

Meeting Minutes America 250 Committee 8th meeting

Monday January 19, 6-7 PM

Next Meeting – Monday February 16 @6:30 PM

1. **Committee Attendees:** Committee Cochairs Michon Blake (OSPAC) and Tiffany Stanton ran the meeting), Joyce Snyder and Kristin Warner (Supervisor Liaisons), Nancy Becker (PC), Michael Lewis (American Legion- Hatfield), Victor Verbeke (SAR & Montgomery Historical Society)

Guests: Bonny Forbes (Civil War infantry), Grace Seelig (DAR), Holly Hayick (DAR), Joanne R. Cowles (Dar)

Absent: Katie Cleary (Events), Molly Jobson (Morgan Log House Director), Stacy Spizziri (Sr Vice Commander Chaplin) and Emma Hodgson (DAR & Morgan Log President)

Michon opened the meeting with a request for approval of last month's – meeting #7 minutes. Nancy motioned, Michael seconded and all said yes.

Michon and Tiffany set the focus for this and the February meetings to prioritize activities, narrow the brainstorming to a chosen list of events. Beginning in March they'd like to firm up any lingering ideas and eliminate those not yet confirmed. Once finalized the committee will create the timeline and an events map. Invites should be mailed by early March, and volunteers will be sought and signed up by April – May.

1. **Promotion and Invites:**

- A. Per Katie email "**Save the Date**" letters in proclamation style were sent to about 30 local elected and neighboring Townships. Plus, our police, fire, Ladies' auxiliary and local scout troops. She sent a slightly altered version to the list of local historical societies. All chosen / confirmed in a separate zoom meeting with Joyce and Kristin.
- B. As **Katie** had suggested, the **formal invite** will be produced and sent **by the** end of the **first quarter** of the new year.
- C. **Per Michael** – the NPHS ROTC leader has requested formal invitation. He shared with Tiffany a contact name and number. Michael will reach out to his Legion

D. **Kristin** is filling out the forms required to alert Senators Fetterman and McCormick, the 3 County Commissioners and Madeline Dean of our event.

2. **Drone show**- Having confirmed that at least 100 drone show will close our evening, talk was of possible sponsorship to increase the number of drones to a larger amount.

A. The Committee decided that sponsorship levels would be offered:

\$300-\$500 Bronz* (Business mentioned in opening comments)

\$1000 Silver *(Business on our Promotional Banner + read in opening

\$2500 Gold* (Business Logo at the opening of Drone show, on banner + read in opening ceremony)

- Katie has since created a sponsorship flyer (see attached)

B. Michon researched how many drones Upper Gwynedd have had in their recent shows- she reported back that they used 100 and found it to be a great show.

Discussion & Update on Activities:

A. **Petting Zoo**- The committee unanimously chose to contract the petting zoo for \$2,750.00 (including a Peruvian Alpaca, miniature Sicilian Donkey, several Woolly Sheep, little Goats, soft Bunnies, Ducks, several exotic Chickens and Indian Fantails. Plus: hand sanitizer, staff, and their own fencing) rather than offering pony rides for the following reasons: 1) more variety of animals should eliminate the long line pony rides would inevitably create, 2) Petting zoos are fun for young, old and in between and 3) Zoo is \$425 lower in price.- Katie reported back that she communicated our choice to the company she sourced – they are just starting to set their calendar and will confirm if they are available soon. Katie feels positive.

Face Painting:

The committee voted unanimously for two face painters at a total cost of \$700

C. Games-

- **13 Colonies Trivia**- The DAR members in attendance were very enthusiastic about being included in a trivia game (being assigned a question and answer) at a table they may host*

*The Glitch for the DAR is that their National Convention in Washington DC is already scheduled for that same week. Holly and Grace will have to determine if there are any local members not attending the DAR convention and could join our event. TBD

- Multiple (how many to be determined at a future meeting) **Shut the box & Cornhole** games will be offered for play

D. Crafts:

- **Ball and Cup** (save your cardboard egg cartons and possibly popsicle sticks),
- **Potato Stamps** (Molly suggested we acquire small plastic cookie cutters assigning this craft to a girlscout troop and have this table next to or combined with **letters to Veterans**. Kristin spoke with Tracy Pennycuick who will share a link or address of where to send letters. Informally she's penciled the date on her calendar and will make every effort to attend.
- **Cornhusk Dolls** - Nancy has secured corn husks from a local farmer. Kristin will illicit Molly's assistance in the new year to create an example doll.
- **Tri-corner hats** Kristin found a you tube video to share at the February meeting that shows how to create origami sized hats using a single piece of construction paper. Another option would be to collect used newspapers to create the size that can be worn. Either way the committee liked the idea of adding this make and take craft. Possible girl scouts or key club could man this craft table.
- Pass the word – Collect your newspapers

