



Greetings from the Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools! As required by our bylaws, please find included a notice of our Annual Meeting which will be held virtually on **Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00pm** Eastern Time in connection with the VSA Annual Meeting.

Also included is a draft Agenda for the meeting, reports, and election materials. Please review these documents in advance and be prepared to ask any questions at the meeting. If you are unable to join us for the Zoom meeting, please consider voting on the issues presented on the ballot and return it by USPS mail to be received no later than **December 13, 2024.** See voting information on the ballot.

If you have not yet done so, please remember to renew your membership in the Alumni Association.

SEE: [VSA Alumni](#)

Renewals in the last two months of 2024 will be valid through 12/31/2025.

# **NOTICE**

## 2024 Annual Membership Meeting of The Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools



**WHAT:** Annual Meeting as required by our bylaws

**WHEN:** **Wednesday, December 18, 2024**  
**6:00pm PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**WHERE:** Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting a few minutes before 6:00pm by clicking on:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86715499376?pwd=Ekx1qbyuwoxke6sl2XsEzRaObqzEnE.1>

Meeting ID: 867 1549 9376

Passcode: 461229

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One tap mobile

+16468769923,,86715499376#,,,,\*461229# US (New York)

+16469313860,,86715499376#,,,,\*461229# US

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Dial by your location

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• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

• +1 386 347 5053 US

• +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

• +1 507 473 4847 US

• +1 564 217 2000 US

• +1 669 444 9171 US

• +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

• +1 689 278 1000 US

• +1 719 359 4580 US

• +1 253 205 0468 US

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

• +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

• +1 360 209 5623 US

Contact: David Lamdin at [dalamdin@gmail.com](mailto:dalamdin@gmail.com) or 703.243.2350

**Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools**  
**Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**December 18, 2024, on Zoom**

1. Correspondence Secretary Jeanne Solensky will call the meeting to order and certify that a quorum is present. The Alumni members present at the meeting constitute a quorum per the bylaws. As required by the bylaws of the Association, Notice of the Annual Meeting was sent by email to all dues-paying members and by postal mail to those members without email addresses.

2. A motion will be made to dispense with reading the minutes (attached) since these were distributed to all members before the meeting. Questions/Comments? **MOTION to approve. VOTE**

Reports: (One motion to accept all reports at the conclusion.)

3. James Russiello: Membership Report

4. James Russiello: Social Media Report

5. James Russiello: Treasurer Report

6. Jim Buttrick: Endowment Fund Finance Committee Chair Report

7. David Lamdin: President's Activities/Study Tour Report

8. James Russiello, Chair: Nominating Committee Report.

9. Q/A: Jeanne Solensky, Correspondence Secretary, will call for questions and a motion to accept the reports.

10. ELECTION: Solensky will note that ballots were sent to all members with email addresses and by postal mail to those without email. Solensky will call for any nominations from the floor in addition to those from the Nominating Committee. Conducts election by voice vote and paper ballots received, **VOTE**, announces results, and congratulates the winners.

11. Questions/Comments? **MOTION to adjourn VOTE**

## Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools

### Annual Meeting November 1, 2023, held virtually on Zoom

#### Draft Meeting Notes

In the absence of Correspondence Secretary **Jeanne Solensky**, **David Lamdin**, President, called the meeting to order and certified that about two dozen members of the Alumni Association were present which per the bylaws constituted a quorum to conduct business.

The reading of the notes of the November 16, 2022, Annual Meeting was waived and the notes were approved by unanimous vote.

In the absence of **Travis Brock Kennedy**, the new Membership Secretary, **David Lamdin** reported that we were revising the membership form and that Travis was working on the Membership Renewal Notice which would be sent out in the next few weeks. The Membership numbers are:

2023 190 members

2022: 217 members

2021: 185 Households + 49 = 234 Total memberships

2020: 206 Households + 50 = 266 Total membership

2019: 177 Households + 57 = 234 Total membership

2018: 147 Households + 53 = 200 Total membership

**John Martine**, the Alumni Study Tour Director, *Emeritus*, reported that the Alumni trip to Lisbon which was originally scheduled for 2019 and postpone several times because of Covid was finally completed in March 2023. The trip raised \$12,000 in donations to the scholarship fund and there was an additional profit with the totals to be finalized before the end of the year. John reported that there was one accident on the trip and that 7 people contracted Covid at the end of the trip. **David Lamdin** reported that the announcement had gone out concerning the Alumni trip to Northern Italy. The trip from April 23 to April 29, 2024 will include day trips to Ravenna with the headquarters hotel located in Bologna and a day trip to Forli, IT with a guided tour of Peter Trippi's exhibit.

In the absence of **James Russiello**, Treasurer, David Lamdin reported that the 12/31/2022 Financial Statement had been distributed with the meeting notes. As of 9/30/2023 the Endowment Fund had a balance of \$201,380.

We have a CD for \$30,000 at 4% due 11/15/2023.

Checking Account as of 10/18/2023: \$7,645

Pittsburgh Account: Pending

In response to a question from **John Simonelli**, **John Martine** advised that the Pittsburgh account is the checking account he uses to deposit traveler payments and pay trip bills.

