



## 2019 ANNUAL MEETING



**ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT**  
**on activities in 2018 and recommendations for 2019**

**Board Meeting**

**Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**

**1 to 3pm**

**Kirin Café**

**43053 Pemberton Square, Chantilly (South Riding), Va.**  
**(MEETING WAS CHANGED TO 2/16/2019)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

January 31, 2019

This report is based on planning meetings held this month with volunteers where we discussed our successes and proposed 2019 activities in preparation for the February 2019 Board of Directors Annual Meeting for Diversity and Equality Fairs of Virginia (DFV), the controlling entity for:

- the Edwin Washington Project
- the Bulletin for Loudoun County History
- Using United Nations assets to broaden our contacts in the diversity community.
- the John Rust Archives
- proposed Journal on Black Schools of Northern Virginia.

Each project should be understood as a leg supporting our strategic goal of advocating for a diversified society. There is an enormous amount of detail to make this work, too much for a Board of Directors meeting document, so I am providing a summary and in a separate document a list of the key decisions we should make in February. With regard to the decisions, please focus on a work load that is feasible. There is no problem delaying something if that will enhance viability.

Larry Roeder  
President  
Diversity and Equality Fairs  
<https://diversityandequalityfairsofvirginia.wordpress.com/>

**Our work in 2018 and future plans**



**The Edwin Washington Project<sup>1</sup>** and the John Rust Archives provide primary source material on how historical Loudoun County society operated during segregation. The way we manage those sources could be the basis for conducting similar research in other locations and should enable us to better understand the region and our state. They also are giving us many contacts in the community that are useful for research and

fundraising. In addition, our membership in the Country School Association of America will gain us a national audience.

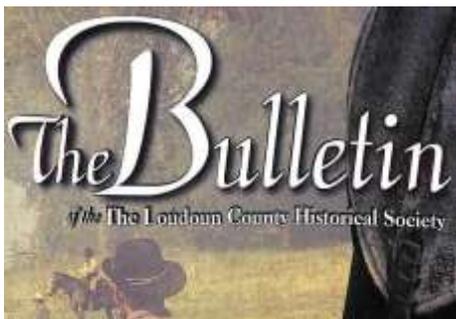
We want to complete virtually all of the scanning of African-American related documents and other core materials by December 2019, as well as publish various large reports by December 2019 or early 2020. We would like to complete scanning of the rest in 2020.

A major issue will be to achieve permanent protection of the documents. Because of some developments in January, I have asked Tony to develop a draft strategy paper on this topic for consideration by the Board of Directors.



**The John Rust material** given us in 2017 has already provided insights into how local schools operated prior to the creation of a unified County School Board. The records, which are being protected similarly to those of the Edwin Washington Project, are also revealing a great deal about local politics in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

To maintain balance in work load between the various projects, we plan to complete the review of the material in 2020, not 2019. Funding will come from core funds, \$200 in 2019.



**The Bulletin for Loudoun County History**, which we took over in November, and the Journal on Black schools in Northern Virginia, which we propose to begin in 2020, will provide us tools to publish the results of our own professional research and broaden contacts with history-oriented organizations around the region. We also plan to publish our

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<sup>1</sup> Website is [www.edwinwashingtonproject.org](http://www.edwinwashingtonproject.org)

research through other periodicals. Finally, so as not to overwhelm us, the Bulletin will be annual.

An editorial committee has been formed and funding has been secured, as well as a mechanism to publish material in a way that should attract a broad audience. Our first issue will be in September 2019 and include an article from the Edwin Washington Project and a separate article on Black History by the Chair of the Black History Committee. Lori Kimble, Wynn Saffer and Edward Spannaus are also writing articles, and we anticipate an article from the Mosbey Heritage group.

Members are

- **Larry Roeder**, Editor in Chief
- **Edward Spannaus**, Lovettsville Historical Society, in his personal capacity.
- **Lori Kimball**, Oatlands, in her personal capacity.
- **Donna Bohannon**, Chair of the Black History Committee, Friends of the Balch Library, in her personal capacity.



**The United Nations project** is providing us access to a global network of donors and experts on all aspects of diversity, important since supporting a diversified society is our core mission. The lead is Randy Ihara.

