



**MINUTES  
OF THE JUNE 18, 2015  
MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**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 7:03 p.m. EDT via teleconference. Participating: Beth Ambrose, Chris Cobey, Jeffery Clark, Vance Morrison, Ellen Blakeman, Bob Borsari, Peter Darby, Ali Davis, Bill Peard, Duane Taylor, Miles Taylor, Shelley Thomas, and Sean Tucker. Jerry welcomed everybody and opened the meeting.

**II. April 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes:** Approved by voice vote subject to the following change: On page 2, under Pending Regional Events – Midwest, second sentence: Replace with “The Old and New Capitol are places to visit and a September event is planned.”

**III. Committees and Committee Reports**

**A. Executive Committee (Papazian):**

- **House Page Program Update** (Miles Taylor): The DC Charter School Board approved the Washington Leadership Academy (WLA) proposal. The remaining hoops to jump through will be relatively easy. An August 2016 opening is planned. The team expressed gratitude to the Page community; their support paid off. Board Member Dr. Duane Taylor has been an essential member of the team. The approved WLA model is different from a year ago. It will be a four-year high school experiment on Capitol Hill but initially there will be no dormitory. After one year, a proposal for a dormitory will be submitted. The immediate task is to find a WLA leader; a job announcement is being widely distributed. Miles explained this was a big win for the Association and he is excited that this is an opportunity to help as many kids as possible come to Capitol Hill and learn about Congress. Updates will be forthcoming as events unfold.

- **Democracy’s Messengers Documentary** (Miles Taylor): More interviews have been conducted and the team is now engaged with potential distributors for the home stretch. Conversation with the Association of Former House Members resulted in a donation to the film by that Association.

- **Former Speaker Hastert (All):** The Board discussed recent news surrounding former Speaker Hastert. All agreed we will tread carefully as the impact on our goals is considered.

**B. Finance Committee: (Clark):**

1. **Treasurer’s Report** (Clark): Jeff Clark distributed a three-page Financial Report to the Board for the meeting. The current balance is about \$12,700. Income between January and May 31<sup>st</sup> was \$16,069.11, while expenses were \$20,754.02, a net loss of \$4684.91. We will

continue to look to increase our income, especially in following up on membership renewals. Jeff urged calling delinquent/lapsed members to ascertain their status and encourage them to rejoin (“Why not?”). The income to be generated can help refill the coffers.

2. **Scholarship Request.** Jerry noted that the previously-announced stock donation amounted to about \$3,000 and nothing further has been heard about the 1980’s group’s scholarship efforts. He also pointed out that in the recent past we have not had a lot of interest to generate excitement – and funds – but soon we will have the WLA to promote (when the time is right), the Documentary, and the 2016 Homecoming. Bill Peard suggested we distribute our annual call for membership donations in September since many will be on vacation in August and it takes a while to generate this effort.

### C. Events Committee (Darby):

1. **Regional Events (Darby):** Peter Darby distributed a two-page Events Committee report to the Board for the meeting, including a 2015 Events Planning Matrix. The following recent events were discussed:

- DC Happy Hour – There was a good mix among the 25-30 attendees at the 21 April event. Resulting family connections will be pursued for newsletter interviews.
- Boston/New England Regional – The April 25<sup>th</sup> event at the new Kennedy Institute had a very good turnout of about 56 with no no-shows, a private tour, and good explanation of the U.S. Senate chamber replica. Ours was the first group to meet at the new Center for this great event. Photos for the newsletter were requested.
- DC Summer Family Event – Well-attended on June 6<sup>th</sup> and a good time despite the rain. Some summer Pages attended and discussions were productive.
- **Pending Regional Events (Darby):**
  - Springfield Speaker Event August 15<sup>th</sup> – This will commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first African-American House Page, Frank Mitchell. There will be a panel discussion with a Chicago Tribune /former Page journalist as moderator. Former House Page Lamont Holifield, leader of Urban Prep in Chicago, will bring students to attend and learn. Jerry noted this is a labor of love of Ellen and Kevin Conner (House ‘72). C-SPAN will be approached for possible TV coverage of the event. So far 20-25 have committed to attend; more are welcome. Bill Peard commented that highlighting profiles of the past generation (e.g. the first African-American Capitol Page) is one of our missions.
  - Texas Regional Baseball Event - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas Rangers Game event is scheduled in Dallas September 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - DC Annual Board Meeting Weekend – Following the Annual Ken Smith Luncheon on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn, VA, the Board will meet in Chris Cobey’s office spaces. A picnic and tour is planned for Saturday at the Lincoln Cottage (summer home) in DC, along with a tour of the local National Cemetery there.
  - Northern California Event – The planned Hoover Institute (Stanford U.)

site near San Francisco does not permit events there so the organizing team is considering a restaurant instead.

- **North Carolina Event** – Contacts in Raleigh/Durham are investigating a happy hour in the region. The same is occurring in the New York City area.
- **Homecoming** (Darby): Peter reminded the Board that the 2016 Homecoming will be May 26-30, Memorial Day Weekend. An agreement with the Hyatt Hotel has been finalized. Following an update in a week or so, details will be publicized to the membership. The Committee is working on action items, including preparation of an Information Packet. There are opportunities for others to help as volunteers. The Committee will meet the Wednesday before the October Board meeting (October 14<sup>th</sup>) in the Hyatt Hotel and all who are interested are invited to attend/participate. Those needing a hotel room for the October events were asked to contact Peter Darby. It will be the same hotel as last year.

**D. Membership/Marketing Committee** (Blakeman): Ellen distributed Marketing Committee and Social Media reports to the Board for the meeting.

- 1. Website** (Blakeman): Ellen expressed appreciation to Board members who have contributed content to the website. Material about Page friends and others of interest will continue to be welcomed.
- 2. Social Media** (Blakeman): We continue to grow social media fans. The Committee is asking participants what their experience was like.
- 3. Newsletter** (Blakeman): The draft for the next issue will be ready in a few days and in the mail by the first part of July.
- 4. Lifetime Membership Certificates** (Ellen): Members are providing their final information to appear on the certificates that will be supplied to the printer.

**E. Membership Development** (Peard): Bill reported to the Board that we now have 369 members; 129 are Life Members, 64 Joint members, 41 members under 30 years old at the \$25 dues fee level and 135 at the \$50 level. Bill noted he is working hard to address the lapsed members to bring them back into the fold. He is following-up on non-responders and his notices are going out monthly now. Bill and Ellen are pursuing the Class Whip program and will be focusing on attendees at the Homecoming. Jerry noted we need to re-double or efforts on obtaining new members and will need to make more phone calls.

**F. Long-Term Strategy** (Cobey): No report this meeting.

**IV. Dates for 2015 Board Meetings** (Papazian): Third Thursday of the Month.  
August 20, 2015      October 16, 2015 (Friday) – DC In-person Meeting  
December 17, 2015

**V. Next Board Meeting** (Papazian): Thursday, August 20, 2015

**VI. Meeting Adjourned:** 7:53 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Vance Morrison, Secretary