The account details concerning income, disbursements, and balance is reported and included in the annual alumni financial report submitted to the VSA. He expects to have the final accounting for 2023 completed by the end of the year at which time he expects to transfer the balance in the account to the Alumni Treasurer.

In the absence of **Jim Buttrick**, David Lamdin reported that the Finance Committee consisting of **Sibyl Groff, Bob Chapman, David Lamdin, and Jim Buttrick**, are meeting on November 7, 2023, to discuss the performance of our Endowment Fund and the performance of our Financial Advisors, eCIO, to determine a path forward with recommendations for the Alumni Board on any actions necessary.

**David Lamdin**, President of the Alumni Association reported we paid our \$100 Chapter Dues and contributed \$250 for a Zoom presentation for a Chicago recruitment event in January 2023.

**We contributed \$24,000 for Student Scholarships to the 2023 Summer Schools.**

We continued our sponsorship of receptions for the 2023 Summer Schools students and friends. We contributed \$500 for receptions in Chicago and \$500 for a reception in London. **Pauline Metcalf** graciously sponsored a reception for the Newport students at her summer home.

We purchased a \$30,000 CD coming due in November 2023 at over 4% interest to get some interest on the money in our non-interest-bearing checking account.

We joined with VSA national and responded to the call of the VSA NYC Chapter for assistance by donating \$100 for a live, in-person program presenting author **Michael Kathrens'** lecture on the luxury and splendor of Newport's nineteenth-century summer "cottages," in his most recent book, *Newport Cottages 1835-1890: The Summer Villas Before the Vanderbilt Era*.

We have been in contact with **John Cooper**, our alumni webmaster, to update our Membership Form on the website and to begin the transfer of information on the Alumni website to our page on the VSA website.

We published nine (9) eNewsletters so far in 2023. These well received digital newsletters continue to provide an effective and inexpensive means of informing our members of items of interest to the Alumni.

Many members of the Alumni Association participated in, supported, and thoroughly enjoyed the excellent video lectures presented by the VSA in 2023.

At the 2021 Annual Meeting, a new Board of Directors was elected for the period 2022 through 2024. We will need to have new elections at next year's annual meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Alumni Board or in helping with our administrative tasks should contact the Alumni President.

The Alumni Association expresses its deep appreciation to **Sara Durkacs** who resigned a Membership Secretary due to the pressing needs of her job. Sara's efforts over the past several years have been crucial to our success and survival. We wish Sara all good fortune in the years ahead. As Membership Secretary, *Emeritus*, Sara is helping in the training of **Travis Brock Kennedy** as the new Alumni Membership Secretary. Many thanks to Travis who brings his Organization Development skills to this task. Travis is also a member of the Alumni Board of Directors.

Last but far from least, our enduring and deep gratitude to **John Martine** who successfully led the Alumni Study Tour Program. After over 30 years of extraordinary effort and service to the Alumni Association as the volunteer director of the Alumni Study Tour Program probably raising approximately a quarter of a million dollars to fund Alumni Scholarships, John Martine (London 1979 and 2013, Newport 2007, and Chicago 2016 and 2019) has decided to step back from that role but will continue to serve the Alumni as the Study Tour Director, *Emeritus*, providing the Alumni with his expert advice and assistance on future trips. The Alumni Association has solicited interest about this position and has received several notices of interest. We will address this issue as soon as the planning for the Italy trip is concluded.

The Alumni Association very much appreciates the efforts of its officers and directors whose efforts enable the Alumni Association to be an entirely volunteer organization. By unanimous vote, these reports were all accepted.

**Sibyl Groff** commented on the performance of our financial advisors, eCIO, and indicated that in a very tough investment environment, they have done a good job. She also commended David Lamdin for his efforts on behalf of the Alumni Association.

By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by **David Lamdin**, November 1, 2023

## **Membership Report, 2024**

Submitted by Membership Secretary **James Russiello**, October 1, 2024.

James Russiello, Membership Secretary, reports as of October 1, 2024, the Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools (“AAVSSS”) has a total of 157 membership records (“member households”), which includes the 44 complimentary 2024 summer school attendees and the 113 paying membership records.

These numbers reflect member households that renewed between Nov 1, 2023, and October 1, 2024, with renewals as late as Oct 1, 2024, honored for the 2024 membership calendar year. Additionally, the \*12 upper-tier membership records (Household, Supporter, Sponsor, and Benefactor) listed an additional name for a total of 169 total memberships.

2024: 157 Households + 12\* = 169 Total memberships  
2023: 190 Households + 17\* = 207 Total memberships  
2022: 217 Households + 39 = 234 Total memberships  
2021: 185 Households + 49 = 234 Total memberships  
2020: 206 Households + 50 = 266 Total membership  
2019: 177 Households + 57 = 234 Total membership  
2018: 147 Households + 53 = 200 Total membership

\*Membership numbers before 2023 included the total number of unique member households at any tier (including summer school comp) as “Households” and included a “+ #,” which simply doubled the number of member tiers above basic membership tiers (Comp, Covid-hardship, Student/Young Person, and Individual member level rates) regardless of whether there was a second name on the account. Had the past system been applied, doubling the 52 upper-tier member tiers would have resulted in reporting 207 total members, matching 2023’s figure. Additionally, donations paid above the member tier prior to 2024 were counted forward as payment in fulfillment of additional membership years. The 2024 rates reflect only those members who sent in payment after Oct 31, 2023. Had the past system been applied, there would have been an additional 11 members. The full report summarizing methodology, membership trends, rates, payment methods, solicitations and marketing, and future goals was shared with the board and will be available in a future newsletter.

