

**MINUTES
OF THE
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 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 7:01 p.m. Eastern.

Attendance

Participating in the meeting: Jerry Papazian (President), Beth Ambrose (First Vice President), Peter Darby (Second Vice President), Camilla Bosanquet (Secretary), Chris Cobey, Michael Esposito, Kelly Shea Hitchcock, Jim Nuzzo, Jason Rae, Sean Tucker, and Shelley Thomas.

Absent from the meeting: Kate Abbott, Jeff Clark, and Audrey Scagnelli.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from all meetings held on and between June 2019 to February 2021 deferred to a future meeting.

Executive Committee

Jerry Papazian, Chair

PCI Membership Directory Update

Notifications have gone out to each person who purchased a Directory. Updated timeline for shipping is now end-May. Many address changes came back from the email notification. Each Board member will also receive a complimentary copy. Final proofs of the book look great.

Call for Volunteers Email Results

USCPAA sent out a request for volunteers to assist with committee work, as well as a specific request for Public Relations and Lobbying support. We did, in fact, receive several replies. A handful offered free PR services, which will be helpful for our House Page Program campaign.

Senate Page Program Status

Mr. Papazian shared that the U.S. Senate Page School Principal, Joshua Dorsey, recently confirmed that the U.S. Senate Page Program will not reopen during the Summer 2021 term. The U.S. Senate Page Program will, however, reopen for the Fall 2021 term. Teenagers interested in the school-year program ought to contact their U.S. Senators for more information.

Queen B (Ellen Blakeman) Golf Tournament

Ellen Blakeman's sons and brother have founded "A Long Swim" to raise money for ALS in honor of their mother's memory. They recently informed us that they are organizing a golf tournament (in Chicago, IL) to raise money for A Long Swim and also the U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Association. USCPAA will promote this event, given that half of the proceeds will come to us. The event will be held

on June 10, 2021. Participants do not have to play golf; “A Long Swim” will also host a fundraising dinner that evening. Mr. Papazian and Mr. Darby will attend and represent USCPAA; all others are also welcome.

Myles Garrigan – Sad News

Myles Garrigan passed away in January. We were able to feature him at an event five years ago. USCPAA invited him on stage during the Homecoming 2016 Homecoming Gala Dinner, during which he shared his story of being present during FDR’s ‘Day of Infamy’ speech before Congress in 1941. He also shared his memory of Representative Jeannette Rankin (R-MT) hiding from the press in the cloakroom after being the only person to vote against the United States entry into both World War I and II. We have posted his obituary and will create a profile post on our website.

Donn Anderson Memorial Service

Mr. Papazian will follow up with those persons who are planning a memorial event for Donn. They were looking to the Fall. We would like to deconflict the date with our own Anniversary event set for October.

I’ve Got a Secret

The Board discussed Bill MacIntyre’s clip from the game show “I’ve Got a Secret.” USCPAA will post this on our website. There is also another television show of a U.S. Capitol Page having been interviewed in the 1950s. We will look to pull this content into our records.

Former Page Interview

Mr. Papazian (and also Jonathan Turley) provided a response to recent comments by John Boehner regarding the cancellation of the House Page Program under his speakership. The publication of the interview is forthcoming.

Future Board Meetings

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

Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer position remains vacant. The President provided an update on Association accounts and expenditures. Please reference the 2021 Profit and Loss financial statement sent to all Board Members in advance of tonight’s meeting. Mr. Papazian shared that Jeanne Papazian is not currently on our USPCAA payroll; this saves us on administrative expenses until we ramp up for Homecoming 2022. We presently have a net income of \$6,381.35 given first quarter donations and memberships income. We anticipate that more Alumni will re-join the Association to take advantage of membership discounts at Homecoming.

Committees and Committee Reports

House Page Program Committee

Kate Abbott and Jim Nuzzo, Co-Chairs

Mr. Nuzzo provided an update regarding our progress on reinstating the 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.]

Board Members should solicit their classmates to ask: Who among us (former Pages) personally know any U.S. Representatives who might support our efforts? Any who might not support us?

Events Committee

Peter Darby, Chair

Mr. Darby shared that he did not convene an *Events Committee* meeting since the February 2021 Board Meeting. This having been said, several “related” calls transpired in the interim, e.g., concerning the Queen Bee Golf Tournament, next week’s virtual “Page Talk,” and the upcoming 50th Anniversary Event honoring the first female Pages in Congress.

The Assistant U.S. Senate Historian, Daniel Holt, will join USCPAA next week for a virtual “Page Talk.” Mr. Holt will share news of what he has discovered within the Capitol Archives – the story of the very first African American U.S. Senate Page, Andrew Foote Slade, who served between 1869 and 1881. Mr. Holt plans to speak about his historical research on Mr. Slade.

