

Minutes of Member Meeting on 2014-09-03

Meeting was called to order by president Bob Smith;

117 members present with 4 new potential members introduced by sponsors;

Committee Report Highlights:

- 1- Coming Events: Trip to Samuel B. Morse Home, Storm King Art Center and a luncheon at Canterbury Brook Inn in Cornwall, N.Y. on September 18th. (Room available on bus.)
- 2- Book Club: meeting next Wednesday (9/10/14) at 12:30 at Darien library to discuss "A Higher Call."
- 3- Genealogy Club: meeting September 23rd. (See Frank Johnson for details;)
- 4- Golf: see Ken Monahan for details of upcoming match October 3rd.
- 5- Wanderers: celebrating its 14th. Year will visit the 9/11 museum with lunch at Fraunces Tavern, NYC on September 18th. (See John Barston for details.)
- 6- Hiking Club-trekking the Mianus River Gorge on Sept. 11. (See Scott Hutchason for details;)

President Smith asked for volunteers to help with our Communications program and in Tech Support; if interested, please contact Bob.

SPEAKER: John Sanden, arranged by David Mace

John regaled us with his exploits in the world of portrait painting. A recipient of many awards, John traced the history of presidential portraits, dating back to the first, George Washington by Gilbert Stuart; he pointed out interesting facts such the one that GW did not receive his portrait from GS until after death; Stuart painted GW in 1 ½ hours in 1796 and by 1828 there was still no portrait delivered to GW. (He was long gone by then and didn't care much.) There are 72 portraits combined of both presidents and first ladies in the WH; Mr. Sanden detailed facts about such famous portrait painters as Healy, Lansdowne and John Singer Sargent before detailing his commission to paint George W. Bush because of his excellent work painting George's Dallas friends. From portrait one, which was accepted, until portrait number eight, the twists and turns of this commission were artfully and humorously explained. As he himself said, he should have kept quiet after his first was accepted.

All told, a very different speaker delivering a most unusual talk on an interesting topic.

P.S. Alex Garnett invites anyone who has an idea for a speaker beginning in Feb of next year to contact him. Next week's speaker is Art Gottlieb discussing the aircraft carrier Intrepid.

Note: A slight change in the DMA format: Coffee and cakes are available at 9:45 each Wednesday and the speaker begins his presentation at 10:45.

Thomas M. Brayton