In terms of outreach besides emails and membership renewal notices contained in the eNewsletters, two direct mail campaigns were launched in 2024. The first campaign of 202 letters in June targeting individuals who had not renewed online by that date, which resulted in a 20% renewal rate, and a second ongoing December 2024 campaign of holiday cards with a renewal form for the 2025 membership year, of which over 500 are slated to be mailed to non-lapsed and lapsed members who have made a payment since at least 2018, and less-active members with class anniversaries who have made a payment within the last ten years, as well as persons who have expressed interest in attending the summer schools, recommended attendees, and are members of active chapters who have attended recruitment events.

## **Social Media Report for Jan 1, 2024-October 1, 2024**

Submitted by **James Russiello**, Social Media & Website Cmte. Chair, October 1, 2024

The Alumni Association secured all the appropriate documentation from our prior webmaster, **John Cooper**, and reestablished the website (<https://www.vsaalumni.org/>) under the supervision of **James Russiello**. The website was rebuilt as a copy of the old one on the Wordpress platform for easier access to update pages and content. It consists of the main page, an In Memoriam page, and a publications page. We are in the process of updating the new website, including an archive of all previously published journals and newsletters, and have engaged a web professional to help build, host, and monitor the site. We are also planning a new distribution method, and we will be welcoming a new newsletter editor in 2025.

On social media, through the continued content and ownership sharing agreement, the Alumni Association's Instagram account, **@VicSocAmerica**, remains shared three ways between the Alumni Association, the Victorian Society in America, and the VS Summer Schools. As of December 6, 2024, the Instagram account has 1,600 followers and 1,338 posts. The Alumni Association's Facebook page has 311 followers. At present, the Alumni Association does not have any additional social media accounts.

## **Treasurer Report for Jan 1, 2024-October 15, 2024**

Submitted by **James Russiello**, Treasurer, October 15, 2024

As of October 5, 2024, the Alumni Association had the following balances:

Wells Fargo Checking Account:	\$89,563.03
Endowment Fund:	\$250,588.00
Total	\$340,151.03

See below for our audited financial report for the year ending 12/31/2023. In 2024, the Alumni Association provided \$24,000 for student scholarships as well as paid our usual operating expenses. A detailed report for 2024 will be prepared and submitted to the VSA and to the Alumni membership in January 2025.



## **Endowment Finance Committee Chair Report**

Submitted by **James Buttrick**, Chair

The Alumni Chapter raised \$217,008.50 for the Scholarship Endowment fund in 2021. The Alumni Finance Committee chose eCIO ["electronic Chief Investment Officer"] in Madison, WI, to be the investment manager. They specialize in smaller non-profits, are cost-effective, and are easy to work with. An Investment Policy Statement was drafted and approved by the Alumni Chapter Board.

The initial asset allocation of the fund was 90% equities and 10% fixed income, reflecting the very low interest rates at the time and a poor outlook for bonds when rates eventually normalized. By early 2024 interest rates had risen substantially, and the declining bond market represented improved value. The Finance Committee and the investment advisor agreed that reducing the equity exposure to 70% and increasing that of fixed income to 30% would both increase the income from the account and decrease the account's volatility going forward. This change was effected in March 2024. Subsequently a contribution from the fund of \$2,500 was made to support summer school scholarships. At the end of the third quarter the balance of the account was \$251,447.

