



VCA
NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE
**VIRGINIA CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION**

P. O. Box 7023, Richmond, VA 23221

November 2015 Volume 25, No. 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear VCA members,

The Board is working on many exciting programs for the year ahead as well as moving forward with new ideas for the organization. As you may recall the membership voted either via email or at the September meeting whether or not to move forward with the proposed suggestion to use VCA funds to hire a consultant. The consultant was proposed to help with member and Board apathy as well as helping the Board generate new ideas for membership and goals for the organization. The membership voted down this proposal. However, many lively discussions took place both at the Board meetings and at the members' meeting in September that led to new thoughts in regards to some of these suggestions and other ways to pursue them.

One measure being pursued by the Program Committee, in support of the survey from this summer, is to open up at least one meeting a year to the general public. To implement this, the January meeting on Sailor Jerry tattoo art by new VMFA conservator Samantha Sheesley, may be held at the VCU library. The library would allow for a large audience and we would be one of the first guests in their new auditorium. The Program Committee will be designing posters to distribute at area tattoo parlors and on campus to capture a potential new audience.

In addition over the coming months, an independent "Task Force" will be formed to delve deeper into the issues of member and Board apathy and find ways to reengage lapsed members as well as looking at possible new branding ideas. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with this endeavor as the members need to drive this important discussion.

VCA Members' Meeting Tuesday, November 17 5:30 P.M.

Note: This is a change from our usual Thursday Meeting



Photo Courtesy: vahistorical.org

**Conservation of the Hoffbauer Murals
Virginia Historical Society
428 North Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220**

Please use the Weinstein Education Center Entrance on the North Side of the Building Facing Kensington Avenue— Our Meeting Will Be in the Classroom on the First Floor

***Presentation by Cleo Mullins of
Richmond Conservation Studio***

(See Page 3 for More Details)



***Please Bring an Appetizer to Share
Drinks Will Be Provided***

Please cut and paste the following link to RSVP and sign up to help with refreshments.

www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ca4ae2da7fd0-november

From The President continued from Page 1

Also, from the survey this summer almost everyone who took the survey wants to see member research on our website. If you have written an article that you are willing to share, we would like to post your research on the website. Please send your papers to Valinda Carroll by emailing her at:

info@virginiaconservationassociation.org

The Education Committee is working on a "Preventative Conservation" workshop for February and more details will be out soon. Also the Refreshments Committee is working on a venue for the holiday party so hopefully we will have one again this year!

We are continuing to try and move more things online so please check our website regularly and "like" us on Facebook for more immediate information.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Virginia Historical Society Tuesday, November 17th to learn more about the Hoffbauer Mural conservation from Cleo Mullins and the staff at the Richmond Conservation Studio.

Best,
Kathy Garrett-Cox

In Memoriam

Sadly our friend and former VCA member Bienvenida Ochs passed away on October 4, with husband Larry at her side.

Bienvenida and Larry were both VCA members and last served on our Board together as Membership Co-Chair.

Bienvenida received her doctorate degree in pharmacy and chemistry from the Universidad Autonoma of Santo Domingo, the oldest university in the new world, and met Larry while working as a technician in the laboratory of neurobiology at the University of Puerto Rico.

Bienvenida began her conservation career in Richmond in 1988 after serving an apprenticeship with noted painter and conservator, Ann Ring,—Larry's mother. She studied art history and art technology at VCU and at the Virginia Museum of Art, studied gilding with William Adair in Washington, D.C., and took courses in the history and technology of picture frames and conservation of picture frames with Jonathan Thornton at the Intermuseum Conservation Laboratory at Oberlin University in Ohio.

Outside of her conservation work, she enjoyed classical music, gardening, dancing, and time with her husband and daughters Paz Laura and Sarah Emely.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Shelia Payaqui has been promoted to Head of Sculpture and Decorative Arts Conservation for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

With experience at the National Park Service, the Queensland Art Gallery, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Shelia has been an integral part of the Museum's conservation department since her appointment in 2008.

In addition to her new responsibilities, Shelia continues her ongoing conservation projects which include *Our Lady of Piety*—the oratory by Brazilian artist Francisco Xavier dos Santos.

WELCOME!

Samantha Sheesley has been appointed the VMFA's first Paper Conservator and will work with the VMFA's curators on the collection's entire range of objects, mediums, and periods. Samantha comes to the Museum from the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia, the country's largest regional conservation facility dedicated to works on paper.

She has been an affiliated fellow at the American Academy in Rome and worked in the paper conservation lab at the Vatican Museums. Work at other institutions includes the Smithsonian's American Art Museum, MoMA, Greece's Benaki Museum in Athens, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Belmont Hills Conservation Studio in Pennsylvania.

Samantha will be presenting our January Program:

**Sailor Jerry Tattoo Art
January 21, 2016**

Please share any articles, photos, upcoming conferences, internships, etc. that you think would be of interest to our members.