E. **Founder Performers:** Katie will add a column to Tiff's excel sheet showing what contracts have been signed.

Uncle Sam on Stilts – Contract signed- Michon

Betsy Ross- Contract signed- Michon & Katie

Ben Franklin – Contract signed- Michon & Katie

Ned Hector – Michon is finalizing contract with Noah and based on his usually being on stage will suggest a table or some other station set up to accommodate his form.

George and Martha – Molly shared a couple of George and Martha options that Michon and / or Tiffany will follow up on.

Civil War Reenactors: Bonny will reach out to her Civil War reenactors for participation. She suggested 8-12 Infantry that would possibly set up a tent or two.

The Committee loved this idea. Bonny liked the idea of the Civil war soldiers having a trivia question.

Victor- Makes no promises but shared that his SAR higher ups were not only considering coming / participating in the opening Ceremony for our June 25 th event but also **possibly they would host a Memorial Service that afternoon at General Nash's Graveside**. Joyce and Kristin said they thought the Township (especially the Veterans committee) would love to participate. All the committee liked the idea.

F. **Paul Revere Story time** -The idea of this story or some other for small children was not discussed in this truncated meeting. Should be decided in the next.

G. **Food** – Katie shared that she typically charges \$150 per truck and has secured an American Barbecue that will include Hotdogs and Hamburgers to go along with the Italian and Mexican previously confirmed. It was discussed that maybe at least one other American offering be sought.

- The option of a Pie table is still up in the air. Per email, Katie spoke with Hennings Bakery they prefer us to buy from them and then we sell how we like. Best to discuss at the next meeting.

H. **Volunteers**- **Scouts**, **Key club**, and **ROTC** advisors have all been reached out to and are poised for participation. Katie will contact Key Club to finalize our specific

requests for each closer to April / May. **Michael** shared his contact for **ROTC** w/ Tiff to send a save the date.

I. **Color Guard Parade:** The Committee agreed that in addition to the SAR, DAR & CAR, we would invite the local Veterans, NPHS ROTC, & local Scout Troops to all join a Color Guard parade from top of drive down to the Arneith Sound Stage to open the ceremony beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of National Anthem. Tiffany suggested expanding the parade to continue all the way around the lower park loop. To be further discussed.

a) Victor had provided a trimmed Declaration which he emailed to Joyce and Krisitn – if read in Proclamation style, he believes a Jefferson persona would be best. It is @ 10 minutes still so may need more discussion as to what is read.

J. **Music:** 1) Contract is back for the Montgomery County Band as a definite from 7PM-9PM
2) Nancy offered to reach out to her contact (from ISF) for Dock HS Choir to ask if they would perform patriotic songs from @5:45=@6:30 including possibly the National Anthem at our opening. The committee agreed this option would offer a different type of music entertainment, involve Dock in a Township event (We invite NPSD groups every year for our Holiday celebration) and allow easier transition to the Montco Band. No instruments just the kids and a few mics.

1. **Bussing** – All were concerned with the increase in cost for King Limo – The committee decided to have Katie pursue either all 3 busses with Metz or a combo including Michon's find, Tropicano. It was discussed that we could eliminate the offer of a handicap bus since Fisher's has a large supply of handicapped spaces. Going straight to Fisher's would be the simplest option rather than transferring on and off of a bus.

2. **Budget** – Approved as submitted at the 12/10 BOS meeting.

Additional Needs: Must discuss and fulfill

Katie will request an upgraded sound system to rent. Kristin brought it up at a Finance Committee meeting. Dave Kraynik suggested we look at rental costs first but investment into owning a better sound system could also be evaluated.

Katie also thinks at least one additional light tower is needed and has already been priced at \$125.00

*Securing more Characters may exceed what was budgeted but not by a lot and could be offset by donation. Worst case it was explained that a budget overage request can be presented at a future finance committee meeting and If need be, voted on by the Board at a Supervisor's Meeting.

3. **Timeline**: The committee agreed that creating a "map of times" for the evening will have to be done closer to as specifics of each gets nailed down.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Warner

(Supervisor Liaison)