



VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION

Workgroup 2 (Signature Events and Activities)

August 1, 2007 – 1:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building, 6th floor

Speaker of the House of Delegates William J. Howell,
Chairman

Cheryl Jackson, Staff Coordinator



VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION

Commission established by HB 1440 (2006)

Commission membership:

Speaker William J. Howell, *Chair*

Sen. John H. Chichester, *Vice Chair*

Del. Albert C. Eisenberg

Del. Algie T. Howell, Jr.

Del. Johnny S. Joannou

Del. R. Steven Landes

Del. L. Scott Lingamfelter

Del. Thomas C. Wright, Jr.

Sen. R. Creigh Deeds

Sen. Janet D. Howell

Sen. Mamie E. Locke

Sen. Stephen H. Martin

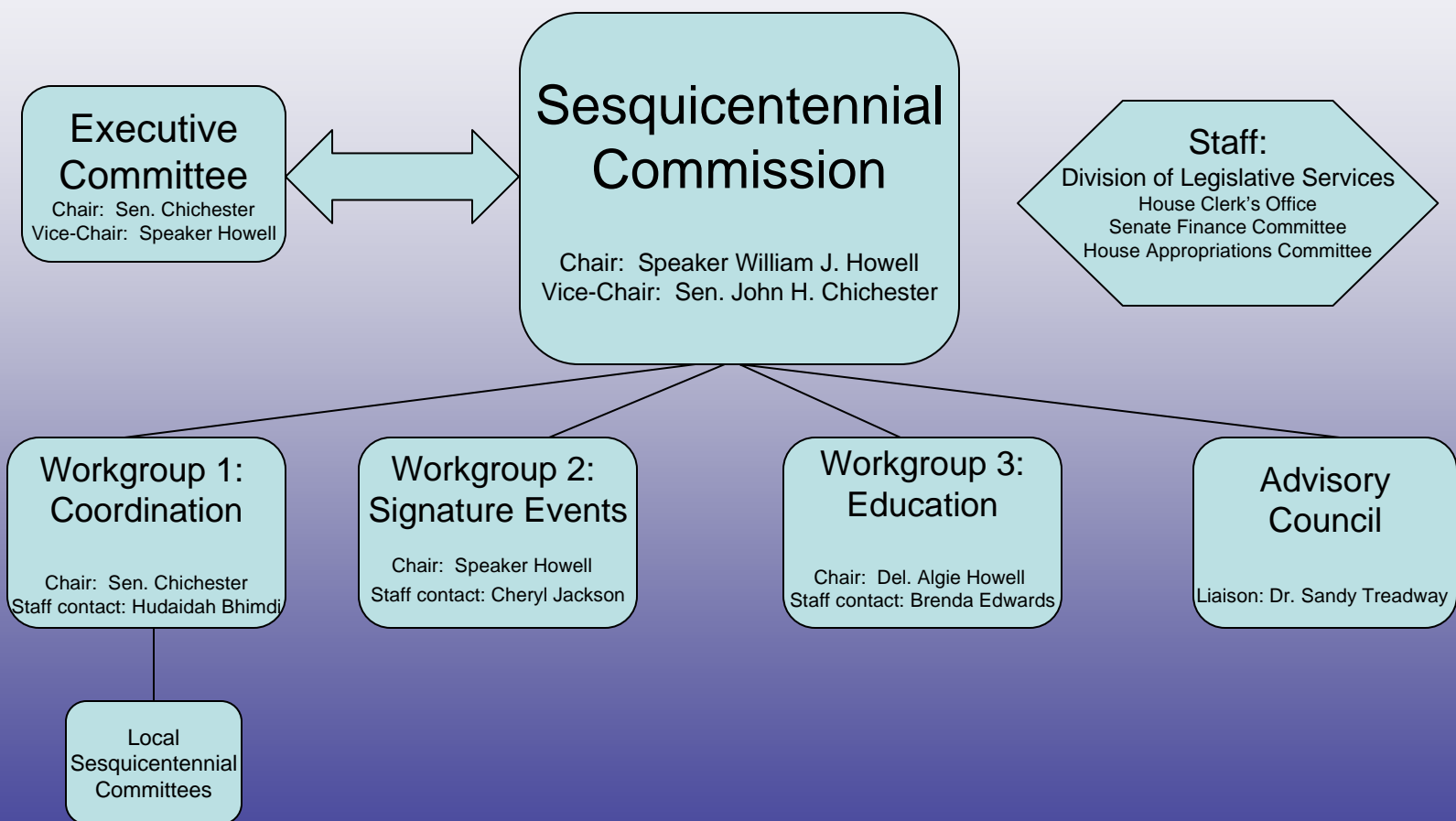
Dr. Charles F. Bryan, Jr.

Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr.

John P. Ackerly, III



VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION

Workgroup 1: Coordination

- Location, event, and information coordination throughout the Commonwealth (including coordinating museums, battlefields, parks, activities.)
- Local sesquicentennial committees
- Other states' sesquicentennial commissions
- National sesquicentennial planning and events
- Welcome Center information, kiosks, and/or orientation film
- Website, publications, etc.

Workgroup 2: Signature Events and Activities

- Establishment of unifying themes, stories, and goals for the commemoration (to tie together signature events, grant recipient programs, etc.)
- Commission-sponsored events, lectures, symposia, films, battlefield tours, etc.
- VHS Traveling exhibition
- Mobile (tractor-trailer) exhibition
- Public relations

Workgroup 3. Education

- Involvement of schools, students, teachers, administration, and PTAs
- SOL review and resources, curriculum framework, resources for teachers, etc.
- Teacher institutes
- Higher education involvement
- Law school symposia
- Public library involvement
- Document preservation project



VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION

Accomplishments of First Year

- Adopted vision statement and logo: *“Understanding Our Past, Embracing Our Future”*
- Established goals for the commemoration:
 1. Diversity: The commemoration will be inclusive of, and meaningful to, all Virginians, particularly:
 - Diverse racial and ethnic groups;
 - Immigrants and citizens who do not have a hereditary link to the American Civil War; and
 - Young people who do not understand the relevance of the American Civil War to today's population
 2. Inclusiveness: The commemoration will seek to portray a non-divisive, balanced story of Virginia's participation in the American Civil War that includes the African-American, Union and Confederate perspectives.
 3. Statewide Accessibility: The commemoration will be statewide, involving all localities and encompassing all Civil War-related institutions, museums, battlefields, parks and facilities in the Commonwealth.
 4. Education: The commemoration period have a strong education component, which will be intended to ignite a renewed interest in Virginia's historical heritage.



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Accomplishments of First Year

- Established a website: www.virginiacivilwar.org
- Encouraged other states to begin planning; offered technical assistance; monitored planning at the federal level
- Held meetings throughout the state
- Formed and convened Advisory Council
- Considered recommendations and endorsed programs
- Build a new building, or not?



VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION

Centennial Center





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Signature Events: Plans in Development

Coordination: The Commission will lead the linkage, coordination, unification, and support of existing museums and sites, in lieu of building a new facility. The Commission will promote Civil War museums and sites through an interactive website, computer kiosks, maps and brochures at Welcome Centers and locations throughout the state. The goal will be to make it easy for visitors and citizens to identify and plan visits around the Commonwealth.

Traveling museum exhibition: The Commission will work with the Virginia Historical Society (VHS) to develop a major statewide traveling exhibition, rich in artifacts, documents, and high-tech components, which would open at the VHS in Richmond in February 2011, and then tentatively travel during the next three years to Roanoke, Abingdon, Lynchburg, Fredericksburg, Winchester, Manassas and Norfolk. Exhibition would be in two parts: Battlefront and Homefront.

HistoryMobile (tractor trailer) exhibition: Develop a traveling Civil War 150 tractor trailer exhibition, featuring a few key artifacts and documents, plus high-tech maps and displays. This concept is based on a highly successful program for the statehood bicentennial in Tennessee in 1996 and is currently being done in Kentucky. The tractor trailer exhibition will travel to every city and county in Virginia.



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Signature Events: Plans under Discussion

Digitization project: Launch a major initiative to collect, catalog, preserve and digitally scan Civil War documents and artifacts (coordinated by VHS and the Library of Virginia). May be combined with the HistoryMobile to facilitate ease of scanning original documents.

