

W3R-US 3rd Annual National Leadership Meeting Minutes

April 28-29, 2006 New Castle, Delaware

Friday 28 April 2006

Dr. Jacques Bossiere, Chairman and Mrs. Ralph Burdick (Kim), Co-Chairman, called meeting to order at 1.00PM. There was an introduction of those attending, followed by an update from National Park service on study process and transmitting the study to Congress for NHT designation. Resource study, public involvement and participation were discussed, as well as crafting public outreach strategy. The NPS panel was coordinated by Julie Bell of NPS Rivers & Trails, Philadelphia. Her guest speakers were Karen Votava, Executive Director of East Coast Greenway, and Cathleen Litvack, of New Jersey's Crossroads of the American Revolution Heritage Area. Both of these projects are similar in nature to W3R and will serve as role models for W3R once the federal legislation passes. The meeting adjourned at 4.00PM

A seven course 18th century dinner was served in the evening with entertainment featuring Aaron Bradford as Joseph Plumb Martin, Kathy and Nathan Bradford, and Carl Closs as General George Washington. A crystal bowl made in Sweden was presented to Kim Burdick as appreciation for her outstanding contribution to W3R-USA --- (Delaware was at its origin a swedish colony).

Saturday 29 April

Dr. Jacques Bossiere, Chairman, called meeting to order at 9.15AM. A Talisman interactive kiosk demonstration was given by Craig Johnson. This interactive kiosk is a "virtual" visitor center, a multi-faceted project. This the pilot project was funded by Delaware General Assembly with an additional grant for a related website provided by the Delaware Department of Tourism. Each W3R Statewide chairman was encouraged to address their own state legislature and department of tourism for funding and in-kind services.

Following a break for lunch, there was a roll call of the States; answering the call were: Bobbi Britton (W3R-DE), Sally de Barcza (W3R-NJ), Jean Hultgren (W3R-DE), Kim Burdick (W3R-DE), Jim Raleigh (W3R-NJ), Win Carroll(W3R-PA), Robert Reyes (W3R-MD), Betty Jane Gerber (W3R-DC), Carl Nittinger (W3R-NJ), Nat Howell (W3R-Central VA), Julie Bell (NPS), Jan Smulcer (W3R-Houston, TX), Donna Passwore (VTH-Classroom), Kevin Vincent (W3R-Virginia), Serge Gabriel (W3R-CT), Jacques Bossiere, Ursula Reed (W3R-PA), Veronica Eid (W3R-DE), Nicole Yancey (W3R-Hampton Roads VA).

Each state chair gave a report, which are attached to these minutes, with the exception of Rhode Island and Massachusetts who were not represented. Of remarkable interest was W3R-CT's Chairman Serge Gabriel's report on Connecticut's 12 outdoor markers along 420 miles and 15 W3R house markers for sites on the National Register in Connecticut. Some highlights are as follows:

A "Patriots week-end" is being planned July 21-25 in New York State at Wechester County Park

Delaware will hold its Revolutionary Weekend celebration September 28 - October 1.

In New Jersey, Burlington Co. is planning a 2-year event in Morristown.

B.J. Gerber discussed plans in progress for week-end celebration in Washington prior to the celebration in Yorktown of the 225th anniversary of the victory. There will be the dedication of the "Lauzun Legion Bridge" on P. Street in Georgetown (which was a cavalry troop camp), a wreath laying ceremony at LaFayette park (across from the White House) and a parade along Pennsylvania Avenue up to the US Capitol. The project also should include a luncheon at the Anderson House, a service at the Cathedral, and a concert at the Kennedy Center.

Nicole Yancey presented the official program of the Yorktown commemoration;

Serge Gabriel proposed and NJ seconded "that every W3R State chairman will ask their joint legislature to issue a proclamation recognizing October the 19th as "Yorktown Day".

A minute of silence was requested in memory of Gail Stern, PhD., honorary board member. (W3R-NJ).

An impressive VTH presentation was made by Donna Passmore and Jan Smulcer who travelled from Houston, Texas to explain their outstanding teaching tool, a sort of education through animation.

A financial statement - January 1, 2005 to April 28, 2006 was given by the treasurer, Carl Nittinger. Total income was \$3,610.00, Total expense was \$376. With a beginning balance of \$973.78, the amount of the ending balance is \$4,207.28

Thomas J. Reed, Esq., answered several legal questions and reminded the group that when W3R-USA was incorporated it became a 501 c-3 nonprofit and sought exemption on taxes. Guidelines were given for each state to attain a piggyback exemption for use of the national tax ID.

Motion was passed for the 2006-2007 slate of officers with the exception of Danielle Easton-Thomas, former Honorary Consul who is retiring. Michael Scullin, Esq will take her spot. Motion was passed thanking those rotating off the board and commemorating "passing the torch" to the Class of 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 4PM.

Respectfully submitted
Nicole Yancey