

*"Am I not a man and a brother?"*



**PENNSYLVANIA ABOLITION SOCIETY**

**Organized 1775**

c/o The Blanchard Company, 2041 Christian Street, Philadelphia PA 19146  
215-985-1445, <http://www.PAabolition.org>

**BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING**

**Thursday, November 1, 3:00 p.m. - New Century Trust, 1307 Locust Street**

**A G E N D A**

- Review of minutes/meeting notes from April meeting and July retreat
- Brief financial report
- Proceeding with the resolution of our tax status
- April 2013 annual meeting – venue, time, topics  
(See attached lists of PAS grantees for potential venues – V. Chapman-Smith has noted some possibilities, which have been highlighted)
- Membership issues
  - Review of membership model(s) – this was tasked to a subcommittee of Cynthia Patricia Wilson-Aden, and Laura Blanchard
  - Member outreach to Quaker community – this was tasked to a subcommittee of Charles Woodson, Theopolis Fair, and Christopher Densmore
  - Academic community outreach – a subcommittee has not yet been identified
- Officers and governors/managers for 2013 – the Managers need to begin planning and recruitment now
- Updated bylaws

In this packet

Minutes/meeting notes of April meeting and July retreat

List of grantees 2008-2012 (work in progress, still researching topics)

To be distributed at meeting

Financial report

Draft of bylaws

PAS - April 26 meeting

In attendance: Laura Blanchard, Phil Lapsansky, Cindy Little Lynann Wescott, Theopolis Fair, Charles Richard, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Walton C. Burwell, David Jenkins Morrison, Patricia Wilson-Aden, V. Chapman-Smith

The minutes were approved and the business manager’s report, which included a brief financial report, accepted. I believe Theo asked about our decennial census filing and I told him I was checking with Phila Fndn about using their address (they subsequently said yes)

Records management policy and schedule approved

In the course of reviewing the work plan and schedule it was agreed that the Board of Governors really needs a separate retreat to discuss governance issues and strategic planning. V. and Laura will schedule.

Grant review. Attendees were pleased to be able to review the applications online in advance. The review committee recommended, and the members accepted, the following disbursements

African American Museum	Passport to Culture Summer Youth	\$2,000
ArtReach	Celebration of African-American Arts	\$2,500
Chester Fund for Education and the Arts	Core Arts Academic Enrichment, Chester-Upland	\$5,000
College of Physicians of Philadelphia	Civil War Hospital Day (U. S. Colored Troops)	\$2,000
Ethical Humanist Society	Camp Linden Summer Camp	\$500
Library Company of Philadelphia	Program in African American History	\$4,000
Moonstone Arts Center	Martin R. Delaney and the Politics of Identity	\$1,500
Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater-Kent	Conservation of African American Quaker Dolls	\$2,000
TOTAL		\$19,500.00

To prevent any appearance of conflict of interest, the review committee of Cynthia Little and Patricia Wilson-Aden was supplemented by Laura Blanchard and Emma Lapsansky-Warner for the evaluation of the two proposals from the African American Museum and the Philadelphia Museum of History, given that Little and Wilson-Aden are each on staff at one of those institutions.

In addition to approving disbursements for grants, it was agreed that PAS should be actively seeking public recognition from its grantees. Subsequent award letters will carry the requirement that publicity for awardees' programs include donor recognition and that copies of publicity materials be forwarded as part of the final report. [N.B., it was too late to add that to the Phila Fndn letters, but ours carried it.]

The member guide and records management / retention policies were approved as written.

Upon discussion, and upon motions duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following slate of officers and members for the Board of Governors was accepted:

President: Walton C. Burwell  
Vice President 1: Christopher Densmore  
Vice President 2: Philip Lapsansky  
Secretary: V. Chapman-Smith  
Treasurer: Cynthia Little  
Governors: Zelbert Moore, Jean Moore, and Charles Woodson  
Immediate Past President: Theopolis Fair

It being noted that Governor Phillip Lapsansky would be retiring from his position at the Library Company of Philadelphia after 41 years of service. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried (with Lapsansky abstaining), it was

RESOLVED, that the gratitude of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society for the work of Philip Lapsansky in furthering the causes of African American history and education be recognized and celebrated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

**Mission and Corporate Structure** – members present agreed that the short-term goal is to secure the sustainability of the organization’s current mission and programs – to continue to work toward “the betterment of the African race” (replace with actual language) by grant-making to organizations in Southeastern Pennsylvania that provide educational or cultural opportunities to African American populations or that interpret the African American experience in the history of our region. Once the appropriate tax status is in place, the Managers will seek to recruit enough new members to assure the ongoing population of the Board of Managers with productive and energetic members.

**ACTION STEP:** Laura Blanchard will convey this to Lynanne (sp?) Wescott, with a request for recommendation for an attorney to assist PAS in seeking the appropriate nonprofit status to continue with this mission without closing off other avenues should the Managers wish to expand the mission into programming or other areas.

