

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

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021  
CHEROKEE TOWN CLUB  
10:00 AM**

**ATTENDANCE : 75**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Town Chair, Mrs. Joseph Very Quarles III (Nancy). We were led in the Lord's Prayer by Mrs. Clarence Ferrell Nolan III (Marian) and recited the Salute to the Flag. The Salute was followed by the National Anthem led by Mrs. Jeffrey Ray Kuester (Pam), Mrs. Bruce Patrick Lindsay (Dana) and Mrs. Lee Bynum Perkins (Betsy).

**ARTICLE II OF THE DAMES' CONSTITUTION**

Ms. Vernona Spencer McDuffie (Fluffy) read Article II of the Dames' Constitution.

Nancy gave a report on Sanford Dunklin's condition and dedicated the meeting to her and asked us to pray for her care team and her family.

**ROSTER**

Nancy reported that our Roster Chairs, Mrs. William Eugene Hamilton, Jr. (Katie) and Mrs. Roy Merry Jones (Carter), who could not be here today, have produced a new roster for us. Mrs. Ralph Ragan Morrison (Becky) is in the back of the room with copies of the roster for officers. You can purchase a roster for \$ 10.00 or you can print one from the on line directory.

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Mrs. Erwin John Whelchel (Henny) stated that the Minutes of the Membership Meeting held on April 29, 2021 were approved by the Executive Committee on October 6, 2021. A motion was passed to dispense with the reading of the Minutes. A second motion was passed to approve the Minutes of the April 29, 2021 Membership Meeting, which will be marked as approved and will be dated and signed by the Recording Secretary.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Nancy called on Mrs. John Baxter Gillespie (Vicki) to read the Treasurer's Report for Mrs. William Ronald Hinson (Lisa). On October 6, 2021, the Executive Committee approved the 2021-2022 budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022. Our bank balance is \$ 119,928.03. Total donor restricted funds are \$ 35,424.15. Board restricted funds total \$ 15,400.00 which include \$ 2400.00 for Oakland and \$ 13,000.00 for the Annual State Meeting. Our net operating bank balance is \$ 69,103.88. The Executive Committee elected to disburse a check to SHARE at Shepherd in the amount of \$ 4500.00. As well we will disburse a check to Oakland before the end

of this year. Your Dames dollars are at work! This report has been approved by the Executive Committee and will be filed as presented.

### **ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT**

Nancy called on Mrs. James Tinsley Porter (Celeste) to give the Assistant Treasurer's Report for Mrs. Philip Irby Dunklin (Sanford). Celeste reported that the primary responsibility of the Assistant Treasurer is to collect the Dues. This process begins in March and does not end until September due to late payments. Celeste encouraged all Dames to pay their dues promptly. A total of \$ 27,040.00 in dues was collected from 338 members. In addition to paying dues, you were generous in giving the following amounts to the five special funds: Historic Oakland \$ 1487.00, Patriot's History Camp \$1626.00, Lamar Room \$ 1095.00, SHARE \$ 2187.00 and the Werner Fund \$ 800.00. We collected \$ 2,307.00 in late fees and \$ 369.00 in convenience fees. The total of all of the above was \$ 36,911.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Nancy reported that we have 382 Members. Nancy introduced all new members.

Mrs. John Michael Connor (Reid)  
Mrs. Mark Lawrence Feidler (Buffie)  
Mrs. William Paul McKay (Jan)  
Mrs. Thomas Joseph Mullen (Christina)  
Mrs. Frank Smith Pittman IV (Gaybie)  
Mrs. Brooke Reeve III (Mandy)  
Mrs. Reginald Irene Vachon (Stephanie)  
Ms. Eugenia Portwood Wattles (Eugenia)  
Mrs. Edward Bryan Wile (Vickey)  
Mrs. Gregory George Schultz (Margaret)  
2 Transfers In  
Mrs. Sherilyn McQueen  
Mrs. Barry Lewis Wilson (Corinna)  
3 Resignations  
Mrs. John Mark Allan (Juliet)  
Mrs. John Loudon Feininger, Jr. (Elleanore)  
Mrs. David Sheffield Martin (Elizabeth)

Nancy reported that we have an honorary Dame, Mrs. Bond Almand, Jr. (Virginia) with us today signifying 40 years of membership in the Atlanta Town Committee.

