



**MINUTES
OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2015
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

DRAFT

**Board of Directors
2015**

Jerry Papazian (H '71-72)
President

Beth Ambrose (H '91)
1st Vice President

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

Jeffery Clark (S '69)
Treasurer

Vance Morrison
Secretary (SC '52-56)

Ellen McConnell
Blakeman (S '72)

Bob Borsari (S '57-58)

Peter Darby (H '83)

Ali Davis (H '91)

Jason Rae (S '04)

Duane Taylor (H '78)

Miles Taylor (H '05)

Shelley Thomas (H '90)

Sean E. Tucker (H '84)

Joe Stewart (S '53)
Senior Advisor

I. Called to order: By President Jerry Papazian at 3:05 p.m. EDT at the offices of Littler Mendelson PC, Washington, DC and via teleconference. Participating: Beth Ambrose, Chris Cobey, Jeffery Clark, Vance Morrison, Ellen McConnell Blakeman, Bob Borsari, Peter Darby, Ali Davis, Jason Rae, Duane Taylor, Miles Taylor, Shelley Thomas, and Sean Tucker. Jerry welcomed everybody, thanked Chris Cobey for the use, once again, of his office spaces for the meeting, opened the meeting, and introduced three guests: Marcie Sims (S-'79), who explained her book about Capitol Page history that will accompany the Documentary; Cynthia, Ellen's friend; and Seth Andrews, head of the Democracy Prep Charter School program.

II. August 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Approved by voice vote following a correction to page 2, substituting "new" for "life" members. Vance Morrison thanked Chris Cobey for substituting as Minutes-taker for the August meeting.

III. Election of Board Members and Board Membership. The Board reelected Bill Peard, who is returning from his special task. Jerry then solicited review and submission to him of any changes to the handout he provided of the 2015 Board Roster & Information and that there were no term limits at this point.

IV. Committees and Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Miles Taylor/Seth Andrews/Papazian):

- **House Page Program Update (Seth Andrew):** Mr. Andrew explained that he is involved with 15-20 schools in the DC area, most notably the DC Democracy Prep. He provided two handouts that describe the Washington Leadership Academy (WLA), the charter for which was recently approved by the DC government. The WLA will revive some of the elements of the old House Page program and intends to acquire some of the real estate from that program. It will be open to all DC residents with room, initially, for 100 9th graders and will commence classes in August 2016. The current location is in NE DC near the Metro and will provide college prep work with a core leadership focus. The WLA intends to be operated in conjunction with internships for its students on Capitol Hill, eventually 11th and 12th graders as the WLA approaches its goal of 400 students and 40 teachers. According to Miles, many on the Hill have agreed to help with this aspect. Future plans include other DC venues. Using technology, the program intends to bring House operations to students across the nation, providing them a digital tour in virtual 3-D, bringing to millions of youth the experience of being in the Capitol. The WLA will be affordable and accessible, while building the necessary tools during the next 1 ½ years. The initial Principal and about 1/2 the faculty have already been identified. WLA seeks assistance from DC-

based Board members in the fields of real estate and law. It also seeks internship partners to help build relationships and a fund-raising element (the Academy needs its own program). It will be open to other schools across the country, enabling development of a network. Mr. Andrew will prepare a presentation for the May 2016 Homecoming attendees. Board members were encouraged to come visit the school, perhaps during the October 2016 Board Meeting (perhaps a Saturday Alumni Event). The Board then discussed the Don Peebles connection for donation and will try to work with him; he is running for Mayor of NY City. The Executive Director of WLA is Stacy Kane and the Board's Point of Contact for WLA is Miles Taylor.

- **Democracy's Messengers** (Miles Taylor/Papazian): A couple more interviews have been added to the documentary as the editor (Paul) works on the final cut. Airing on PBS remains a primary target which is designed to be a 30-minute video for that purpose. PBS will be pitched in January and other US outlets it is planned will bid to air the documentary. A goal is to drive former Pages in the audience toward the USCPAA and promote young people to seek engagement with the U.S. Capitol. In this regard, Miles' work contacts may be influential. A 15-minute vignette of the documentary is planned for showing at the Capitol Hospitality Center as are special showings for donors. Also, showings on social media may provide a larger audience than PBS. The Board discussed adding a WLA presentation to the end of the book being prepared by Marcy Sims, now targeted for a spring release after the documentary is released. Miles thanked all Board members who contributed to the documentary.

B. Finance Committee: (Clark):

1. **Treasurer's Report** (Clark): Jeff Clark distributed a multi-page Financial Report to the Board prior to the meeting. The current balance is about \$6,800. We need more income. The Board was challenged to donate \$500 per year unless and until income increases from other sources. Jerry noted that non-homecoming years are more challenging. New Life Members will help; two more joined at lunch today; but potential members must have reasons to become Life Members. For non-Life Members the problem is retaining existing members. Improving the data base to remain in contact will help; there are 6,000 names for whom there is no address. For joint membership with the Capitol Historical Society, we pay \$35 of collected dues to the Society (Life Members' fees are built-in to include this). In other discussion Jeff confirmed that the 2014 Income Tax submission was correct. In the meantime, we will be able to cover expenses from cash in the bank from previous years and there are contingency plans for maintaining operations with a negative cash balance. More revenue is anticipated and expenses will be decreased There was a spike in new members in 2012 and the same may occur in 2016, another Homecoming year. Expenses include the Newsletter cost of about \$10,000 a year for two issues; the website upgrade; and reimbursement for Bill and Jeannie. The association could save \$4,000 if we produced only an electronic newsletter and it was noted that the newsletter does generate Life

