



Diversity and Equality Fairs of Virginia and The Edwin Washington Project

2017 Annual Meeting, 11/10/2017, 1pm

Kirin Asian Café,

43053 Pemberton Square # 100, Chantilly, VA 20152

Includes notes presented at the Board Meeting and Minutes. This product constitutes an annual report to supporters.

A quorum was held with Larry Roeder, Anthony Arciero, Doug Miller and Randy Ihara attending. Hari Sharma was in Nepal at the time.

Agenda

- Report on progress made so far, the Financial Report (appendix) and proposal for work in 2018.
 - Note: The majority of the report will deal with the Edwin Washington Project; but several of us have in the past expressed an interest in acquiring for Diversity Fairs associated status as an NGO with the UN. That costs nothing but would gain us access to a broad array of people and donors interested in diversity, segregation and education.
- Election of Officers.
 - Current Office Holders are as follows. .
 - President. Larry Roeder (wants to stay).
 - Vice President. Randy Ihara (wants to stay)
 - Treasurer: Hari Sharma (wants to stay). Hari is currently on travel in Nepal.
 - Secretary We don't have one at this time
 - Agent for the Corporation with the IRS and State of Virginia. (Larry Roeder)

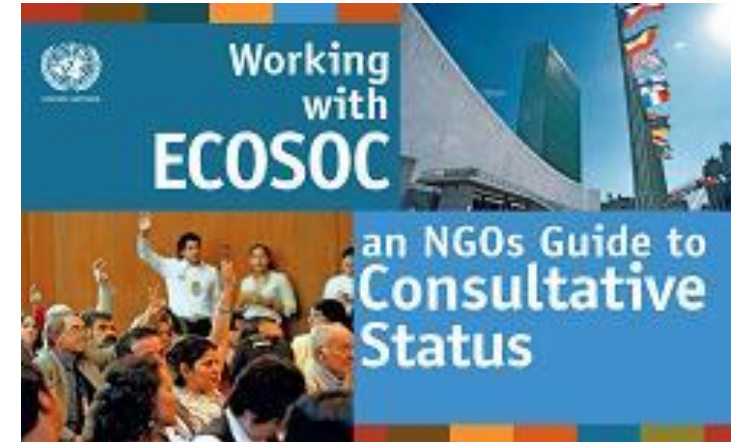
Note: We have two Directors who do not hold officer positions, Doug Miller and Tony Arciero; but Doug provides advice of great value and Tony acts as number 2 on the Edwin Washington Project.

On a motion by Doug Miller and seconded by Anthony Arciero, the entire slate of officers and Directors were reelected. We still need to find a Secretary. In addition, based on a suggestion by Maddy Gold, our cartographer, we agreed to bring on board a fund raiser.

Larry mentioned that in 2018 he would like to add a woman and an African-American to the Board. Recommendations are encouraged.

Upcoming Activities

- **Diversity Fairs to apply for consultative status with UN/ECOSOC** in 2018. If accepted, this will provide our organization with a broad array of contacts (corporate and individual) in the fields of education, segregation, equality and diversity. Leads on this aspect will be Larry Roeder, Hari Sharma and Randy Ihara. **The Board Agreed**
 - **Fyi.** After retiring from the Department of State, Larry served for four years as the United Nations Director for a British-American non-profit, so will lead this effort.
- **November 2018 Presentation to the County.** We have gained agreement to use the old Douglass School on 11/11/2018 to brief the county on our findings and plans. The formal report will be called “Dirt Don’t Burn.”
 - Special pains will made to attract as large an audience from the African American population as possible. Pastor Lawson of the Prosperity Baptist Church is a partner and we are in discussions with the Loudoun School for the Gifted, which might provide volunteers.
 - Our contact at the Douglass school is Sherri J. Simmons, Assistant Principal.
 - **The Board recommended media coverage of this event.**



