

PENNSYLVANIA ABOLITION SOCIETY GOVERNORS' RETREAT
Thursday, July 19, 2012, 2:00 – 5:00, 6399 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia

A G E N D A

1) Welcome and review of purpose of retreat (2:00-2:15)

2) Meetings, Annual Meeting Date and Time (and format): Is a midday meeting as convenient a time now as it was a century or more ago? Might we increase interest and attendance by changing the time? (2:15-2:40)

- Section 3
- Section 4 (includes meeting notices)
- Section 8 (meeting schedule and reporting)
- By-Laws, Article 3 (meeting schedule)
- By-Laws, Article 6

3) Membership procedures and dues. Currently a member must be proposed at one meeting and voted in at the next, and dues are \$1. (2:40-3:00)

- By-Laws, Article 2

Section 4 (number of members procedurally)

4) Matching corporate structure (especially tax status) to PAS mission. (3:00-3:30)

- Section 3 (Board of Managers and officers)
- Section 4 (disposition of rights and estate)
- Section 2 (limits on expenditures)

BREAK – 3:30-4:00 (we may continue with informal discussion during the break)

5) What type of organization will PAS be? Essentially grant making or other? (4:00-4:30)

- Section 3 and 4 (membership)

6) Business Manager's Duties and Responsibilities (4:30-4:40)

- Pay rate for committee and meetings for business manager functions

7) Wrap-Up and Next Steps (4:40-5:00)

Incorporation/By-Laws Discussion Items for Planning Retreat

1. **Limits on expenditures and transactions** (Section 2) - “not exceeding at any one time the yearly value of fifteen hundred pounds lawful of Pennsylvania in the whole.” – Today’s value= \$63,304.
2. **Treasurer’s duties** (Section 3) – “keeper of the common seal”.
3. **Size of the Board of Managers** (Section 3) – Society’s officers and “four other members of said Society, all of whom shall be chosen annually by ballot of a majority of votes”
4. **Annual Meeting** (Section 3) – “held the last fifth day (Thursday) of the Fourth month (April) in every year or at such other time and at such place as said Society shall by their rules and orders direct and appoint.” (Section 4) - “Society shall and may hold one Annual Meeting as provided for in section 3 at such place and hour of the day they may agree unto in every year forever hereafter, and may adjourn said Annual Meeting from time to time, and shall and may hold such other special meetings as the Society by their rules and orders shall direct and appoint...”
5. **Meeting notice requirement** (Section 4) – “...special meetings notice shall be given in two of the public newspapers printed in the city of Philadelphia, at least ten days before the special meetings or adjournments thereof...”
6. **Election of Officers** (Section 4) – “...a majority of voices determine to be right and proper.”
7. **Disposition of rights and estate** (Section 4) – “...at least 12 members shall be present at such meeting, and a majority of those present shall agree to the same...”
8. **Constitution of PAS, April 23, 1787** (Section 5) - Where is it?
9. **Interpretation of Authority in Act of Incorporation** (Section 7) – “That this act shall in all things be construed in the most favorable and liberal manner to and for the Society.”
10. **Meetings and Reporting** (Section 8) – “It shall be the duty of said board of Managers to meet at least once in three months, to supply any vacancy therein, to enact rules and regulations for the government thereof, to keep regular minutes of the proceedings, and the same to exhibit when required to the said Society, and to make an annual report to the said society.”
11. **Dues** (By-Laws, Article 2) – “From and after the first day of the First Month, 1902, each member shall pay into the Treasury one dollar a year on or before the Annual Meeting.” Today’s relative value: \$27.
12. **Board of Managers Meeting Schedule and Quorum** (By-Laws, Article 3) – “Regular meetings of the Board of Managers shall be held at the time of the Annual Meeting, and on the last Fifth day (Thursday) in the Seventh, Tenth and First Months.” (Article 6) – “Five members...shall form a quorum.”
13. **Revision of By-Laws** (Article 8) – “may be amended at any time by vote of the Board of Managers...”

AN ACT
To incorporate a Society by the name of
THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY
for
PROMOTING THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY,
AND FOR THE RELIEF OF FREE NEGROES
UNLAWFULLY HELD IN BONDAGE,
AND FOR
IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE AFRICAN
RACE

Section 1. WHEREAS—a voluntary society has for some years subsisted in this state, by the name and title of "The Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery, and the Relief of Free Negroes unlawfully held in Bondage," which has evidently co-operated with the views of the legislature, expressed in the act of this commonwealth, passed the first day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, entitled, "An Act for the gradual abolition of slavery," and a supplement thereto, passed the twenty-ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, entitled, "An Act to explain and amend an act, entitled an act for the gradual abolition of slavery."

And whereas this society have lately extended their plan so far as to comprehend within their intentions the improving the condition as well of those negroes who now are, or hereafter shall become, free, by the operation of the said acts, or otherwise, and their pos-

terity; and have, by their petition to this house, prayed to be created and erected into a body politic and corporate, for the purpose of increasing their ability to be useful in the several matters aforesaid.

