



— SOUTH CAROLINA —

Entrusted With History's Future

**The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America
in the State of South Carolina
Historian's Report
2020-2021**

President Mrs. Saunders McKenzie Bridges, Jr. acknowledged that this year began as no other year has begun for NSCDA-SC. South Carolina, the United States of America, and the whole world was at the beginning or in the middle of a worldwide pandemic known as Coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated to COVID-19. The Spartanburg Town Committee, chaired by Becky Alkis, worked diligently to provide attendees with a special visit and the program was a particularly special one.

Natasha Boyd, author of *The Indigo Girl* was our featured speaker. We were looking forward to her telling us about her research of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, the “Indigo Girl” in her historic novel; however, Covid-19 stopped all plans, and the meeting was held by conference call.

This year's Annual Meeting marked the end of Mary Mundy's illustrious tenure as President of NSCDA-SC and the beginning of Mrs. Bridges'. Conference calls, webinars, and Zoom meetings became the new normal.

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Columbia Town Committee, and it will follow the path of virtual gatherings that has lasted more than a year.

The general meeting that occurs in October, hosted by the Columbia Town Committee did not happen; neither did the Christmas Luncheon hosted by Lowcountry. The cancellations occurred because NSCDA-SC was very faithful in staying in compliance with guidelines of DHEC and Governor McMaster's Executive Orders. However, the business and projects of our society continued. Many town committees have met by conference calls and Zoom meetings. Board meetings have been conducted the same way with one exception. In November, the board met in-person and by Zoom, depending on the comfort of the board member. It was a voting meeting where candidates are presented for invitation to join SC Society. We plan to do this again in May 2021. One of the most notable occurrences that happened just as 2020 was ending, was the naming of Katherine Pemberton as Executive Director of The Powder Magazine to replace Alan Stello who moved to Virginia. She and the staff he had assembled didn't miss a beat and paid tribute to him by combining their talents and taking them to a level that ensured The Powder Magazine's prominence in NSCDA.

Mrs. Bridges reported that as she wrote this report, she was struck that nearly a year had passed, and she hasn't had the pleasure of being in a meeting with the entire Board. How very, very different that is from her previous years on the board. The one thing both new members and retiring members will share forever is the experience of 2020-2021.

As **First Vice President**, Mrs. Samuel Jackson Galloway, Jr. presided at all meetings in the absence of the President and in the event of a vacancy in the office of President shall fill the unexpired term. She performs any duties as may be designated to her by the President or the Board of Managers. She serves as the Chairman of the Committee on By-Laws and as the Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee. She will orient the new Board members in the procedure for voting for new members.

The By-Laws and Standing Rules are continually proofed, updated, and posted on the NSCDA-SC website giving members access to the most current and up-to-date version.

Proposed changes and amendments to the By-Laws and Standing Rules March 1, 2020 to March 1, 2021 consisted of six Standing Rule changes dealing with Special Committees and Chairs, Membership, Committees and Board of Managers. These changes were presented to and approved by The Board March 3, 2021 and will be voted on by the General Membership on April 15, 2021.

Mrs. Joseph Kenneth Germain, Jr. reported as **Second Vice President** that it was a pleasure to welcome 55 Dames to the South Carolina Society. She contacted the new members by telephone so that she could answer questions and explain that our website is member friendly. Then she mailed instruction sheets explaining how to enter the National and State websites.

Due to COVID 19 it was a different year for all of us and she missed seeing and greeting each new member in person.

Third Vice President Mrs. Richard Huguenin Coen reported that the office is running very smoothly again this year thanks to office manager Abby Aguilar.

Abby has also moved into the apartment above the office and that has worked out very nicely. Also, we increased her hours from four to six, five days a week.

In the past year Abby finished digitizing all the member files in the office-14 large file drawers! She then moved on to digitizing the older member files and is halfway finished with them.

