

**DRAFT MINUTES
OF THE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021, MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
UNITED STATES CAPITOL PAGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Call to Order

The video conference meeting was called to order by President Jerry Papazian at 6:05 p.m. Eastern.

Attendance

Participating in the meeting: Jerry Papazian (President), Beth Ambrose (First Vice President), Peter Darby (Second Vice President), Kate Abbott, Camilla Bosanquet, Chris Cobey, Michael Esposito, Patrick Green, Jim Nuzzo, Audrey Scagnelli, Kelly Shea Hitchcock, Duane Taylor, and Shelley Thomas.

Absent from the meeting: Jeff Clark, Jason Rae, and Sean Tucker.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from all meetings held on and between June 2019 to December 2020 deferred to a future meeting.

Election of Directors and Officers

Farewell to Board Members

The President announced the departure of two of our esteemed Board Members: Patrick Green and Dr. Duane Taylor. Mr. Green departs after having boosted awareness of our Alumni Association among the newest generation of former Pages. Dr. Taylor departs having contributed to our organization's lobbying strategy for reconstituting the U.S. House of Representatives Page Program. Dr. Taylor promised to remain connected to the Board's work on this front, including assisting with Congressional Black Caucus engagements. The President and Board thanked each for their service and support.

Statements of Candidacy – Election of Directors

Existing Board members considered for re-election: Ms. Abbott, Ms. Ambrose, Mr. Clark, Mr. Darby, Mr. Esposito, Ms. Scagnelli and Ms. Thomas.

Chris Cobey moved to renew term membership for Ms. Abbott, Ms. Ambrose, Mr. Clark, Mr. Darby, Mr. Esposito, Ms. Scagnelli and Ms. Thomas. Duane Taylor seconded Mr. Cobey's motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Statements of Candidacy – Election of Officers

Existing Officers considered for re-election: Mr. Papazian (President); Ms. Ambrose (1st Vice President); and Mr. Darby (2nd Vice President).

Chris Cobey nominated Camilla Bosanquet to replace him as USCPAA Secretary.

Jim Nuzzo moved to (re-)elect all four Members to the aforementioned Alumni Association Officer positions. Mr. Darby seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Roster/Committees and Committee Membership

The President announced that the Executive Board's annual update of our Committees and Committee Memberships will occur in the coming weeks. Please indicate your willingness to chair or serve on your preferred committee(s). A new *Fundraising Committee* will become active in the coming year or so.

Please note that the existing Membership and Marketing Committee will become individual committees: the Membership Committee (Jason Rae, Chair) and Marketing Committee (Camilla Bosanquet, Chair). Please consider participating on one or both committee(s).

Email Call for Volunteers

The President shared that USCPAA will advertise opportunities for Alumni to volunteer in support of our committees. This will be shared next week in an email to our Alumni membership. Volunteers may participate on committees but will not sit on the Association Board. Volunteer service will be looked upon favorably during future Board Member recruitment and consideration efforts.

Our initial priorities include seeking counsel related to our House Page Program Committee's restoration efforts. Board Members should email Mr. Papazian any thoughts or recommendations concerning potential Public Relations professionals with whom we might be able to work. Pro bono services are preferred.

Executive Committee

Jerry Papazian, Chair

PCI Membership Directory Update

Mr. Papazian shared that PCI should print and send our U.S. Capitol Page Alumni directories very soon. Board Members will receive complimentary copies. The final product provides a history of the program plus a list of all known Pages dating back to 1801. As we have an editable copy of our directory, we should have the ability to update the history and add to the list of former Pages over time. Approximately 435 individuals purchased a copy of the directory. The Association purchased another 100 copies (at a discount). We will make these copies available for Alumni to purchase in the near future at the same price paid by their classmates during the initial sale. We could also use a handful of copies as speaker gifts for our Alumni, e.g., in the event that they did not already purchase one for themselves.

