

VIRGINIA BICENTENNIAL OF THE WAR OF 1812 COMMISSION

Staff Report: Evaluation of the Legacy Symposium Fort Monroe and Hampton University June 19-21, 2014 Hampton, Virginia

Tasks Performed by Commission Staff:

- Coordinated with and provided information requested to Commission partners and the symposium coordinator throughout the planning and execution processes
- Consolidated Commission's mailing lists from prior bicentennial events
- Invited General Assembly members, protocol individuals, and other persons on the Commission's mailing lists to the Legacy Symposium
- Designed and printed the Symposium flyer and program
- Printed speakers' presentations
- Requested and assembled give-a-ways
- Drafted and distributed contracts and Contributors' Agreements
- Processed donations, W-9s, teacher stipends, and invoices received to date

Symposium Follow Up Tasks by Commission Staff

- Preparing thank you letters to Symposium participants, partners, and IRS acknowledgement letters to donors
- Preparing to send the evaluation form to teachers and museum educators
- Preparing for September audit

Fundraising Campaign for Symposium

Ann Kirwin, Symposium Coordinator, reported \$8,500 in pledges and the donation of wine from the Virginia Wine Wholesalers Association. Of the pledges made, the Commission's fiscal officer has received donations of \$1,000 from Christian & Barton, LLP and \$500 from the Virginia Maritime Association, Inc.

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| • Dominion | \$2,500 |
| • Christian & Barton, LLP | \$1,000 |
| • McGuire Woods | \$1,000 |
| • Delegate Christopher K. Peace | \$1,000 |
| • Newport News Shipbuilding | \$1,000 |
| • Norfolk Southern | \$1,000 |
| • Vectre Corp | \$ 500 |
| • Virginia Maritime Association, Inc. | \$ 500 |

Total Pledges	\$8,500
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Department of Education's Evaluation of Symposium

Dr. Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction, is represented on the Commission by Betsy S. Barton, History and Social Studies Specialist, for the Department of Education. Ms. Barton reported that comments from educators concerning the symposium were extremely favorable and "they look forward to completing the evaluation tool to share their responses to the sessions and the overall event. The teachers and museum attendees look forward to the sessions from the conference being posted online as well as the videos of the sessions." The feedback should be very valuable to the Commission and Department in planning future events for teachers. An example of the email responses to Ms. Barton is below.

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Ms. Betsy Barton,

I appreciated the entire weekend of speakers and musical talent that was created for the symposium. I learned a lot of valuable information that I can take back to my classroom and share with my students.

I would like to send a proper thank you note to the presenters. Can you please send me the names and addresses of the people who helped create this amazing experience, as well as the historian that presented at the symposium? In addition, I would also like the names and addresses of the people that should be thanked for wonderful musical performance that just enhanced the experience we enjoyed during the Legacy Symposium-War of 1812.

I enjoyed meeting you. I am glad a “teacher” is leading the way in the Virginia Department of Education for History and Social Science.

Sincerely,

Donna Murray Clark

Robert E. Lee High School

In addition, educators would like an opportunity to personally extend their appreciation for the Symposium to Delegate Cox and have requested that they be notified of future events and activities of the Commission. Ms. Barton, the Commission’s Facebook page administrator, has posted photographs from the Symposium to Facebook and 685 persons have “liked” the recent posts. Teachers who attended the Symposium and are also a part of the Department’s History and Social Studies SOL review this week have lauded Commission members and speakers and have commended the Symposium to colleagues.

Commission Fiscal Status

According to Caryl Harris, the Division of Legislative Services and the Commission’s fiscal officer, “the June 30 balances are: GF - \$10,964.84 and SF - \$9,461.38. The fiscal office has processed vouchers totaling \$1,149.79 for the Symposium from the 2015 appropriation, leaving a balance of \$22,230.21. The special funds have not been allotted. They are the funds that take a while for DPB to allot.

To date the Commission has received \$1,000 from Peter Broadbent of Christian & Barton and \$500 from the Virginia Maritime Association (this check has not been deposited as it was received after the final bank deposits were made on June 30th). Thirty-two (32) teacher stipends (\$1,600) have been received and processed from 2014 special fund balances. Any additional requests for the payment of stipends that may be received now will be paid out of the GF and then reimbursed once the SF monies are available. The audit is scheduled for the middle of September.”

Future Commission Bicentennial Commitments

The Commission has committed to supporting the Alexandria bicentennial events in August/September financially and with its attendance. The Commission has committed \$1,000 to the Alexandria Bicentennial of the War of 1812. A presentation will be given at this meeting by Ms. Gretchen Bulova concerning the Alexandria Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

The final bicentennial event, the laying of the memorial to honor Virginians who fought during the War of 1812 and are buried in Fort Meigs, Ohio, will be held in 2015 in Fort Meigs, Ohio. Mr. Patrick Farriss will provide an update on discussions with the state of Ohio and responsibilities of the Commission. This event must take place after the 2015 Reconvened Session and before June 30, 2015; therefore, a date must be selected quickly as possible in order that plans and fundraising for the memorial, if necessary, might ensue promptly. The Ohio event will conclude the Virginia bicentennial and the Commission will expire on June 30, 2015.

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