CHESAPEAKE BAY FLAG ASSOCIATION

Minutes—December 1, 2018—Columbia, Maryland

Attendees: Peter Ansoff, Nick Artimovich, Levi Barraclough, Chris Bedwell, Daniel Broh-Kahn, Betty Brown, Tom Carrier, Al Cavalari, Dick Clark, Art Etchells, Aracelli Fullem, Katie Funk, Dale Grimes, Steve Kramer, Jack Lowe, Carlos Alberto Morales-Ramírez, Greg Nedved, Jon Radel, Alex Radzius, Ethan Stearns, Gus Tracchia, Chris Wyatt, Rick Wyatt.

Pat and Nick Artimovich, our wonderful hosts, provided an expansive lunch, featuring Pat’s amazing homemade chili.

Lunchtime allowed for informal catching up by members and meeting new ones. President Jack Lowe convened a brief business meeting. Jack welcomed everyone, especially our first-timers Aracelli, Levi, Ethan (11 years old) and his mother Katie. Alex and Art are second-timers and we were pleased to see Dick Clark and Steve Kramer after long absences. The crowd of 23 was the largest in the past ten years. We are fortunate to have the incumbent NAVA president (Peter), a past president (Nick), and several former NAVA board members (Tom, Gus, Chris B.) as CBFA participants. Of note, we had two Pennsylvanians and two New Yorkers in the group in addition to our 6 Virginians, 12 Marylanders and one DC resident.

Nick, Tom, and Jon, founding members of CBFA, posed for a picture with the CBFA flag, replicating a picture of them in 1992 when they designed the flag. Tom graciously agreed to be the Recording Secretary so we could actually have minutes. *Our thanks to Tom for compiling the minutes*

Jack explained, for new members particularly, that CBFA has no dues, and that the money raised from auctioning donated material goes towards a food subsidy for the hosts, fees which may be charged by non-residential places we meet, and occasional funding of flag conservation projects. We had also contributed in 2016 to getting the proper Presidential Standard on the *Sunshine Special* (Franklin Roosevelt’s White House limousine) at the Henry Ford Museum.

Jack asked for volunteers to update the CBFA website. Steve Kramer suggested that he might help; he will discuss it with Jon Radel, our previous webmaster. Jack thought a Facebook page unnecessary, given the three NAVA Facebook groups and other flag groups. However, it may be possible to start a Dropbox or similar account so that we might post and share photos of meetings.

Jack recognized [NAVA](http://nava.org/) president Peter Ansoff who reported on the October 2018 NAVA-52 conference in Québec City. [NAVA 53](http://texflags.org/hemisflag.htm) will be in conjunction with FIAV’s ICV-28 in San Antonio, July 15-19, 2019 (ICV-29 will be in Slovenia in 2021). NAVA 54, in St. Augustine, FL, will be in JUNE 2020, NOT October. Peter reviewed the publication schedule of RAVEN, VEXILLUM and SEMAPHORE and showed “Vatican Flags”, the latest number of RAVEN. He also recommended the three NAVA Facebook pages: Flags and Vexillology, Designing Flags, and NAVA Matters. Jack encouraged any NAVA non-members to join for $40/year, students $20/year.

People then introduced themselves to the group. Several people had vexi-bits (show and tell). Here are some of the items.

* Betty from the Library of Congress brought along [‘blood chits’](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_chit) from WWII and Korea eras. Dale also had one with Asian languages predominant.
* Tom, who has an interest in presidential and government flags, currently writes about [flags](https://www.worthpoint.com/?s=United+States+flags&category=) and Americana from a collector’s view for WorthPoint.com and online auction sites. Tom brought along an impressively large 10’ x 16’ official flag of the Secretary of State.

* Aracelli, a protocol expert, is originally from Peru. She showed a large [flag of Peru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Peru), with the coat-of arms beautifully embroidered, and told the story that the flag was inspired by red and white flamingos that General San Martin saw when awakening from sleep.
* Al, a flag dealer, told stories of ‘flag rage’ where incorrect assumptions about flag etiquette fueled anger. This led to a spirited discussion about flag etiquette in general. What does the [Flag Code of 1942](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Flag_Code) actually say about flags at ‘half-staff’, the official mourning period for the death of presidents, whether the flag needs to be folded into a triangle, and other issues. The Wyatts, also flag dealers, chimed in with other tales. Rick considerately distributed pads and pens for all the assembled.
* Rick talked about his display of flags at the CRW flag store including some historic Civil War-era flags.
* Ethan is 11 years old and got his interest in flags from YouTube [videos about flags](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=flags). His mom, Katie, said she owned a Civil War-era flag, which we hope she will show at a future meeting.
* Art, who has a substantial library of vexillology, showed several of his recent acquisitions, including one about flags of China (from China).

* Alex is an 1812 re-enactor from Maryland. He spoke about that war and asked for information about flags from Baltimore regiments during the Civil War’s Battle of North Baltimore particularly of the 16th MD Militia, the Gadsden Flag, and the 1st MD Rifle Company.
* Dale, who provided an authentic 48-star Mare Island flag for the FDR limousine at the Henry Ford Museum, showed other items from his extensive collection of Mare Island, CA military flags from World War II.
* Jack responded to questions and comments about his recent WAMU-FM (the Maryland flag) and Huffington Post (flags in general, relating to the effort to change the Mississippi state flag) interviews.
* Gus, whose specialty is flags of Argentina, talked about an unusual flag of the Argentine province of Entre Rios.
* Chris B. collects flags of municipalities and showed several unusual flags. One which was previously unidentified was sleuthed by Carlos Alberto and found to be the flag of Montgomery County, Ohio (Dayton is its largest city).
* Carlos Alberto is a PhD candidate in Geography at the National University of Singapore. His main focus is using flags as teaching devices for geography. Carlos Alberto also brought up the idea of reviving “Flagship”, a CBFA publication in the 1990s, as both a newsletter about the Association and short pieces about encountered or studied flags, similar to the “Tabloid” of the Portland Flag Association, and as a forum for preliminary research, original articles and discussions, similar to “Crux Australis” of FlagsAustralia. Carlos Alberto will contact Jack with specific ideas and, if it seems feasible, they will look for an editor.
* Nick showed us some Maryland flags made by prison labor, including one whose heading had been sewn on the wrong end of the flag, so that it was impossible to hoist it with the black and gold in the proper orientation. He also showed examples of the Sons in Service flag with examples from both WWI and WWII. Discussion centered around the color of stars that are official (blue as serving, gold as KIA) as opposed to colors that were added per tradition (silver for wounded, for example).

We then had a chance to wander Nick’s collection, on display throughout the house, including a series of framed flag-related political silk ribbons display, silver ingots of historic American flags, flag charts, flag books, etc, etc.

The auction of donated flags raised $98. The treasury now has about $600. At the next meeting in the spring we will discuss projects we could contribute to.

The next meeting will be in March or April.