

## **OTBA Minutes – OCTOBER 9, 2013**

Attendees began the breakfast buffet at 8:15 am

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 am. There were 28 people in attendance.

After introductions were made, the minutes from our last meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> were approved by Bob Chase and seconded by Chris Finnie. Our minutes along with the Treasurer's report are posted on line at the OTBA website.

Nury Mena, OTBA treasurer gave the treasurer's report. Our ending balance in Fulton Bank as of September 30, 2013 is \$12,157.38. President Joanne Wunderly announced that we are still collecting for the Christmas lights atop the buildings from last year and it is just weeks away from starting all over again. It is a very labor intensive issue.

Joanne also announced that the ad campaign in Discover Publications and the Manassas Observer that will continue through the end of the year is underway. Discover will feature Old Town on the front page of their December issue with the tag line – Shop, Dine and Unwind.

Election of OTBA officers will take place at our November meeting. Newly elected officers will begin in January 2014. Mary McGlone has been asked, and accepted, to head up the nominations for new officers. Term limit is for two years. Please, if you or someone you know is interested in being more involved with OTBA, let Mary know. Please also discuss with the person you nominate to see if there is interest in serving as an OTBA officer. Our By-Laws call for elections at the October meeting. Due to circumstances, we are a month behind.

Our next meeting will be November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**HMI** – Taylor Lenz reported for HMI. Annie Blewett has been moved to the position recently held by Sarah McHugh. Taylor said that the next event, Haunted Happenings would be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 12 noon. Registration is at 10 am at city hall. Last year we saw more than 1,000 children in the costume parade and expect similar numbers this year. November 1st will be the Fall Gallery Walk.

**Manassas Museum** – Doug Horta reported that October brings a new exhibit – 40 Years of Collecting Manassas with many items from their archives being on display. In addition to the new exhibit, there will be a book talk, tours of the cemetery, the guided walk, Spirits of Manassas with stops at Prospero's Books and The Opera House Gourmet on October 26<sup>th</sup>. There will also be Holiday tours of Liberia.

**Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory** – Sally Lay reported that it had been a quiet month. There is an excellent Art Exhibit in the first floor gallery. Rehearsals for Pied Piper Theater's "Willie Wonka" production in November 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> at Metz Middle School are in full swing. Saturday performances begin at 7 pm and Sunday performances at 4 pm. The Rooftop production of "Nonsense" will run for three weekends in November on Friday and Saturday nights beginning November 1 – 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Harris Pavilion** – no report.

**Manassas Art Guild** –no report

**Chamber of Commerce** – no report

**Welcome Center** – Phyllis Harrison reported for the Welcome Center and directed attention to the 511Virginia card on the table. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) developed this program to assist with free, reliable source of traffic information to travelers.

**Hylton Performing Arts Center** – Katy Campbell announced that the 4<sup>th</sup> season is underway and that event calendars are out and encouraged others to take them to hand out. A new community series of art exhibits/receptions to be held in the Buchanan Partners Art Gallery on selected Thursday evenings. The public is invited to attend but should RSVP to [HYLTON@GMU.EDU](mailto:HYLTON@GMU.EDU). There will be a lot of ‘Dracula’ sightings at the Hylton during October. Manassas Ballet Theatre and Prince William Little Theater both are offering their productions of ‘Dracula’ on October 26 and 27.

**Discover Prince William & Manassas (formally known as the CVB)** – Wendy Vestfall mentioned that recent cooperative effort with Loudoun, Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria and Prince William receiving a \$25,000 grant to promote tourism to the Canadian Market. There were travel writers in town to cover the Fall Jubilee. The 2014 Visitors Guide is in the works and will feature a tear out map. It will be given to 100 thousand visitors and will be a good opportunity to advertise.

**Restaurant Alliance** – Kari Laparotti announced that Restaurant Week went well that was held at the end of September. There is work to be done for the next one which will be in the spring. At their last meeting they discussed the need to set some by-laws for the group. Anne Hempen of Manassas Junction Bed & Breakfast said that she was unaware and would have promoted it had she known.

**Manassas Fire and Rescue** – no report.

**Manassas City Police** – Bill Hutchinson announced that there will be a rotation of police officers who attend the OTBA meeting and that our concerns, complaints would be passed on to the appropriate department. The Gang Symbol detection presentation to identify symbols and signs will be presented at our net meeting.

Jan Alten stated that the oversized tractor trailer that came through Old Town created a huge traffic jam on Center Street. Jan also expressed the need for a police presence whenever there are large events in town ie. The Greek and East Fest, the Railroad Festival, and concerts at the Pavilion etc. It is extremely difficult for pedestrians to cross Center Street safely at these events.

Rickie Simpson also expressed concerns that cars are not yielding to pedestrians.

Doug Horta said that the construction on Center and Main Streets has created problems with traffic since the drivers are looking at the construction and not paying attention to pedestrians or other traffic

Other comments at this time were from Alan Guy who reported that the re-painting of the water tower could include a mural reflecting Manassas and would be a beacon for Old Town.

**City of Manassas**–Acting City Manager, Larry Hughes reported that the new City Manager would be on the job October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Featured Speaker** – Debbie Haight, of Historic Manassas, un-veiled the new and improved HMI website (which is still in the ‘populating’ stage). There was much excitement over the look, the ease of navigation and the amount of information about events that will be on the site.

### **Business announcements: What’s New?**

Kari Laporatti of Philadelphia Tavern announced that this weekend will be their Oktoberfest Celebration with plenty of German influenced foods, beer and music. Festivities begin at 11 am.

Lu Harris announced that she is offering art classes at her studio.

Bob Chase mentioned that a ribbon cutting celebration of the exterior renovation of Prospero’s would be held on 10/10 at 10. There will be refreshments. The Veterans Day Parade will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Joanne encouraged all businesses to decorate with red, white and blue for the parade.

Jean Harrover announced that the Woman’s’ Club of Manassas will have the ceremony honoring our veterans at the memorial on 11/11 at 11 am. The ROTC Unit from Stonewall Senior High School will be present for the ceremony.

Ricky Simpson of Ricky Simpson, PHD, LLC spoke the yoga classes she offers

Doug Horta said that the painting of Liberia that Mary Reilly did for the Civil War weekend is in the front lobby of the museum. The painting was enhanced by members of the community who contributed their ‘artistic’ embellishments to the painting.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Doug Horta and he won \$20.

Our next meeting will be November 13<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting ended at 9:24 am.