**Meeting Date and Time** – Because a noon meeting is no longer as convenient for members or Managers as it was when PAS was established, it was agreed to keep the date (fourth Thursday in April) out of respect for the history of the organization, but to change the time, and to hold the Managers meeting at one location and the public meeting at another. As one example, the Managers meeting could be held at the Phila Foundation offices at 3:30 and the public meeting at HSP, Library Company, or other venue at 5:30. It was recommended that the public meeting include a speaker or speakers to increase interest and public awareness.

The by-laws call for public notice of annual meetings via publication of meeting notices in two newspapers. Some alternative steps, such as publication online or through no-charge community calendars, were discussed. Laura Blanchard will investigate and make some recommendations.

**ACTION STEP:** A small group (V. Chapman-Smith, Laura Blanchard, Charles Woodson) will work to identify potential venues and speakers, drawing in particular from past award recipients as potential speakers. Laura Blanchard will create a list of past recipients, going back as far as her electronic records permit.

**Membership.** It was agreed that the \$1 membership rate is archaic, although it has a certain anachronistic charm. Further, it was generally agreed that the waiting period for membership to take effect poses other barriers to recruitment, although it also has advantages in orienting potential members before extending the franchise. The “PHS Model” of having members who do not vote and a self-electing Board was mentioned but no decisions were taken. It was agreed that the by-laws should be amended to permit the Board to set membership categories. It was also agreed that the by-laws should be amended to make it easier for the achievement of a quorum at meetings. The current “members and friends” list was circulated and Charles Woodson concatenated the responses from the Governors present to edit the list.

**ACTION STEPS:** 1) A small group (Laura Blanchard, Cynthia Little, Patricia Wilson-Aden) will work on a new membership model. 2) Charles Woodson, Theopolis Fair, and Christopher Densmore will attempt to recruit new members through the various Quaker meetings. 3) Another group (members TBA) will work on recruitment from the academic community.

**By-laws Revisions.** It was noted that although the by-laws were revised around the year 2000, the Managers have no formal copy. The substance of those changes is reflected in the member guide. Laura Blanchard will draft updated by-laws based on the member guide and the discussions at this meeting for review by the Managers.

Pennsylvania Abolition Society Grantees, 2008-2012 (compiled October 2012)  
(yellow highlight indicates suggested meeting venue)

Year	Grantee [asterisk indicates payment via Philadelphia Foundation]	Award Purpose	Amount
2012	African American Museum*	Passport to Culture Summer Youth Program	\$2,000
2012	ArtReach*	Celebration of African-American Arts	\$2,500
2012	Chester Fund for Education and the Arts	Core Arts Academic Enrichment, Chester-Upland	\$5,000
2012	College of Physicians of Philadelphia*	Civil War Hospital Day (U.S. Colored Troops)	\$2,000
2012	Ethical Humanist Society	Camp Linden Summer Camp	\$500
2012	Library Company of Philadelphia	Program in African American History	\$4,000
2012	Moonstone Arts Center	Martin R. Delaney and the Politics of Identity (funding split between Philadelphia Foundation and PAS funds)	\$1,500
2012	Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater-Kent*	Conservation of African American Quaker Dolls	\$2,000
2011	Cliveden	Struggling for Freedom Curriculum	\$2,000
2011	Fair Hill Burial Ground*		\$2,500
2011	Friends of Historic Eden Cemetery*		\$3,500
2011	Historic Philadelphia		\$2,000
2011	Historical Society of Pennsylvania		\$5,000
2011	Jump Street*		5000
2011	Eastern National (for National Park Service)		\$500
2011	Pennsylvania Humanities Council		\$2,000
2010	Abraham Lincoln Foundation*		2500
2010	Historical Society of Pennsylvania*		2500
2010	Friends of Independence Historical Park*		1500
2010	Paul Robeson House*		2500
2010	Charles Blockson Collection		1000
2010	Chester Regional Fund		1000
2010	Chester Fund for Education and the Arts		5000
2010	Fair Hill Burial Ground		2000
2010	Upper Darby Historical Society		1000
2009	Historical Society of Pennsylvania*		2000
2009	Cliveden		2000
2009	Moonstone Arts Center (collaboration with PAS on John Brown programs)*		4000
2009	Atwater-Kent*		2000
2009	Fair Hill Burial Ground*		1500

Pennsylvania Abolition Society Grantees, 2008-2012 (compiled October 2012)  
 (yellow highlight indicates suggested meeting venue)

	Moonstone Arts Center (collaboration with PAS on John	
2009	Brown programs)	3500
2009	Eden Cemetery	1500
2009	Mount Lawn Cemetery	1500
	Paul RobesonHouse (via West Phila	
2008	Cultural Alliance)*	8000
2008	Charles Blockson Collection* endowment support	2000
	to build website and expand access to PAS	
2008	Historical Society of Pennsylvania* collections	2000