ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SCHOOLS

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, dedicated to supporting the Summer Schools through scholarships, fundraising, and engagement with alumni.

Alumni Newsletter

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Lori Thursby
Editor

Issue 75
November 2026

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

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, November 18 starting at 6:00 pm Eastern Time** in connection with the VSA Annual Meeting. Please join us via Zoom at 6 pm Eastern (5pm Central, 4pm Mountain, 3pm Pacific).

Also included is a draft Agenda for the meeting, the minutes of the 2025 meeting, and 2026 reports. Other than the approval of the minutes from the 2025 Annual Meeting, the reports, and the motion to adjourn the meeting, no other issues require a vote of the membership. **Please review these documents in advance and be prepared to ask any questions at the meeting**.

If you have not yet done so, please remember to renew your membership in the Alumni Association. For more information or to enroll online, please click on the following link to our website: Alumni Association.

Any new or renewed membership received in the last three months of 2026 will be valid through December 31, 2027.

NOTICE

2026 Annual Membership Meeting

of the

Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools

WHAT: Annual Membership Meeting as required by our bylaws

WHEN: Wednesday, November 18, 2026

6:00 p.m. Eastern Time (GMT-5)

WHERE: Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting a few minutes before 6:00 p.m. ET by clicking on:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84409029698?pwd=gZNeu9yhq4LTBXAHpWfCaval0JasjH.1

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SCHOOLS

ANNUAL MEETING DRAFT AGENDA
NOVEMBER 18, 2026 ON ZOOM

1. The meeting is called to order and it is certified 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. Move to dispense with reading the minutes (attached) since they were distributed to all members before the meeting. Questions/Comments? **MOTION to approve 2025 meeting minutes. VOTE**

Officer and Committee Chair Reports:

3. Membership Secretary Christine Dalton: Membership report
4. Treasurer James Russielllo: Treasurer's report
5. Endowment Fund Committee Chair Jim Buttrick: Endowment Fund report
6. Social Media and Website Committee Chair James Russiello: Social Media report
7. Correspondence Secretary Lori Thursby: eNewsletter report
8. Study Tour Director Sergei Troubetsky: Study Tour report
9. President David Lamdin: President's Activities report
10. Q/A

MOTION to accept all the reports. VOTE

MOTION to Adjourn. VOTE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SCHOOLS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, NOVEMBER 12, 2025
DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Lori Thursby, Correspondence Secretary for the Alumni Association, called the Annual Membership Meeting to order at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

Lori noted that a quorum of Alumni members was present to conduct official business.

Lori noted that as required by our bylaws, the Notice of the Annual Meeting had been sent to all current members of the Alumni Association who had email addresses and by postal mail to those members without email addresses on October 28, 2025.

Lori noted that the minutes of our meeting last year, held on December 18, 2024, had been sent out to all members with the Notice of Meeting for review. Hearing no comments, questions, or revisions to the notes, Charles Robertson moved that the minutes be accepted as written. The motion was seconded by John Simonelli. All voted to accept the minutes as written with no objections.

The following Officer and Committee Chair reports were then offered:

Membership Report

Submitted and read at the meeting on November 12, 2025, by Christine Dalton, Membership Secretary

As of October 1, 2024, we had a total of 157 membership records, which includes the 44 complimentary 2024 summer school attendees and the 113 paying membership records (This is 169 total members when including listed household plus ones). James Russiello noted that last year ended with a paper renewal going out in late November 2024 to 470 present and past members that consisted of a holiday card from the Metropolitan Museum, a brief appeal letter, membership form, and a full-color insert year-end newsletter with alumni news. This appeal resulted in several reactivated lapsed memberships (including four from members without email addresses), receipt of several large bequests to named scholarships, and an increase in existing membership donor categories. Funds received because of this appeal resulted in an additional 29 membership records for a total of 186 membership records (142 paid-up membership records) that was reported on January 19, 2025, to the national VSA. James noted that the 2024 mail-out, which boosted the end-of-year 2024 numbers to the 142 (paid-up)/186 (total) membership records, was reported to the national VSA in January.

We are in the process of seeking membership renewals for 2026. As of November 11, 2025, there are 109 paid-up membership records, and 55 complimentary, for a total of 164 membership records (and 178 total members when including listed plus ones for household and above membership rates). This includes 7 benefactors, 4 sponsors, 14 supporters, 46 households, 36 individuals, and 3 members at the young person rate.

Christine reported that two mass email membership renewal appeals have been sent to date—one on October 7th and another approximately one month later on November 12th. The first email launched the renewal drive and introduced the new membership rates. The second message, distributed in November, excluded addresses that had bounced or members who had already renewed, ensuring more accurate targeting and preventing duplicate outreach. James indicated that the emailed membership appeal on October 7, 2025, has resulted in the reactivation of eight lapsed memberships that had not been previously renewed in 2025. Membership renewal between October 1, 2025, and the end of the year counts as a renewal for both 2025 and 2026 years. Hence, 26 alumni have currently paid for their 2026 membership renewals.

