

VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION
Report of the Executive Committee
Speaker of the House William J. Howell, Vice-chairman
November 26, 2007

Update on Projects in Development

Museum exhibition: "Virginia's Civil War: America's Great Turning Point"

Andrew Talkov has been hired as exhibit coordinator. In keeping with the Commission's goal of presenting a balanced view of Virginia's participation in the Civil War, the exhibit may profile two great armies: the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac. Discussions on artifacts that will be featured as part of the exhibition are underway.

Educational DVD - Virginia Tech Center for Civil War Studies/Blue Ridge Public Television

Payment in full has been made to Virginia Tech for production of the educational DVD that was authorized at the September 26 meeting of the Commission. Production is beginning, and Dr. Robertson will continue to offer further updates.

Projects under Consideration

Sesquicentennial Legacy Project: Document Digitization (Submitted for approval in concept)

The Library of Virginia proposes leading a three-part, six-year program that would focus on locating Civil War-era materials currently in private hands, scanning them, and suggesting possible repositories for permanent retention of original materials. The digital collection assembled during the sesquicentennial would become an enduring product of the Commission to be available on the Commission's website, and after 2015, through the Library of Virginia's website. The project would begin in 2010 with the hiring of a full-time project coordinator who would publicize the project throughout the state and plan its logistics. Once underway, a processing archivist would be hired for cataloging and description of the collections. Scanning capabilities would be available on-site at local repositories throughout the state.

A preliminary budget for the project is \$665,432. If the proposal and budget are approved in concept, staff of the Library of Virginia and the Commission will work on securing additional funding for the project outside of general fund appropriations.

Other Items Approved by the Executive Committee

Strategic Plan (Submitted for approval)

Staff has drafted a Strategic Plan that brings together the decisions made by the Commission, plans to date, and establishes an outline for the work to come. The Commission has reviewed the Strategic Plan previously, and it has been revised to reflect comments from Commission members.

Development Case Statement (Submitted for approval)

Staff has prepared a Case Statement that will serve as the foundation for the Commission's development efforts, which was based on the Commission's Strategic Plan. During the fundraising process, the Case Statement is an initial request from a potential donor to gain a better understanding of the Commission's mission, goals, objectives, and funding opportunities.

Special License Plate Legislation (Submitted for approval; Covered bill is available for pre-filing)

The Executive Committee has approved a bill, which, if enacted by the General Assembly, would authorize a revenue-sharing special license plate for the sesquicentennial commemoration. Modeled on the Jamestown special license plate legislation, a one-time \$15.00 fee is imposed on the purchaser of the license plate, of which \$5.00 goes to the Commission's special fund and \$10.00 goes to DMV to cover administrative costs. The bill would exempt the Commission from the provisions of § 46.2-725, which require (i) 350 pre-paid applications before the license is made, and (ii) 1,000 license plates be sold before revenue is shared. DMV estimates revenue of \$200,000 to \$500,000 from the sale of the license plate.