Section 2. Be it therefore enacted, and it is hereby enacted, by representatives of the freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met, and by authority of the same, That the present members of the said Society, viz.—Dr. Benjamin Franklin et al.:

And such other person and persons as shall be hereafter mentioned, and their successors, be and they are hereby created and declared to be one body politic and corporate in deed and in law, by the name style and title of "The Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and for the Relief of Free Negroes unlawfully held in Bondage and for improving the condition of the African Race," and shall have perpetual succession, and shall be able to sue and be sued, implead, and be answered unto in all courts of law and equity, and to make, have and use one common seal to give authenticity to their acts, deeds, records and proceedings, and the same at their will and pleasure to break, alter, change and make anew, and to purchase, take and hold by gift, grant, demise, bargain and sale, will and devise, bequest, testament, legacy, or by any other mode of conveyance, any lands, tenements, goods, chattels, or estate, real, personal or mixed, or choses in action, not exceeding at any one time the yearly value of fifteen hundred pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania in the whole; and the same to give, grant, bargain, sell, demise, convey and assure to others for the whole or any lesser estate than they have in the same, in such manner and form as the said Society at their future meetings hereinafter described shall order

and direct; and to apply the rents, issues, and profits, income and interest of such estate, and the monies arising from the sales of any parts thereof, to the uses, ends, intents and purposes of their institution, according to the rules, orders, regulations, and constitution of the said society, now in force, or which, according to the provisions hereinafter made, shall from time to time be declared and ordained, touching and concerning the same, as fully and effectually as any natural person or body politic and corporate within this state, by the constitution and laws of this commonwealth, can do, and perform the like things.

Section 3. (As amended pursuant to decree of Court of Common Pleas No. 3, of Philadelphia County, March Term, 1900, No. 399.)

And be it further enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the officers of the said Society shall consist of one President, two Vice Presidents, one Secretary, one Treasurer, who shall also be keeper of the common seal, and so many counsellors as the said Society shall from time to time think proper to appoint and elect, and Board of Managers, composed of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the said Society and four other members of the said Society, all of whom shall be chosen annually by ballot of a majority of votes of the whole number of members who shall be present at the Annual Meeting, which shall be held on the last Fifth day (Thursday) of the Fourth month (April), in every year, or at such other time and at such place as the said Society shall by their rules and orders direct and appoint.

Section 4. (As amended pursuant to decree of Court of Common Pleas No. 3, of Philadelphia County, March Term, 1900, No. 399.)

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Society shall and may hold *one Annual Meeting as provided for in section 3* at such place and hour of the day as they may agree unto in every year forever hereafter, and may adjourn said *Annual Meeting* from time to time, and shall and may hold such other special meetings as the Society by their rules and orders shall direct and appoint, and shall and may hold such other meetings as the President of the said Society shall think necessary to call, or one of the Vice Presidents of the said Society, at the request of any six members thereof shall call, of which special meetings notice shall be given in two of the public newspapers printed in the city of Philadelphia, at least *ten* days before the time of any such meeting, at any of which *annual* or special meetings or adjournments thereof, it shall and may be lawful for the said Society, or so many of them as shall meet, by a majority of voices to agree, to ordain and to establish such by-laws, rules, orders and regulations as they shall judge necessary for the well-ordering and governing the said Society and for the well-managing the affairs thereof; and to fix and ascertain the terms and conditions upon which new members shall be admitted to the said Society and upon which former members may be removed, and to define and ascertain the duties of the several officers of the said Society, and for want of obedience in any of the officers of the said Society to remove and displace them and others to appoint, and generally to agree to, ordain and establish all such by-laws, rules, orders, and regulations for the well-governing of the said Society, for perpetuating a succession of its officers, and performing the duties they have undertaken, or shall undertake, as the said Society at any of their said *annual* meetings, or special meetings

and adjournments thereof, shall by a majority of voices determine to be right and proper. Provided always, nevertheless, that no real estate shall be disposed of, or the right and estate of the Society therein be lessened, or altered for the less, unless the President, or one of the Vice Presidents, and at least *twelve* members shall be present at such meeting, and a majority of those present shall agree to the same, and provided also that all and every the by-laws, rules, orders and regulations already enacted and made or hereafter to be enacted and made by the said Society be reasonable in themselves and not contradictory to the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth.

Section 5. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Constitution of "the Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and for the Relief of Free Negroes unlawfully held in Bondage," as enlarged at a meeting of the said Society held at Philadelphia, the twenty-third day of April, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and all rules, orders, regulations and proceedings made and had by the said Society in pursuance thereof, be and they are hereby declared to be in full force and binding upon the said Society, by this act, created and incorporated, until the same shall be repealed, altered or annulled at a quarterly or special meeting or adjournment thereof, to be held in pursuance of this act, as fully and effectually as if the same to be originally adopted by the said Society, hereby incorporated and created at one of their said meetings.

Section 6. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That until the next election which shall be held by the said Society in pursuance of this act, the said Benjamin Franklin shall be the President thereof, the

said James Pemberton and Jonathan Penrose shall be the Vice Presidents thereof, and the said Benjamin Rush and Caspar Wistar shall be the Secretaries thereof, the said James Starr shall be the Treasurer thereof, and William Lewis, Myers Fisher, William Rawle, and John D. Coxe shall be the counsellors thereof, and that all and every the committee and committees heretofore appointed by the said Society for promoting the abolition of slavery and for the relief of free negroes unlawfully held in bondage, shall be and continue to be the officers and committees of the said Society hereby created and incorporated, and shall report to, and account with the same, in the same manner, as they would have done to the former society in case this act had not been passed.

