

**Women of Virginia,
Commemorative Commission
September 6, 2011**

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Secretary Hicks-Thomas
Senator Whipple
Mrs. Em Bowles Locker Alsop
Mrs. Mary Blanton Easterly
Jacqueline Cook Hedblom
Mrs. Mary Abel-Smith
Kitty Claiborne

Delegate Massie
Susan Schaar
Paul Nardo
Sandra G. Treadway
Rita McClenny
James E. Wootton
Alice Lynch

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Hicks-Thomas. Commission members introduced themselves and Secretary Hicks-Thomas welcomed those members attending for the first time. Minutes of the last meeting on June 14, 2011 were corrected and adopted. A revised copy of the minutes will be sent to the members. Secretary Hicks-Thomas commended the members for their team effort. She further asked that if approached by the press for an interview, to run it by her office so that it can be presented to and approved by the Commission first.

Secretary Hicks-Thomas stated that in addition to the mission statement that was adopted at the last meeting, Ms. Alsop had proposed a Call to Action statement for consideration by the Commission. The statement would be sent out to various groups to inform them of the existence of the project and to elicit interest in the proposed Monument and to encourage citizens to come out and voice their opinions at the public forums. The statement was reviewed by the Commission and after several recommended edits, a final version was agreed upon and will be part of the presentation at the public forums. The revised copy will be sent to the members.

Alice Lynch reported on the fundraising subcommittee. She reported that the initial fundraising was a success and that there is a "nice" cushion. She mentioned that there are other interested donors and suggested the Commission reach national media with the press releases.

Secretary Hicks-Thomas discussed the Public Outreach Subcommittee and schedule for Statewide Public Forums. She asked Susan Schaar and Paul Nardo to serve with her on the subcommittee. She proposed the feasibility of having the statewide public forums within the next 60 days. Susan Schaar added that it could be done with the assistance of the Senate and House Clerks Committee Operations staff. Susan Schaar suggested the forums be held in Northern Virginia, Tidewater, Richmond, Southside and Southwestern VA, locations similar to those used for redistricting earlier this year. She also mentioned the sites for the forums should be locations where there would not be a fee for using the facility. After discussion, it was agreed to that a press release announcing the forums would be ready no later than September 30 with the forums being held after that. It was noted that Susan Schaar and Paul Nardo would write the press release and that their offices would absorb the costs.

Alice Lynch agreed to be the keeper of contact lists and encouraged members to submit names of key individuals or various organizations not only in Virginia, but nationally as well that should

be contacted regarding the forums. The commission members were asked to provide her with specific groups to contact and to include men's organizations as well.

After discussion, the Commission agreed that it would be more prudent to have one facilitator/moderator for all of the forums. It was brought up that the Commission members could help with communication and that the time of the forums should be spaced to capture a larger audience, i.e., one during the day and one in the evening in certain venues.

Jacqueline Hedblom, head of the Consultant Search subcommittee reported that Dean Seipel recommended Sally Lamb Bowring as a potential consultant. She is with the VCU Art Department. The members agreed that a paid consultant was not necessary at this time, but would be needed at a later date.

Rita McClenny stated that she has someone from her office that could write the RFP when the time came to procure an artist.

A handout was provided by Secretary Hicks-Thomas, titled "Suggested tasks to be tackled." The Commission had previously touched on several of the tasks listed. The site for the Monument has been selected and approved by General Services. The site selection needs to be presented to the Joint Rules Committee for approval, hopefully before the election.

The topic of having an interactive kiosk or some other type of technology (smart tags, etc.) as a part of the Monument was discussed. The Commission will look into the rules which apply to the amount of allowable space for the kiosk. The Commission agreed that there also needs to be a way to communicate with those who are not technically savvy.

Secretary Hicks-Thomas asked Sandra Treadway to serve on a subcommittee to research and establish criteria for inclusion on the Monument. Jim Wootton offered to assist. Secretary Hicks-Thomas suggested establishing a high level selection panel" to vet recommendations. Jim Wootton suggested contacting historians at the various institutions, i.e., William & Mary, Virginia Tech, UVA, University of Richmond. Sandra Treadway said she would provide lists of various libraries.

Sponsoring Committee Remarks were provided by Mrs. Em Bowles Alsop. Mrs. Alsop espoused on the female pioneers of the 18th Century and on the contributions of Marsha Washington, Dolly Madison and Edith Wilson, wives of three Virginia presidents. She suggested that the Monument should represent symbolic as well as specific important women.

The next meeting of the Commission is set for Monday, November 21, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

Secretary Hicks-Thomas said the report to the General Assembly was due December 1, 2011.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.