Grants: Establish a fund to award competitive grants for a variety of Civil War 150 programs, including teacher workshops, in-school activities, conferences, exhibits, speakers' bureaus, etc.

Films: Sponsor a three-hour DVD, with Blue Ridge Public Television and the Virginia Tech Center for Civil War Studies, which will be distributed free of charge to every school, library, archives, and historical society in the state. Will be divided into nine 20-minute segments to allow for ease of teacher use in the classroom. The nine segments will focus on the background of the war, military campaigns (3 installments), African-American experience, leading Virginia personalities, the common soldiers, home front activities (including women and medical care) and the legacies of the war for all Americans.



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Signature Events and Activities: Options

- Signature Conferences
- Signature Tours
- “Ask an Expert” Webcasts

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation



[The Commission](#) [Battle Maps](#) [Education](#) [Timeline](#) [News](#) [Events](#)



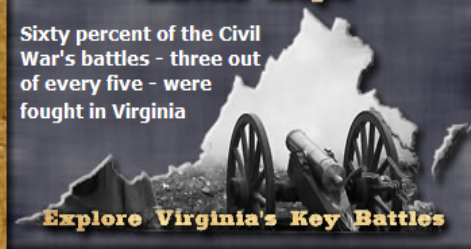
Ask an Expert

Submit your Civil War related question and it may be answered in an upcoming webcast



Battle Maps

Sixty percent of the Civil War's battles - three out of every five - were fought in Virginia



Donate Now

Make a tax-deductible gift to the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Fund

Amount

DONATE





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What Lies Ahead for Workgroup 2?

- Establish themes to unify commemoration
- Consider and recommend Commission-sponsored events
- Public relations and marketing



VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION

Centennial Civil War Commission

- Created in 1958
- Mission: Inspiration
- Chief purpose: *“to strengthen the unity of the country through mutual understanding that there was dedication and devotion on both sides. Both North and South gave all they had in support of what they believed was right.”*



VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION

Vision statement adopted by Centennial Commission

1. To Honor our heroes
2. To Promoted Virginia as the place to come during the Centennial
3. To Tell the true story of Virginia's people – peacemakers, warriors, restorers and rebuilders
4. To Dramatize the great ideas that are the basis of our freedom and tradition: individual responsibility, faith in God and service to country



VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION

Centennial Programs

Central program: Activities of statewide significance
sponsored by the Commission

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Centennial Center | Commemorations |
| Reenactments | Scholarships |
| Directional markers | Publications |

Grass-roots program: Activities on the local level
sponsored by local committees



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Centennial Events: Central Program

- Sunday, Jan. 8, 1961: Official Day of Prayer
- Feb. 4, 1961: Peace Convention commemoration
- April 21, 1961: Miss Civil War Centennial crowned
- April 23, 1961: Official Opening Date of the Centennial in Virginia:
 - Dress parade
 - Reenactment in Old House Chamber of Lee accepting command of Confederate forces
 - Official ceremonies at State Capitol
 - Centennial Honor Banquet



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Centennial Events: Central Program – 1961

- July 22-23: Reenactment of Battle of First Manassas
- August 7: Commemoration of the burning of Hampton
- Special exhibits: Mariners Museum and Academy of Medicine
- October: Centennial Center opens
 - October 1961 – November 1965: 630,000 visitors



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Centennial Events: Central Program 1962-65

- Feb. 22, 1962: Reenactment of swearing in of Jefferson Davis
- May 1963: Dinner honoring Stonewall Jackson on the centennial of the Battle of Chancellorsville; 100th anniversary of Jackson's death
- 1964: Commemoration of Battle of Cold Harbor and Battle of the Crater
- April 1965: Reenactment of Lee's retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox
- April 9, 1965: Program commemorating the surrender at Appomattox Court House National Park



What did the Centennial Cost?

Income

Appropriations: \$2,315,000

Revenue from operations: \$161,600

Expenses

Centennial Center: \$675,000

Exhibits: \$60,000

Motion pictures: \$100,000

Observances and publications:
\$1,400,000

Total: \$2,100,000

(Adjusted for inflation:
\$13,890,133)