**VSA ALUMNI ASSOC Main, Pitts, & Endowment Fund Acts Inc/Exp 12/31/2023**

	<b>Main</b>	<b>Endowment</b>	<b>Pitts</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Balance 1/1/2023	<b>49,772</b>	<b>188,845</b>	<b>38,444</b>	<b>277,061</b>
<b>2023 INCOME</b>				
Membership Dues	15,113			
Donations to our AA Scholarship Funds	6,969			
Events (Lisbon Tour Deposits)			99,690	
Dividends and Interest	558	4,226		
Donations		350		
Change in Value of Investments		35,487		
<b>12/31/2023 TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>22,640</b>	<b>40,063</b>	<b>99,690</b>	<b>162,393</b>
<b>2023 EXPENSES</b>				
Brokerage Fees		1,586		
Membership solicitation	132			
Gnosis Membership Software	1,260			
Member communications				
Website Maintenance	223			
Donations: VSA Annual Chapter Dues	100			
Bank Charges	159			
Summer Schools Receptions	1,000			
Summer Schools Scholarships	24,000			
Summer School Recruitment Events	250			
Miscellaneous	100			
Portugal Trip (see Expense Sheet)			82,394	
Income Reinvested		4,574		
<b>12/31/2023 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>27,224</b>	<b>6,160</b>	<b>82,394</b>	<b>115,778</b>
<b>12/31/2023 NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>-4,584</b>	<b>33,903</b>	<b>17,296</b>	<b>46,615</b>
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/31/2023</b>	<b>45,188</b>	<b>222,748</b>	<b>55,740</b>	<b>323,676</b>
<b>(BOTH BANK BALANCES)</b>				
End of 2012				35,273
End of 2013			20,507	39,250
End of 2014			38,352	58,952
End of year 2015				42,481
End of year 2016	18,810		42,364	61,174
End of year 2017	33,090		17,364	50,454
End of year 2018	49,692		30,340	80,032
End of year 2019	108,791		12,910	121,701
End of year 2020	152,189		46,580	198,769
End of year 2021 (Main & Endowment)	288,528		45,330	333,858
End of year 2022	49,772	188,845	38,444	277,061
End of year 2023	45,188	222,748	55,740	<b>323,676</b>
Balance as of 1/1/2024	100,928	222,748		323,676
Tangible assets ..... laptop and software Purchased 1/25/2018 for \$459 plus tax and shipping charges				
David A Lamdin				
703-243-2350 home				
571-332-4220 Cell				
<a href="mailto:dalamdin@gmail.com">dalamdin@gmail.com</a>				

**NOTE: At the beginning of 2024, the Pittsburgh account balance was transferred to the Main Account. The Pittsburgh account is closed.**

## **President's Report**

Submitted by **David Lamdin**, President

The Alumni Assoc. donated \$24,000 for scholarships to 2024 summer school students. The Alumni Assoc. supported a reception hosted by the UK Victorian Society for the 2024 London Summer school students and alumni in the area. On behalf of the Alumni Assoc., **Pauline Metcalf** hosted a reception at her summer home, Philmoney, for the Newport Summer School class and alumni in the area.

The Alumni trip to Northern Italy especially to view **Peter Trippi's** amazing, comprehensive exhibit on pre-Raphaelite artist was a great success except on the financial side. We had 14 travelers and just broke even on the trip.

There will be several changes in our Board, but we have a full slate of nominees for the next three-year term running from 1/1/2025 through 12/31/2027.

Many thanks to **James Russiello** who has done a tremendous job filling the void left by the resignations of our Membership Secretaries, working on updating our website, serving on the Endowment Fund Finance Committee, as well as on our Board of Directors as Treasurer, and as our Social Media and Website Committees Chair.

A huge "thank you" to our Finance Committee (**James Buttrick, Sibyl Groff, Bob Chapman, James Russiello, and David Lamdin**) for the many, many hours lending their expertise to the establishment, review, and maintenance of the Alumni Endowment Fund. Thanks also to all our current board members and a special thanks to those who are leaving the board on 12/31/2024: **Bob Chapman, Jeanne Solensky, Elizabeth Ann Milnarik, and William Cullum.**

Thanks to the chair of our Nominating Committee, **James Russiello**, and members **David Vespa, Joseph V. Svehlak, Sibyl McC. Groff, and Charles J. Robertson, III**, for their work. Many thanks to our current Board of Directors for their dedication, support, and guidance over the past three years, and thanks to those who will serve in that capacity from 1/1/2025 through 12/31/2027.

And a special thanks to you for your membership in the Alumni Association and faithful support of our mission to support the VSA in its educational mission and to provide scholarship funds for students attending the summer schools.

## **2024 Board of the Alumni Association**

### ***OFFICERS***

President: **David A. Lamdin**, Arlington, VA

Vice President: **Bob Chapman**, Montclair, NJ

Treasurer: **James Russiello**, New York City, NY

Corresponding Secretary: **Jeanne Solensky**, Greenfield, MA

(Acting) Membership Secretary: **James Russiello**, New York City, NY

### ***DIRECTORS***

**Richard Brandi**, San Francisco, CA

**William Cullum**, New York City, NY

**Elizabeth Ann Milnarik**, Washington, DC

**John A. Martine**, Pittsburgh, PA

**Travis Brock Kennedy**, New York City, NY

### ***COMMITTEES***

Alumni Study Tours Director: **Vacant**

Alumni Study Tours Director, Emeritus: **John Martine**, Pittsburgh PA

Chair of Nominating: **James Russiello**, New York City, NY

Chair of Social Media/Website: **James Russiello**, New York City, NY

Chair of Member Relations: **Sibyl Groff**, New York City, NY

Chair of Finance: **Jim Buttrick**, Boston, MA

## **Board Candidates Information**

The Alumni Nominating Committee recommends the following individuals for election to the Board of Directors in the offices specified for three-year terms starting on January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2027. See the candidate biographies below.

