

**VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION**  
**Report of the Executive Committee**

Speaker of the House of Delegates William J. Howell, Chairman

June 16, 2009

Executive committee members present: Speaker William J. Howell, Senator Charles J. Colgan, Sr., Delegate Algie T. Howell, Jr., Dr. Paul A. Levengood, and Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. (by teleconference).

**Staff Reports**

*Cheryl Jackson, Executive Director*

I. 2010 Signature Conference: *“Race, Slavery and the Civil War: The Tough Stuff of American History”*

Ms. Jackson informed the committee that Dr. James O. Horton has accepted the offer to chair the 2010 Signature Conference, and presented an initial proposal. A tentative title for the program is *“Race, Slavery and the Civil War: The Tough Stuff of American History,”* and the format would be morning and afternoon panel discussions. Dr. Horton is lining up top academic and public historians to participate, and a full proposal will be forthcoming. However, there is an incompatibility between Dr. Horton's availability and Hampton University's open dates for the conference. Due to an ongoing commitment to teach at the University of Hawaii each spring semester, Dr. Horton is available only in the summer or fall months. Representatives of Hampton University have, however, affirmed on several occasions that the university can only host the conference during the week of April 14, and suggested that another chairman be approached.

Dr. Levengood stated that Dr. Horton is well-respected, well-known, and will continue to uphold the high standard set by Dr. Ayers at the Commission's first Signature Conference. He further stated that Dr. Horton is the perfect person to chair the conference and that the Executive Committee should do anything it can to secure his participation.

Speaker Howell recapped the discussion by stating that, (i) because Hampton University can not host the conference in the summer or fall of 2010; (ii) because Dr. Horton is available only in the summer or fall; and (iii) because of Dr. Horton's outstanding reputation and the fact that he has been highly recommended by members of the Commission and Advisory Council, the Commission should consider pursuing a different venue for the 2010 Signature Conference.

Delegate A. T. Howell made a motion that the Commission approach Norfolk State University as the new host of the 2010 Signature Conference. The motion was seconded by Senator Colgan and passed unanimously.

II. Post-conference Summary - *America on the Eve of the Civil War*, April 29, 2009,

University of Richmond

Ms. Jackson reviewed a post-conference summary that staff has developed, as well as a highly complimentary article that Dr. David Blight wrote for the June 1 edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, "The Civil War Sesquicentennial : the Goal Should be an Enlightening Commemoration." Ms. Jackson also reviewed a table outlining the overwhelmingly positive comments and feedback the Commission has received regarding the conference. A two-volume DVD set of conference proceedings will be available for purchase within a month.

### III. Schedule for Joint Meeting at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, June 25, 2009

Ms. Jackson went over the schedule for the joint meeting with the West Virginia Commission being held in Harper's Ferry. The morning tours will include a signing ceremony related to a land transfer between the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Harper's Ferry National Historical Park, as well as a demonstration of a student service project sponsored by The Journey Through Hallowed Ground. The joint meeting, which the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate of West Virginia are expected to attend, will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Mather Training Center.

### IV. Manassas 2011 Plans

The local sesquicentennial committees of Prince William-Manassas-Manassas Park have joined with a group of community leaders to develop plans for a commemorative event in July 2011, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas. Senator Colgan, Delegate Lingamfelter and Ms. Jackson will meet with the group on Friday, and staff will keep the Commission informed of the plans.

### V. Consideration of Applications to Affix Logo

In accordance with the procedure established by the Executive Committee, Ms. Jackson presented a list of applications to affix the Commission's logo that have been pre-approved by staff. This list included the following: (1) Chesterfield County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee (brochures); (2) Greater Fredericksburg Tourism Partnership (website); (3) Winchester-Frederick County Sesquicentennial Committee (invitation to event and print materials); and (4) Fairfax County Park Authority (newsletter). Senator Colgan moved that the pre-approved applications be given final approval by the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Delegate Howell and passed unanimously.

Discussion was held among committee members regarding approving applications to affix logo when event itself is not funded by a grant of the Commission. Dr. Levengood asked whether the committee thought that allowing groups to affix the Commission logo to event materials necessarily conveyed the Commission's endorsement or could it simply be a demarcation of a commemoration event? Speaker Howell, Senator Colgan and Dr.

Robertson all commented that the logo clearly indicates Commission endorsement of an event but does not necessarily indicate that it is a funding source. In response to a question, the committee agreed that it is not necessary to include language in the Memorandum of Understanding that states use of the Commission logo does not indicate endorsement of the event, as the intent is to control the use of its logo and prohibit groups from using it without Commission approval.

Senator Colgan moved that the following pending applications to affix logo be approved by the committee: (1) History Museum of Western Virginia (website; print materials); and (2) Museum of the Confederacy (print materials and advertisements). The motion was seconded by Delegate Howell and passed unanimously.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Pam Seay, Vice President for Advancement with the Virginia Historical Society, was recognized by the chairman. Ms. Seay asked if the Commission would like for her to make preliminary contact with the Norfolk Foundation regarding possible funding of the 2010 conference given that the host venue will likely be in that area. The Executive Committee agreed and thanked Ms. Seay for her assistance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.