Our first effort at the UN in New York took place in January 2019 in order to introduce the Edwin Washington Project and Diversity Fairs in general. This was funded by targeted donations and was successful<sup>2</sup>.

CIVICUS, a non-profit in consultative status with a portion of the United Nations has agreed to publish an article on the Edwin Washington Project, giving us a global audience. We will need to join CIVICUS; but the fee is nominal, only \$50.

Our expectation is that this access to world-class diversity experts will also attract more followers to our organization and donations, as well as enhance our ability to change policies in a progressive manner. Therefore, 2019 will be a period of exploration, to refine how we participate and our strategy, then in 2020 to craft a larger team and practical activities commensurate with the strategy.

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<sup>2</sup> Details of the trip were provided in a report on January 15, 2019. Copies are available.



**Fundraising:** Our efforts have covered our expenses to the point of a small surplus, especially because we have such a wonderful group of volunteers and because some expensive ventures have been supported by in-kind contributions. Still, we need more funding, and plan to apply for grants.

We still need to hire researchers, protect rare documents and conduct essential

research travel. We should also fund insurance for property and people, create a rainy-day fund, etc. We must also support the UN and Black Journal operations, as well as paper protection for the Edwin Washington and John Rust projects. We would welcome recommendations on how to hire volunteer fundraiser, or a grant to hire someone.

As an example of our efforts, Julie Goforth is working with me on a grant proposal for document preservation. In addition, in 2018:

- The Library of Congress agreed to an in-kind contribution to digitally scan a ledger with non-visible light in order to reveal hidden text, saving us probably over \$30,000. The work began in January, but the agreement dates from November 2018<sup>3</sup>.
- Neil Steinberg of *Photoworks* began to digitally copy our photograph collection for free. That effort is worth several thousand dollars.
- We raised over \$1,000 at the Dirt Don't Burn event
- We raised over \$3,000 in donations for mapping, paper preservation and other activities. grant by a private donor in Loudoun to advance our map program. Some of those funds were received in January, based on promises in 2018.
- We were given \$3,000 to jump start the Bulletin project and anticipate much more if the periodical moves forward, according to plan<sup>4</sup>. In addition, the Bulletin will be largely self-sustaining.

We have proposed a budget for 2019, which is in the Treasurer's report. For the first time, it includes line-item budgeting.

Based on our experiences, we anticipate continuing to fund everything; but we must also be cautious not to overextend in any one year and to carefully plan for the future, especially for years when there might be a downturn in the economy.

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<sup>3</sup> Details on the preliminary work were provided in a report on January 17, 2019. Copies are available upon request. A second report is expected in February, 2019 after the Library of congress completes their analysis.

<sup>4</sup> Details of the plan are available on request; but are considered proprietary.



**Speaker and Media Events:** We are developing a list of speaker events for 2019, forums for outreach, and to attract funding and volunteers. As examples, we will give a briefing on the Edwin Washington Project at the June 17/18 annual conference of the Country School Association of America, to be held in Frederick, Maryland<sup>5</sup>. Details on other events are available on request.

Our biggest event will be *Dirt Don't Burn 2019* at Broad Run High School. There was a lot of support in 2018 for doing another conference and Broad Run High School asked to host. We would welcome any suggestions on content for speakers, and on which VIPs and politicians to invite. The main objective will be to expand our audience and donor base and use the event to announce the results of fresh research. We also want to laud the work by volunteers, especially students. Finally, we anticipate supporting a play to be managed by Gladys Burke, a remake of a performance done at Ashburn Colored in the 1940's.

As for media, the *Dirt Don't Burn* event 2018 was covered very nicely by Loudoun Now, which we anticipate covering *Dirt Don't Burn 2019*. The County School Association of America will publish an article by us on the exposure to high school education by Loudoun's African-American population. In addition, *Country Spirit*, which is published out of Middleburg four times a year, will do a short piece on the Edwin Washington Project. *WDVM* (NBC) also interviewed me in January. We also created a YouTube channel where we will post interviews.