**Lamdin, David** (President)

**Brandi, Richard** (Vice President)

**Dalton, Christine** (Membership Secretary)

**Thursby, Lori O'Donnell** (Corresponding Secretary)

**Russiello, James** (Treasurer)

**Martine, John A.** (Director)

**Golden, Nancy McAleer** (Director)

**P'pool, Kenneth H.** (Director)

**Matulewicz, Kristen N.** (Director)

**Turino, Kenneth C.** (Director)

**BALLOT**

**Board of Directors**

Vote for all individuals named below as recommended by the Nominating Committee  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

If No, please vote as indicated below:

Lamdin, David A. (President) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Brandi, Richard (Vice President) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Dalton, Christine (Membership Secretary) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Thursby, Lori O'Donnell (Corresponding Sec.) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Russiello, James (Treasurer) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Martine, John A. (Director) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Golden, Nancy McAleer (Director) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

P'pool, Kenneth H. (Director) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Matulewicz, Kristen N. (Director) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Turino, Kenneth C. (Director) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: **Jeanne Solensky**  
**7 Cypress St**  
**Greenfield, MA 01301**

**NOTE: All mailed in ballots must be received by Secretary Solensky by December 13, 2024.**

**Report of the Nominating Committee, Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools**, August 27, 2024

Committee members: **Sibyl McCormac Groff** (London '82 & Newport '05), **Charles J. Robertson, III** (London '03), **Joseph V. Svehlak** (London '06 & Newport '11), **David Vespa** (Newport '15, London '16, & Chicago '18), and **James Russiello** (Newport '12 & London '13), Chair.

The Nominating Committee of the AAVSSS recommends the following individuals for election to the Board of Directors in the offices specified for three-year terms ending on December 31, 2027:

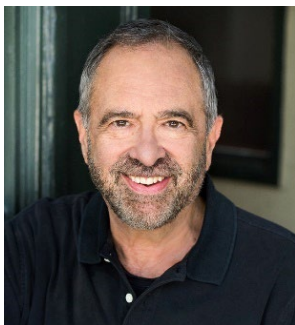
**Candidate for President:**



David A. Lamdin (Newport '15, London '17, & Chicago '18) Arlington, VA, is a retired Federal employee, and former personnel sergeant in the US Army Reserve. A native of the capital region, he earned his bachelor's degree from University of Baltimore, and MA from George Washington University. David is an active member in the arts scene of Washington, D.C., including the NTHP, Shakespeare Theatre, Arena Stage, National Gallery of Art, Hillwood Museum, Smithsonian, and National Archives, and has volunteered as the treasurer and bookkeeper for local nonprofit groups.

David has been a director of the national VSA since 2019, and a member of its Summer Schools/Education Committee since 2018. He has served as a director of the Alumni Association since 2015, and as president since 2019. Previously David served as the treasurer from 2015-2022.

**Candidate for Vice President:**



Richard Brandi (Newport '09 & London '13), San Francisco, CA, is an architectural historian and historic preservation consultant specializing in garden suburbs with more than two decades of experience in cultural resource management, historic preservation, and public history. Prior to founding Brandi Preservation in 2010, Richard previously worked at Carey & Co. Historic Architecture, Page & Turnbull Architecture, two of San Francisco's award-winning historic preservation architecture firms, and at two environmental consulting firms, Michael Baker International and Atkins, as well as at Pacific Municipal Consultants. Richard earned his BA from University of California, Berkeley, an MBA from Golden Gate University, and a MA in Historic Preservation from Goucher College. Richard has extensive experience throughout northern and central California, and has worked in Arizona, Mississippi, and New Mexico. He conducts historic property evaluations, historic context statements, architectural surveys, CEQA, NEPA and Section 106 reviews, HABS/HAER documentation, National Register nominations, and project reviews using the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Richard is a member of several preservation groups. He has been the

president of the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historian since 2014, and is also a director of the Western Neighborhoods Project, a nonprofit historical association that was the winner of The Governor's Historic Preservation Award (California Office of Historic Preservation). He is the author of several articles that have been published in *Journal of Planning History*, *The Argonaut* (San Francisco Museum and Historical Society), *Heritage News* (San Francisco Architectural Heritage), and has presented papers at the California Preservation Foundation Annual Conference, the Society for American City and Regional Planning History Conference, the National Museum of Ethnology and Kobe Yamate University, Kobe, Japan, and the Society for Industrial Archeology. Richard is the author of an upcoming book on Portola Drive, a 250-year-old road in San Francisco, as well the *Garden Neighborhoods of San Francisco: The Development of Residence Parks 1905-1924* (Jefferson, NC: McFardland & Co., 2021); *San Francisco's St Francis Wood* (San Francisco: Outside Lands Media, 2012); and *San Francisco's West Portal Neighborhoods* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005).

Richard has served as a director of the Alumni Association since 2022.

### **Candidate for Membership Secretary:**



Christine Dalton (Newport '22), Mt. Dora, Florida, is a historic preservation consultant specializing in heritage tourism specializing in heritage tourism planning, community planning, downtown revitalization, preservation education, local government preservation policy, survey and inventory, grant writing, training, and local and National Register of Historic Places nominations and historic districts. Dalton has had a passion for the built and natural environment since a young age, and this has directed her academic and professional career, as well as volunteer and philanthropic endeavors. She has served as a Trustee of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and Vice President of the American Planning Association's Orlando Metro Section. Presently, she serves as the Regional Ambassador for Region 4 of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and is a Florida State Delegate for the American Planning Association. She is a certified planner (AICP) through the American Planning Association and is a Congress for the New Urbanism-accredited professional (CNU-A).