Ms. Ambrose asked if 1801 is the earliest date that we might use for the inception of the Page Program. Mr. Papazian explained that we actually believe that Pages existed earlier in American history. The 1801 payroll records serve as the first instance in which Page's names and addresses were recorded. Our intent is to remain factual, i.e., include the 1801 Pages given that we have evidence for their existence.

[*Secretary's note*: Per the U.S. House Historian's Office, boys likely served "as legislative messengers and errand runners" during the First Continental Congress in 1774 and thereafter. Details available online: <https://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/Page-History/House-Page-History/>]

Future Board Meetings

- Thursday, April 15, 2021
- Thursday, June 17, 2021
- Thursday, August 19, 2021
- Saturday, October 23, 2021
- Thursday, December 16, 2021

The Board discussed resuming all future Board Meetings at 7pm Eastern. Approved without objection.

Future Committee Meetings

Committee Chairs shall schedule their committee meetings at a mutually advantageous time for each committee's membership, preferable in the non-Board Meeting months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer position remains vacant. The President provided an update on Association accounts and expenditures. Please reference the 2020 Profit and Loss financial statement sent to all Board Members in advance of tonight's meeting. The Association's net income during the 2020 tax year was (-\$10,052.36). The shortfall reflects our Homecoming (May 2020) postponement given the ongoing Covid-19 global health crisis. Additionally, we did not host any other in-person events (e.g., regional reunions) during 2020 to generate income. We must accept this as a sunk cost. We will aim to recover once we are able to convene our next Homecoming – likely in May 2022.

Thirteen new life memberships generated \$6,500. Membership dues contributed \$6,950. Joint membership income (less payment to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society) generated \$1,395. Charitable donations added to \$2,072.

Cost estimates forthcoming for a new initiative to shift our mailing address from the existing Post Office Box to a mail forwarding service with a Connecticut Avenue (Suite 300) street address. Additionally, this new option offers *ad hoc* office space on Lafayette Avenue. The owner of the business is a former Page School roommate of Beth Ambrose. Ms. Ambrose is, at present, negotiating the price of such services and seeking a "Page" discount. Optimally, switching our mail service to this new address would lend greater gravitas to our organization as a professional association, reduce lag time in mail forwarding, and eliminate the perceived "reliability problem" that we have encountered with the U.S. Postal Service.

Comments and questions from the Board concerning this "new address" proposal included: If we maintain a 'physical' address, would any among our membership assume that we are now expending donations to pay rent? Might former Pages attempt to 'drop in' to the new address location? How will this impact us in terms of what we might need to change, e.g., IRS documentation, financial accounts, stationary, our website, etc.?

No action was taken concerning the notional address change.

Committees and Committee Reports

House Page Program Committee

Kate Abbott and Jim Nuzzo, Co-Chairs

Mr. Nuzzo announced a new partnership with the McKeon Group. Both former Congressman Howard Philip 'Buck' McKeon (R-CA) [aka 'The Chairman'] and his son, Howard D. McKeon, will provide strategy consultation pro-bono to USCPAA. While former Chairman McKeon is a Republican, he has a long-standing reputation of capably working on both sides of the aisle. Buck McKeon had several grandchildren serve as Pages on Capitol Hill at various points in time; he feels enthusiastic about contributing to the restoration of the House Page Program. [The Board then entered into closed session to discuss strategic considerations and planning. Please contact Ms. Abbott or Mr. Nuzzo with questions and/or comments.]

Events Committee

Peter Darby, Chair

Mr. Darby shared his hope to host another virtual luncheon event prior to October's annual "Ken Smith Luncheon" and requested proposals for potential speakers. Mr. Nuzzo suggested bringing in former Chairman McKeon so that our Alumni might virtually meet the former Congressman. Doing so could underscore what progress we are making with reinstating the House Page Program.

Mr. Darby announced the theme of this year's October luncheon: a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of women serving as Pages on Capitol Hill. Notionally, we would like to dedicate a plaque to the first three young women Pages and present it to the U.S. Senate Page School. Additionally, we would like to host a panel discussion with the participation of several notable former female Pages.

