

Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2025

Alexandria City Hall – Room 1101

I. Welcome and Call to Order

ACSCC Chair Angelique Moss called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. when there was a quorum present.

II. Approve October Minutes

Prior to the meeting, Angelique emailed the draft October 2025 minutes to committee members for review. ACSCC member Michael Kutler introduced a motion, seconded by ACSCC member Elizabeth Reister, that the committee approve the minutes as distributed. The committee approved the motion unanimously.

III. Ongoing Business

A. Recap French Family Workout 10/4

ACSCC member Sydney Johnson, who developed and executed the idea for this pilot event, explained that it was presented in collaboration with Fit4Mom. In addition to the instructor, there were four moms and four babies who attended the 60-minute exercise session, which had a French theme. There was a French music playlist to accompany the exercising, and some activities for the children, e.g, coloring pages, songs, board book station. At the end, a prize package of French-inspired food items donated by Wegman's was raffled off to the person who answered correctly a trivia question about Caen—How old is Caen?

Sydney said that the moms complimented the session and some wanted to find out more about ACSCC. The headquarters for Fit4Mom was interested in the event so there might be future opportunities for collaborations between their organization and ACSCC. Sydney explained that there were several last-minute cancellations, which spurred a discussion about whether there might be a better time of year to hold an event like this one, when there weren't so many competing events.

B. Recap Viking Lecture 10/16

ACSCC Secretary Leslie Tourigny said that Dr. Jennifer Paxton, as is her style, was thorough and funny in her presentation about why the Vikings left their homes to plunder and trade in distant lands. There were approximately 35 people attending the lecture, who seemed to be enjoying the program, as well as the wine and desserts following the presentation.

C. NOVA Winery Trip 11/11

Angelique discussed the optional winery trip for members from both ACSCC and the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee (Dundee and Helsingborg). She said there was only a handful of people who signed up to go.

D. Beaujolais Nouveau Tasting 11/20

Angelique summarized some of the subcommittee's decisions from their October 28th meeting:

- Mark Lotterie of Elite Wines, who has been our wine vendor in previous years, will, once again, be providing wine (Rose Brut, Chenin Blanc, and Côtes du Rhone). We will purchase Beaujolais Nouveau from Planet Wine.
- Gustave Boulangerie & Brasserie in Del Ray will be catering the hors d'oeuvres and

desserts.

- The budget was finalized and posted on the committee's drive. The committee will make a profit on the event, although less than previous years because of rising prices.
- There are enough of the Beaujolais custom stemless wine glasses from last year so that we do not have to order any more this year.
- There will be a total of 74 tickets to be sold, plus six to be comped.
- The event will take place from 7:00-9:30 p.m. Angelique pointed out that people usually start arriving before the starting time, so we need to be prepared for early arrivals.
- We will be playing French music playlists.
- Members of the committee volunteered for these assignments during the event: check-in, welcome drinks, food set-up, wine set-up, AV set-up, and clean-up.

E. Cider Festival 11/22

Jim Holloway, the liaison to ACSCC from the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), reiterated that there were two shifts for volunteers from the committee for the Cider Festival: 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Leslie, Sydney, and Stephen volunteered for the first shift and Michael and Bianna Meyer for the second shift.

F. Scottish Walk 12/6

Angelique explained that the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee, once again, signed up for the parade, and we will walk behind them in the parade order. She also mentioned that later that day OHA will be hosting a Sister City Dinner to honor the Lord and Lady Provost from Dundee, who were visiting because of the parade. Angelique said that committee members should have received an invitation to the dinner and reminded them to RSVP.

G. D-Day Commemoration

ACSAC member Candace Harman, who will be chairing the 2026 D-Day commemoration subcommittee, reported to the committee about what she found out about Carlyle Square as a potential venue for the D-Day Commemoration for a tentative May 31, 2026, date. She said that Carlyle allows the city to use their space for free for up to 10 events a year so we could avail ourselves of this. Candace explained how the space would work well for our commemoration. There was a general discussion in which various members talked about the positives of this venue for the D-Day commemoration. Candace will check with several other possible venues and report back to the committee. If we decide on the May 31st date, then there was a consensus around June 4th for the D-Day lecture.

IV. Open Floor and Public Comment

- A. During the meeting, ideas for family-oriented events were raised, such as for Valentine's Day, the Winter Olympics, La Fête de la Musique, Francophonie Day and La Rentrée.
- B. ACSAC member Timotheos Tan suggested that we could organize a French book club, perhaps in collaboration with Old Town Books.

- C. Angelique asked Kari Anderson, who is a member of the public in attendance at the meeting, what her thoughts were about the activities that were discussed during the meeting. Kari's opinion was that we should focus more on events associated with French holidays.

V. Adjournment

Angelique adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

ACSCC Members in Attendance (In-Person):

Candace Harman
Stephen Hartka
Alex Jevgrafov
Sydney Johnson
Michael Kutler
Brianna Meyer
Angelique Moss
Eliabeth Reister
Timotheos Tan
Leslie Tourigny
Eric Trimble
Reed Van Beveren
Karen Fassi Wilbur

City of Alexandria Liaison:

Jim Holloway Office of Historic Alexandria

Member of the Public in Attendance:

Kari Anderson

2025 Calendar

January – Alumni Party 1/11

February –

March – French Flow Yoga 3/22; Middle School Exchange – French Students Visit 3/29 -4/9

April –

May –

June – D-Day Commemoration 6/1; D-Day Lecture 6/5

July – << *No Committee Meeting* >>

August –

September – French Liberation Lecture 9/25

October – French Family Workout, 10/4; Viking Lecture 10/16

November – Beaujolais Nouveau 11/20; Cider Festival 11/22

December – Scottish Walk Parade 12/6 Sister Cities Dinner 12/6

Leslie Tourigny, Secretary