



MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2013 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 (SC '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 Jerry Papazian at 3:02 p.m. EST at the offices of Littler Mendelson PC, Washington, DC and via teleconference.

Participating: Beth Ambrose, Ellen Blakeman, Bob Borsari, Jeffery Clark, Chris Cobey, Peter Darby, Ali Davis, Vance Morrison, Bill Peard, Jason Rae, Duane Taylor, Miles Taylor, Shelley Thomas, and Sean Tucker. Jerry acknowledged a quorum for the meeting and welcomed all participating Board members to the first in-person full-Board meeting. All committees provided comprehensive read-ahead reports by email to the Board and Jerry assembled notebooks for the meeting for each Board member that included the reports.

II. August 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes: Approved by voice vote.

III. Committees and Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee** (Papazian):

1. House Page Program Update (Miles Taylor): Seth Andrews, a former Page and founder of the Democracy Prep School in New York City, has been socializing the concept of a Page-like charter school in DC as we continue to seek a way to reinstate the House Page program. This school would be unique among charter schools in the US. Meetings have been held with the DC Charter School Board, Senators, Congressmen, and staffers with the following short-term goal: To obtain House leadership buy-in to using old Page School / Dorm facilities for an innovative, civics-focused charter school and to allow high school participants to engage in a work-study component in the House of Representatives. There is evident excitement about this tack which appears to have lots of Congressional support. The Government slowdown has not hurt our momentum. Progress will be updated in coming months and the team working the issue would be happy for more help. Discussion after Miles' report included the following points:

- Under the present law, charter school attendees must be DC residents. Each is chosen by a lottery.
- The student body of charter schools must be at least 20% DC residents to obtain DC tax dollars.
- Board member Duane Taylor knows the DC Charter Schools founder and suggested he approach this person to see if we can receive some help.
- Our approach is appropriately incremental and sounds positive.
- The students probably will not be "Pages" but the emphasis will be on

- “filling the gap in civic education for young people.”
- Perhaps this will become the “Number One civics program in America.”

Jerry requests, as in previous meetings, that the Board keep this information close-hold during the ongoing negotiations.

2. Page Documentary (Papazian/Miles Taylor): The documentary remains at the “getting close” stage. **Also close-hold:** Bill Gates’ office has been approached for an interview with this famous former Page. The response to date has been: “Intriguing; pick a time.” Jerry will chat next week with Gates’ chief of staff. This interview will be the final with editing and narration to follow. Cokie Roberts is still first choice for narrator. A goal is to have the documentary aired on C-SPAN and other cable networks and to provide a passive means to educate the Hill and the public about the Page program as well as to keep the concept alive in public’s minds.

- **Finance Committee (Peard):**

Treasurer’s Report (Peard/Papazian): The Treasurer’s Report that was forwarded to the Board members prior to the meeting included a Profit & Loss summary for January through December 2012 and January 1 through October 15, 2013; the Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2012 and October 15, 2013; the IRS Form 990-EZ for 2012 for the Association. Bill reported that there are 70 life members now, over 5500 good postal addresses for former Pages and about 3000 email addresses. The Board also discussed lapsed members, some of whom may not realize they were lapsed or may have missed the notices they should have received earlier.

- **Events (Homecoming) Committee** (Darby/Papazian):

1. Regional Events (Darby): Peter had the Board complete the locations of major concentrations of former Pages on a blank US map. He noted over 270 alumni in DC and over 1000 in the DC region. Two more hot spots are Boston and Dallas.

- The most recent Boston event had over 20 attendees from the ‘50s to the ‘70s, in part due to the large number of colleges in that area. It appears helpful to follow former Pages’ paths to college and then their professions. If in a college area, however, avoid planning an event in June.
- Dallas’ most recent event had lots of families attend among the 71 attendees.
- Many want more events.
- A Board member suggested reproduce and employ donation envelopes in mailings to potential attendees.
- DC had its successful summer fund raising event last summer at Joe Stewart’s house, the Association’s first “high dollar” event where a donation of \$250 was suggested. Follow-up phone calls help for such events and there was only one “sticker shock”

response. This type of event may not be feasible in many other areas and the Committee welcomes suggestions.