Section 7. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall in all things be construed in the most favourable and liberal manner to and for the Society, in order to effectuate the privileges hereby to them granted; and that no misnomer of the said corporation in any deed, will, testament, gift, grant, demise or other instrument of contract, or conveyance shall vitiate or defeat the same, if the said corporation shall be sufficiently described to ascertain the intent of the party or parties to give, devise, bequeath, convey, or assure to, or contract with the said corporation hereby created by the name aforesaid. Nor shall any non-uses of the said privileges hereby granted create any forfeiture of the same, but the same may be exercised by the said corporation, notwithstanding their failure to meet at any of the times herein specified, to hold their annual elections, the officers elected at any of the said annual elections, shall continue to hold and exercise their offices until others shall be duly elected

to succeed them, at some future meeting of the said corporation.

Signed by order of the House,

RICHARD PETERS, *Speaker.*

Enacted into a law at Philadelphia, on Tuesday, the eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

PETER ZACHARY LLOYD,
Clerk of the General Assembly.

Section 8. (Added pursuant to decree of Court of Common Pleas No. 3, of Philadelphia County, March term, 1900, No. 399). That it shall be the duty of the said Board of Managers to conduct all the business of the said Society (except the sale of real estate), to receive bequests, to sell securities other than real estate, and to invest and reinvest and keep invested the funds of the said Society and to provide all things necessary to carry into effect the object of the said Society, and to pay all the expenditures incurred in and about the premises; and it shall be the duty of said Board of Managers to meet at least once in three months, to supply any vacancy therein, to enact rules and regulations for the government thereof, to keep regular minutes of the proceedings, and the same to exhibit when required to the said Society, and to make an annual report to the said Society.

BY-LAWS

Adopted 4th Month 25th, 1901.

Article 1. MEMBERS. Any person, 21 years or over, of good character, desiring to promote the objects of the Society, shall be eligible to membership in it. To become a member, his or her name must be proposed at a meeting of the Board of Managers, or general

meeting of the Society, and must then receive a majority vote at a subsequent regular or special meeting of the Board or of the Society; but no person holding a slave shall be eligible to membership.

Article 2. DUES. From and after the first day of First Month, 1902, each member shall pay into the Treasury one dollar a year on or before the Annual Meeting; and a member who has not made this payment when the Annual Meeting convenes, shall be disqualified from voting thereat, and subsequently, upon due notice, his membership may be suspended by vote of the Board of Managers.

Article 3. REGULAR MEETINGS. Regular meetings of the Board of Managers shall be held at the time of the Annual Meeting, and on the last Fifth day (Thursday) in the Seventh, Tenth and First Months.

Article 4. SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings of the Board of Managers shall be called by the President, or, in his absence or inability, by either of the Vice Presidents, and the Secretary shall send written notices to the members of the Board.

Article 5. CHAIRMAN. The President, or, in his absence, one of the Vice Presidents, shall preside at each meeting of the Board of Managers, or, if they shall both be absent, a chairman pro-tem. shall be appointed.

Article 6. QUORUM. Five members of the Board of Managers shall form a quorum.

Article 7. ORDERS. Orders on the Treasurer for the payment of money shall be signed by the President, or chairman pro-tem., presiding at the meeting of the Board of Managers in which the payments were authorized, and attested by the Secretary of the meeting.

Article 8. AMENDMENTS. These BY-LAWS may be

amended at any time by a majority vote of the Board of Managers; but the change must have been proposed, in writing, at a previous meeting and notice thereof sent to each member of the Board of Managers.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Wm. M. Longstreth,	230 Chestnut Street, Phila., Pa.
CHAS. F. JENKINS,	Farm Journal, Phila., Pa.
ROBERT M. JANNEY,	1015 Penna. Building, Phila., Pa.
WILLIAM C. BIDDLE,	78 Reade Street, New York, N. Y.
ELMWOOD HERCOCK,	2027 N. College Ave., Phila., Pa.
* ALFRED MOORE,	618 No. American Bldg., Phila., Pa.
* THOMAS P. BASON,	3212 Baring St., Phila., Pa.
* ANNA M. JACKSON,	215 E. 15th St., New York, N. Y.
D. HENRY WRIGHT,	727 Walnut St., Phila., Pa.
SUSAN P. WHARTON,	910 Clinton St., Phila., Pa.
RICHARD R. WRIGHT, JR.,	631 Pine St., Phila., Pa.
* ELIZABETH LEVITT,	140 N. 15th St., Phila., Pa.
MARY R. LIVEZEY,	908 W. Marshall St., Norristown, Pa.
HOWARD C. ROBERTS,	513 W. Main St., Norristown, Pa.
BEVERLY JONES,	630 Chestnut St., Phila., Pa.
WALTER H. JENNINGS,	140 N. 15th St., Phila., Pa.
JOEL BOSTON,	133 S. 4th St., Phila., Pa.
ELLA R. BICKNELL,	1839 S. 57th St., Phila., Pa.
J. HENRY SCATTERGOOD,	648 Bourse Bldg., Phila., Pa.
ISAAC ROBERTS,	50 Beekman St., New York, N. Y.
HENRY FERRIS,	140 N. 15th St., Phila., Pa.
* ABEL P. CALDWELL,	1706 N. Woodstock St., Phila., Pa.
CHAS. FRED. WHITE,	1031 S. 18th St., Phila., Pa.
DR. CHAS. H. GODDENS,	N. W. Cor. 15th and Race Sts., Phila., Pa.
ROBERT BUNDLE,	Riverton, N. J.
* HENRY GAWITKOP,	Swarthmore, Pa.
GEORGE W. MITCHELL,	908 Walnut St., Phila., Pa.

