

# Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 13, 2023

7:00pm

Alexandria City Hall – Room 1101

- Welcome and Call to Order
  - Meeting led by Ashlee Harper-Johnson because Angelique was not present.
  - Notes were taken by Jennifer Reading.
  
- Au revoir – Laura Withers. Bienvenue – Donna Kenley and Karen McKeon
  - Karen did not attend because she is sick.
  - Donna joined us for her first meeting. She is a retired army service member and retired professor. She now works at Fort Belvoir. She visited Caen last year after which she became interested in ACSCC. Specifically, she has interest in the D-Day activities and the exchange student activities. Welcome, Donna!
  
- Approve Minutes from October
  - Angelique had distributed a draft of the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes to committee members for review prior to the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes as distributed.
  
- Ongoing Business
  - A. Beaujolais Nouveau – 11/16/23**
    - Sold Out!
    - Elodie, Angelique, and Jennie are arriving early at about 5:30 to set up. Eric will also arrive early. The tasting starts at 7:30 pm. Stephen will help with cleanup and recycling bottles.
    - Tasks: **Jim** is getting all wine and water and will have it at Lloyd House. He is printing programs. **Antoine** is managing music. **Elodie** is sending Beaujolais wine info to Jennie. **Jennie** will create the wine program and send to Jim.
    - Unwind representative will attend and people can order additional bottles of wine from them on-site.
    - Long discussion (to be continued) about how to best use the leftover wine from the event. We decided to give larger pours to those who want it to use up wine. We discussed using it at Cider Week as an option for visitors to buy. We discussed OHA buying leftovers from ACSCC at a discount for their future use.
    - Ashlee purchased and delivered 96 glasses. Total cost was \$275.11
  
  - B. Cider Festival – 11/18/23, Lloyd House, 1-5pm.**
    - We have two time shifts for an ACSCC member to staff.
    - 1-3 is Stephen, Kyly, and Jennie.
    - 3-5 is Eric and Antoine. We would like to get one more person for this shift.
    - Jim has purchased two types of cider. **Jim** will get the descriptions to Jennie.
    - **Elodie** will advertise Cider Week to our ACSCC mailchimp contacts.
    - **Jennie** will make a flyer with a description of the ciders. Jennie will make a flyer with our QR code so people can sign up for “upcoming events.” This flyer might

also advertise the D-Day event, since we have a date for that confirmed.

### **C. Reschedule Alumni Party**

- Rescheduled for Saturday, January 6th 11:30-3pm. This will be a “Galette des Rois” party. It is a potluck gathering and we will buy galletts to serve at 1:00. Stephen and Elodie could do a cultural introduction to the event.
- Venue: Jennie’s house. 432 Monticello Blvd.

### **D. Scottish Walk Parade**

- Saturday, December 2nd
- ACSCC members gather around 10am. Location TBA.
- Wear blue/blanc/rouge things.
- **Stephen** will get mini flags.
- **Jennie** will get banner from Lloyd House while at Beaujolais party.
- **Jennie** will email former members to join.

### **E. Sister City Dinner Cancelled**

- Caen & Dundee Get Together After Scottish Walk?

## ● New Business

### **A. Lafayette Bicentennial**

- Elizabeth M. Reese contacted ACSCC to discuss ways to collaborate regarding the upcoming Lafayette bicentennial. From her email: “I am a historian and author in Alexandria working on a book about the Marquis de Lafayette's 1824-25 National Tour, which will be published in Spring 2024. I am also a member of the American Friends of Lafayette and as well as a member of the Lafayette Bicentennial Committees for Northern Virginia and Washington DC. I wanted to reach out regarding the opportunity to partner together on events celebrating the Bicentennial of this visit in October 2024. This would be a wonderful opportunity to highlight the Caen Sister City Organization and the strong Franco-American history right here in Alexandria.”
- **Jennie** and possibly Angelique are meeting with her over coffee later this week and will report out at the next meeting

### **B. Allocation of Funds for Exchange Program**

- Discussion to be continued at a future meeting.
- People seemed to prefer the idea of having fundraising for the exchange program to be a part of all our events, as opposed to doing one big fundraising event.
- We agreed we needed to get a better picture of what our budget is. (see item one below in “Open Floor.”)

### **C. Open Floor**

- Agenda item request: 2024 Budget Review for our next meeting.
- Antoine discussed petanque as a 2024 ACSCC activity. Elodie suggested Cafe Gustave in Del Ray as a venue.
- We considered maybe children's activities for a future event.

- Public Comment
  - Emmanuel DuBois and his wife joined again to see if there were any updates to the orchestral piece they would like to perform in Alexandria.
  - **Jennie** will email Caroline Mousset at Washington Philharmonic this week to recommend his composition for their orchestra on behalf of our committee. Ashlee is interested in working with Mr. DuBois regarding musicians or logistics if needed along the way. The committee as a whole would support advertising, etc.
  - Emmanuel Dubois, on a separate topic, suggested St. Nicholas and a donkey as a part of our Scottish Walk parade, sharing the story of French traditions.
  
- Adjournment
  - Ashlee adjourned the meeting.

ACSCC Member Attendees:

Ashlee Harper-Johnson  
 Stephen Hartka  
 Elodie Guillon  
 Donna Kenley  
 Antoine Dula Lopez  
 Jennifer Reading  
 Eric Trimble

City of Alexandria Government Liaison:

Jim Holloway

Public Attendees:

Emmanuel DuBois  
 Susie DuBois

2023 Calendar

January –  
 February – Cocktails & Confections 2.9.23  
 March – France and the Gauls: From Caesar to Astérix Lecture 3.30.23  
 April – An Evening of French Classical Music 4.14.23  
 May –  
 June – D-Day Lecture 6.1.23, D-Day Commemoration 6.4.23  
 July –  
 August – Summer Cookout 8.12.23  
 September –  
 October –  
 November – Beaujolais Nouveau 11.16.23 (Cider Festival 11.18.23)  
 December – (Scottish Walk Parade 12.2.23)

2024 Calendar

January – Reunion Party: Galette des Rois 1.6.24  
 February –  
 March –  
 April –

May –  
June – D-Day Commemoration 6.2.24  
July –  
August –  
September –  
October –  
November – Beaujolais Nouveau (Cider Festival)  
December – Scottish Walk Parade