The next newsletter deadline is Monday, Dec. 14th
dotrob327@verizon.net
lizzibeck@gmail.com

VCA Members' Meeting November 17, 2015

Photos Courtesy: vahistorical.org



The Memorial Military Murals, by Charles Hoffbauer (1875–1957), are an American treasure. They are an example of how elements of the United States population created a mythology to overcome the pain and destruction of our bloodiest conflict. They are a preeminent visual artistic symbol of what has come to be known as the "Lost Cause," a southern response to defeat in

the American Civil War.

The murals were commissioned by the Confederate Memorial Association and painted between 1913 and 1920. Hoffbauer left in the middle of his work to fight for his native France in World War I. When he returned, a weary soldier who now knew the horrors of the trench, he altered his plans for the murals to depict the more violent, bloody reality of war.

With the exception of the cycloramas at Gettysburg and Grant Park in Atlanta, there are few large-scale pieces of Civil War artwork on public view. Their scale alone would make them important pieces, but their content and context are even more important.



In 2011, the Virginia Historical Society began conservation work on the Memorial Military Murals with funding received from Save America's Treasures, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Important cleaning and conservation work began in June 2011 and was completed in June 2014. Additional work to renovate the gallery space began in June 2014 and was completed in May 2015

Save the date!

The January 21, 2016 VCA Program will feature VMFA Paper Conservator Samantha Sheesley discussing her work conserving the iconic tattoo stencils of Sailor Jerry.

This program is open to the public

Please invite your friends!



Minutes of the Members' Meeting September 24, 2015

Programs Co-chair Karri Richardson, informed us that the November meeting will be held at the Virginia Historical Society. The date has been changed to Tuesday, November 17th instead of November 19th.

Cleo Mullins will be speaking about the conservation of the Confederate murals.

January's meeting on January 18, 2016 will feature VMFA Paper Conservator Samantha Sheesley's presentation about Tattoo stencils by Sailor Jerry – post WWII tattoo artist in the Pacific. Samantha conserved the stencils, tours the world with this exhibit. The meeting will be held at VCU and open to the public. We will be advertising all over Richmond.

Treasurer Nancy Beck: Nancy handed out Treasurer's report. The VCA has a balance to date of \$4,740.78.

President Kathy Garrett-Cox: Announced that we have started a PayPal account. It is working, though we have experienced some glitches that we are working through. Members can renew membership online and pay for through PayPal.

Valinda Carroll mentioned to open the membership form as a PDF in Adobe Acrobat then can hit the submit button.

Kathy: In the last newsletter we announced that we will be developing a mentorship program. If you are interested please let a board member know, and if you want to be a mentor or be mentored.

We also added to the membership form to indicate if you are interested in working with a committee chair person. Would you like to participate with programs, refreshments, membership, etc.? Help is wanted and appreciated, please consider participating.

Kathy opened to the membership the discussion taking place among the Board members about a possible consultant to be hired by the VCA to help in a couple of areas. The VCA is experiencing apathy among it's membership. There is a desire to revitalize, organize/ restructure the board and the association. The cons are more time will be required by the Board and paying a consultant's fee.

Treasury Balance as of 10-14-2015

\$4,805.31

Kathy opened the floor for comments and questions:
The idea of a consultant would be to talk to the Board to help change and better reach members and lapsed members.

Ballots were handed out for a vote asking the membership if they would authorize the VCA Board to solicit resumes for a consultant.

Votes will be counted and announced at a later date.

It was suggested by Fred Wallace that perhaps we could form our own "committee" or "task force" to look into this matter instead of hiring a consultant.

VCA BOARD MEETING

October 15, 2015
James City County
Library

Attendees:

Kathy Garrett-Cox
Karri Richardson
Dotty Robinson
Kate Ridgway
Keri Ragland
Dianne Roland
David Shakibnia
Marla Curtis
Valinda Carroll

From the President, Kathy Garrett-Cox:

Reminder: The November meeting date has been changed. It will be held on **Tuesday**, November 17th.

The Vote re: Hiring a Consultant was close, but a definite no. There were ideas to change the VCA to improve outreach and to be more open. One idea was to have one general meeting a year that would be open to the public.

Kathy also liked Fred's idea from the September general meeting of developing a "task force" to study the VCA and find ways to improve it. She will talk to Fred about doing that and getting in touch with current and past members. It was agreed that presiding Board members should not participate. The Board also agreed it would be a good idea to ask past Board members along with volunteers from the general membership.

Dotty was recently in a class with VMFA docents. She discussed the VCA with a few members and found some interest. She suggests marketing to museum docents and staff for new members.

Kathy will ask Patricia Selinger to put our general meeting dates on VAM eNews letter.

(Continued on next page)

(Board Minutes Continued From Previous Page)

Board issues: Kathy received an email from Mary Studt, a former board member, suggesting a way to thank Board members for serving might encourage participation. Maybe with food, or discounted memberships for the years they serve, or giving Board members first choice for attending classes or field trips.

The Board discussed these suggestions and others such as recognizing Board members more at the general meetings. There was concern that reducing Board members' membership dues could have an adverse effect on the budget.