“Am I not a man and a brother?”

PAS

PENNSYLVANIA ABOLITION SOCIETY
Organized 1775

MEMBERS GUIDE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA ABOLITION SOCIETY

Compiled by Theopolis Fair; Revised by the Board of Governors, April 2012

CONTENTS

1. Brief History of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society - pg. 2
2. The Pennsylvania Abolition Society Today - pg. 4
3. Charter and By-laws - pg. 5
4. Conflict of Interest - pg. 7
5. The Records of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society – pg 8
6. Grants - pg. 10

BRIEF HISTORY OF

**THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE ABOLITION OF
SLAVERY AND FOR THE RELIEF OF FREE NEGROES UNLAWFULLY HELD IN
BONDAGE AND FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE AFRICAN RACE**

The Pennsylvania Abolition Society had its origins in early anti-slavery activities of Philadelphia Quakers. The exhortations of John Woolman and Anthony Benezet had convinced many Friends that the egalitarian and humanitarian doctrines of Quakers must be extended to include the enslaved black man. It was Quaker conscience, rather than civic consciousness, that led Friends to form an abolition society in 1775.

Between 1775 and 1784, some programs initiated by the Abolition Society were continued by a few members acting as individuals. ...Not until 1784 did the few remaining members call a meeting for the reestablishment of the Society. Their motivation was a cause célèbre involving two free black men accused of being runaway slaves. In the summer of 1783, while awaiting trial in the Philadelphia Work House, these men unsuccessfully appealed to several influential citizens to act on their behalf. With no hope for assistance or a verdict in their favor, both men committed suicide rather than live as slaves. The immediate reaction in Philadelphia, especially among Friends, was one of shock and anger. None was more enraged by these events than Benezet, who, in the last few months of his life, publicized the circumstances behind the suicides. This action prompted Thomas Harrison, James Starr, Thomas Meredith, and seventeen others to call a meeting of the Society after nine years.

One of the Society's first acts was to organize its Standing Committee whose members devoted particular attention to manumissions, indentures, and petitions to the Confederation Congress.

From the moment of its reorganization the Society took on the pragmatic, nonsectarian cast that has characterized it since. The reorganized Society invited a number of non-Quakers to join and elected Benjamin Franklin, the president of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania and member of the Constitution Convention, as president. The broadened membership later included such well-known individuals as Tench Coxe, Thomas Paine, John Jay, Noah Webster, Dr. Benjamin Rush, and the Marquis de Lafayette. The new members brought not only credibility but a new, more pragmatic program to the Society. ...In 1787 it changed its name to [the current one]. Thus in a 1789 Address to the Public the Society noted that the newly emancipated black was "poor and friendless," and that "under such circumstances, freedom often proves a misfortune to himself, and prejudicial to society." Thus the Society intended to instruct, to advise, to qualify those who have been restored to freedom with the following purposes: for the exercise and enjoyment of civil liberty; to promote in them habits of industry; to furnish them

with employments...and to procure their children an education calculated for their future situation in life.

Because of its varied contacts, the Abolition Society was often called upon to act as guardian for manumitted blacks unprepared to live as free men...

During the last years of the eighteenth century, the Pennsylvania Abolition Society mounted an attack against the slave trade, and against slavery itself. In 1787 they memorialized the Federal Convention in Philadelphia requesting the termination of the slave trade. ...In 1789 the members of the Society had moved again to place the business of their organization on a more orderly footing. They secured a charter of incorporation from the State as The Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery, for the Relief of Free Negroes...

[After the Civil War] the Abolition of Slavery and the growth of free educational institutions for blacks achieved two of the goals of the Society. Consequently, its membership dwindled but did manage, however, to remain moderately active. In conjunction with the Pennsylvania Anti-slavery Society, support was voiced for the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870. The Society also campaigned against the exclusion of blacks from Philadelphia streetcars, and conducted surveys to determine whether discrimination existed in the public school system.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the Society increasingly became a source of funds for organizations and institutions that worked for the relief and education of blacks. It had always supported a number of worthy causes and institutions, but from 1880 on fell into the custom of regularly funding the Laing School in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. ...In 1894, a deed of trust to all the school's property was given to the Society. [This arrangement lasted until 1940 when the school and property was given to the State of South Carolina.]

...In the 1950's and an appeal from the Mercy-Douglas Hospital in Philadelphia brought a contribution allowing that institution to purchase much needed surgical instruments. Numerous black graduate students were encouraged with stipends to continue their education in social work. High school students were brought from the South and sponsored for their entire four years in college. Other grants were given to local Philadelphia organizations such as the Friends Neighborhood Guild and the Friendship House.

