

**THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIA DAMES OF AMERICA  
IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA TOWN COMMITTEE SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021**

**BY ZOOM**

**10:00 AM**

**ATTENDANCE - 47**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Atlanta Town Chair, Mrs. George Robert Lindley, Jr. (Susan) called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Susan then led us in the Lord's Prayer and in saying the Salute to the Flag. Mrs. Jeffrey Ray Kuester (Pam) led us in singing the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner.

**ARTICLE II OF THE DAMES' CONSTITUTION**

Mrs. David Robert Bockel (Jane) read Article II of the Dames' Constitution.

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Mrs. Erwin John Whelchel (Henny) stated that the Minutes of the Membership Meeting held on January 14, 2021 were approved by the Executive Committee on April 28, 2021. She made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes. This motion was seconded by Jane Bockel and passed. Henny then asked for a motion from the floor to approve the Minutes of the January 14, 2021 Membership Meeting. The motion was made, seconded and passed. The Minutes of the January 14, 2021 Membership Meeting are marked as approved and will be dated and signed by the Recording Secretary.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. William Ronald Hinson (Lisa) reported that at the beginning of the fiscal year April 1, 2021, our bank balance was \$ 98,985.65 which includes donor restricted funds of \$ 32,729.15 leaving an operating balance of \$ 66,256.50. We have board restricted funds of \$ 2400.00 for Oakland and \$11,000.00 for the state annual meeting leaving us with a net operating account balance of \$52,856.50. Expenses were \$ 3,565.85 and donations totaled \$ 13,600.00 this past fiscal year. Our donor restricted funds' balances are Werner Fund, \$ 18,093.13, Lamar Room, \$ 10,095.64, SHARE, \$ 2,525.00, Oakland, \$ 103.00 and Patriots Camp, \$ 1,371.00.

**ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Philip Irby Dunklin (Sanford) reported that to date 220 members have paid their dues. Of those, 177 have paid on line and 43 have paid by check. Reminders that dues are due by May 1<sup>st</sup> were sent out 10 days ago. If you have not paid your dues, please also consider making a donation to Oakland, the Lamar Room, Patriots Camp, SHARE or the Werner Activities Fund. These are all worthy causes that the Dames support. You can pay your dues by going to our website, [atlantatowncommittee.com](http://atlantatowncommittee.com).

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Susan introduced our new incoming Town Chair, Mrs. Joseph Very Quarles, III (Nancy), our new Vice Chair, Dr. Helen Funk McSwain and our new necrologist, Mrs. Brooke Reeve (Mandy). Nancy recognized the wonderful job that Susan has done particularly having to deal with Covid the last year. Nancy looks forward to getting to know everyone and encouraged all members to be involved.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Susan announced that our roster Co-Chairs, Mrs. William Eugene Hamilton (Katie) and Mrs. Roy Merry Jones (Carter), report that we have 351 Regular Members and 20 Courtesy or Guest Members. The changes to the membership are as follows:

5 New Members

- Mrs. John Michael Connor (Reid)
- Mrs. Mark Lawrence Feidler (Buffie)
- Mrs. William Paul McKay (Jan)
- Mrs. Thomas Joseph Mullen (Christina)
- Mrs. Brooke Reeve III (Mandy)

2 Transfers In: Mrs. Sherrilyn McQueen from Tn.

Mrs. Frank Ridley Hill (Mary Ella) from Athens, Ga.