### **NECROLOGY REPORT**

Mrs. Brooke Reeve III (Mandy) read Resolutions on Mrs. Reginald Davies Heinitsh, Jr. (Beulah Bliss Reeve Heinitsh), Mrs. Elkin Goddard Alston, Mrs. John James Woodside III (Mary Frances Broach Woodside) and Mrs. Abraham Thomas Bradbury (Wylene Elizabeth Righton Bradbury) who all died this past year. Mandy made a motion that these Resolutions be mailed to the families and "spread among the Minutes." Mandy prayed a prayer to honor these Dames.

## **ATL 22**

Vicki Gillespie reported that the pandemic has caused us to postpone the Annual Meeting twice. It has focused the committee to work smarter and ATL 22 is now scheduled for a one day event April 21, 2022. It will be a meeting beginning at 10 am and then lunch at the Piedmont Driving Club. She will need lots of volunteers to welcome Dames from across the state and show off Atlanta.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PATRIOT'S CAMP**

Mrs. James Twyman Wayt (Chrissie) said that Patriot's History Camp sprang out of a successful program "why America is free" which is promoted nationally by the Dames. It began as an alternative approach to educating children about the history and founding ideals of our country. The one week summer camp has been held at the Atlanta Preservation Center in Grant Park for three years from 2017 to 2019 and is successful beyond our dreams. Over three years we expanded to 12 children from two neighborhood schools which included several children from the Atlanta Mission Homeless Center. We employed two skilled teachers, one for the social studies portion and one for the hands on arts portion. In 2019 a professional video was produced documenting the camp which is being used to promote the camp to other town committees. Due to covid the camp has taken a two year hiatus but beginning in summer 2022, we have every expectation to offer camp once again. Unfortunately our partnership with the Atlanta Preservation Center ended after the retirement of Boyd Coons, the Atlanta Preservation Center Executive Director, and we are now searching for alternative sites to hold the camp. The good news is all of our camp props, arts supplies, costumes and visuals have been returned to us. Seven of us Dames gathered on September 29<sup>th</sup> to sort, cull and catalogue the items which have now been stored at several homes until next summer when hopefully we will be back in business. Thanks to the following Dames who performed as a small army using their skills, time and energy, we now have organized all the boxes of materials: Susan, Joanie, Sanford, Mary Eleanor, Ree and Nancy. The Patriot's Camp advisory group which consists of anyone who has an interest will meet to brainstorm locations for the camp and to begin planning. The perfect location would be a neighborhood where working parents can access the location easily with indoor tables for art projects and group discussions and a room for serving group luncheons and tea. The dates we are looking at for next summer are July 11-15<sup>th</sup>. Please let Chrissie know if you have ideas or are interested in helping next summer.

### **OAKLAND CEMETERY**

Mrs. John Franklin Walker, Jr. (Kathy Chapman) reported that Oakland in any given year is the cemetery that has more weddings than funerals. She highlighted the Halloween events going on now through October 31<sup>st</sup>. She reported that the first project supported by our Town Committee was the cleaning of the angels which still look beautiful. Our current project is helping with the hardscape of the Women's Comfort Station which includes clearing paths, doing landscaping and putting in two benches which will have the Dames emblem and ribbons signifying the Atlanta Town Committee. She thanked the Members for all the donations and also said that we apply for

grants from the state based on the dollars our Members donate. The Atlanta Town Committee has made a multi-year financial commitment to Oakland.

### **HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES**

Nancy reported that Mrs. William Watt Neal (Deaver) and Mrs. John Arthur Cook, Jr. (Triff) with the help of videographer Bill Nowicki and our own Dana Lindsay have been working on this oral history video which we are about to see. The video is of Mary Frances Woodside who sadly passed away September 16, 2021. The video was then shown to great acclaim.

### **GUNSTON HALL**

Mrs. Joseph Maurice Spang (Mimi) gave a very interesting report on the Mason family and how Gunston Hall came to be in the care of the Colonial Dames. George Mason was very much a family man then a statesman who was present for all the discussions about what this country would become. At his death in 1792 at age 66, he had 59 grandchildren. His work on the Virginia Declaration of Rights would become the template for our Bill of Rights. Gunston Hall remained in the Mason family for several generations, followed by a series of private owners, until Louis Hertle purchased the property in 1912. With his wife Eleanor, they recognized the history and beauty of the house and began a restoration. In 1932, to fulfill her dying wish, Gunston Hall was given to the Commonwealth of Virginia with oversight by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Mimi encouraged us to visit Gunston Hall and to continue to support Gunston Hall with our donations!