**.Mapping** Thanks to Maddy Gold, we now have a functional digital map to show the location of school buildings constructed prior to 1968. We have now received funding to map routes to schools, population centers, etc; but should acquire an intern for mapping. We have over 130 pages of additional data on school which also must be mapped

Although the mapping product we developed was designed for the Edwin Washington Project, we anticipate it being invaluable for a wide range of research needs. In addition, if we are to build relationships with other counties, as has been suggested, we recommend proposing databases and mapping products that can act as templates. Templates will allow for the kind of interoperability

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.countryschoolassociation.org/2019-csaa-maryland.html>

between counties to more easily understand the impact of segregated education across the region and the state.

**Special Reports.** We plan to produce these reports in late 2019 and early 2020.

- A study on what we learned about the experience of African-Americans in the segregated educational system.
- A study on how we have done our work. Intended to be a guide to other counties and regions.
- A study on the petitions. Now being managed by Dave Prebich and Delores Grigsby.
- Photo album of teachers, students and schools. Might be done in a yearbook format. Neil Steinberg has agreed to help.



### Interviews, Websites, the Catalog and Files:

We anticipate completing these tasks by December 2018, excepting some data on white schools.

1) Julie is enhancing the website and our social media presence.

2) Examples of Databases:

- List of who studied. Gert Evans and Larry Roeder
- List of who instructed. Gert Evans and Larry Roeder
- Study of statistical data from 1917 to 1968. Broad Run Students agreed to complete. .

3) Interviews:

We have already accumulated some excellent interviews and should try for at least one for each “colored school,” plus some comparative interviews of people who attended or instructed at white ones. Some will also be posted on our new YouTube channel<sup>6</sup>.

4) I am managing the catalog and will during the summer will create a review committee to examine its functionality.

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<sup>6</sup> Daughter of Julie Goforth and two seniors who are friends have volunteered to conduct two interviews. One of the volunteers also has good video equipment. Broad Run High School also wants to help with this effort.



**Local Leaders and Partner**

**Organizations:** We have done very well attracting the attention of local leaders like Delegate John Bell, who orchestrated a resolution in 2016 to support our research. The Mayor Leesburg spoke at Dirt Don't Burn, 2018, as did the Chair of the Board of Supervisors through a video link. In addition, various elected officials attended.

Critical for raising funds in the future and for obtaining institutional support is to network with elected officials like the Mayor, our county Delegates, Supervisors, and appointed officials like the Superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools, perhaps Congresswoman Wexton, whom I'd like to invite to Dirt Don't Burn 2019.



We also need the support of like-minded history clubs like the Lovettsville Historical Society, the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Balch Library and civil right bodies like the NAACP. This is something we have been very successful at, as illustrated by the 2018 Dirt Don't Burn event; but we can't let up. We must continue to foster these connections throughout the year. Suggestions would be very welcome.

We are exploring a special form of collaboration with clubs in neighboring counties which support documenting black history. Our idea is to create a journal in 2020 of articles on the educational experience of African-Americans in our region, written by historians in those counties.

As with the Bulletin on Loudoun County History, this project will be self-supporting and sold on-line. Any profits will be shared with the partner associations. We anticipate the first issue will be in the Fall of 2020, assuming outreach to the clubs in 2019 is successful.

The previous chair of the Loudoun chapter of the NAACP also suggested the Edwin Washington Project help other counties document segregated education in the same manner as we have done. This journal could definitely be a tool to stimulate such efforts throughout the state. The Budgetary implication in 2019 is \$200 for fuel costs, because of the large amount of driving to meet contacts. We will need a website, so that's an additional \$50 budget item; but not until 2020.



**Volunteers:** We can't succeed without volunteers like Gladys Burke who donated conference bags and Kathy Reid who did a lot of internet research. They come from local churches and Mosques, Germany, schools in Loudoun, academics and neighbors. Not only do they keep our overhead low, they enrich us our knowledge base and help build a network of supporters

I propose recruiting a volunteer to coordinate the recruitment of volunteers. While we have done very well in this department, I've been the primary recruitment officer and think this function could be done better, if the load is shared.

Some good news is that Broad Run High School has tentatively agreed to host Dirt Don't Burn 2019 and an instructor at that school has formed a committee of 27 students to help our project, to include some statistical research. They have been formed in to four teams.

1. Data collection and transcribing team
2. Promotional team (social media/website support)
3. Fundraising team, to propose recommendations
4. Reporting and journalism team.



*Most Dirt Don't Burn Volunteers were from the Prosperity Baptist Church or county officials*