

**THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA
IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

ATLANTA TOWN COMMITTEE FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 – PIEDMONT DRIVING CLUB

10:00AM

ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Town Chair, Helen McSwain. Vicki Gillespie led us in the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Salute to the Flag and the singing of The National Anthem lead by Dana Lindsey and Betsy Perkins. Alice Gage then read Article II of the Dames Constitution.

Helen welcomed us and spoke about the importance of names, specifically family names and how we have traced the names of our ancestors back to the colonial period. She then announced that from now on our town committee will no longer require the use of Formal names in reports, minutes and introductions.

Nanky Tribble, recording secretary, made a motion to dispense with the reading of the May 11, 2023, meeting which was voted on and approved.

It was reported that we have 391 members. Helen welcomed and introduced the newest members:

Kitty Bosio, Carter Ehlers, Angela King, Barbara Marxer, Patience Peterson and Kate Spickert. Courtesy Member Quincy Goldsmith and Transfer, Julie Smith.

There were 2 resignations mostly due to health issues: Betsy Elliot and Robin Kelly. Sadly, since the January meeting we lost 3 members: Nancy Beals, Louise Moreland and Newell Tozzer. Necrologist Nancy Reeve read the reports on these ladies and followed with a prayer for them and their families.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT

Helen discussed the importance of paying on time our town and state dues and the issue of collecting dues from those who were delinquent. After much work by members of the Executive committee, those who were delinquent were contacted and as a result, most were collected, not only their Atlanta Town dues, but State dues. Helen encouraged and reminded us to continue to financially support our Town Committee projects.

Helen ended her report by congratulating our 3 new Honorary Dames signifying 40 years of membership. She asked to stand for recognition, Mary Norwood, Nancy Quarles and Jane Young. Helen welcomed our two guests, State Chair Lyn Hunt and guest speaker Jess Alden, Program coordinator at The Georgia Humanities Project and Co-Affiliate Coordinator of National History Day Georgia.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Henny Whelchel told us that as of October 1, 2023, our Truist Bank Account and BNY Mellon Investment balances total \$130,599.64.

The Total Donor Restricted funds balance is \$52,982.20. This is comprised of donations for the following: Werner Fund - \$16,365.03; Lamar Room - \$11,544.58; SHARE - \$3,285.00; Oakland Cemetery - \$7,603.00; Patriot's Camp - \$10,792.59; and Vet Dog - \$3,392.00. Board Restricted funds total \$2,000.00 (for the next State meeting that the ATC will host). An additional \$2,000.00 will be set aside this fiscal year.

We have a net operating account balance of \$75,617.44.

Donations by members to Restricted Funds 2023-2024 are as follows:

Werner Fund - \$423.00; Lamar Room - \$458.00; Share - \$2,858.00; Oakland Cemetery - \$4,703.00; Patriot's Camp - \$14,593.00; and State Vet Dog - \$3,392.00.

Helen invited our guest speaker Jess Alden to the podium where she gave an informative talk about the Georgia Humanities Project. This is the only organization in Georgia providing statewide support for the Humanities. They invite and support all ages and backgrounds to explore what shapes us as individuals and binds us together as Georgians. The Georgia Humanities program Invests in Local Communities; Supports K-12 Education in the field of Humanities and Georgia History; Preserve and Share our State's Rich History; Promote Literacy and lifelong learning focused on producing new books about our State's History. This organization strives to connect people and communities to encourage conversation, education and understanding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Patriot's Camp

Chrissie Wayt told us that the expenses for camp in 2023 were \$5,900.56. The camp received a \$1,500 grant from the state and the balance of the expenses was paid from the Donor Restricted funds. Patriot's camp 2023 added new activities and projects that garnered more interest from the Campers, engaging them so much more. The date for 2024 is July 8-12. The same Social Studies teacher will be participating in 2024 and Chrissie is looking for an Art Teacher, preferably younger (in his/her 20's) which will be a paid position. She also asked for the usual volunteers to assist with the Field Trip, Food preparation, helping with the crafts etc.

HISTORIC OAKLAND

Kathy Chapman informed us that the tours to the cemetery increased this past year, with over 10,000 visitors. The gross profit from the tours was \$750,000.00, the net profit being \$450,000.00. She reminded us of the many historic personalities buried in Oakland, even including Kenny Rogers. Kathy expressed the interesting facts surrounding these people to make for an informative tour for all ages. Oakland was awarded 2.4 million dollars from the "Moving Atlanta Forward" bond, which is the largest donation to any park. The funds will be used for many needed improvements throughout the park. Ground was broken on the new Visitor's Center which is a needed improvement, and the new Bell Tower is a fabulous facility for receptions of all sorts, including weddings. Kathy thanked everyone for their contributions.

PATRIOTIC SERVICES

Buffie Feidler and Eugenia Wattles said they are working on the schedules for the Naturalization Ceremonies for 2024. Keep an eye out for the dates to volunteer for the ceremonies. Brooke Wilson has been working hard on the Congressional Essay contest. She sent 24 packets to as many different schools. The deadline to submit an entry was December 1st, 2023. We hope the entries will be a larger number than in the past.

VET DOG

Eugenia Wattles introduced us to "Scout" via an oil painting by our illustrious Town Chair, Helen McSwain. We were reminded that American Vet Dogs is an organization who highly train the dogs as service dogs for our Veterans.

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

Barbara Bazzel talked about a National and Statewide project that is focusing on women of the colonial period who made an impact on their community and who may be considered as a legitimate resource as an ancestry connection to a Colonial Dames membership.

The Book Club has chosen a book for us to consider reading, *The Indigo Girl*, a novel about a teenage girl who brought the Indigo dye to the State of South Carolina.

A new themed zoom activity on November 16th will be about Food Pathways to our Tables. The subject matter will be Baby Food in America and how it changed our tastes and pallets.

GUNSTON HALL

Maryanna DeHaven, the new Chair for Gunston Hall thanked Mimi Spang for all her help and advice in her new role as Chairman. Maryanna expressed her pleasure while visiting Gunston Hall and was charmed by the historic home and the many activities they have during the year. You may go to the website for more information. Gunston Hall expressed their appreciation to our Town committee for the financial support through the years, especially for the home and garden projects.

BILL OF RIGHTS

Loulie Reese reminded us that our town committee will be receiving a Proclamation from Governor Kemp's office to commemorate Bill of Rights Day, celebrated annually on December 15. Loulie encouraged us to fly our American Flags on this day.

SULGRAVE MANOR

Terry Vawter asked us to continue our generous support to the home of George Washington. She showed a video about the History of Sulgrave Manor, which taught us more about this ancestral home.

Helen then invited Vicki Gillespie to tell us about the upcoming field trip to Madison, Georgia to tour the historical homes decorated for the Christmas season.

Helen then expressed thanks to all those involved with the Fall Cocktail party, especially Mary Watson for opening her home to us.

Helen reminded us that the New Members' proposals need to be turned in to her by December 15th. The proposed candidates will be voted on at our Jan. 20th Winter voting meeting. She told us the rules of the

proposer and endorser. Helen also encouraged us to continue to volunteer and notice the many opportunities on the sheets being passed around, as well as on the sign-up table in the front.

Finally, Helen thanked Liz Hanger, the Hostess chair and her volunteers and the much talented Hospitality committee for the lovely reception today.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanky Tribble

Recording Secretary