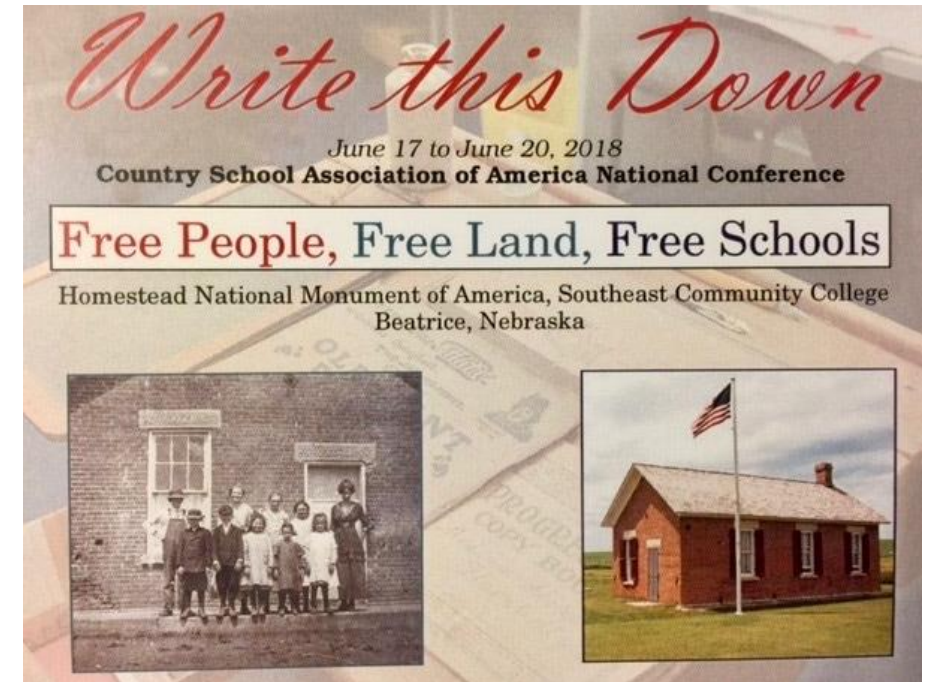
Upcoming Activities (continued)

- **Spring Excavation.** In 2017, Anthony Arciero, Larry Roeder and Henry Plaster found the ruins of the Bluemont Colored School in a forest. The plan in 2018 is to return to conduct a proper archeological examination of the ruins.
 - We are in discussions with the Loudoun School for the Gifted, which might provide volunteers. This is part of the effort to locate all former public schools (or schools that serviced African-Americans) during segregation, 1865-1968.
 - The Board recommend this be the subject of a news story.
- **The website** will undergo its third version by 2018, under the leadership of Julie Goforth, using more advanced software.
- The board supported this and asked that special emphasis also be given to social media. The Edwin Washington Project already has a Facebook Page, but is no on twitter yet, nor other platforms.
- The Board also agree to develop videos of interviews and explanations of the project for Your Tube and similar platforms. This will be a major project for 2018.



Upcoming Activities (continued)

- We need to visit the archives of the Library of Virginia, Virginia State University and Strathmore in 2018. All have original records on segregated education in Loudoun.
- We have been invited to participate in the 2018 Annual Conference in Nebraska of the Country School Association of America (June 18-20 in Beatrice, Nebraska), as well as their 2019 Annual Conference in Washington, DC. CSAA has also invited us to write five articles on our work for their journal and to speak at both upcoming conferences.



The Board agreed that these activities should be undertaken. Fund raising is under way.

Progress

1. Documents:

- Over the last 12 months, we have continued to scan documents from LCPS that had been lost in the Loudoun County Training Center in Leesburg. At the same time, we are cataloging the documents and placing them in archival boxes purchased from Gaylord. Individual files are placed in folders.
- Scanning is done with a special machine purchased by a confidential donor for about \$900. Using this item, we are able to scan at high volume with minimal impact on the paper.
- We anticipate completing scanning by November, 2018.
 - At the Board Meeting, it was agreed to try to attract more volunteers to scan and possibly another scanner.
- We do the document work at the Round Hill Center, 20 High Street, Round Hill, Va.
- Photo to the right shows all of the archival boxes, plus material not yet catalogued.



• 2 Data Collection -- Samples of Work.