Christine reported that the current renewal cycle underscores the complexity of the Gnosis system, which remains challenging for routine membership management. Despite extensive effort—including roughly 10 hours attempting to create renewal emails through the system—technical difficulties prevented successful testing or deployment, ultimately requiring the emails to be sent manually to ensure timely communication.

Christine indicated that she is developing a comprehensive membership spreadsheet to strengthen data reliability and accessibility. This document functions as both a backup and a practical management tool, offering:

- Filterable and sortable columns for quick viewing of members by year, location, or scholarship status
- The ability to generate targeted outreach lists for events or regional activities, and
- A flexible format for analyzing trends and preparing for a potential transition to a new membership management platform in the future.

The spreadsheet data is being manually extracted from Gnosis to maintain accuracy, without altering any existing records in the database. Once complete, it will reflect the most up-to-date information and serve as a safeguard to ensure continuity should the Association adopt new software.

Financial Report for January 1 – November 11, 2025

Submitted and read at the meeting on November 12, 2025, by James Russiello, Treasurer

As of September 30, 2025, the Alumni Association had the following balances:

Main Account: $87,763.30
Endowment Fund: $265,030.07
Total $352,793.37

Refer to the audited financial report for the year ending December 31, 2024 on following page.

VSA ALUMNI ASSOC Main, Pitts, & Endowment Fund Acts Inc/Exp 12/31/2024				
	Main	Endowment	*Pitts	TOTAL
Balance 1/1/2024	45,188.00	222,747.71	55,740.00	323,676
2024 INCOME				
Membership Dues	30,485.86			
Donations to our AA Scholarship Funds	2,800.00			
Dividends and Interest	0.00			
Transfer from Endowment to Main	2,500.00			
Transfer from Pittsburgh Account	55,740.00			
Income Reinvested		6,614.01		
Change in Value of Investments		21,978.41		
12/31/2024 TOTAL INCOME	91,525.86	28,592.42		120,118
2024 EXPENSES				
Brokerage Fees		1,767.76		
Membership solicitation	798.72			
Gnosis Membership Software	1,139.92			
**Northern Italy trip	5,600.00			
Travel Insurance for Northern Italy trip	1,250.00			
Website Maintenance (Jeff Brager)	500.00			
Donations: VSA Annual Chapter Dues	100.00			
Bank Charges	102.71			
Summer Schools Receptions (London)	500.00			
Summer Schools Scholarships	24,000.00			
Miscellaneous				
Trf to Main from Endowment for scholarships		2,500.00		
Transfer to Main Account			55,740.00	
12/31/2024 TOTAL EXPENSES	33,991.35	4,267.76	55,740.00	93,999
12/31/2024 NET INCOME (LOSS)	57,534.51	24,324.66	0.00	81,859
ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/31/2024	102,722.51	247,072.37	0.00	349,795
(BOTH BANK BALANCES)				
End of 2012				35,273
End of 2013			20,507.00	39,250
End of 2014			38,352.00	58,952
End of year 2015				42,481
End of year 2016	18,809.60		42,364.00	61,174
End of year 2017	33,090.14		17,364.00	50,454
End of year 2018	49,691.97		30,340.00	80,032
End of year 2019	108,791.00		12,910.00	121,701
End of year 2020	152,189.00		46,580.00	198,769
End of year 2021 (Main & Endowment)	288,528.17		45,330.00	333,858
End of year 2022	49,772.00	188,845.00	38,444.00	277,061
End of year 2023	45,188.00	222,748.00	55,740.00	323,676
Balance as of 1/1/2024	100,928.00	222,748.00		323,676
Balance as of 1/1/2025	102,722.51	247,072.37		349,795
Tangible assets ..... laptop and software Purchased 1/25/2018 for $459 plus tax and shipping			opping is now in the possession of James Russiello.	
David A Lamdin				
703-243-2350 home				
571-332-4220 Cell				
dalamdin@gmail.com				
*NOTE: At the beginning of 2024, the Pittsburgh account balance was transferred to the Main Account. The Pittburgh account is closed.				

Financial Report for January 1 – November 11, 2025 (cont'd)

In 2025, the Alumni Association provided $30,000 for student scholarships as well as paid our usual operating expenses. A detailed report for 2025 will be prepared and submitted to the VSA and to the Alumni membership in January 2026.

As of Nov 11, 2025, there have been 83 donations to the listed scholarship funds, including: 36 to the general fund, 8 to the Duchscherer Memorial, 4 to the Gwen Koch Memorial, 9 to the Gavin Stamp Memorial for London, 25 to the RGW fund for Newport, and 1 to the Chicago program.

Endowment Committee Report

Submitted by James Buttrick, Chair of the Endowment Fund Finance Committee. Read by James Russiello on behalf of James Buttrick, who was unable to attend.

