



VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION

Workgroup 3 (Education)
August 15, 2007 – 1:00 p.m.
General Assembly Building, 6th floor

Delegate Algie T. Howell, Jr., Chairman

Brenda Edwards, Staff Contact



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

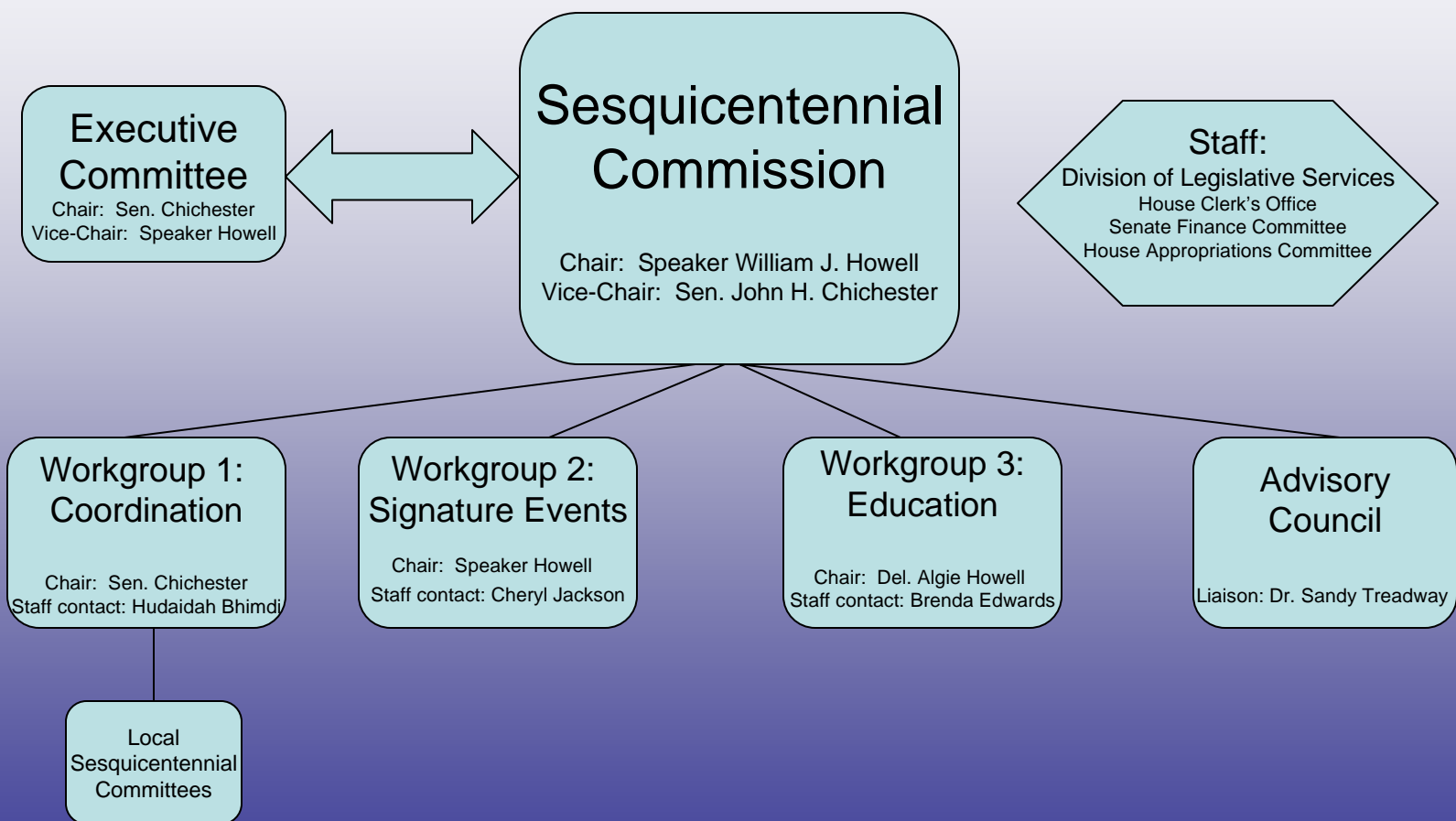
Dr. Charles F. Bryan, Jr.

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, etc.)
- Local sesquicentennial committees
- Other states' sesquicentennial commissions
- National sesquicentennial planning and events
- Welcome Center information, kiosks, and/or orientation film
- Website, publications, etc.



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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



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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 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 will have a strong education component, which will be intended to ignite a renewed interest in Virginia's historical heritage.
 - Commemoration, not celebration



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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 (see report)
- Considered recommendations and endorsed programs
- Build a new building, or not?



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Centennial Center





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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. Each locality will be asked to form a local sesquicentennial committee.

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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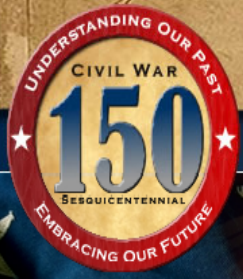
Plans under Discussion

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.

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation.*



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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



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Amount

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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.”*



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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



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Centennial Program in the Schools

“This is the greatest opportunity of the Centennial – a chance to channel the natural interest of the young in the Civil War into an understanding of the philosophy and ideas of American Democracy.”

- Educators were included on local centennial committees.
- Local committees, college professors and teachers worked together to provide information to students. Local education advisory committees were formed.



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Centennial Program in the Schools

“What is it that we want to put across to our students?”

1. The importance, the fascination and the drama of history.
2. The qualities of life that are needed for a worthwhile and meaningful existence and the preservation of our society.
3. Respect for heroes and patriotism.
4. Understanding: “. . .*the divisions that led to this awful war were created by people in all parts of the country and the diseases of mistrust, hatred and war can be cured only by uniting behind a bigger idea . . .than the ones that divide us.*”
5. Mission and destiny: Instances where a few turned the tide of history (for good or bad).



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Centennial Program in the Schools

Suggested Tools to Interpret the Civil War

1. The classroom: teaching, visiting lecturers, films, special materials
2. Drama: Plays written by/for the students and performed by them
3. Exhibits by students
4. Essays (on subjects of special interest in the locality or that have a moral or character-building theme)
5. Music and art (Civil War song sheets)



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Centennial Program in the Schools

Suggested Tools to Interpret the Civil War

6. Tours of battlefields, museums, and other places where history is made real.
7. Civil War discussion groups formed among young people to discuss the lives of men and women under the stress of war.
8. Present the customs, manners and life of the Civil War era through subjects such as cooking, etiquette, architecture, etc.
9. Make available the best books and magazines about the Civil War.
10. Hold a “school forum” at each high school during an assembly (e.g., “Civil War Relics”; “Civil War as a Hobby”)