In its [more than] two-hundred year history the Pennsylvania Abolition Society has been undeniably pragmatic, but its commitment to "Improving the Condition of the African Race" has been consistent.

Taken from Jeffrey Nordlinger, A Guide to the Microfilm Publication of The Papers of The Pennsylvania Abolition Society at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania(1976)

See also Margaret Bacon, *History of the Pennsylvania for Promoting...* (Philadelphia, 1959).

THE PENNSYLVANIA ABOLITION SOCIETY TODAY

“The Abolition Society?” “Why does it still exist? “Isn’t slavery over?” These are questions people frequently ask when told one is a member of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society(PAS). The answer is quite simple. The PAS was founded for the three reasons that are part of its official name: The Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage, and for Improving the Condition of the African Race. The Society continues to work on the last goal. Today the Society uses interest collected on monies raised [before and] after the Civil War to offer grants to organizations fighting racism, poverty, drugs, improving education [and other activities used that benefit the African race]. ...The PAS created the Pennsylvania Abolition Society Fund at the Philadelphia Foundation, and groups requesting grants should apply through them.

PAS funded the placement of new markers on the graves of Robert Purvis, its first black member, and his wife, Harriet, at the Fair Hill Burial Ground.

Membership is open to anyone who is at least 21 years old, believes in the aims of the Society, is recommended by a board member, and is approved at the next annual meeting.

Taken from Theopolis Fair, “The Pennsylvania Abolition Society Today”, *Pennsylvania Legacies*, Volume 5, #2, November 2005, p. 26

CHARTER AND BY-LAWS

Every ten years the Secretary of the Commonwealth requires the “Decennial Report of Association Continued Existence” form to be filled out by all corporations. We last did so in June 2001. They will send the form to the treasurer.

Can only be changed by the Court of Common Pleas.

Section 3 (As amended by pursuant to decree of Court of Common Pleas #3 of Philadelphia county, March term 1900, #399.

The officers of the Society:

One President

Two Vice Presidents

One Secretary

One Treasurer, who should be keeper of the seal

Others as deemed necessary

Board of Managers consists of:

The officers named above and 4 other members

Election of Officers

To be chosen annually by ballot of a majority of votes of the whole number of members who shall be present *at the annual meeting to be held on the last fifth day (Thursday) of the fourth month(April) in every year* or at such other time and at a place as the said Society shall by their rules and orders direct and appoint.

Section8. (Added in 1900). That it shall be the duty of the...Board of Managers to conduct all the business of the...Society (except the sale of real estate, to receive bequests, to sell securities, and to invest and reinvest...and to make an annual report to the Society.

Several years ago the annual meeting voted to rotate Managers every 5 years. After one year off board, the person may be reelected. In other words—term limits.

BY-LAWS

Article 1. MEMBERS. *21 years old* and believe in mission. Come to a Meeting, receive a majority vote at a subsequent meeting **And** own no slaves. [Members who miss three consecutive Meeting without notification are no longer deemed Members]

2. DUES. One dollar on or before annual meeting.

3. REGULAR MEETINGS. Hold annual meeting last Thursday in April. The Board of Managers meets just before annual meeting and hold one other meeting in the fall (The two other meetings required by the charter and done by e-mail). Notice of annual meeting shall be given at least two weeks in advance.

4. SPECIAL MEETINGS. May be called

5. CHAIRMAN. The president, or, in his absence or inability of one of the vice presidents shall preside each meeting of the Board of Managers, or a president pro-tem, shall be appointed.

6. QUORUM. 5 members of the Board of managers.

7. ORDERS. Orders on the treasurer for the payment of money Shall be signed by the president, or chairman pro-tem, presiding at the of the Board of Managers in which the payments were authorized, and attested by the secretary of the meeting.

8. AMENDMENTS. These by-laws may be amended at any time by a majority vote of managers; but the change must have been proposed in writing at a previous meeting.

9. GRANTS. ALL grant nominations must be made by January 1 of the year to be considered.

Nominations of the Parrish Award must include a resume of the nominee and a statement of why person deserves the award.

(It has been voted many times that groups should not receive grants two years in a row, except in extra-ordinary situations.)

Standing Committees: Nominations, Grants

10. RECORDS OF THE SOCIETY. Records produced during the normal course of Pennsylvania Abolition Society (PAS) business are the **sole** property of the PAS and are vital to evidencing the decisions and actions of the Society and for protecting its interests and assets. The PAS requires that its records be managed in a systematic and logical manner according to records management schedules and procedures authorized and approved by the Society. All members of the Society and those working on its behalf are required to following the PAS records management schedules and procedures. This policy applies to all records, regardless of whether they are maintained in hard (paper) copy, electronically, or in some other fashion.

The records of permanent value to the Society, both the legacy historical archives and the current records, are on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) and remain the property of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. All decisions regarding the disposition and use of these records are PAS' decision. Notwithstanding, PAS has authorized to permit researcher access to these holdings, in accordance with HSP's library research procedures.

The records of the PAS are governed and managed by its Records Management Policy and Schedule that is found on page 8 of this Members' Guide.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PAS Article 10. The Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery... has upheld the highest standards of integrity for over 225 years. Each member and officer, therefore, is required to conduct all affairs in the best interest of the Society, and to avoid the appearance or the reality of a conflict of interest. Furthermore, each member of PAS is required to avoid actions which would further, or give the appearance of furthering, the interest or benefit of any other organization of which he/she is an officer, controlling member or staff member. Members who have a conflict of interest should make that know and when appropriate, recuse themselves from discussion and votes.