- **Anthony Arciero** is developing a study on civil rights. In that context, Larry Roeder was also requested by the NAACP to collecting files related to their early days.
- **Gert Evans** is transcribing student records, to be completed by November, 2018. This should give us a good sense of who attended which schools and what they studied. As a byproduct, we have accumulated approximately 1200 biographical records on “colored” teachers and a similar amount for white teachers.
- **David Prebich, Delores Grigsby and Larry Roeder** are transcribing petitions, as well as scanning and inputting information into a Microsoft Access database written by Larry. We need to understand what white and “colored” petitioners wanted, compare the two populations and develop biographical information on each petitioner. Completion is scheduled for November, 2018.
- **Kathy Reid** is researching the use of libraries, old newspapers and the teaching of religion. We anticipate this effort will continue through to 2019.
- **Jeff Riner** is extracting the titles of textbooks, beginning with 1865. This effort will continue through 2019, as we want to understand whether the books were appropriate to the grades and how sensitive topics like segregation and the Civil War were handled. We will need to bring onto the team graduate students to examine the titles.
- **Kerri Gonzalez** is researching links between FoxCrott school and ‘black education’.
- **Hanna Heidelmeyer**, a German exchange student with the Marshall Center, helped Larry Roeder with a study on the 1926 Lincoln School fire. The Marshall Center plans to provide more students in 2018.



3. Digital Preservation



- Based on advice by **Julie Goforth**, who manages our digital preservation program, We plan to invest in Past Perfect Museum Software, which will allow anyone remote access to all of our documents.
- Past Perfect is used by libraries and museums around the country.
- With it, not only will we be able to provide access to these critical records to anyone with a computer, beginning towards the end of 2018, we can begin to act as a digital archives for history clubs in Loudoun and neighboring counties, some of which have already helped us.
- As we expand in to other counties, this tool will be very helpful.

The Board agreed that we use the tool to build a regional archive, a suggestion lauded in a post meeting discussion with Edward Spannaus, President of the Lovettsville Historical Society.

4. Interviews

- Larry Roeder, Maddy Gold and Anthony Arciero have interviewed former students and teachers from the segregated era.
- These efforts have not been filmed, but we anticipate doing that in 2018 and will likely show some at the 2018 event at Douglass in November.
- Interviews are an enormously important way of discovering the average life of students, parents and teachers during segregation.

The Board recommended filming more of these in 2018 and presenting some at the November, 2018 event at Douglass. Some might also be used as one minute YouTube videos on the project, in addition to short films on the nature of the project.



5. Community Engagement

- Larry Roeder, Maddy Gold and Anthony Arciero have participated in community briefings on the Edwin Washington Project, most notably at Douglass, Oatlands Plantation, the Loudoun School for the Gifted, and in Purcellville, Conklin, Saint Louis and Lovettsville.
- Visitors also often come to project HQ in Round Hill to discuss historic preservation.
- Starting in December, 2018, this effort will intensify with visits to Black Churches throughout the county in preparation for the November, 2018 event.



6. Location of Schools

- **Maddy Gold, Dave Prebice, Anthony Arciero and Larry Roeder** are locating the old segregated schools and associated routes, in order to produce an on-line map. Assistance has been provided by Gene Scheel, a Waterford-based historian, Wynne Saffer, an historian near Conklin, the Balch Library, Ed Spannus of the Lovettsville Historical Society, and other local scholars. Our goal is to complete this project by November, 2018.
- This includes physically visiting each school, including ruins such as the Bluemont facility.
- In 2017 we located what was almost the site for Banneker at Macsville on route 50. Banneker was built in Saint Louis in 1948. This has raised many questions, as the Macsville site of 100 acres would have been easier to access.

The Board supported the request by the Country School Association of American to do a series of articles for them, and also recommended doing an article on the Bluemont Discover for Loudoun Times.



7. The Tankerville School Building Project

- After providing a lecture to the Lovettsville Historical Society in July, Larry was invited to visit the cellar of the old Tankersville school for white children. Inside was a wooden box full of papers going back to 1832, which were donated to the Edwin Washington Project.
- We first fumigated and treated the paper for insects and molds. A complete review of the content will not be completed until late 2018; but while we have already learned that only some of the material deals with schools, many papers and artifacts provide a contemporary view from 1832 to the 1920's of politics, the maintenance of roads and race relations, which is quite valuable.