Members. Ellen explained that PayPal costs 3% of the transaction and it could offer an automatic membership renewal option, especially for new members. The system will notify us if there are any issues with an account. The Board noted all of this and Jerry said that we all want to be part of the solution

C. Events Committee (Darby):

1. **Regional Events (Darby):** Peter provided handouts to the Board that listed past, current (October), and future planned events as well as information on the 2016 Homecoming. The Board discussed the merits of adding a surcharge for regional events attendance, a requirement for all regional event attendees to be Association members, and the benefits of regional events for retention and recruiting new members.

- **Upcoming/Current Regional Events** (All in the Washington, DC area) (Darby):
 - Ken Smith Annual Luncheon, October 16
 - Lincoln Cottage Picnic and Tour, October 17
- **Pending Regional Events** (Darby):
 - DC– Fall 2016 Happy Hour
 - Northern California – (TBD) (Cobey/Papazian)
 - New York City (TBD) (Peard, Darby)
 - Midwest/Southern – Clinton Library – Fall 2016/17
 - Reagan Library – Spring 2017
 - Other events pending are:
 - Chicago Regional Lake Michigan Club – Fall 2016/17
 - Dallas Bush Library; Austin LBJ Library – 2019
 - Repeat of focus cities Boston and Atlanta
 - Florida/Miami event – Winter 2017
- **Homecoming** (Darby): Peter provided the Board with a schedule of events for the 2016 Homecoming May 26-28, Memorial Day Weekend at the Hyatt Hotel. He announced a \$10,000 goal for sponsorship donations and listed the tasks for volunteers before and during the Homecoming. The Board discussed a Friday Supreme Court tour and panel discussion/ possible reception. The Court has agreed to the tour and panel and planning continues on the details. Miles suggested he could contact Justice Breyer about speaking briefly to the attendees and others suggested Justices Thomas and Sotomeyer might be willing, too. The Board further discussed adding more tours on Sunday; the possibility of attending a Sunday Memorial Day Concert at the Capitol; class dinners/free time Friday evening; a WLA presentation on Saturday; a Homecoming attendee photo opportunity on Saturday afternoon; good speakers (Congress will be in recess that weekend); and the need to generate awards in honor of former Pages (the Secretary suggests Chuck Bush – USSC '58 as a good candidate). Peter solicited Board Members' thoughts on the four questions concerning the Homecoming in his handout by mid-November.

D. Membership/Marketing Committee (Blakeman/Davis): Ali presented a PowerPoint summary of Alumni Membership since the Association's

inception. The membership data base remains incomplete with 1980s data particularly poor. Older members generally stay better in touch. Jerry suggested that Class Whips work well to help obtain the data and to keep in touch and handed out a list of potential Whips. The Board discussed how many Life Members is the goal and how to automatically remind expired members so their membership is retained active. The possibility that PayPal might help was again discussed at length. Ellen noted that personal phone calls by Board members to new members and those who had renewed their membership has worked well. Jerry explained the concept of the Class Whip program, suggesting contact methods that include Face Book, Linked-In, and CPS year books. We have many names but often lack addresses – up to 50% in the data base. The data base is difficult to refine but we will keep trying and will follow up on classes with no whips. The Board discussed a concept of “Super Whip” who is responsible for finding all Pages in a given decade, for instance Stu Polly, Art Cameron, Bob Jacoby or Allan Smith are candidates for the 1950s decade. Bill Peard is preparing a Master List that will include all Pages who served in a given year but did not necessarily graduate that year. A given name would only show up once in the last year that he/she served. The List will have two columns: the percent lost and the percent with addresses. The Board then discussed feedback updates on provided spread sheets, perhaps color-coded to help verify contact information. Ellen then explained the handsome Life Member Certificates that will be signed by the Board President and Secretary. Jerry announced that a depiction of the Life Member Certificates will be published in the newsletter to encourage membership/recruiting.

1. **Social Media** (Jason): A summary of the Association’s social media activity was presented to the Board
2. **Lapsed Members** (Ellen): Ellen discussed this as did the Board (see above). The possibility of providing Membership Certificates to all also was discussed.
3. **Class Whips:** (Jerry) (This also was discussed above)
4. **Page Alumni Scholarships** (Peter): The first scholarship is planned to be ready by March 2016 in order to enable Alumni who might not be able to afford the Homecoming fees to attend. The Board discussed pros and cons of the program.

E. Long Term Strategy Committee (Cobey): Chris reported that the discussions in this meeting covered the Association’s Long Term Strategy and no further discussion was required.

V. Dates for 2015 Board Meetings (Papazian): Third Thursday of the Month.
December 17, 2015

VI. Next Board Meeting (Papazian): Thursday, December 17, 2015

VII. Meeting Adjourned: 5:55 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Vance Morrison, Secretary