THE RECORDS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ABOLITION SOCIETY

Records Management Policy Statement

Records produced during the normal course of Pennsylvania Abolition Society (PAS) business are the **sole** property of the PAS and are vital to evidencing the decisions and actions of the Society and for protecting its interests and assets. The PAS requires that its records be managed in a systematic and logical manner according to records management schedules and procedures authorized and approved by the Society. All members of the Society and those working on its behalf are required to following the PAS records management schedules and procedures. This policy applies to all records, regardless of whether they are maintained in hard (paper) copy, electronically, or in some other fashion.

These records evidence PAS' continuous ownership rights of its business records.

Vital Records. Some vital records (incorporation papers, contracts) on deposit at the HSP might still be needed from time to time for PAS business, and if so, may be temporarily withdrawn from HSP for such uses by PAS Officers. Such withdrawals are the fiduciary responsibility of Officers and they are responsible to ensure that vital records are care for appropriately outside the custody of HSP and returned to HSP in the same condition as received.

Permanent Records. The records of permanent value to the Society, both the legacy historical archives and the current records, are on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) and remain the property of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. All decisions regarding the disposition and use of these records are PAS' decision. Notwithstanding, PAS has authorized to permit researcher access to these holdings, in accordance with HSP's library research procedures.

All permanent records, including those created in an electronic format, are to be retained in hardcopy. This policy may change as HSP is capable to assure permanent retention of electronic records.

PAS Records Management Schedule and Procedures

Accounting (Treasurer, Business Manager and Bookkeeper)

1. Accounts Payable and Receivable ledgers, reports, etc – 7 years
2. Balance Sheets, Profit/Loss Statements – Permanent
3. Bank Statements, Reconciliations, Deposit Slips – 7 years
4. Cancelled Checks – 7 to 10 years
5. Check Registers – Permanent
6. General Ledger – Permanent
7. Vendor Invoices – 7 years
8. W-2, W-9 Forms – Permanent
9. Tax Returns - Permanent

Corporate Records (Officers, Business Manager and Members)

1. Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Charter and Amendments – Permanent
2. Board of Governors Committee and Minute Books and Records – Permanent
3. Grant Applications (Funded) – Permanent
4. Grant Application (Not Funded) – 2 years
5. Audit Reports – Permanent
6. Stock Certificates, Ledgers and Transactions – Permanent
7. General and Legal Correspondence – Permanent
8. Contracts and Agreements – Permanent
9. Deeds, Title Papers, Mortgages, Patents and Copyrights – Permanent
10. Bill of Sale of Assets – Permanent
11. General Miscellaneous - Publications, Newspapers, Clippings and Press Released related to the PAS - Permanent
12. Fixed Asset Records – Permanent

RECORDS AND PAPERS AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The records of permanent value to the Society, both the legacy historical archives and the current records, are on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) and remain the property of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society at all times. All decisions regarding the disposition and use of these records are PAS' decision. Notwithstanding, PAS has authorized to permit researcher access to these holdings, in accordance with HSP's library research procedures. **Decisions on producing and using reproduction of PAS records at HSP solely rest with PAS.**

The PAS minute books were first deposited at HSP in 1931. They had been at the Race Street Meeting House and at Swarthmore College, but the papers were moved and the main repository is now at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. In addition to the PAS' organizational records, there are 15 related organizations also are included. This historical collection is organized as:

Minutes

Correspondence

Financial Papers

Manumissions, Indentures, and other legal papers

Miscellaneous

These records are in hardcopy, microfilm and also in digital format via Adams Matthews Digital Library. The hardcopy records require special handling.

MICROFILM OF THE PAS COLLECTION is the primary way researchers access PAS records at HSP.

DIGITIZATION OF THE COLLECTION. On 7 Nov 2007 Adam Matthew Digital of England was given permission to digitize the collection from the microfilm collection. Right to the publisher sole license to sell for 5 years from date of agreement and thereafter the non-exclusive right. Publisher to pay Society \$6500 on signature of agreement; a further \$9,750 after first 20 subscriptions and a further \$16,250 after every subsequent 20 subscriptions.

PAS GRANTS

Grants are financed primarily through interest gained from the Pennsylvania Abolition Fund (endowment) at the Philadelphia Foundation and from other investments and income. The Parrish Award cannot be funded out of the Philadelphia Foundation. The Foundation does not give awards/grand direct to individuals.

Regular grants at the Philadelphia Foundation are given to organizations tax exempt under Section 5013C of the Internal Revenue Code that submit proposals that pertain to “improving the condition of the African race”. PAS has the discretion to award other support to individuals and for profit organizations out of its private funds.

PAS Members cannot have a conflict of interest in the grant program and must excuse themselves when such conflicts arise. Notwithstanding, members may encourage any and all qualified applicants to apply.

Requests are due by the first business day after New Year’s. Awards are made at the PAS Annual Meeting on the 4th Thursday in April.