Also we are to strive to keep the Board meetings under two hours.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Beck was unable to attend, but sent her report. We have a strong balance to start the year: \$3,498.78

Nancy is having issues with Paypal and online membership enrollment/renewal. She needs to know who paid and how much they paid for membership. Right now it is confusing because Valinda as Webmaster, Bill as Membership Chair and Nancy as Treasurer all need to see the applications, and they all need hard copies. Need to work on making our end of the process more efficient and less confusing.

Nancy has put in our address change to the SCC and the IRS.

And, she wants to know where money received after April 1st should be reported? The Board discussed and decided the income should be reported in the year in which it was received and the membership is to be counted for the following year.

With using Paypal there is no place for late fees or transaction fees to be included on the Paypal form.

Dotty asked if there should be reimbursement for Board members for printing forms, newsletters, etc? Does there need to be a budget line item for that? The board decided yes, members should get reimbursed when they turn in receipts for their costs. It will be counted in the budget under the appropriate chair's budget item, ex: Publications, or under miscellaneous.

Refreshments:

Marla Curtis asked if we are going to have a Holiday Party in December this year.

David Shakibnia has reached out to David Voelkel of the Valentine museum and asked if the VCA could have their Winter Party there. He is waiting to hear back. He has also asked about having it at Henricus Park.

Kathy suggested the Try-Me Gallery owned by Bill Royall. She offered to contact Tracy Bernabo to inquire about using the gallery as a venue. The Byrd Theater is another option.

It was decided if we cannot nail down a venue by the end of the month, we will move on and not have a winter party this year.

Education: Keri Ragland is organizing a Preventive Conservation workshop. Mary Andrews and Sandy Jensen may be the instructors. It will be a one day workshop. It will be a hands-on classroom experience with some lecture time and handouts. It will also include a boxed lunch and supplies in the price. She is looking at holding it this winter at Virginia House. Details to be announced. Kate Ridgway, David Shakibnia and Dianne Roland offered to help. Keri asked for feedback.

Membership & Publications: Dotty Robinson represented both chairs as Bill Ivey was detained with a business Matter that took longer than planned. She is working on the new directory, has only 64 applications for this year, so far. She compiled a list of previous members who have not renewed.

The list of previous members was divided among Board members to contact and try to get them to renew their memberships.

Newsletter deadline is Monday, Oct. 19th.

Programs: Karri reminded us the next program will be on November 17th at the VHS. Note new date, not the regular Thursday. She's looking into getting permission to be able to view the Story of VA exhibit that night as well as the scheduled program of Cleo Mullins presenting the restoration of the murals.

The January meeting will be at VCU, open to the public with Sam Sheesley will be speaking about the Sailor Jerry stencil conservation project. The new theatre in the VCU library may be the venue. We will be advertising using posters and cards placed around VCU campus and other areas around town.

The Board discussed different options for the March meeting and April field trip.

The Board discussed creating a tag line for the VCA. Something to let people know we are not an environmental conservation organization.

Outreach: Patricia sent her report with a suggestion for using a car pool app for ride sharing. She had a conversation with Christina of VAM. They discussed the VCA booth at the VAM conference. Patricia thinks we need to come up with ways to improve our booth.

Webmaster: Valinda reported that she had implemented an updated stylesheet for the website to be more mobile-friendly. Currently, she is working on reformatting the images and the event calendar. We have had some requests to update the services directory, and she pointed out that she did not have an updated list of consultants. A partial list was provided at the Board meeting, but it was not formatted as a spreadsheet with contact information and specialties. As a consequence, she will delete members who have relocated out of Virginia but will have to wait to post an up-to-date directory.

**Will Hoffman, Senior Conservator
USS Monitor Collection, Mariner's Museum**

**Pumping You Up! Reproducing a Worthington Steam Pump from *USS Monitor*
September 24, 2015**

For more than a century, the *Monitor's* resting place in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" remained a mystery despite numerous searches. Discovered in 1973, the wreck site became the first National Marine Sanctuary in 1975 under the auspices of NOAA. Today, conserving the recovered iron artifacts is a race against time. Each item presents a different challenge to conservators as they seek to reverse the damage done by nearly 140 years of immersion in saltwater.

The Worthington simplex pumps, or "donkey pumps", were hardworking general purpose pumps. They were used to pump feed water in and out of the boiler, as bilge pumps, and as essential firefighting pumps. Conservators at The Mariner's Museum have already disassembled one of the pumps to facilitate easier treatment of the pump's different component materials such as rubber, iron, brass, textiles and lead. The pump will be reassembled and placed on display when treatment is complete.

In 2010, Mariners' Museum conservators began an ambitious project to create an operational replica of one of USS *Monitor's* Worthington steam pumps using multiple molding methods, laser-scanning, computer-aided-drafting, fused-deposition-modeling, and several casting and machining techniques.

www.marinersmuseum.org

Modern reproduction of the Worthington Pump

Will demonstrates how the reproduction pump works



VCA Members Tour the *USS Monitor* Conservation Lab



Not Every Conservation Lab Has a Built-in Crane!