Dalton served as an adjunct instructor for twelve years, teaching at two colleges in Central Florida (Rollins College, Environmental Studies program, and Seminole State College, Interior Design Program), where she has taught Historic Preservation, Traditional Town Planning, Nature in the City, and History of Architecture and Design. She was the Interim Coordinator for the Master of Professional Studies in Preservation of the Historic Interior at New York School of Interior Design, where she taught for two years. She leads a 10-day field study of historic architecture on Nantucket, MA for the New York School of Interior Design.

Dalton holds an M.A. in Historic Preservation from Goucher College (Baltimore, Maryland), a B.A. in Environmental and Growth Management Studies from Rollins College with a Minor in Business Administration (Winter Park, Florida), and an A.S. in Architectural Design and Construction Technology from Seminole State College (Sanford, Florida). She has won awards from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the



American Planning Association, Florida Chapter. She is experienced in local government planning for historic preservation, having served as Historic Preservation Officer for a municipality in Florida for thirteen years.



**Candidate for Treasurer:**

James Russiello (Newport '12 & London '13), New York, NY, is a Senior Landmarks Preservationist at the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission where he has worked since 2015 primarily with religious properties. Previously James worked as a historic building recorder and editor for architectural surveys in Ireland and Northern Ireland, at historic building consultancies in England, and in publishing at Wiley. He earned his A.B. in History from Vassar College, a MSc (with distinction) in the Conservation of Historic Buildings from the University of Bath and received certificates from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and New York University School of Continuing Education. He is a member of several professional organizations, has authored or co-authored articles that appeared in *Preservation Magazine*, *Architect's Newspaper*, and *Clog: Landmarks*. Credited survey work has been published by Monaghan County Council, The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland (Republic), and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (UK). He is a frequent attendee of preservation conferences and has given presentations at the Reitz Home Museum for Preservation Evansville (Indiana), the College of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale, NYC, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, and the Municipal Art Society of New York, a non-profit city advocacy organization founded in 1893 by Richard Morris Hunt, among others, for which he also leads walking tours. He teaches continuing education classes in New York City history and preservation at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y (92Y) and is a delegate and was the treasurer for his union's Chapter 41, Civil Service Technical Guild Local 375 of AFSCME District Council 37.

James has served as a member of the Victorian Society Summer Schools/Education Committee since 2012, as a director of the national VSA from 2012-2015, and as the summer schools administrator from 2015-2016. He also served as recording secretary and director of the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America (d.b.a. Victorian Society New York) from 2013-2023, during which time in 2018 he arranged the complicated donation of the Society's archives (dating back to 1959) to the to the New-York Historical Society through his Newport Summer School roommate. He has served as a director of the Alumni Association since 2019, treasurer since 2022, and membership secretary since 2023.

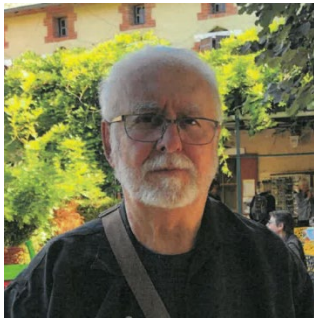
**Candidate for Corresponding Secretary:**



Lori O'Donnell Thursby (Newport '98 & London '23), Charlottesville, VA, retired in 2020 after more than 25 years of professional experience in architectural history and historic preservation. She worked as an architectural historian at cultural and environmental resource planning and management companies in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic. Her primary responsibility was to conduct and direct historical and architectural resource surveys in compliance with Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This work involved historical and archival research, historical narrative and context development, field survey and documentation, and data synthesis and analysis on properties of varying types and ages located throughout the United States. Lori authored or co-authored several hundred reports, prepared a National Register of Historic Places multiple property documentation and several HABS/HAER documentations, and produced dozens of posters and brochures for public project meetings. Her technical experience also included National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) project management and impact analysis. She had primary responsibility for preparing Section 4(f) determinations and evaluations and guiding and supporting clients in the Section 106 consultation process. Lori also served as a technical editor and QA/QC reviewer. As corresponding secretary for the board, Lori would run the newsletter as editor.

Lori earned a Bachelor of Environmental Design (a four-year architecture program) from Miami University, and a Master in Architectural History and a Certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Virginia (UVA). It was while at UVA that Lori learned about the VSA Summer Schools from Richard Guy Wilson. She participated in the Newport Summer School in 1998, and the London Summer School in 2023. Post-retirement, Lori's love of historic architecture and her thirst for learning has continued by attending the VSA Alumni Association Study Tour to Northern Italy this past spring and by taking University-level short courses on selected nineteenth- and twentieth-century architectural history subjects taught by Richard Guy Wilson through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UVA.