The Victorian Society Alumni Endowment at the end of the third quarter had a balance of $265,030, for an investment gain in the first three quarters of 2025 of 9.4%. This balance is after a $5,000 withdrawal in the first quarter to support the Summer School, twice the contribution made from the endowment in 2024.

The numerous cross currents in financial markets include a gradually weakening labor market, fear of cost pressures from the imposition of tariffs, and inflation running ahead of the Federal Reserve's goal of 2%, while at the same time the Fed has been reducing rates. Market volatility has increased particularly because of the enthusiasm for stocks with any exposure to artificial intelligence. The result has been extremely high valuations in some technology sectors while some lower growth areas have been in decline. Measurements of overall market sentiment have been weak, but statistically that is the point from which stocks usually outperform. The current new highs in the market are an example of this relationship. With so many economic and political variables headed in different directions, remaining highly diversified is advisable. The recommendation that the Finance Committee and our investment advisor, eCIO, made last year, which was adopted by the Alumni Board to moderately increase the proportion of bonds in our portfolio seems prudent, both increasing income and reducing volatility.

Social Media Report for January 1 – November 11, 2025

Submitted and read at the meeting on November 12, 2025, by James Russiello, Social Media and Website Committee Chair

The Alumni Association's reestablished website (https://www.vsaalumni.org/) under the supervision of James Russiello. It features the full Alumni archive of journals and newsletters (https://www.vsaalumni.org/vsahome/publications/). The site has been able to host the newsletters without interruption and enable a link to be sent out for the newsletter PDF download rather than the newsletter PDF being attached to an email.

The Alumni Association's Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/vsaalumni/) has remained up, with 348 followers, with announcements of various alumni events featured 16 event announcements throughout the year. These events included the New York City summer schools recruitment event presentation on *Newport and Stained Glas*s by Richard Guy Wilson on February

5, featuring student speakers Caitlin Henningsen (Newport ‘23), Bethany Vickery (London ‘23), and Will Canup (London ‘15, Newport ‘16, and Chicago ‘18). The program was officially sponsored by the Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts with grant support from the Alumni Association. Additional highlights included promotion of the London alumni reception held July 10 at the British Victorian Society’s Bedford Park headquarters at 1 Priory Gardens in London. Targeted email outreach supported several co-promoted events, such as the symposium on Alexander Jackson Davis that occurred on June 22, 2025, at Lyndhurst Estate in Tarrytown, New York, and the Victorian Society New York’s “Tour & Tea at Lyndhurst Mansion” on September 6, 2025.

Under a shared agreement with the national VSA, the VSA and Alumni’s @VicSocAmerica Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/vicsocamerica/) continued to thrive. As of year’s end, the account had 1,767 followers and featured 93 posts in 2025, contributing to a total of 1,431 posts overall. Of this year’s content, 64 posts were collaborative shares with partner organizations and member accounts, expanding visibility and cross-promotion. With Instagram now allowing up to 20 images or one-minute videos per post, engagement remained strong. One Instagram post promoted notified viewers of a holiday party scheduled December 12, 2025, at the home of H. L. Mencken, 1524 Hollins Street, Baltimore, Maryland, hosted by the Society to Preserve H. L. Mencken's Legacy. This event was also promoted in the last newsletter (Issue 68).

The most popular post of the year (on June 1) announced the two new directors of the Newport and London summer schools and earned 91 likes. This was followed in popularity by a collaborative post (on February 6) with The Victorian Society New York and the Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, featuring Richard Guy Wilson and the student speakers from the NYC recruitment event, earning 61 likes and 1,788 views. Most posts averaged approximately 300 views and 30–40 likes. The last Instagram post of the year on December 31 featured a grid of the #TopNine2025 posts.

Also shared is the Flickr page (https://www.flickr.com/photos/vicsocamerica/) set up by James Russiello in 2014 with 22 followers, 96 albums, and 4,622 photos. The photos serve as an online archive to illustrate newsletter items. Together, these efforts reflect another successful year of digital engagement, strengthening communication with alumni and supporting the Society’s educational and outreach mission.

Christine Dalton reported that the draft redesign of the Alumni Association website is currently being hosted temporarily on an outside platform while updates to the main domain, vsaalumni.org, are postponed until the new year. This decision was made to ensure that the website transition does not interfere with or detract attention from the ongoing membership renewal campaign.