Applications are sought for work to improve conditions of African Americans throughout Pennsylvania, particularly in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. Examples of proposals that would be considered include projects confronting racism, preserving African American monuments, fighting housing discrimination, promoting multicultural arts, exposing children to multicultural opportunities, offering recognition awards, providing scholarships for persons of African American descent in seeking higher education, and improving the quality of race relations in Pennsylvania. Typically, these grants range in size from \$500 to \$2,000, although some grants have been higher.

Applicants must submit:

- Letter of application indicating that you are applying for the **Pennsylvania Abolition Society Fund** at the Philadelphia Foundation

- Description of project or program to be funded and the desired amount (may be included in letter of application)
- Application summary sheet:
http://www.paabolition.org/files/application_summary_sheet.pdf
- Background summary information about the organization and program
- Copy of IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter

Mail to:

The Pennsylvania Abolition Society Fund
c/o The Philadelphia Foundation
1234 Market Street, Suite 1800
Philadelphia PA 19107

The Parrish Award

The Parrish Award is named for John Parrish to honor his legacy of work helping Native Americans and African Americans. The funds for African-Americans were administered by the Abolition Society. A few years back those funds were incorporated into the general fund.

The award is given to an individual who has done outstanding work in Philadelphia improving conditions for African-Americans.

This award may not be given every year. It is solely at the discretion of the PAS.

Pennsylvania Abolition Society
Future Directions and Sustainability
Draft October 22, 2011

Current Assets

The Pennsylvania Abolition Society's primary current function is to make annual awards, largely to Philadelphia regional groups, for "improving the condition of the African Race." It also has the John Parrish award to acknowledge an individual who has "done outstanding work in Philadelphia" in improving conditions of African-Americans though the award has not been given recently. The PAS also has its archival records, under the care of the Historical Society which are much used for research on slavery and abolition in the 18th and early 19th century.

We also have "moral capital." The endorsement of PAS by funding a project says, or should say, that this particular project is supported by the oldest abolition society in the world.

Membership and Future Directions: Some Potential Issues

The membership is self-replicating. Currently new members are recommended by existing board members. This personal approach to find and recruiting new PAS members is unlikely to significantly increase the size of the organization.

The fact that the Pennsylvania Abolition Society exists is not widely known. In the digital age, many people's first approach to finding out about an organization is to search on-line. I recently did so. There is a Wikipedia entry for the PAS which says the organization "apparently still exists" but provides no information on how to contact the PAS. There are a number of links related to PAS archives, but little here to indicate that the PAS remains an organization and less to say what it currently does.

To recruit new members, beyond that limited number that can come from personal contacts, we need a more robust on-line presence that clearly explains the organization and objectives of the present PAS.

New Members

What would happen if from a new recruiting effort, we gained thirty new members for the PAS? People who were not brought in not by individual contacts with board members but who may have only seen a brochure and

decided to join? I see two related issues here: first, what would be the expectations of those new members, and secondly, what are the benefits of membership in the PAS?

Do we recruit people primarily to work on tasks of the organization as currently understood, our primary project and function is to award grant funds. What sort of people do we need to make this function more effectively? I am frankly comfortable with our deliberations on grant proposals, but would recruiting more people with specific skill sets – community activists, educators, social service workers—enhance the effectiveness of our grant giving? Are we looking for people who can assist with outreach to community organizations, e.g. someone who can identify potential recipients for grants?

If we are essentially trying to be more effective with those things we are currently doing, we are probably looking for a fairly modest increase in membership. Our goals here would be to find “new blood” – younger and more active versions of ourselves?

This is a fairly narrowly defined recruitment effort.

If we cast a broader net, recruiting through web sites, brochures and other methods, and accepted all that applied for membership, we will probably have a much wider range of membership expectations. What, for example, would happen if some of our new members decided that it was within the scope of PAS to endorse and take an active role in “Occupy Philadelphia” or whatever other issue was current at the time? It might be good for PAS to return to its more active functions of advocating, lobbying and working for change rather than simply remain primarily a funding agency.

An issue here with maintaining membership is that we need to meet expectations of members. Recruiting new members who are coming with an expectation that PAS be a more activist organization than it currently is, then disappointing them by not acting as such will likely result in those new members dropping out after a short period of membership.

Increasing Membership, Increasing Costs

Expansion of the functions of PAS will increase costs. There are some things we can do with relatively little expenditure such as have a better web site presence. If we move into new roles (or new for the organization as currently configured) of, for example of engaging directly in “political issues” like endorsing Operation Philadelphia or advocating for legislation, it will

require commitments in both member time and organizational resources (money).

A Few Suggestions

I think we do need to increase public awareness that PAS is a functioning organization and as part of that make it clear that we welcome new members. A basic first approach is to improve our on-line presence and make it simple for people who are interested in the work and goals of PAS to find us. This can be relatively simple and inexpensive, but will also require significant expenditures of the time and energy of the existing members.

A better, clearer and more accessible statement of PAS, its goals and objectives, enhances our moral capital.

As a small measure, there are quite a number of scholars working today on aspects of abolition in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries who might make good additions to our membership, and might be a good source of suggestions as we work on the future of the PAS.

Large expansion of PAS membership needs to proceed deliberately, and be explicitly linked to program objectives.

Financial Sustainability

For many years PAS have acted as stewards of existing financial resources. We have had additional funds added to our resources as royalties from the use of the PAS archives, but have not, as far as I know, aggressively pursued additional funds.