### **BILL OF RIGHTS DAY**

Mrs. C. Samuel Ehlers (Joanie) explained the meaning of the Bill of Rights day held annually on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Bill of Rights was ratified by three fourths of the states as of December 15, 1791 and has guided our nation for the past 230 years. The state's Bill of Rights Day provides an opportunity to reflect on this treasured document that has guided our nation and is the cherished foundation of our free society governed by the rule of law rather than at the behest of men in spelling out our rights that are inherent to every man, woman and child who are citizens of the United State of America. Throughout our nation's history, the Bill of Rights has served to protect and expand liberty for every American. It honors the democratic ideals as first presented by George Mason, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights of 1776 and a delegate to the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. He refused to sign the constitution because it lacked a bill of rights and he urged Congress to approve these first ten amendments. When he later crafted the Bill of Rights he drew heavily from the Virginia Declaration of Rights for the first ten amendments to the Constitution which specifically limit the power of the federal government to ensure individual liberty, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to bear arms and due process of law among other rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights. Much of George Mason's writing was used by James Madison in the construction of the Constitution. The Declaration of Independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson included a similar phrase to George Mason's pursuit of happiness. Every year a proclamation is presented to the National Society of Colonial Dames of America Atlanta Town Committee in the State of Georgia by the governor of Georgia and encouragement is given for Georgians to fly American flags on that day, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please raise your flags on December 15<sup>th</sup> for Bill of Rights Day!

### **SULGRAVE MANOR**

Nancy called on the new committee chair Mrs. Wesley Rhodes Vawter, III (Terry). She thanked Mrs. Adolphus Busch Orthwein (Judy) for all her hard work for many years on Sulgrave Manor. Terry reported that she had the wonderful opportunity to visit the ancestral home of George Washington in 2014 on a trip sponsored by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sulgrave Manor. Now we are in preparation for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the opening of Sulgrave Manor to the public. Almost all the goals set by the 2018 Sulgrave Manor Trust Business Plan have been achieved. These include conservation and repairs to the Manor House, development and repairs to other property, improvement of the visitor experience, conservation and display of the collection, enhancement of the garden and extension of learning opportunities. Support from the friends of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America has greatly helped make these improvements possible. Additionally thanks to our donations, we have successfully raised \$ 100,000.00 for the new George Washington exhibit in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The opening of this exhibit will be celebrated Sulgrave Day also known as Dames Day, May 21, 2022. There is another trip planned around this celebration.

### **ANDREW LOW HOUSE**

Mrs. Geoffrey Pearson Hall (Betty) reported that the Andrew Low house, the closest house to Atlanta that we support, is the historic property that our Georgia Dames Society owns and supports. Andrew Low II engaged John Norris a famous architect of the time to design and construct his house in 1848. The house remained in the Low family until 1928 when the Georgia Dames Society purchased the house from the heirs of Juliette Gordon Low who was the founder of the Girl Scouts. She was the daughter-in-law of Andrew Low II. The Atlanta Town Committee has a special room that we support through donations which is the Low bedroom on the second floor. Betty was pleased to report the wonderful news that the loans for the purchase of the Abercorn house have been paid off. The Abercorn house is on the same square as the Andrew Low House and was purchased several years ago by the Georgia Dames Society. The headquarter offices of the Georgia Dames will move from the basement of the Andrew Low house to the Abercorn house. The Abercorn house has rooms which you can rent for overnight stays or to have a party. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be an event called Tasting Traditions, which is about African American foods and it will be hosted by Sallie Anne Robinson. Andrew Low house has launched a new website linked to Facebook and Instagram. You can make a donation but to join Friends of the Andrew Low House, you still need to make a telephone call.

