

**George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee
Annual Report
July 2019 – June 2020**

Summary of Accomplishments

The George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee is responsible for the planning and carrying out of the City's annual George Washington Birthday celebration. Within these guidelines, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee membership completed the following activities during its 2019/20 session.

**George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee
Policy and Membership Accomplishments**

- Membership for the year was steady.
- Some organizations have not participated in years with meetings or events, leaving large gaps in potential membership attendance. Working with City Council, we were able to change the membership criteria allowing more citizens at large and additional veterans organization to be eligible to join.

Activities

- See attached list for full details of events. In brief, the following events were held:
 - Dinner with Washington
 - Colonial Christmas Traditions
 - Chocolate with General Washington
 - The “Cherry Challenge”
 - “George Washington’s Alexandria” Tours
 - Lecture: George Washington: Commander-in-Chief
 - 18th Century Dance Classes
 - Birthnight Banquet & Ball
 - George Washington Parade
 - Wreath Laying Ceremony at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution
 - “Hunt for Washington”
 - Armed Forces Community Covenant Ceremony
 - Washington Symposium
 - George Washington Birthday Gala
- This year, the “George Washington’s Alexandria” Tour and the “Hunt for Washington” were improved and were greatly participated in. Over the course of the winter months, hundreds of interested persons attended these free tours through Old Town Alexandria where Washington had affiliation. The “Hunt for Washington” was a new program that trialed last year to great success. This year, we expanded the hunt, had better prizes, and were more prepared.

- Due to funding, the Fort Ward Re-enactment for the year was cancelled. It is hoped that this program will happen again in the future.
- The Cherry Challenge had lower participation this year, with only a few dozen restaurants (24 confirmed) joining compared to the previous year with 60 participating restaurants. The event was held from January 26 through February 9.
- The Washington Parade on February 17, 2020 was once again successful with thousands in attendance. Councilor John Chapman was Honorary Chair of the Parade. The theme for the year was “Selfless Service to Country”. Fitting this theme was the Grand Marshal for the year, Robert H. Shumaker. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Class of 1956. He was interned as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam after he was shot down on February 11, 1965 and was held until his release exactly eight years later on 12 February 1973. He retired as a U.S. Navy Rear Admiral on January 29, 1988.
- The following awards were won by the following units in the Washington Parade:
 - **Judges Special Awards**
 - Hard Times Chili Truck
 - Carriages of the Capital
 - Daughters of the American Revolution, District V
 - **Antique Vehicles**
 - 1st Place - Old Town Festival of Speed & Style
 - 2nd Place - Marvel Spiderman Car
 - 3rd Place – Caribbean Cruisers Car Club
 - **Carriages and Wagons**
 - 1st Place - Carriages of the Capital
 - 2nd Place - Zebra Press
 - 3rd Place – Savage Pest Warfare
 - **Community or Adult Bands**
 - 1st Place - City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums
 - 2nd Place - KENA Shriners
 - **Community & Fraternal Organizations**
 - 1st Place – Daughters of the American Revolution, Kate Waller Barrett Chapter
 - 2nd Place – Little Theatre of Alexandria
 - 3rd Place – ALIVE!
 - **Floats**
 - 1st Place – Falun Dafa of DC

- 2nd Place – Adventure Park USA
- 3rd Place – Old Dominion Boat Club
- **Historical Units**
 - 1st Place – 1st VA Regiment of the Continental Line
 - 2nd Place - Sons of the American Revolution
 - 3rd Place - 369th Infantry Regiment "Ebony Doughboys"
- **Honor Guards & Color Guards**
 - 1st Place – Combined Public Safety Honor Guard
 - 2nd Place – Knights of Columbus - Potomac Assembly #2204
 - 3rd Place - McKinley Technology High School ROTC
- **Military Units & Drill Teams**
 - 1st Place – Fishburne Military School
- **Youth Bands**
 - 1st Place - Frederick Town Fife and Drum
 - 2nd Place - Fishburne Military School
- **Youth Groups**
 - 1st Place - Girl Scout Junior Troop 5442
 - 2nd Place – Cub Scout Pack 301
 - 3rd Place - Brownie Troop 60087
- **“Spirit of George Washington”**
 - 1st Place – 1st VA Regiment of the Continental Line
 - 2nd Place – American Legion Post 24
 - 3rd Place – City of Alexandria Pipes & Drums

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- Proclamation of George Washington Birthday, month of February 2020.
- Committee approval of 2023 Change of Washington Parade to commemorate 2023 Cornerstone Ceremony of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the April 2019 meeting: Tyler Vanice and Joseph Shumard would serve as Co-chair, Henry Dorton as Vice-Chair, and Michael Uehlein was elected as Secretary.
- The Committee changed administrative association from the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities to the Office of Historic Alexandria.

- Nicole Quinn from the Office of Historic Alexandria acted as the staff liaison to George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee during the 2019-2020 year.
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:

Edgar Bates May 08, 2018 - May 08, 2020
Daniel Beard Feb 11, 2020 - Feb 11, 2022
Claire Bennett Jun 13, 2018 - Jun 13, 2020
David Bissette Apr 10, 2018 - Apr 10, 2020
Casey Clark Oct 22, 2019 - Oct 22, 2021
Henry Dorton Feb 13, 2018 - Feb 13, 2020
Kristen Eastlick Jan 14, 2020 - N/A
Robert Garbacz Nov 13, 2001 - N/A
Sally Graham Dec 11, 2018 - Dec 11, 2020
Susan Johnson Dec 11, 2018 - Dec 11, 2020
Noah Khan Jun 13, 2018 - Jun 13, 2020
Stephen MacLeod Jan 08, 2019 - Jan 08, 2021
Sean Marvin Nov 12, 2019 - Nov 12, 2021
Margaret ("Mitzi") Moore Feb 11, 2020 - Feb 11, 2022
Jason Reardon Feb 12, 2019 - Feb 12, 2021
Joseph Shumard Nov 14, 2017 - Nov 14, 2019
Nicholas Soto Jan 09, 2018 - Jan 09, 2020
Ellen Tabb Feb 13, 2018 - Feb 13, 2020
Michael Uehlein May 08, 2018 - May 08, 2020
Tyler Vanice May 14, 2019 - May 14, 2021

Attachments

1. Annual Attendance Sheet
2. George Washington Birthday Celebration Schedule for 2020
3. George Washington Birthday Press Releases, January 21, 2020