**Candidate for 1<sup>st</sup> Director:**



John Anthony Martine, AIA (London '79 & '13 Chicago '16 & '19, & Newport '07), Pittsburgh, PA, is a preservation architect, who recently retired as the founding partner and principal of Strada Architecture LLC, a multi-disciplinary architectural and urban planning design firm with offices in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. A practicing architect for over fifty years, John received numerous design awards from the American Institute of Architects, Pittsburgh's Historic Review Commission, Preservation Pennsylvania, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

John has served on many community and professional boards and participated in more than 100 seminars and conferences on historic preservation, neighborhood conservation, adaptive reuse, and 19th Century. He was the local chair of the Society of Architectural Historians annual meeting in Pittsburgh in 2007 and helped with organizing their 75th annual international conference in 2022. He was a member of the Architects Licensure Board of Pennsylvania, and a chairman of Preservation Pennsylvania.

John was a member of the Education Committee (now Summer Schools/Education Committee) and its co-chair for many years. He was a director of the national VSA in the 1980s, during which time he service as its vice president. He has been a director of the Alumni Association since its founding in 1975 and served as its president from September 1993 to December 2005. He led or helped organize 24 of the Alumni Association study tours from 1991 through 2023, most recently to Portugal's Lisbon and Sintra.

**Candidate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Director:**

Nancy McAleer Golden (Newport '98), Santa Barbara, CA, is a retired marketing professional and fundraising consultant, previously working for 21 years at Time, Inc., and as a manager at Pubaid SA, London. She earned her bachelors from Russell Sage College, and certificates in marketing from Direct Mail Marketing Association, and New York University School of Continuing Education. Nancy has a wide range of volunteer experience, serving on the board of several nonprofits, including Opera Santa Barbara from 1999 through 2018, the last two years as chair, and Santa Barbara Symphony from 2014 to 2016, 2018-2019, and 2021-2022. She volunteered for the Adult Literacy Program



(2014-2017) and Summer Reading Program (2014-2020) at the Santa Barbara Public Library, as an advisory and fundraising committee member of the Friends of Women, Culture & Development, UC Santa Barbara, from 1999 to 2002, the San Francisco Education Fund in 1989, the Volunteer Services for the Elderly in Yorkville from 1975 to 1987. She presently volunteers for Meals on Wheels (since 1999), and as members of the Navigator Circle Committee of the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, and the Development Committee of the Central Coast Outdoor Adventures (both since 2022).

Nancy was a director of the national VSA from 1981 to 1999, including serving for a time as the Membership & Annual Fund Committee Chair, and was also director of the

Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America (now d.b.a. Victorian Society New York) from 1978 to 1987, serving as its recording secretary in 1984-1986, and president in 1986. She served as a director and newsletter editor of the Alumni Association from 2001 through 2018, and its president from 2004 to 2016.

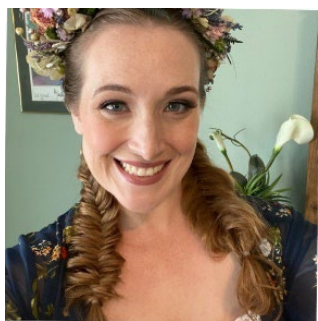
**Candidate for 3rd Director:**



Kenneth H. P'Pool (London '85 & Chicago '22), Clinton, MS, is a preservationist who retired as the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer after 40 years at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. In that position he was responsible for administering the survey/inventory of historic buildings and archaeological sites, the National Register of Historic Places program, the historic buildings rehab tax incentive program, the Certified Local Government program, and numerous state/federal preservation grant programs. Among his many accomplishments were restorations of several National Historic Landmark buildings, and the conservation and restoration efforts of the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, including helping to establish The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Program (MGCNHA). He oversaw a \$30+ million recovery grant program that assisted in restoring some 300 historic structures. Among those was the Charnley-Norwood House (originally "Charmleigh") in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, designed as a vacation retreat for James and Helen Charnley by architect Louis H. Sullivan and his young draftsman Frank Lloyd Wright in 1890, and which served as the precursor of the Chicago mansion (now known as the Charnley-Persky House) they designed for the Charnley's in 1891. The Charnley-Norwood House was rebuilt by Sullivan in 1897 for Frederick Norwood following a fire; the restoration following Hurricane Katrina received a Preservation Award from the Victorian Society in America, which was presented to Ken, Rhonda Price, Deputy Director for Coastal Restoration & Resiliency, State of Mississippi, and Christian Preus, landscape architect.

Ken has been a trustee of the Mississippi Heritage Trust, Inc., since 1994; a director of the Billups-Garth Historical Foundation since 1985; and a director (now emeritus) of the Mississippi Main Street Association since 1983. He was a commissioner for the MS Gulf Coast National Heritage Area from 2005-2013 and a director of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers from 1992-1996 and 1999-2004. Ken earned bachelor's degrees from David Lipscomb University and the University of Tennessee Nashville, and a masters in historic preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. Ken has served on the national VSA's preservation committee since 2019.

