

**VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION**  
**Report of the Executive Committee**  
**Sen. John Chichester, Chair**

The Executive Committee met to receive updates on current activities and to consider additional programs for approval.

**Staff Report - Cheryl Jackson, Project Manager/Staff Coordinator**

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the Commission's website development, introduced the Commission's new Development Officer, and discussed an upcoming scouting trip to Harper's Ferry National Battlefield Park to explore collaboration for the 2009 anniversary of John Brown's Raid. The first disbursement has been made to the Virginia Historical Society for the planning and staffing of the traveling museum exhibition. Ms. Jackson also presented a strategic plan for consideration by the Executive Committee, which includes a proposed schedule for Signature Conferences sponsored by the Commission.

**Discussion of Proposals - Cheryl Jackson and Dick Hickman, Deputy Director, Senate Finance Committee**

The Executive Committee discussed the following program options:

1. HistoryMobile: Ms. Jackson presented an overview of three current and past tractor trailer exhibitions: the Kentucky Historical Society's "HistoryMobile," the Tennessee State Museum's "Tennessee Treasures," and the Newseum's "NewsCapade." The Executive Committee asked staff to form a task force to work through the details, developing recommendations and cost estimates for a tractor trailer exhibition that will travel to every county and city in Virginia during the commemoration period.
2. Educational DVD: Mr. Hickman presented a proposal for a joint venture with Blue Ridge Public Television to create a three-hour DVD on Virginia and the Civil War. The DVD would be produced for the use of schools and would consist of nine 20-minute segments, including: coming of war, military campaigns (3), the African-American experience, life of the common soldiers, personalities, the home front (including women and medicine), and the legacy of the war. The DVD will be distributed free of charge to every school, library, historical society, and archive in the state beginning in August 2009. Dr. Robertson volunteered to work with the Department of Education to ensure that the DVD is incorporated into the history curriculum and that appropriate teacher resources are developed.
3. Grants to localities: The Executive Committee briefly discussed offering micro-grants to local sesquicentennial committees for programs that support the Commission's goals or amplify its themes (e.g., transcribing the 1860 Census, support of the document preservation project, etc.). Staff was asked to develop criteria for such a grant program for review by the Executive Committee. Committee members agreed that grants to

institutions should be handled through the standard appropriations process that award grants to non-state agencies.

4. Funding plan for Commission: Mr. Hickman presented a draft plan for funding of the Commission's programs that assumes level funding throughout the commemoration period.

**Overview of 501(c)(3) Articles of Incorporation - Brenda Edwards, Senior Research Associate**

Ms. Edwards reviewed a draft version of Articles of Incorporation for the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Foundation, a nonprofit that would be formed to accept gifts, grants, donations and bequests in furtherance of the Commission's work. Staff will continue to fine-tune the Articles, filing them at the appropriate time.