CBFA Meeting April 11, 2015

Rockville, MD-Home of Jack Lowe

Speaker: Matthew Pavesich, PhD, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric in the English Department and Associate Director of the Writing Program at Georgetown University.

Dr. Pavesich’s current work is called DC Adapters and focuses on the adaptive use of the District of Columbia flag, commercially, politically, for activism and in art. He showed several different ways the flag is adapted: using other symbols to replace the stars, the bars or both. He provoked a lively discussion of the semiotics of flag usage and questions as to why DC is a hotbed of this use whereas Pavesich’s previous home of Chicago, also a city whose flag has a good design and very popularly used, has so far not shown this phenomenon. Use in various locales of DC and among different demographic groups was discussed.

Afterwards, new member Mark Henderson showed and explained his designs for his personal and family flags. Dale Grimes showed a flag from WWII which was presented to the Baltimore Orioles on Memorial Day in 1956. From his vast collection of flag-related ephemera, Nick Artimovich showed a dozen cigar boxes of the late 19th and early 20th centuries with flag names and pictures. Chris Maddish showed some of his newest flag designs. Dick Libby discussed a project he was given to find all flags associated with Annapolis, from colonial English and French regimental colors to state, county and national flags. He asked for help in getting a complete list.

Jack Lowe conducted a brief business meeting, reminding everyone of the upcoming NAVA meeting in Ottawa, Ontario the weekend of October 16-18. The two NAVA meetings after that will be in San Jose, California and Boston, Massachusetts. The ICV26 Congress will be in Sydney, Australia August 31 –September 4, 2015.

Although he next meeting of CBFA won’t be until the fall, Jack encouraged everyone to come to the Flag day program at the DC Historical Society at the Carnegie Library on June 13th. Historian Marc Leepson, author of “Flag: An American Biography” will speak about Francis Scott Key and the Star-Spangled banner.” Dale Grimes will also be presenting a Flag Day program on June 14th in Baltimore.

In Attendance:

Chris Bedwell, Chris Maddish (longest distance traveled-from Lansdale, PA), Chris Wyatt, Dale Grimes, Daniel Broh-Kahn, Dick Clark, Dick Libby, George Ripley, Hugh Brady, Jack Lowe, Joe Cook, Jon Radel, Mark Henderson (first-timer), Nick Artimovich, Peter Ansoff, Peter Turek, Rick Wyatt, Tom Carrier