2 Transferring Out: Mrs. Patricia Sarah Stehlin Boykin (Pattie)

Mrs. John Slaughter Candler (Kay)

1 New Courtesy Member: Ms. Elizabeth Jean Downing

1 Resignation: Mrs. John L. Feininger, Jr. (Eleanor)

1 New Honorary Dame: Sarah Elizabeth Wight (Libba) who received her Dames number October 1979, is a former Town Chair and was a chair of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

2 Deaths: Mrs. Abraham Thomas Bradbury (Wylene Righton)

Mrs. Reginald Davies Heinitsh (Beulah Bliss Reeve)

Nancy Quarles read the Resolution remembering Mrs. Bradbury and made a motion that this Resolution be sent to the family and "spread among the Minutes." Nancy prayed a prayer remembering the life of Wylene Righton Bradbury. Mrs. Heinitsh will be remembered at the fall meeting

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PATRIOTIC SERVICE**

Mrs. John Collier Horton (Helen) gave a report on Patriotic Service which is co-chaired by Ms. Joy Parrish McCall. Helen very happily reported that all three of our entrants to the Congressional Essay contest are winners. Two are state winners and one is a national winner. Because of Covid, the weeklong seminar has been canceled. However the three winners this year and our winner from last year will be invited to attend next year's seminar. If there is enough interest from students who are now in college, they may develop a seminar for college age students that would run at the same time. Susan said we are thrilled with this great

outcome which has been recognized at national and state meetings and enthusiastically recognized all the hard work done by Helen and Joy.

### **PATRIOT'S CAMP**

Mrs. James Twyman Wayt (Chrissie) reported that unfortunately Patriots Camp will not be held this year. The Atlanta Preservation Center has said that they are not open for events this summer. They are more than willing to have it next summer. Over the next year Chrissie wants to look at other opportunities to spread the curriculum throughout the state and also outside the state and has already met with people notably in Winston Salem at Bethabara which is near Old Salem. They are already showing interest. Chrissie said our goal is to replicate this program.

### **HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES**

Mrs. William Watt Neal, Jr. (Deaver) reported that there is continuing progress on the oral history project. This project started back in October 2019 when Deaver and her co-chair Mrs. Arthur John Cook, Jr. (Triff) met with seven Dames at the Driving Club: Mrs. James Tinsley Porter, Jr. (Tee), Mrs. John James Woodside III (Mary Frances), Mrs. Edward Harper Shirley (Margaret), Ms. Sarah Elizabeth Wight (Libba), The Rev. Dr. Laura Dorsey, Mrs. Clarence Ferrell Nolan III (Marian), and Mrs. George Robert Lindley, Jr. (Susan). The idea was to have a videographer interview several of these Dames and then weave two or three videos together. Due to the pandemic it was decided to have individual videos and today we will see the video for Tee Porter. The videographer is working on the other videos which will be shown at future meetings. All the videos will be a valuable resource for the Dames and the interviews will be stored at the National Headquarters Archives. Susan expressed her appreciation for all the hard work done by Deaver and Triff and thinks everyone will be wowed by the the video seen today.

### **ANDREW LOW HOUSE**

Mrs. Geoffrey Pearson Hall (Betty) reported that the Andrew Low house was built in the mid 1800's and is owned and supported by our Georgia Dames. It preserves one of the finest collections of period furnishings related to the history of Savannah and to the Low family. The Low House was one of the first museum properties to reopen in the US after being closed due to Covid. It was a slow reopening bur now the number of visitors is almost back to normal. The revamped Friends of Andrew Low House has raised \$ 30,000.00 through the membership fees this year. Some of this money has gone to purchase humidifiers for all the rooms which will help to preserve the furniture. Deep cleaning and repairs have also been done this year. At the Abercorn house which is another house owned by the Dames, repairs and cleaning have also been done with a particular emphasis on the outside shutters and gates. Soon events will be allowed there. Betty encouraged our members to join the Friends of the Andrew Low House if not already a member.