### **PATRIOTIC SERVICE**

Mrs. John Collier Horton (Helen) gave a report on Patriotic Service which is co-chaired by Ms. Joy Parrish McCall. Helen introduced Dean Melcher, the Director of Development Operations for Shepherd Center Foundation. We support the SHARE military initiative at Shepherd Center. It is a comprehensive rehabilitation program that focuses on assessment and treatment for service members who have served in the US military since September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 regardless of discharge status. The program helps service members who are experiencing symptoms of or have a diagnosis of mild to moderate traumatic brain injury or concussions and any occurring psychological or behavioral health concerns including post-traumatic stress. SHARE military

initiative provides hope, assistance, support and education to service members and their families during their recovery treatment and beyond. Dean Melcher gave remarks and an update on SHARE. Nancy then presented a check to SHARE.

Helen then gave a report on the Congressional Essay Contest sponsored by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. It is a writing competition for students in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. We work with the Washington Workshops Foundation to offer a week long seminar in Washington DC for the Essay Contest winners. This summer's seminar will be June 25 to July 1. The winners stay in campus housing at a Washington area university, have guest speakers from all parts of our government, meet US senators and representatives and are taken on tours all over the Washington DC area. Helen and Joy have contacted 38 teachers and administrators at 14 schools in the Atlanta area. The deadline for the contest is December 1<sup>st</sup> and the winners are announced in the early spring. Last year the state of Georgia had seven winners and of these seven, three are from Atlanta. The last two seminars had to be canceled due to Covid but the national committee is hoping to plan either one large seminar or more than one to bring winners from the last two years as well as this year's winners to Washington. The NSCDA website has detailed information.

Helen then gave us a report on our adopted guide dog Dame. Dame is one of America's VetDogs. The America's VetDog program was created by the Guide Dog Foundation in 2003. It is a fully accredited national veterans' support program that provides service dogs to hundreds of veterans, active duty military and first responders who have incurred a disability resulting from their military service. It costs over \$ 50,000.00 to breed, raise, train and place one assistance dog. The dogs are provided at no charge to the individual veteran. Dame was born this summer and is in Athens, Georgia. The University of Georgia has the largest organization of puppy raisers for the Guide Dog Foundation. The name of the organization is DAWGS raising DOGS. It is student volunteers who are tasked with socializing and training eight week old puppies taking them everywhere until they are ready to return to the Guide Dog Training Facility in Smithtown, N.Y. for their formal training.

### **TOWN CHAIR'S REPORT**

Nancy called on vice-chair, Dr. Helen Funk McSwain, who reported that there is a field trip to the High Museum to see the Nellie Mae Rowe exhibit followed by lunch. This will be November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am and will be a docent led tour. Nellie Mae Rowe was an African American woman folk artist who was born in 1900 in Fayette County and lived the last fifteen years of her life on Paces Ferry Road in Vinings. It should be an interesting and fun event!

Nancy offered congratulations to Mrs. Hugh Buchanan Gage (Alice) who has just been named Our Lady of Dumbarton and will represent the state of Georgia at the national level.

Nancy thanked Mrs. John Gideon Morris (Christy) and Mrs. John Trevor Woodhams (Jane) for planning a wonderful fall cocktail party and thanked Alice Gage who received the RSVPs. She especially thanked Mrs. Franklin Howard Reese (Loulie) for opening her lovely home and also thanked Terry Vawter for her help with the party. There were 100 people in attendance and it was enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be a voting meeting at the Capital City Club on January 20, 2022. Forms to propose women to become a Dame are in the back of the room and should be turned in to Nancy no later than December 15, 2021 at 6 pm. Nancy then gave rules for proposing and endorsing a candidate.

Nancy thanked the meeting hostess chair, Mrs. William Jackson Tribble (Nanky), and her team of hostesses today: Mrs. Robert Jones Lindgren (Mary), Mrs. Thomas Edward Watson (Mary) and Mrs. Graydon Boyd Leake (Caroline).

Nancy thanked Fluffie McDuffie for the beautiful flower arrangements at the luncheon tables. She also thanked the committee who helped organize this meeting: Mrs. Henry McKemie Wyche (Ellen Adair), Mrs. Calvin Scott Akers III (Hampton) and Mrs. William Lewis Bost III (Helen).

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:45 AM and a light lunch was served for those Dames who wanted to stay.

Respectfully submitted,  
Henny Welchel  
Recording Secretary