- Other regions targeted for alumni events include San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York City, Atlanta
 - The Nixon Library was suggested for an LA event which has received enthusiastic response, possibly next spring
 - An accessible, affordable location in Manhattan is needed, possibly someone's office conference room or large apartment
 - Atlanta has about 100 alumni and Bill Peard
- The Committee proposed that we emphasize regional events in the above-mentioned cities

2. One-Day National Event (Darby): Peter explained a proposal to hold regional events in 10 cities on the same day (or week), perhaps coupled with an advocacy component/theme, e.g. "National Day of ___ Action." He further suggested a social walkabout format with a limited budget and objectives that include recruiting new members, encouraging old members to renew their membership, and donations from all. This also could activate cities which are currently inactive. Research on the concept continues, recognizing a compelling reason is needed to do this.

3. 2016 Homecoming (Darby): The Committee selected Memorial Day weekend, as was the 2012 Homecoming, for 2016. Board discussion followed on the pros and cons of that date. The desirability of a three-day weekend seemed to override other considerations, especially for those coming from the West Coast. Hotel selection was then discussed, using the handouts provided in the Events Committee Report. Duane Taylor said he is acquainted with someone who owns hotels in the DC area and will try to seek their help.

- **Membership/Marketing Committee:**

1. **Professional Support (Blakeman/Davis):** The Committee proposed requests for proposals be transmitted to prospective vendors for website assistance. E-newsletters will contain more articles of interest to members. A frequency of two to four issues a year was suggested but more volunteers are needed to prepare and publish this professional-quality newsletter, as well as professional support. An objective is to improve the website's look, content and functionality.

2. **Communication Methods (Blakeman/Davis):** Social media will include Facebook - perhaps a Group that permits more interactivity - as well as Linked-in. Board discussion followed when Bob asked what the Association members receive from being a member, i.e. what is the value-added to attending events as a *Member*. He suggested that perhaps expanding the database and making it available and useable only to Members would be one way and that we should structure the organization, going-in, with the idea of creating value for its members. Duane suggested that communications is essential; the members must be

“joined at the hip.” Benefits include business relations/networking and collegiality, and that we must realize we are still evolving as an association. Ali noted we had discussed previously a survey to members on what they wanted from the Association. Ellen suggested: alumni consider providing information/courses to high schools; mentor those needing career guidance; that we need to merchandize our objectives; and we are just starting to consider these challenges. Jason noted it appears an organization needs to ensure its members become interested, and ensure they will stay, within *90 days* of their first joining or they will not be retained. Jeff suggested we are inherently “An Exclusive Club.”

3. **Data Base Status** (Papazian): The Harris Company approach to a membership directory is now obsolete and no longer achievable. Commercial support still can help, however. The database needs to be accessible, searchable, expandable and up-to-date. We need to continue to fill in the gaps and to seek tips from non-members as well as alumni.

- **Long-Term Strategy Committee** (Cobey): Chris reported the Committee will have a phone meeting in the spring. Discussions during today’s Board meeting will modify the Committee’s original thoughts. He noted that Miles’ report on progress with the charter school concept is impressive. Chris also made the following points:
 - The fact that there were no Pages on the House floor during the recent historic events is a missed opportunity for many youth.
 - Alumni should continue to make personal contact in civic involvement in order to retain our vitality.
 - What are the Association’s goals?
 - What do we want to accomplish in the next 10 years? Our legacy?
 - Do want to persuade youth to be more civically engaged and active? In mock trials, for instance?
 - Would researching State Legislature Pages be useful?
 - What else should we consider?
 - Expand opportunities for youth to have the kind of experience we had?
 - Take the guidance from Justice Sandra Day O’Conner and her Civic Mission of Schools campaign? We could be spokesmen at high school classes.
 - A Board member suggested there is value in investigating how independent/private schools are able to have students spend time in Congressional offices. Ellen noted the Committee needs to revisit this matter.

IV. Other Issues:

- a. **Archives Depository** (Darby): It appears we can perform the archiving function online/in the Cloud. Of note, the Senate Photographer has lots of old panoramic photos of Capitol Page classes.

- b. **Commercial Support** (Peard): Since coming on board as a professional assistant, Jeannie Papazian has contributed lots to a more efficient and effective Association. Her efforts include following-up on new member letters, cleaning-up the data, eliminating duplicate entries, and tagging incorrect addresses. We may need to increase her hours and compensation in the future. An office for the Association also was briefly mentioned.
- c. **Thanks** (Papazian): *Many thanks go to Chris and Peter for all their work to make the four events this weekend a successful reality.*

V. Future Board Meeting (Papazian): Meetings will be held the Third Week of each Month on Thursdays, 7pm Eastern Time/4pm Pacific Time.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for the first week in December 2013. There will not be a meeting in November.

VI. Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 p.m. EDT.

DRAFT