### **GUNSTON HALL**

Mrs. Joseph Maurice Spang (Mimi) began with the good news that Gunston Hall (the home of George Mason) has had a busy year despite the Pandemic. The house and gardens are now fully open and have generated a flurry of activity. The home is open for guided tours while the museum and gift shop provide additional history of the house and those who lived there. Many of the women who lived there are highlighted in the reopening of a Women's Place exhibit. The kitchen is being restored and incorporated in the tours. Of particular interest has been a virtual program, History of the Kitchen. There is a working vegetable garden which in addition to providing educational opportunities also provides a small portion of income through sales of plants and vegetables to local residents. Many other opportunities are offered for special events such as weddings in addition to virtual offerings such as Cocktails by Candlelight. Of special note are the thousand plus recently planted boxwoods which are yet another effort to return the house to Mason's vision. The Atlanta Town Committee makes a financial contribution to Gunston Hall every year in addition to the very generous donations made by individual Dames. Membership in Gunston Hall is very reasonable and Mimi encourages everyone to join. Mimi and her husband made a visit to the house which is just twenty minutes from Mt. Vernon and had a great visit to this lovely little known Virginia gem.

### **SULGRAVE MANOR**

Susan read the report of Mrs. Adolphus Busch Orthwein (Judy) who was having trouble connecting to Zoom. This has been a most unusual year for Sulgrave Manor. It has been on lockdown because of the Pandemic and because of British regulations. Because the house and gardens have been closed, certain modifications and improvements have been made during this period. The new George Washington exhibit is ready to be seen but has not yet been viewed by the public. Hopefully it will be allowed to open soon. Sulgrave has put together a marvelous little booklet detailing four lovely walks in the area. The sold out Sulgrave Manor Centennial journey originally scheduled for May 2021 had to be cancelled and has been rescheduled for May 2022. Contact Kelly Henry, guest services manager, for further details at [Kelly@ConnoisseursTours.com](mailto:Kelly@ConnoisseursTours.com). On another note, we should be proud that the Georgia Society had the highest number of donors to Sulgrave this past year.

### **OAKLAND CEMETERY**

Mrs. John Franklin Walker, Jr. (Kathy Chapman) reported that Oakland opened up guided tours this past weekend. The visitors center is also opening May 1. If you love scavenger hunts, you can go online and can get the information for the Spring Scramble scavenger hunt and then go downtown and do the scavenger hunt. Also Arts at Oakland runs from May 21 through May 31. There will be artistic installations there and it is a very interesting tour. Also there will be night tours as some of the installations will be lit. There is a new digital tour of the African-American burial grounds so go online and see that. Kathy looks forward to having an event at Oakland when we have our annual meeting in Atlanta next year.

## **ATL 22**

Mrs. John Baxter Gillespie (Vicki) reported that the Pandemic caused us to postpone the Georgia Dames Annual Meeting that was to be held in Atlanta April 2021. It has been rescheduled for April 19-21, 2022. All plans are done, all permissions are given and everything is reserved. The committee will get together at the end of May and begin to put all the pieces back together and expect a wonderful party for the state here in Atlanta. We hope all of you will help welcome all to Atlanta and will also come and enjoy everything.

## **TOWN CHAIR'S REPORT**

In spite of Covid, Susan reported that Georgia Dames have been creative in making the best of the situation. There have been plant sales, interesting lectures, virtual tours, cocktail parties and cooking classes all online. Georgia Dames Day was a huge success and enjoyed by many. Mark your calendars for next year's day on February 26, 2022. Last week was the NSCDA-GA State Annual Meeting on Zoom, starting with Dr. Stan Deaton's wonderful lecture on George Washington's Defining Moments. We all were honored to have National Vice –President residing in Region III, Mrs. John Barber Hurst (Mimi), present. On May 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a new member workshop. Susan has accepted a state position as member at large and will attend the July 22-23 State Executive Committee meeting in Macon. Round Table is scheduled for September 22-23 in Madison and there will be the first ever NSCDA National Convention held in St. Louis on October 22-24. Susan then announced that we would now see the oral history video. After the video, Susan recognized Deaver Neal and Bill Nowicki, the videographer, for the wonderful production. Susan recognized Stephanie Lynch, our state administrator, for her help in moderating our Zoom meetings and for all her innumerable responsibilities that keep our Georgia Society functioning. At the last, expressions of appreciation and a huge round of applause were given for Susan as she steps down as Town Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Henny Whelchel  
Recording Secretary