Ms. Thomas encouraged us to consider not only celebrating the earliest young women who served as Pages, but all women who have served as Pages over these past five decades. Perhaps we could highlight prominent female Pages and also share stories of how Page service subsequently influenced the lives of many former young women Pages.

Ms. Bosanquet strongly recommended that we approach Ms. Heather Arnet, House '90, who is presently the Executive Director of the Women and Girls Foundation (Pittsburgh, PA). Ms. Arnet may have a good deal to offer in terms of envisioning an inclusive program honoring women who have served as Pages through the decades.

Mr. Darby also announced that we do, in fact, intend to move forward with planning on a May 2022 Homecoming at the *Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill*. The Event Committee wishes to offer similar programs as we have hosted in yesteryear. We will want to seek out current Representatives and Senators to provide tours of the House and Senate, if possible.

Marketing Committee

Camilla Bosanquet, Chair

Ms. Bosanquet shared that the *Marketing Committee*, as newly constituted, will initially assume responsibility for the maintenance of our website, all social media outreach, management of our online store, and all merchandise (creation and sales). Furthermore, the *Marketing Committee* will work closely with other committee chairs, perhaps most notably the *Events Committee* Chair. Following our March meeting, we will prepare proposals for the Board concerning new social media accounts and merchandise. Finally, our committee will also work with Mr. Papazian to monitor sales of replacement Capitol Page School class rings, custom-created by Zachary's Jewelers of Annapolis and Severna Park, Maryland.

The Capitol Courier Newsletter

Michael Esposito, Editor

Mr. Esposito shared that the year-end newsletter went out successfully. He welcomes Board Members' ideas for future articles and seeks volunteers to author contributions. Additionally, to reduce costs associated with mailings, USCPAA might seek to limit (future) hard-copy newsletter mailings to only those members subscribed to higher level 'tiers' under a future membership scheme. As it was, USCPAA limited all mailings in 2020 to current members and special-event attendees exclusively.

Open Discussion

Oral History Project

Mr. Papazian and Ms. Bosanquet shared that they recently met virtually with a team from Story Corps to explore the option of having select Alumni record their Page memories while on site in Washington, D.C., for Homecoming 2022. Conceptually, we would choose from among a diverse group. Story Corps, famous for its eponymous NPR program, is fairly “plug and play,” offering facilitated sessions – for a considerable price. We are simultaneously exploring other options, too, such as another firm or simply recording Page histories ourselves while using the Story Corps self-help guidance. This having been said, we already have initial private party donors (former Pages) to sponsor Story Corps in recording particular groups of special interest, e.g., African American Pages’ histories and Female Pages’ histories.

The benefits of contracting with Story Corps include full archival in the Library of Congress, full control over resultant video and audio (that could be used on our website or in a future documentary), and the potential for a special hour on NPR’s Story Corp broadcast.

Dr. Taylor shared that he would love to see the histories of African American Pages archived. In fact, some of us (former Pages) have already been interviewed. It would be ideal for the Association to save such interviews among its records. Additionally, doing this sort of work intentionally might contribute to bringing in new members, i.e., they would see us as an active association interested in preservation of both our shared and unique Page experiences.

Ms. Abbott wondered if there might be some way to include former Pages’ family members, especially in the event that the former Page him- or herself has since passed away. Additionally, our new Alumni Directory might identify former Pages who are now historians, journalists, etc., who might be willing to run such an initiative.

Mr. Esposito, as a journalist himself, asked to be included in this initiative.

Mr. Nuzzo suggested that we ought to reach out to former Pages and ask if they would be willing to scan and share journals that they might have once kept when they were Pages.

Mr. Papazian reminded the Board that the first African American Supreme Court Pages were interviewed at the U.S. Supreme Court during the 2016 Homecoming. Despite best efforts, USCPAA has been unable to obtain the video of that panel discussion from the U.S. Supreme Court!

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m. Eastern.

The upcoming meeting of the Association’s Board of Directors will be by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Eastern on April 15, 2021.

The annual In-person Board Meeting coinciding with the annual Alumni Luncheon is tentatively set for Saturday, October 23, 2021, in Washington, D.C.