With the extra hours Abby has been able to help The Powder Magazine staff with various marketing tasks. Mainly managing their Facebook page (about 3-5 posts per week) and sending out their email dispatch every 1-2 weeks. She has also made minor updates to their website and helped to manage the Zoom at Noon and 2nd Cup Conversation lectures. She recently created a YouTube account for the Powder Magazine where they are currently uploading all lecture recordings for possible member access as well as long term storage.

In addition to ALL of that, Abby handles a myriad of projects which occur all year in the office. It is amazing what she accomplishes!

Mrs. James William Hamilton, **Fourth Vice President for Finance**, reported that NSCDA-SC's diversified portfolio is governed by a moderate and balanced Investment Policy Statement. Fixed income accounts for 28%-45%, equities 45%-65%, alternative investments including real

estate 0%-8%, and commodities 0-6%. Our four investment funds are managed by Bulldog Consulting at Stifel, Nicolaus Company, Incorporated in Charleston.

Our invested assets had a market return of 35.45% for the Fiscal Year April 1, 2020– March 31, 2021. In addition, we received donations accompanying dues checks as well as memorial and honorarium gifts. We are secure.

Our real estate and liquid assets are protected by appropriate property and liability insurance policies through Anderson Insurance. This includes *historic replacement cost insurance* for our Powder Magazine/Dames House property.

We are grateful to our accountants, Thomas & Associates of Charleston, for assistance in all accounting issues, to include submission of payroll taxes and our IRS Form 990.

According to **Treasurer** Mrs. Julian V. Brandt III NSCDA-SC had a good financial year. The State and Colonial Council/Powder Magazine had income that exceeded expenses. Our membership has increased and we have tried to keep expenses down. Thank you to members who donated with their dues, Memorials and Honorariums and purchased our South Carolina scarves and wraps. And thank you to Bet Hamilton, Jean Hood and all the Town Committee treasurers for all their hard work

The main duty of **Assistant Treasurer** Mrs. Robert Holmes Hood, Jr. is to collect and process dues for the State Society and the Town Committees. Approximately 1,100 dues notices were mailed in February of 2020 and additional notices were sent in April and October. Phone calls, emails and certified letters were sent to all members who had not paid their dues. All current members have paid their dues for 2020.

Unfortunately, nine members were dropped from membership on December 31, 2020. In January of 2021, thank you letters were sent to all members who had generously made donations in 2020 and Mrs. Hood worked with the Registrar, Mrs. Gaillard Townsend Dotterer, Jr. to determine the number of people on the roll as of January 1st. Approximately 1,100 dues notices for 2021 were mailed on February 1, 2021.

The responsibility of Mrs. Robert Keith Harris as **Corresponding Secretary** is to oversee all printed and digital membership publications.

It is our hope that when the fall 2021 Handbook is updated it will be available on our website but may also be printed in a small bound version, as in previous years, for those members who wish to pay for a copy in that format.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the October 6, 2020 General Membership Meeting was changed from an in-person meeting to a Zoom meeting online. The membership was notified of this change by email as well as by a note published in the Fall 2020 Palmetto Post. Instructions for how to join the Zoom General Membership Meeting were emailed to all members. A Fall 2020 Palmetto Post was published in a digital form and emailed to the membership. Printed copies were mailed to those members without internet capabilities. We made the decision that the

Palmetto Post is a place worth delegating financial resources to because of its reach and potential to engage more members. We will professionally print and mail the Spring 2021 Palmetto Post and include a note to members asking them to “opt-in” to a printed and mailed version of the Palmetto Post.

The website was updated on an ongoing basis.

Mrs. James R. Glenn, **Recording Secretary**, kept accurate minutes of all Board of Managers and General Society meetings. A copy of the minutes was given to the President within two weeks following the meeting and distributed to each Board member. Signed, corrected, and approved minutes were properly filed at Headquarters.

According to **Registrar** Mrs. Gaillard T. Dotterer, Jr., as of January 1, 2021, our state membership totaled 1080 members. An increase over last year of nine members.

