



An Urgent Dispatch for the General Staff

the E-newsletter of the W3R-US -- June 2009



Sixth Annual Meeting of the W3R-US in Annapolis MD on May 2, 2009

Sixteen Directors from the nine on-route states (and D.C.) met on May 2 in the banquet hall of the Treaty of Paris Restaurant in Annapolis to review the past year and hear suggestions for future projects and procedures. Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer (at center below) opened the meeting by unveiling a new painting by David R. Wagner of Connecticut (at right below) as Col. Tench Tighlman (portrayed by John Smith, at left below) . This will serve as the graphic for a W3R interpretive sign to be placed in Annapolis later this year.



Outgoing Chair Kim Burdick (at left below) introduced speakers from the National Park Service: Steve Elkinton (at right below) and Robert Campbell (no photo). State reports were presented and new Directors and national officers were elected. Our Web site will have minutes, reports, and the lists of directors and officers.



NPS Interim Liaison Named for the W3R-NHT
John Maounis, Superintendent for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, has been named as the NPS' liaison with the W3R-US until funding for a regular administrator for the W3R-NHT has been provided (expected to happen in October 2009). John will participate (without vote) in the W3R-US' Exec. Comm.

Biosketch of a W3R Leader

Kim Burdick served as Vice Chair of the W3R-US from 2004-7 and chair from 2007-9. During her term as chair the W3R was designated a National Historic Trail (under Public Law 111-11). This is the second public-private partnership she has worked on with National Park Service, the first being the Delaware Memorial at Gettysburg, dedicated in April 2000.

Kim secured funding for and wrote much of the W3R Commons web site and the W3R kiosk. She was chair of the W3R-DE from 2004-8, where she organized two Revolutionary Weekends, one in 2004 and one in 2006.

Kim has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the College of Urban Affairs, Univ. of Delaware, where she specialized in Organizational Theory and Culture. She also has a Master's Degree from Cooperstown Graduate Programs, State Univ. of NY Oneonta, where she majored in American Folk Culture and Museum Studies. She has been an adjunct professor at the Del Tech Wilmington (DE) Campus since 2004. For ten years Kim served as House-Senate Liaison for the Delaware General Assembly. In that capacity she worked as a public policy analyst on environmental, international trade, and educational issues and was a staff person on the National Education Goals 2000 Committee. In 1994 she was named a Henry Toll Fellow -- a program for emerging young leaders in the National Council for State Governments -- for her development of Delaware's Coastal Heritage Greenway and work in developing an Eastern Regional Trading block with Quebec and the Northeastern states,

From 1991-2000, Kim served on the Board of Advisors of the National Trust for Preservation. She has also served as Newsletter Editor for the Delaware Press Association, President of the Delaware Art Museum Council, and on many smaller boards and organizations. She is the Resident Curator of the Historic Hale-Byrnes House near Stanton, Delaware. Many of Kim's Delaware-related essays, monographs, speeches and material and notes related to her projects can be found in the Kim Burdick Collection at Special Collections of the University of Delaware's Morris Library, and also at the Delaware Historical Society's Library in Wilmington.

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The Future of the W3R

by Ralph Nelson, Chair of the W3R-US

Now that the federal government has designated the W3R as a National Historic Trail (NHT) our volunteer organizations -- the W3R-US, state W3R groups, and affiliates -- can turn their attention to programs for public awareness, heritage touring, and K-12 education.

The first phase of developing the W3R (1996-2003) focused on developing the concept and establishing communications among people already involved in commemorations and historical research. The second phase (2004-2009) focused on developing a formal organization, finding funding for surveys of the documentary basis, supporting W3R-themed events and commemorations all along the trail, and encouraging public and legislative support for resolutions recognizing the U.S-French alliance and designating the W3R as an NHT.

We are now entering the third phase of development, focusing on completing tasks from the second phase (documentation, signage) and working with the National Park Service (NPS) as it develops a Comprehensive Management Plan. We expect to restructure the W3R-US to facilitate operation with a larger membership.

Many states are holding events to celebrate the W3R's designation as an NHT and to thank the legislators and staff who supported this effort over the past decade. We are developing a calendar of events co-sponsored with affiliates to secure their continuing commitment and involvement.

We have started a speakers' bureau to meet the need for describing the new National Historic Trail to the local chapters of our affiliate organizations and to tourism agencies and tour operators.

We are supplementing our Web site (a static resource) with this E-newsletter, which can be forwarded to prospective friends and affiliates. We hope to move the guide sheets for enjoying the trail by auto, bicycle, and on foot from rough draft to reviewed and endorsed status.

We may convert our present GoogleEarth data files into a Geographic Information System (GIS) with multiple databases of geographic coordinates for the historic trails, modern tourism routes, signs, and sites along the W3R, with appropriate notation, icons, and comments to distinguish trails on overlay maps.

Biosketch [from page 1]

Kim also has a Certificate in French from the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland and holds a Diplome Approfondi (DELF & DALF) in French. In October 2008 she was awarded les Palmes Académiques by the French Government for her work related to the allied French and American troops of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Burdick currently serves as the Chairman of the Delaware Humanities Forum Council. In this, the 35th Anniversary year of DHF, she is working with the Humanities Forum's board and staff to put together three public discussions on the theme "Picturing Delaware: Inside and Outside the Frame."



Craig Johnson of Talisman Interactive with Kim Burdick at the dedication of the W3R kiosk in 2006.

Talisman Interactive is working with us to develop a laptop demonstration of the kiosk (to show prospective partners its value) and to allow the kiosk to operate in stand-alone mode (independent of Web access). This will allow us to use the kiosk in locations that do not have a dedicated 24-hour Web connection.