Once the renewal period concludes, the new website design will be finalized and migrated to the primary domain. The refreshed layout features improved navigation, a modernized visual style, and an updated structure that will better support member engagement, including event listings, alumni news, and membership information. When fully implemented, the site will serve as a cohesive, user-friendly hub for the Alumni Association. The link for board members to review the website redesign is: https://elevatedm47.sg-host.com/

eNewsletter Report

Submitted and read at the meeting on November 12, 2025, by Lori Thursby, Corresponding Secretary and eNewsletter Editor

Lori volunteered to be the editor of the Alumni Association's eNewsletter at the beginning of the year, taking over the duties from David Lamdin, who had successfully served as the editor for many of years. Per the wishes of the Alumni Board, Lori redesigned the look and format of the eNewsletter. The new format, which includes a standardized masthead with the Alumni Association logo, has been positively received by members. The method of distribution of the eNewsletter has also changed this year: James Russiello uploads the digital copy of the eNewsletter to the Alumni Association website, and Lori subsequently emails the link to Alumni. The eNewsletter is distributed to more 720 Alumni (including this year's Summer School students).

We have published six Alumni eNewsletters so far in 2025, with two or three more to be published by the end of the year. In October, we published a special edition of the Alumni eNewsletter to honor Richard Guy Wilson in his outstanding service to the Newport Summer School. These well-received digital newsletters continue to provide an effective and inexpensive means of informing Alumni of items of interest related to the organization.

Study Tours Report

Submitted by Sergei Troubetsky, Alumni Study Tours Committee Chair. Read by David Lamdin on behalf of Sergei Troubetsky, who was unable to attend.

We are considering several foreign (and perhaps domestic) destinations for trip(s) in 2026 and beyond. Sergei plans to be in Toronto next month to try to develop the itinerary for our trip there next year and to lock down transportation and hotel accommodations. Please stay tuned!

2025 Alumni Association Activities Report

Submitted and read at the meeting on November 12, 2025, by David Lamdin, President

President **David Lamdin** reported that with a new Board of Directors starting January 1, 2025 for a term of three years, the Board organized itself, established committees to consider several issues such as future Study Tours, worked with new board members who will be in charge of Membership and the Newsletter, and approved a donation of $30,000 for 2025 scholarships. This included $5,000 from the Alumni Endowment Fund and $25,000 from our General Fund.

The Board approved the appointment of **Sergei Troubetzkoy** as the Alumni Study Tour Director. Sergei conducted two VSA Annual Meetings, one VSA conference, and a VSA study program that all received glowing reviews, and all made money. He led tours for over 14 years for the Smithsonian Resident Associates. Sergei and the Study Tours Committee will survey our membership for a possible location for a 2026 Study Tour with direction to consider Canada and Eastern Europe to try to keep costs down and get the number of tour participants up.

The Board approved for submission to the VSA our $100 Annual Chapter Dues as well as our Financial Report for 2024, our 2024 Activity Report, a list of our Officers, a list of our Membership, and our bank statements.

The Board approved a budget for 2025. The Alumni Assoc provided support for a recruitment event in New York City featuring Professor **Richard Guy Wilson** and three alumni of the summer schools. The Alumni Association supported a reception hosted by the UK Victorian Society for the 2025 London Summer school students and alumni in the area. On behalf of the Alumni Association, **Pauline Metcalf** hosted a reception at her summer home, Philmoney, for the 2025 Newport Summer School class and alumni in the area.

Because Alumni Board members come from across the country, the Board held a Zoom meeting to introduce the new and returning Board members to each other. At that meeting, the Board approved November 12, 2025 as the date of the Alumni Annual Membership Meeting to be held together with the VSA Annual Membership meeting on Zoom.

The Board also gave careful consideration of a request for the Alumni Association to change its name. After careful consideration including the input from long-time members who are not board members, the Alumni Board decided that no change in our name was wise at this time. The Alumni Board decided to try to improve our identity, purpose, and function within the VSA by trying to communicate better our organizational structure. Obviously, many are confused by the current structure, and we agree with the VSA that efforts must be made to better explain the Alumni's structure, purpose, and function.

The Board recognizes the existential threats associated with our small membership numbers. We are trying to reduce membership renewal costs in 2025 for the 2026 membership year by using a more aggressive, online renewal process; and we are making a special effort to try to retain the students from the summer schools that have been held since the pandemic.

The Alumni Endowment Fund Committee considered the performance of the Endowment Fund and recommended to the Board that the Alumni continue to use eCIO as our financial consultant and continue the Fund's Investment Policy Statement, which has a target of 72% equities and 28% fixed income bonds. The Board approved the recommendation and thanked the committee for its careful stewardship of the Endowment Fund.

We published a special edition of the Alumni Newsletter in honor of Professor **Richard Guy Wilson's** 43 years of leadership of the Newport, Boston and Philadelphia Summer Schools. This was distributed to about 2,400 people on the VSA's mailing list, many of whom have expressed their deep appreciation for all that Richard has done for them.

Many thanks to our Board Members and Committee Chairs (see below) who have contributed many hours of their time in producing our newsletter, working on membership maintenance and renewal issues, working on our website, continuing our close and successful relationship with the VSA, monitoring our finances, planning future trips, posting on social media, redesigning the website, etc. Without these volunteer efforts, the Alumni Assoc would cease to exist.