Our verifying Genealogist Mary Jane Stallworth and researcher Renee Marshall are a delight to work with on proposed members.

Our Society will vote on new members at our May meeting, and we will send another membership report to the National Registrar on June 1, 2021.

According to **Assistant Registrar** Mrs. Timothy William Bouch thirty members were submitted for consideration at the planned May 2020 meeting of the Board of Managers. However, due to COVID-19 that meeting was cancelled and the proposals were held until the November 2020 meeting.

Forty-three were accepted as candidates for membership. Appropriate letters were written to all proposers and invitation packets were sent to the newly approved candidates.

To streamline the whole process was moved online. Electronically fillable proposal blanks, along with instructions for their completion, were emailed to members upon request.

In the past year **Registrar for Associate States** Mrs. Daniel Bowman White reported that candidates from the following Associate States have been admitted into NSCDA-SC: Alabama 3, Florida 2, Louisiana 2, Ohio 2 and Tennessee 2.

Board Arrangements Chair Ms. Emilie Bregy Guignard exclaimed, “What a year we had!”

The Covid-19 virus upset everyone’s schedule. All in-person meetings were cancelled except one. This year as we moved from 2020 to 2021 the annual meeting in April was ably conducted by Mary Mundy on zoom. In May we had another Zoom meeting conducted by our incoming president, Angelyn Bridges. We did meet in person in November at Forest Lake Club which included lunch.

Normally Board Arrangements include accepting reservations and collecting checks for the luncheon, arranging for the number of tables needed and other needed items, such as tables for handouts, projectors, screens and keeping the Board name tags up to date.

Mrs. Henry Wayne Unger, **Collections Chair**, and The Collection Committee are in the process of reviewing the inventory housed in The Powder Magazine, the Old Exchange Building, the Old Slave Mart Museum, and the Colonial Dames House. The committee is deleting items from the inventory approved for deaccessioning.

A deed of gift has been completed for two rectangular display cases, originally built by JMO Woodworks in 2005 to the Old Exchange Building Commission.

The Love seat approved to sell has sold and the proceeds have been placed in the Dames House account.

The Collections Committee working with the Director and the Commission of the Old Exchange Building has completed a list of items for deaccessioning to the Old Exchange Building Commission. The list will be presented to the Board of Manages for approval at the March meeting.

Virginia Theeman the new textile curator at the Charleston Museum has received approval to accept the Sumter family waistcoat and bodice. The Collections Committee will ask for approval from the Board of Manages at the next board meeting.

March 2020 to March 2021 has certainly been a year that none of us anticipated. However, according to **Colonial Council-Historical Activities Chair** Mrs. Steven Michael Armato, even though Covid caused the evaporation of our planned historical activities, it also gave rise to the creation of our *Second Cup Conversations* and *Zoom at Noon* lecture series, formerly *Lunch and Lecture*. Thanks to the tenacious genius of our former Executive Director of Programming Alan Stello and our talented Powder Magazine staff, our educational programming was able to continue virtually in spite of lockdowns. In May, our new Executive Director of Programming Katherine Pemberton, has planned an exciting new evening series, *The Walled Cities of North America*.

SC History Day, the SC affiliate of National History Day, also went virtual this year. A number of SC Dames and their friends and relations answered the call to judge. Finalists for this year's competition will not be announced until later in the spring. This program encourages middle and upper school students to conduct original research on historical topics. NSCDA-SC offers two scholarships to cover the registration free for two South Carolina finalists attending the national competition.

Oral Histories - Over the past year, SC has contributed recordings of all of our *Second Cup Conversations* and *Zoom at Noon* programs to Dumbarton for inclusion in the NSCDA Archives. Oral history recordings made by the Georgetown Town Committee and the Low Country Town Committee some years ago have also been sent to Dumbarton Archives for safe keeping.