If we pursue a significantly increased membership and a more active role for the PAS, that will increase the demands on our treasury to support these actions. These funds will become available either at the expense of not being able to fund some of our usual grant projects, or through more aggressive fund raising. Aggressive fund raising requires staff (and expense) and also a clear statement of why someone would donate to the PAS rather than to some other organization.

Less aggressive fund raising can include reminders on our (hopefully improved) brochures and websites on PAS and its activities that contributions can be sent and to remember us in your will. It might be good to include on our website lists of things we have supported in the past. If I'm giving money to an organization, I do want to know at least in a general way, how it is being used.

Final Comments

We have a good product to sell. There is a substantial moral message to the PAS. It isn't just that it has been at work for more than two centuries. The fact that it has been active so long is a statement that making the world aright is not a matter of some brief action constrained in a short period of time, but the work of lifetimes and generations of commitment.

John Parrish gave us money two centuries ago, and when he did stated that this was in acknowledgement that our (American's) wealth derived in no small part from the unpaid labor of enslaved Africans. His nephew Joseph Parrish, was president of the PAS and active in African-American education and the Underground Railroad. Joseph Parrish's son Dillwyn was president of the PAS for thirty years and involved in African-American education for decades following the Civil War (another son, Edward, was the first President of Swarthmore College). Joseph Parrish's daughter, Susanna Parrish Wharton, and Susanna's daughter Susan P. Wharton, were among the thirty founders of the NAACP in 1909. Joseph Parrish had been behind the PAS study of the condition of African-Americans in Philadelphia conducted in 1837. Susan P. Wharton, Joseph Parrish's granddaughter, who had been active in settlement work and related efforts in Philadelphia, was the person primarily responsible for bringing WEB DuBois to Philadelphia to conduct his study on the Philadelphia Negro.

This is generations of commitment. The continued existence of the PAS is a message that work begun before America was a country still continues.

The other major message of the PAS is that social issues are linked. Abolition wasn't just a matter of breaking the chains of the bondman, but seeing that the former bondmen had the access to education, employment and the courts that made freedom work.

I

The PAS, Abolition and Beyond

From its beginnings the Pennsylvania Abolition Society linked the issues of emancipation, education, access to jobs and access to the legal system. When legalized slavery was abolished in 1865, the American Anti-Slavery Society disbanded, feeling its work was done with emancipation. The PAS, who had been involved in African-American education and legal rights since the American Revolution continued with its missions. It was also at this time that the organization began to become significantly bi-racial.

The Moral Capital of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society

The PAS, as the oldest abolition society in the world, and because of its work over the past 236 years has a reserve of "moral capital." The fact that a program is receiving support from the PAS should have a value beyond the actual financial award.

About Overbrook Farms

Situated on one of the highest elevations in the City of Philadelphia, Overbrook Farms is a remarkably intact example of late 19th and early 20th century suburban residential development. On the National Register of Historic Places, Overbrook Farms today has retained much of its original form and is representative of eclectic turn-of-the-century architecture. It endures as an example of suburban life, created when the railroad was king and post Civil War industrial expansion created great wealth in Philadelphia, enabling the middle class to leave the City's core. The community today is a diverse, family-friendly neighborhood bordering Morris Park, Saint Joseph's University and Lower Merion.

<http://www.uchs.net/HistoricDistricts/overbrook.html>

Directions

Address: 6399 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19151

Telephone: V's cell: 215.651.9021

Overbrook Farms is accessible off Route 1 (City Avenue). Lancaster Avenue (Route 30) is a main street bisecting the community. 6399 Woodbine is on the corner of 64th and Woodbine. House entrance faces 64th Street.



Driving Instructions (from Center City):

Take City Line Avenue (Route 1 South) to 64th Street (Street after Route 30- Lancaster Avenue). Left on 64th Street to Woodbine (Street after Drexel Road). At Drexel Road on your left, you will see a large white residence with a Blessed Mother in the yard. (Home to the Mercy Friars). My house is the next home. (There are only two houses on each side of the street.) If you go past the Overbrook School for the Blind, you have gone too far. Parking is available on both sides of 64th Street, as well as along Woodbine Avenue and Drexel Road.

SEPTA Regional Rail – R5/ Paoli-Thorndale:

Overbrook Farms is at the **R5 Historic Overbrook Station** (the first stop after 30th Street off the Line to Paoli/Thorndale). The train is an easy 10- 15 minute walk to Woodbine Ave. Take the pedestrian underpass the Station Building side. Take Overbrook Avenue to 64th street (intersection at the train station shopping corridor (63rd and Overbrook)). Turn left at 64th and continue to Woodbine Ave.

SEPTA Bus/Trolley Lines:

The **65 Bus** (accessible at 69 Street, along City Line Avenue from Presidential Blvd and in Germantown) will bring you to corner of 64th and Malvern. Turn left up the hill to the next major intersection, 64th and Woodbine and cross the street to the house.

The **10 Trolley** (runs from Center City along Lancaster Avenue) terminates at Malvern and 63rd Street. Walk towards the Overbrook School for the Blind to 64th and Malvern. Turn left up the hill to the next major intersection, 64th and Woodbine and cross the street to the house.