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

In the upcoming Alumni Newsletter, we will be providing information on how individuals can contribute stock directly to the Alumni Association using eCIO, our Endowment Fund Financial Advisor. At this time of year when RMDs may be considered for some IRAs and with some positive results in stock market returns so far in 2025, in the next few weeks and before the end of the year is a great time to consider the potential significant tax advantages of donating appreciated stock to the Alumni Association. Please consult with your tax advisor to discover the wisdom of donating appreciated stock to the Alumni Association to ensure that we can continue to help provide scholarship funds for students in this era of increasing need for tuition assistance.

There being no further reports, **Lori Thursby** asked if there were any questions or comments on the reports. **Christine Dalton** provided additional information related to the mass email membership renewal drive. Christine indicated that there have been a number of bounce backs of email, as contact info has changed. Christine is in the process of checking LinkedIn for current email addresses and updating the membership spreadsheet she has developed.

There being no more comments and no questions, **Nancy Golden** motioned that the reports be accepted. The motion was seconded by **John Martine**. The motion passed with no objections.

John Martine thanked everyone for their work for the organization, which was seconded by **Ken Turino**.

There being no further issues for discussion, **John Simonelli** motioned that the meeting by adjourned. The motion was seconded by **Charles Robertson**. The motion passed with no objections.

Accordingly, **Lori Thursby** closed the meeting at 6:50 pm on November 12, 2025.

ADDENDUMS TO DRAFT MEETING NOTES

The following section includes addendums to select Officer and Committee Chair reports that were prepared subsequent to the annual meeting on November 12, 2025.

Membership Details Report

Submitted and read at the meeting on November 12, 2025, James Russiello, Treasurer

We are in the process of seeking membership renewals for 2026. As of October 1, 2024, we had a total of 157 membership records, which includes the 44 complimentary 2024 summer school attendees and the 113 paying membership records: this is 169 total members when including listed household plus ones. The year ended with a paper renewal going out in late November 2024 to 470 present and past members that consisted of a holiday card of the Metropolitan Museum, a brief appeal letter, membership form, and a full-color insert year-end newsletter with alumni news. This appeal resulted in several reactivated lapsed memberships (including 4 from members without email addresses), receipt of several large bequests to named scholarships and an increase in existing membership donor categories. Funds received because of this appeal resulted in an

additional 29 membership records for the total of 186 membership records (142 paid-up membership records) that was reported on January 19, 2025, to the national VSA.

As of November 11, 2025, there are 109 paid-up membership records, and 55 complimentary, for a total of 164 membership records (and 178 total members when including the 14 listed plus ones for household and above membership rates). This includes 7 benefactors, 4 sponsors, 14 supporters, 46 households, 36 individuals, and 3 members at the young person rate.

An emailed appeal on October 7, 2025, with the new membership rates has resulted in the reactivation of 8 previously lapsed memberships that had not been previously renewed in 2025. Membership renewal between October 1, 2025, through the end of the year counts as a renewal for both 2025 and 2026 years. Hence, 26 alumni have currently paid up for their 2026 membership renewals.

2025: 164 Households + 14* = 178 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 = 256 Total memberships
2019: 177 Households + 57 = 234 Total memberships
2018: 147 Households + 53 = 200 Total memberships

Membership Details Report Addendum for the period November 11 – December 31, 2025

Submitted by James Russiello, Treasurer

Regarding the traditional complimentary half-year Alumni Association memberships given each summer to the current classes, 20% of both summer school classes for 2023 and 2024 had renewed for the 2025 membership year. Nine of the 46 alumni from 2024 renewed, alongside ten of the 51 alumni from 2023. The Alumni Association is grateful to these members.

In lieu of the planned October mass paper mailing, a limited mailing of 66 holiday cards mostly to active members occurred between November 30 and December 15, which resulted in an over 70% return rate.

From November 11 through the end of the year, 24 members renewed with a total donation intake of $8,440.37. Most of these 24 renewals were already listed as members for the 2025 membership year so there was little effect on the final figures as reported on November 11. As these renewals occurred after October 1, these five (5) memberships were additionally counted toward the year 2026 membership. The number of individuals associated with membership households was also revised to 20 from 14 for a total of 190 total individual members.

2025: 169 Households + 20* = 190 Total memberships

Geographically, there are five international members representing just under 3% of total membership (two in the UK, and one each in Canada, Czechia, and Poland).

Within the U.S., 37.7% of membership is concentrated in the Northeast (72), followed by 25.7% in the South (49), 19.4% in the Midwest (37), and 14.7% in the West (28). The most populous states by individual members are: New York (34), California (19), Illinois (14), Virginia (13), Pennsylvania (13), Massachusetts (10), Texas (8), Georgia (8), New Jersey (7), Ohio (7), Maryland (6), Michigan (6), Wisconsin (5), North Carolina (4), Connecticut (3), Mississippi (3), Rhode Island (3), Utah (3), Delaware (2), District of Columbia (2), Indiana (2), Minnesota (2), Nevada (2), New Hampshire (2), Washington (2), Arizona (1), Florida (1), Missouri (1), South Carolina (1), Tennessee (1), and Wyoming (1).