Mr. Darby provided an update concerning the 50th Anniversary Event honoring the first female Pages in Congress. USCPAA has created a subcommittee to work on the programming piece. Mr. Papazian is working with the U.S. Capitol Historical Society (CHS) and all of the first female Pages (or their family) to celebrate this milestone anniversary.

Alongside the first women to serve as Pages, USCPAA intends to honor all of the women who have served as Pages. Notionally, we plan to dedicate a memorial plaque on Friday, October 22nd. The U.S. Senate Page School Principal, Joshua Dorsey, would like to have the U.S. Senate Pages present for this event. The existing U.S. Senate Page School will display the plaque. The guest list will be limited to, e.g., the first female Pages, our Board Members, the U.S. Senate Page School staff, and the Fall 2021 Pages. Once the ceremony concludes, the Board will return to the hotel for our luncheon event and the remainder of the 50th Anniversary Event program activities (speakers, lunch, etc.). Our Board Meeting will be held on the next day.

We might have an opportunity to take advantage of this 50th Anniversary event to record stories of the first female Pages with Story Corps (or similar).

Mr. Darby reminded us that the May 2022 Homecoming will convene at the *Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill*. Class Dinners will take place on Friday night.

Membership Committee

Jason Rae, Chair

Mr. Rae shared that last week’s *Membership Committee* discussions largely centered on developing new membership ‘levels’ or ‘tiers,’ as is common among many non-profit organizations these days. The committee additionally considered including a ‘young professionals’ tier and grandfathering existing Lifetime Members. Mr. Papazian made the point that the more events programming that we can provide for our members, the more likely it will be that they will make financial contributions and renew their memberships (or join, in the case of non-members).

Marketing Committee

Camilla Bosanquet, Chair

Ms. Bosanquet shared that the *Marketing Committee* is now pursuing the creation of new merchandise. New merchandise shall be introduced by a “soft launch” ahead of Homecoming 2022. The upcoming October luncheon might present the perfect opportunity to launch new gear. We would like to focus initially on the following merchandise: high quality ballcaps, a non-reunion tee shirt option, an official reunion tee shirt, a sweatshirt option, a full-zip jacket or windbreaker, a Yeti travel mug, an etched carabiner, drink coozie, and a high-quality logo water bottle. USCPAA will likely have to take pre-orders for the new merchandise so that we keep only a minimal inventory. The committee is concerned about the logistics of packaging and delivering items to guests and is exploring this issue.

We have officially opened our USCPAA Instagram account. Presently working to link our Facebook page with our Instagram account. Some technical issues; sorting through them. Should we wish to pursue Twitter, it would be to the end that we would only use that platform to “push” announcements, rather than to engage in discussion or debate. The *Marketing Committee* envisions Twitter’s usefulness only for press releases and events notifications. We would seek to disable comments.

Ms. Bosanquet informed the Board of the difficulty of maintaining the “Class Notes” (personal updates) section of USCPAA’s website. It has become challenging to keep current what should be dynamic content. The committee recommends removing the Class Notes page from our website. We would prefer to use website ‘posts’ to highlight prominent and/or newsworthy Page Alumni. We would then use the profile web links to point social media users to our website. The Board agreed unanimously that the *Marketing Committee* shall remove the “class notes” section from the USCPAA website.

Finally, among the *Marketing Committee*’s many ongoing projects, we aim to create a USCPAA logo/network affiliation on LinkedIn. We must first identify any previously built school affiliations in the system. We would like to create, in addition to the USCPAA non-profit connection, affiliation links for the House Page School, Senate Page School, and Capitol Page School.

History Committee

Jerry Papazian, Chair

Mr. Papazian shared that we have received a proposal from Story Corps to record visual and oral histories of Page Alumni. Recordings will be preserved within the Library of Congress. USCPAA would seek to obtain sponsorships for preserving the stories of notable female Pages during the upcoming 50th Anniversary event in October. If it works well, we would like to seek additional sponsorship to repeat this process during Homecoming. The initial proposal is for \$15,000.

The Marketing Committee will likely play a role in the future “branding” of such a project and/or working with any products that come of this effort (e.g., uploading to the website and/or social media).

Mr. Esposito offered to inquire with one of his associates regarding market pricing for this sort of work. He maintains a close friend, a radio journalist, who does this sort of work professionally. Mr. Papazian agreed that it would be helpful to obtain additional information concerning options.

The Capitol Courier Newsletter

Michael Esposito, Editor

Mr. Esposito shared that he is presently working on an interview of a former Page from the 1980s who was friends from former Senator Joe Biden.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. Eastern.

The upcoming meeting of the Association's Board of Directors will be by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Eastern on June 17, 2021.
