

National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association

Report of the Chair for October 11, 2003 to March 31, 2004

The formative meeting of the W3R-US took place during the last 15 minutes of a meeting of W3R leaders from most of the states along the route. The officers were given broad authority to act. In the past five months it has been my pleasure to chair an effective team that accomplished the following tasks:

- make information on the W3R-US along with legislative and NPS efforts readily available to the public - developed a forty-page Web site
- develop a short, clear, and effective statement of W3R goals and programs - done in Dec
- determine a management structure suited to those goals and programs - done in Nov
- draw up and file Articles of Incorporation - completed in January
- establish Bylaws - completed in January
- secure 26 more directors (to make 40) from all nine states - completed in March
- secure 20 community leaders for a strong Honorary Board - completed in March
- help initiate state W3R committees in states without one - most now have a team form committees and initiate activity as suggested by the state reports and brainstorming workshop on Oct 11 - see committee Web page
- secure initial funding from dues and donations - half done by March, ongoing file for 501(c)3 status so as to be able to apply for foundation funding
 - expect to file in April, annual projected budgets of \$27,000 to \$97,000 (2006)
- develop a schedule of events that flow along the "chain of pearls" - helped to coordinate a number of independent efforts and stimulated and endorsed work on some new events -- historian hikes, auto tours, Scout trails, a series of paintings, a musical, a youth relay, sequential re-enactment schedules, lecture presentations
- stimulate, create, endorse, and support publications - encouraging and supporting brochures, booklets, reports, textbooks, and videos that will draw people to the route and help them view the W3R as a sequence of related sites with interesting and educational tales.
- meet with W3R-France leaders to discuss plans and opportunities for joint efforts

We have had to move quickly because the lead time for obtaining a grant is often three months, the lead time for planning many events is 12 months. We have only 15 months to the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the French Expeditionary Force in Newport and only 30 months left until the 225th anniversary of the victory at Yorktown.

I thank the W3R-US officers (Jacques Bossiere, Kim Burdick, Ed Greenawald, Ray Hester, Jim Johnson), Nominating Committee (There Fiechter, Caroline Lareuse, Jim McCafferty), and others (Fred Allen, Lee Anderson, Serge Gabriel, Roseanna Gorham, Marolyn Paulis, Tom Reed, Robert Selig, Richard Simone, David Wagner, Jack Warren) for the many volunteer hours they donated to create a nine-state organization that is now ready to provide interesting and educational experiences for the next three years and to leave a lasting legacy of saved sites, research reports, trail markers, and educational materials.

--- Ralph D. Nelson, Jr.