Social Media Report Addendum for the period November 11 – December 31, 2025.
Submitted by James Russiello, Treasurer

An additional one post on Facebook and five posts on Instagram occurred after November 11 through the end of the year, consisting of images from the latest published newsletters and the top nine most popular posts of 2025 (*#TopNine2025*). One additional newsletter issue (Alumni eNewsletter Vol. 2, No. 68) was uploaded to the website on December 2, 2025.



#TopNine2025 (IG: @VicSocAmerica)

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SCHOOLS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2026

2026 Officer and Committee Chair Reports

Membership Report

Christine Dalton, Membership Secretary, will deliver the membership report at the meeting on November 18th.

Financial Report for January 1 – September 30, 2026

Submitted by James Russiello, Treasurer

As of September 30, 2026, the Alumni Association had the following balances:

Main Account: $ 2,839.43
Endowment Fund: $ 295,940
Cash Management: $ 82,199
Total: $ 380,979

The total balance represents an overall increase over last year by $3,952. Refer to the following page for the audited financial report for the year ending December 31, 2025.

Between October 1, 2025 (the time when donations are counted toward the next year's memberships) and September 30, 2026, the Alumni Association received a gross total of $25,385.86 in membership and scholarship donations.

Processing fees for January 1 through September 30 were $124.67 (PayPal and Donorbox, listed as "bank charges"), $15.88 (membership-related paper mailing fees), and $25.42 (Richard Guy Wilson NYC Special Event-related fees), for a total of $165.97. An additional $72.73 was transferred to the VSA for membership payments/donations sent to the Alumni Association for the VSA.

In lieu of a 2026 New York City summer school recruitment event, the Alumni Association covered the $700 venue cost for the New York School of Interior Design for the Richard Guy Wilson presentation "The Colonial Revival" on May 7, 2026, which was co-sponsored with the VSA. Additionally, the Alumni Association contributed for the summer school alumni reception in London ($500).

In 2026, the Alumni Association provided $32,500 for student scholarships, as well as paid our usual operating expenses. A detailed report for 2026 will be prepared and submitted to the VSA and to the Alumni membership in January 2027.

VSA ALUMNI ASSOC Main & Endowment Fund Acts Inc/Exp 12/31/2025				
	Main	Endowment	Pitts	TOTAL
Balance 1/1/2025	**102,722.51**	**247,072.37**		**349,795**
2025 INCOME				
Membership Dues	10,667.00			
Scholarship Funds	21,612.40			
Dividends and Interest	0.00	7,704.43		
Transfer from Endowment to Main for Scholarships	5,000.00			
Change in Value of Investments		22,455.23		
12/31/2025 TOTAL INCOME	37,279.40	30,159.66		67,439
2025 EXPENSES				
Brokerage Fees		1,844.59		
Membership solicitation	416.97			
Gnosis Membership Software	1,139.00			
Website Maintenance	430.32			
Donations: VSA Annual Chapter Dues	100.00			
Bank Charges	337.45			
Summer school Recruitment Event (NYC)	871.25			
Summer Schools Scholarships	30,000.00			
Miscellaneous Tripod/clicker 68.57;	68.47			
Trf to Main from Endowment for scholarships		5,000.00		
12/31/2025 TOTAL EXPENSES	33,363.46	6,844.59	0.00	40,208
12/31/2025 NET INCOME (LOSS)	3,915.94	23,315.07	0.00	27,231
ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/31/2025	106,638.45	270,387.44	0.00	**377,026**
(BOTH BANK BALANCES)				
End of 2012				35,273
End of 2013			20,507.00	39,250
End of 2014			38,352.00	58,952
End of year 2015				42,481
End of year 2016	18,809.60		42,364.00	61,174
End of year 2017	33,090.14		17,364.00	50,454
End of year 2018	49,691.97		30,340.00	80,032
End of year 2019	108,791.00		12,910.00	121,701
End of year 2020	152,189.00		46,580.00	198,769
End of year 2021 (Main & Endowment)	288,528.17		45,330.00	333,858
End of year 2022	49,772.00	188,845.00	38,444.00	277,061
End of year 2023	45,188.00	222,748.00	55,740.00	323,676
End of year 2024	102,722.51	247,072.37		349,795
End of year 2025	106,638.45	270,387.44		377,026
Tangible assets ..... laptop and software Purchased 1/25/2018 for $459 plus tax and shipping charges		is now in the possession of James Russiello.		
Tripod and slide clicker purchased in 2025 for $68.57 now with James Russiello.				
703-243-2350 home				
571-332-4220 Cell				
dalamdin@gmail.com				
***NOTE: At the beginning of 2024, the Pittsburgh account balance was transferred to the Main Account. The Pitts account is closed.**				

Financial Report (cont'd)

Between January 1 and September 30, 2026, 58 members sent their membership dues ($5,210). There have been 23 donations to the listed scholarship funds ($3,958.49), including the General Fund, the Duchscherer Memorial, the Gwen Koch Memorial for the Chicago program, the Gavin Stamp Memorial for London, and the Richard Guy Wilson fund for Newport.