### **Candidate for 4<sup>th</sup> Director:**



Kristen N. Matulewicz (London '17), Wilmington, DE, is a Victorian specialist with extensive experience in museum education and events. In February 2024, she transitioned her career after 12 years in museum education to be the first curator that Rockwood Park & Museum has had in over 15 years. Located in Wilmington, DE, Rockwood is a Rural Gothic Revival mansion nestled amongst 72 acres of gardens, and winding trails. Built in the early 1850s by Joseph Shipley of the London-based private bank Brown, Shipley, and Co. as a retirement villa, and remained owned by his family until the 1970s. Before taking on this career change, Kristen previously served as the Director of Education at the Biggs Museum of American Art, in Dover, DE, from 2019-2024, and from 2018-2019 as the Education Manager at the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, FL.

Kristen earned a bachelor's degree in art history and a BFA in Fine Arts at Flagler College in Saint Augustine, FL, and a MA in Art History and Visual Studies from the University of Victoria, in BC, Canada, during which time she was a docent at Craigdarroch Castle, working with past VSA national president and summer school alumnus Bruce Davies (Newport '99 & London '06). Her graduate work explored escapist practices of the nouveau riche during the Victorian period with a focus on the work of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema and his immersive environments.

She has been a board member since January 2021 of both the Delaware Art Educators Association and the Delaware Museum Association, and her work has been published in *Cutting Edge*, a journal of the University of British Columbia. Additionally, Kristen has been quoted in the Delaware News Journal and has appeared on NPR, WRDE Coast TV, Delmarva Life, and the 302.



### **Candidate for 5<sup>th</sup> Director**

Kenneth C. Turino (London '93 & Newport '16), Nahant, MA, is an author, lecturer, contributor, museum educator, and historic properties consultant. He has been an adjunct professor at Tufts University since 1996 teaching courses "Exhibition Planning" and "Reinventing the Historic House Museum," as part of the university's museum studies program, and since 2015 has co-led a one-day seminar titled "Reinventing the Historic House Museum" for the American Association of State and Local History in Bennington, VT, Chicago, IL, Denver CO, Kansas City, MO, Milwaukee, WI, Nashville, TN, New York, NY, Philadelphia, PA, Portsmouth, NH, St Louis, MO, and Washington, DC. Ken was the longtime Manager of Community Partnerships and Resource Development at Historic New England (formerly SPNEA) from 2000-2024, during which time he also ran their acclaimed Program in New England Studies (PINES), and previously worked at The Lynn Museum as its the Executive Director from 1986 to 2000, and The Lyceum in Alexandria, VA, as its the Assistant Director from 1982 to 1986.

Ken earned his bachelor's degree from Salem State College, and master's in museum education from George Washington University, and attended the Seminar for

Historic Administration offered by the American Association of State and Local History, American Association of Museums, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He was received many awards, including the Award of Excellence (2023) from the New England Museum Association, the Leadership in History Award (2016) from the American Association for State and Local History, the Award for Scholarship and Artistry (2015) from the Country School Association of America, the Outstanding Educator Award (2008) from Salem State University, and Best Thematic Show (second place, 2003-2004) from the International Association of Art Critics, Boston Chapter.

Ken has served as a consultant for many prominent historic properties, including Fallingwater, Mill Run, PA (2023), The Grand Army of the Republic Museum, Lynn, MA (2022), the Newport Restoration Foundation, Newport, RI (2020-2021), Trent House, Trenton NJ (2020), Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin, OH (2019), Pendarvis Historic Site, Wisconsin Historical Society, Mineral Springs, WI (2019), Madame John's Legacy, State Museum of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA (2019), James Madison's Montpelier, Orange, VA (2016), Connecticut Landmarks, Hartford, CT (2016, 2019-ongoing), Charnley-Norwood House, Ocean Springs, MI (2013), and the Hermann-Grima and Gallier Historic Houses, New Orleans, LA (2007), among others. He has been a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society since 2000, a commissioner of Essex National Heritage Area (Essex, Mass) since 2010, and an advisory committee member of The History Project, Boston, MA since 2012, and a director of the American Association for State and Local History since 1997, serving on its historic house and leadership development committees among others, and most recently on their governing council since 2013. Formerly, he was the president and community engagement committee chair at the House of Seven Gables, Salem, MA (2016-2023), and co-chair of the Small Museums Committee (1995-2000), and co-chair of the professional affinity group for exhibitions (2006-2010), both at the New England Museum Association.

Ken co-edited *Reinventing the Historic House Museum, New Approaches and Proven Solutions* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, and American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, TN, 2019) with Victorian Society Summer School alumnus Max von Balgooy (Newport '24), and edited *The Civil War Diary of Lieutenant J. E. Hodgkins, 1862-1865* (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 1994). His papers and articles have appeared in several journals, including *History News: A Publication of the American Association for State and Local History*, *Nineteenth Century: A Publication of the Victorian Society in America*; *American Ancestors: A Publication of the New England Historical Genealogical Society*; *The Public Historian*, A Journal of Public History, and the *National Council for Public History*; and in books *No Race of Imitators, Lynn and Her People, An Anthology* (1992), *Yankee Remix, Artist Take on New England* (MASS MoCA, 2003), *Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites* (2015), *Commemoration The American Association for State and Local History Guide* (2017), and *The Inclusive Historian's Handbook* (2019).

He was a director of the New England Chapter of the Victorian Society in America from 1995 to 2005.