Smithsonian Inventory of American Painting - No submissions have been made since last year. The museum has been contacted for information on electronic submissions.

The **Museum Properties** Committee, chaired by Mrs. Philip Warren Cotton, was responsible for the South Carolina Society's two historic properties located in Charleston: The Powder Magazine (completed in 1713) and the house at 81 Cumberland Street (circa 1840) which is known as the Colonial Dames House and serves as the NSCDA-SC Headquarters. In addition, the Committee oversees the NSCDA-SC's Colonial Council and our Collection objects currently in four locations.

The South Carolina Society is extremely fortunate to have outstanding individual chairs for each of the properties mentioned above. The valuable work of protecting our properties has been met with impressive innovation and diligence as we grappled with the restrictions required by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Colonial Council Chair Mrs. Francis Cordes Ford III reports this past 12 months has been an unusual time as we weathered COVID-19. The Powder Magazine closed its doors in March as we followed the directive from the City of Charleston.

We secured a PPP loan with the help of Anne Brandt and Bet Hamilton which helped get us through June.

The creation of the *2nd Cup Conversations* series was very popular and continues to be so with both members and the general public. We applied for and won a Lamar Award in October for this program from NSCDA.

Due to a move to Virginia, Director Alan Stello submitted his resignation. We cannot say enough wonderful things about Alan and what he did to promote and expand the mission of the NSCDA-SC and The Powder Magazine. After interviewing many qualified applicants, we offered the position to Katherine Saunders Pemberton, who accepted. She has served as the co-chair of the Mayor's Walled City Task Force, which has sought to investigate, through research and archaeology, the history of America's only English walled city; The Powder Magazine being the only above grade visible remnant.

Overall, we are utilizing our time this spring on training, refining our current programs and operations and planning ahead for future programs and special events.

According to **Colonial Dames House Chair**, Mrs. Eugene Dewey Foxworth, the Dames House at 81 Cumberland Street survived the Pandemic without much fanfare. We were blessed to have our office manager as a tenant and she took care of the house beautifully.

Several major projects were completed last year which allowed us to enjoy an uneventful time this year.

The number of **Young Dames** in NSCDA-SC continues to grow. In an effort to engage their participation in our projects, Valentines for Vets, which was initiated by SC Dames in 2020, was

the perfect activity. Young Dames were asked to provide the two Veteran Administration Hospitals in South Carolina with enough Valentines for each patient. Young Dames along with their children, nieces and nephews colored, painted and crafted nearly 800 Valentines. One of our Dames is an art teacher, and she made it a class project for her students.

An unexpected outcome of the Young Dames project was the abundant enthusiasm they showed in executing the task. The vitality shown by these young women has served to invigorate our organization, and we look forward to their continued inspiration.

Under the leadership of Chair Ms. Mary P. Weston, the **Scholarships** Committee oversaw and reviewed all scholarships awarded by the State Society and explored expansion opportunities. The committee is composed of seven people and includes representation from the Finance Committee and Patriotic Service.

For the second year Teaching of History scholarships were awarded to students at College of Charleston, Converse College, and Winthrop University in the amount of \$2,000 each.

The state society provided funding (\$1,500) for interns at the Powder Magazine, support (\$300) for the American Indian Nurse scholarship, and funding (\$500) for the NSCDA District 8 Scholarship which rotates among the four societies in Region III and is awarded to a graduate student in history.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the 2020 Congressional Seminar in Washington, DC, was cancelled, but our funds (\$1,600) and one 2020 student winner will be added to the funds (\$3,400) and two 2021 winners who will attend in June 2021.

On behalf of NSCDA-SC, the Scholarship committee also sent support (\$500 each) to two organizations that assist veterans in addressing and overcoming challenges such as PTSD and retraining for employment: Upstate Warrior Solution and Vets on Deck in Charleston.