Endowment Fund Finance Report

Submitted by Jim Buttrick, Endowment Fund Committee Chair

In 2026, the Alumni Association added a new account to our holdings at eCIO, our Financial Advisors. This is a cash management account for the funds held for operational and summer school expenses. This has been easier to manage than using CDs. The third quarter balance of this account was $82,199. The return is modest at 2.48%, as the account is invested in money market funds, but better than no interest we were receiving on our checking account.

The Alumni Scholarship account is the focus of the Finance Committee. At the end of the third quarter, the balance was $295,940 for a 10.51% return, slightly down from the 11.66% return of 2025. The modest year-to-year change masks significant shifts in markets and the economy, such as a quarterly decline in the overall bond market of 3.5%, the worst in decades. At the same time earnings of the S&P 500 in the first half rose over 30%, while consumer sentiment is at very pessimistic levels. Further volatility in markets can be expected as inflation and federal deficits are addressed (or not). This outlook suggests that the Scholarship portfolio remain well diversified as reflected in its 70/30 equity/fixed income target.

Social Media Report for January 1–September 30, 2026

Submitted by James Russiello, Social Media and Website Committee Chair

The Alumni Association's reestablished Wordpress-based website (https://www.vsaalumni.org/) under the supervision of James Russiello continued to host the latest newsletter issues. It features the full Alumni archive of journals and newsletters (https://www.vsaalumni.org/vsahome/publications/). The site has been able to host the newsletters without interruption and enable a link to be sent out for the newsletter PDF download rather than the newsletter PDF being attached to an email.

Newsletter issues #69 (1/22/2026), #70 (2/23/2026), #71 (3/26/26), #72 (4/23/26), #73 (08/11/2026), all edited by corresponding secretary Lori Thursby, went out to around 700 emails. Newsletter issue #74 (10/27/26) went out to approximately 740 emails (with the addition of the 2026 Summer School students).

The Alumni Association's Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/vsaalumni/) has remained stable at 340 followers, with five announcements of various alumni events throughout the year.

Under the shared agreement with the national VSA, the VSA and Alumni's @VicSocAmerica Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/vicsocamerica/) continued to thrive, with 1,903 followers up from 1,767 followers at the end of 2025. Between January 1 and September 30, the account posted 43 times, contributing to a total of 1,476 posts overall. These included 27 daily summer

school posts during the summer, averaging around 500 views each; four posts from the VSA Quebec City study trip (May 20–23), averaging around 800 views each; three posts highlighting content of the recent alumni newsletter, averaging around 900 views each; and announcements for trips, lectures, and summer schools averaging around 400 views each. Two posts featuring photos and video reels from in-person events in New York averaged around 850 views each. The three most popular posts were: 1) scenes from Richard Guy Wilson's New York City presentation (posted 8/17/26) with 1,214 views and 60 likes, 2) announcement of the newsletter issue 71 (posted 4/14/26) with 1,067 views and 36 likes, and 3) a collaborative post with a Quebec attendee (posted 5/25/26) with 1,059 views and 81 likes.

Also shared with the national VSA is the Flickr page (https://www.flickr.com/photos/vicsocamerica/) set up by James Russiello in 2014 with 22 followers, 96 albums, and 4,622 photos. The photos serve as an online archive to illustrate newsletter items.

Together, these efforts reflect another successful year of digital engagement, strengthening communication with alumni and supporting the Society's educational and outreach mission.

Alumni eNewsletter Report

Submitted by Lori Thursby, Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter Editor

Lori Thursby is in her second year serving as editor of the Alumni Association Newsletter. As of this writing, the Alumni Association has produced five Alumni Newsletters in 2026. Two more newsletters will be issued before the end of the year: one in late October and one in early November (the latter will comprise the notice of the Alumni Association's annual meeting). An electronic copy of each Newsletter is produced in PDF format and distributed via email with a link to download it. The eNewsletter is circulated to more than 740 past and current Alumni (this year's Summer School students were added to the email list in October). These well-received digital newsletters continue to provide an effective and inexpensive means of informing Alumni of items of interest related to the organization, such as essays by Summer School scholarship recipients and alumni news. Additionally, the Alumni eNewsletter provides a vital connection between Summer School alumni and the larger VSA organization by regularly keeping members of both groups informed about, and interested in, the Summer Schools, organization-sponsored activities, events, and study tours, and online presentations and annual meetings.

