h. How to envision DC paying for students who come from other states is a difficult question. The lottery will be open to DC residents; some may be permitted by DC law to move to DC to participate, but that process is confusing. Resolution is hoped after the first year of operation.
- i. The school will begin as a junior-year-only high school but a four-year school is planned. Democracy Prep had a similar start. Some of those students who are selected by the lottery will not all be capable of AP-level courses, posing another challenge to be resolved.
- j. The current House summer intern program opens possibilities for some sort of collaboration between the school and the intern program.
- k. Miles suggested that the Alumni Association can help by acting as an advisory board, providing back channel and networking support, and raising funds for the dormitory. In addition, Democracy Prep is looking for former Pages who are excited about this concept and who will apply for jobs as faculty or other tasks at Democracy Prep. The school is now looking for a CFO as well as operations and administrative personnel. Perhaps an Association newsletter article can be used to publicize this.
- l. Jerry expressed his appreciation to the team for their efforts; Seth asked us to wish him luck.
- m. Miles had several meetings recently with Speaker Boehner's staff. He learned then that the old House Page Dorm is out of play now but, with

more future meetings, he expects support for using the old school space in the Library of Congress. *After the 3 March application to the DC Charter School authorities is submitted, the matter will become public knowledge* and may receive some press coverage. A media response will be prepared for that possibility, but no media release is planned.

- n. April will be crucial to the DC approval process; the proposal is unlike any they have ever seen before. The team hopes for conditional approval, at the minimum, enabling further negotiations on unresolved details. Only an application for a “New Charter School” is planned, but contingency approaches also are prepared if needed.
2. **Page Documentary** (Miles Taylor): Miles reported that the documentary project is going well and Jerry is performing superbly as the film’s “maestro.” After the first cut from the editor, the film now is in “comfortable terrain” as an engaging story for mainstream viewers. Cokie Roberts is tremendous as the narrator, all her work done pro bono. The team determined that post-production tasks are the “hardest part” with some cutting required for the next version. The next steps will be adding background music, obtaining licensing, and preparing film clips for publicity purposes. The production company will own the film (vs the Association). The team plans a fund raising campaign soon for the post-production phase, using the Indiegogo.com process (i.e. no hard goal; keep what is raised). A teaser/trailer using Bill Gates’ interview will be prepared for the funding campaign; then the Page community will be engaged. An incentive package is planned providing certain items in return for various levels of donations, such as copies of the DVD, posters, or USCPAA membership.
 3. **House Page History** (Jerry): Jerry reported that this was a decent job and copies will be available online (PDF). Paper copies also will be available; each House Member has copies.
- b. **Treasurer’s Report:** (Peard): Bill reported that the Association’s current assets in the bank were about \$30,000. Some funds were used for the mailings but were replaced with proceeds from the mailings. There also were expenditures for the documentary film. As a result, the current bank balance is about \$26,000. Bill will report the final results from the year-end mailing at the next Board meeting. Lessons were learned in executing the mailing and an estimated \$13-14 thousand dollars were received at the end of the year.
 - c. **Events (Homecoming) Committee** (Darby/Papazian):
 1. **Regional Events** (Darby/Papazian): Events are anticipated this year in LA, San Francisco, Dallas, Chicago, New York City, Atlanta, and with an inflow of volunteers, future event sites also may include Boston.
 - Los Angeles/Southern California: March 2nd - An event at the Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda for Southern California’s former Pages. The cost will be \$25 for lunch and a docent-led Library tour. There will be speakers and a screening of the Page documentary. So far there are 45 RSVPs, including attendees from Texas, Arizona, Washington State, and Colorado. There may be 20 more who favorably respond. Sandy Quinn of the Presidential Library will be the host and a guest speaker.

- San Francisco: Early September is targeted for an event.
- Dallas: Jeff Clark is helping arrange a Rangers ball game on a Saturday or Sunday at the ball park in Arlington, Texas.
- Chicago: Allan Rose ('72) has offered to help and is looking for a venue. A speaker (cartoonist) from the *Chicago Tribune* has been identified. The event will be in June or early fall.
- Atlanta: No status.
- Washington, DC: An April/May event is being considered by Ali and Shelley.
- New York City: No contacts discovered yet except for Kevin Keeny. A fall event is anticipated.
- Boston: Engaging the local student population for an October event is underway.

Peter asked for more regional volunteers to help with the above events.

2. Homecoming (Darby): Both the Liaison Hotel (2012 Homecoming venue) and the Hyatt Hotel (2008 Reunion venue) have submitted proposals for the next Homecoming. The proposals are competitive. A Homecoming Committee will be formed soon and local volunteers are needed.

- d. Membership/Marketing Committee (Blakeman):** The committee is currently focusing on updating the website. A designer has been selected who has submitted three preliminary designs for consideration with the next step very soon. The Committee's priorities for the website update are the look and its content and include programming.
- e. Long-Term Strategy Committee (Cobey):** The Committee has not met recently but a spring meeting is planned. Chris reported that he is impressed with Miles' and Seth's presentation today on the House Page project.

VI. Proposed Dates for 2014 Board Meetings (Papazian): Third Thursday of the Month

April 17, 2014	August 21, 2014
June 19, 2014	October 17, 2014 (Friday) DC In-person meeting
	December 18, 2014

VII. Next Board Meeting (Papazian): Thursday, April 17, 2014

VIII. Meeting Adjourned: 0801 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,
Vance Morrison, Secretary