Parliamentarian, Mrs. John Frampton Maybank attended the Zoom meetings of the Board of Managers and gave advice about the wording and interpretation of bylaws, questions about parliamentary procedure, elections and voting.

As **Patriotic Service Chair**, Mrs. Donald Asendorf Harper worked with Town Committee representatives to promote patriotism and American heritage.

The Washington Workshop Essay contest was cancelled due to COVID-19. NSCDA-SC collaborated with and supported an Eagle Scout project which provided for proper flag retirement.

Veterans received gently used paperback books and on February 14 hundreds of valentines were sent to our two Veterans Administration hospitals. In a year of shutdowns and cancellations due to the global pandemic South Carolina Dames have still been able to make an impact and foster our goal of promoting a true spirit of patriotism through education and worthwhile projects.

As Chair, Mrs. Henry Manning Unger's focus was to assist in any **Special Projects** that the State and Town Committees are interested in pursuing.

Due to a transition in leadership and the COVID-19 pandemic, no special projects were started this year.

It was a history-making experience keeping our organization moving forward during COVID-19 restrictions; however, all six **Town Committees** adjusted and continued working on various projects and meeting via Zoom. They were chaired by: COLUMBIA - Mrs. Stephen Mark Cunningham, GEORGETOWN - Mrs. James Pinckney Kellett IV and Mrs. Clarence Ernest Phillips III, GREENVILLE - Mrs. Jennings Gillem Pressly and Mrs. Daniel Bowman White, LOWCOUNTRY - Mrs. Whitmarsh Seabrook Smith III, PEE DEE - Mrs. Albert Thomas Gilpin, SPARTANBURG - Mrs. Halis Alkis.

Mrs. Robert Samuel Stokes, **Lady of Dumbarton House**, happily shared the news that The NSCDA Comprehensive Campaign reached its \$10 million goal! This Campaign was designed to support our members nationally and their Societies' museums and projects.

Due to COVID-19, The Dumbarton Staff and Committees prepared the first ever virtual Biennial. It was presented on November 13-18, 2020. The virtual Biennial was a huge success and offered more engagement to our overall membership.

The NSCDA's mission is to preserve and protect our nation's heritage. COVID-19 did not affect the continued success and work at Dumbarton House.

According to **South Carolina Regent for Gunston Hall**, Mrs. Douglas Neal Kelly, private support of Gunston Hall increased 12% over the course of the pandemic and such incredible generosity from South Carolina Dames and many others is greatly appreciated.

Work on the restoration of George Mason's historic Riverside Garden continued in earnest. This project is the first in a series of projects to restore Gunston Hall's core, which is Phase I of a 20-year Master Site Plan.

Staff expanded and improved the content on the website at www.gunstonhall.org. A new Learning From Home page was launched with extensive educational activities for all ages. Since closing in March due to COVID-19 Gunston Hall has produced over 50 virtual programs enjoyed by people all over the world.

Gunston Hall will be serving as a lead agency on the Virginia Revolutionary 250th Commission.

Associate Trustee Sulgrave Manor, Mrs. Douglas McKay III, reported that the annual conference of Friends of Sulgrave Manor was held virtually as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On December 3, Alan Stello, our Executive Director of Programming for NSCDA-SC hosted the *Second Cup Conversation* with a Sulgrave Manor representative. This was the first time a direct communication has taken place between a staff member at Sulgrave Manor and one of our Corporate Society Museums.

We also coordinated with the Washington DC Corporate Society on a virtual lecture February 18th with Cyrus Ansary, the author of *George Washington, Dealmaker in Chief*.

Sulgrave Day celebration has been moved to 2022. The creation of a permanent exhibit of George Washington is currently underway.

Mrs. Timothy George Dargan, **Historian**, prepared the Historian's Report, which is a summary of the NSCDA-SC activities for the year and is an edited and shortened version of the year-end Annual Report.

This report is posted on the State website and a copy is send to the National Board to be shared with other societies.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Timothy George Dargan, Historian