Report on the Alumni Association Study Tour to Toronto, Canada

Sergei Troubetzkoy Alumni Study Tours Committee Chair

Sergei Troubetzkoy is planning an Alumni Study Tour to Toronto in early October of 2027. Plans include a boat ride on Lake Ontario, a lecture about Toronto, and a dinner at the private Arts & Letters Club. There will be lunches and dinners in historic buildings, a visit to two stacked theatres (one built on top of the other) along with the largest surviving collection of Vaudeville scenery in the world. Significant buildings include Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival styles surrounded by modern skyscrapers and parks. Diverse sites include an early-20th century greenhouse, a great garden cemetery established in 1844, and a charming Victorian neighborhood known as

"Cabbagetown", which was settled in the mid-19th century by Irish immigrants who were known to plant cabbages in their front lawns. Appropriately, the study tour participants will stay at the Hotel Victoria, located in the heart of Downtown Toronto.

2026 Alumni Association Activity Report

Submitted by David Lamdin, President

The Board approved for submission to the VSA our Financial Report for 2025, our 2025 Activity Report, a list of our officers, a list of our membership, and our bank statements.

The Board approved a budget for 2026.

The Alumni Association provided support for a fundraising event in New York City featuring Professor **Richard Guy Wilson** at the New York School of Interior Design. The event was co-sponsored with the VSA to benefit our respective scholarship funds. The Alumni Association received $2,012 as its share of the proceeds from the event. The Alumni Association sent a general acknowledgement to all who attended and/or contributed, and a specific, detailed acknowledgement to all who requested one.

The Alumni Association supported a reception hosted by the UK Victorian Society for the 2026 London Summer School students and alumni in the area. On behalf of the Alumni Association, **Pauline Metcalf** hosted a reception at her summer home, Philmoney, for the 2026 Newport Summer School class and alumni in the area.

The Board decided to postpone the study tour to Toronto, which was originally planned for 2026, until 2027.

The Board approved a donation of $32,500 for 2026 scholarships.

With Board approval, the Alumni Association opened a Cash Management Account with eCIO, the financial advisors of our Endowment Fund. We were able to transfer $82,500 from a non-interest-bearing checking account at Wells Fargo into an interesting-bearing account.

The Endowment Fund Finance Committee reviewed our Investment Policy Statement. The Committee noted that with the fixed income allocation of 30% specified in the Investment Policy Statement, our portfolio is moderately conservative and substantially more conservative than when we initiated the account. Record markets coupled with an uncertain economic outlook suggest relatively high portfolio risk, but the movement of this market is hard to fathom. The Committee recommended to the full Board that we maintain the current policy statement as reflecting a balanced longer-term position. The Board approved this recommendation for implementation on January 26, 2026.

While returns on our Cash Management Account is modest at 2.48%, as the account is invested in money market funds, it is better than receiving no interest on our checking account. The Alumni Endowment Fund is the focus of the Finance Committee. At the end of the third quarter (September 30, 2026), the balance was $295,940 for a 10.51% return, slightly down from the 11.66% return of 2025. The Scholarship portfolio remains well diversified as reflected in its 70/30 equity/fixed income target.

We are in the middle of our Membership renewal season. We are undertaking a huge effort to reach out to previous alumni who have not renewed their memberships, some for decades. We are creating a new database of alumni and using a mail house to help in this renewal effort. This very ambitious effort will help us gather important data, which should reopen the books on some former members and close the books for others who do not respond to this effort. Hopefully, we will get enough new or renewed members to offset some of the cost of this effort, reduce the cost of future membership renewal campaigns, bring lapsed members back into the Alumni organization, and maybe even back to the VSA.

Many, many, many thanks to our Board Members and Committee Chairs who have contributed many hours of their time in producing our newsletter, working on membership maintenance and renewal issues, working on our website, continuing our close and successful relationship with the VSA, monitoring our finances, planning future trips, social media, website development, etc. Without these volunteer efforts, the Alumni Association would cease to exist.

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

2026 BOARD OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS
President: David Lamdin, Arlington, VA
Vice President: Richard Brandi, San Francisco, CA
Treasurer: James Russiello, New York, NY
Corresponding Secretary: Lori Thursby, Charlottesville, VA
Membership Secretary: Christine Dalton, Mt. Dora, FL

DIRECTORS
Nancy McAleer Golden, Santa Barbara, CA
John A. Martine, Pittsburgh, PA
Kristen N. Matulewicz, Wilmington, DE
Kenneth H. P'Pool, Clinton, MS
Kenneth C. Turino, Nahant, MA

COMMITTEES
Alumni Study Tours Director: Sergei Troubetsky, Lynchburg, VA
Alumni Study Tours Director Emeritus: John Martine
Chair of Nominating: James Russiello
Chair of Social Media and Website: James Russiello
Chair of Member Relations: Sibyl Groff, New York, NY
Chair of Endowment Fund: Jim Buttrick, Boston, MA

Biographies

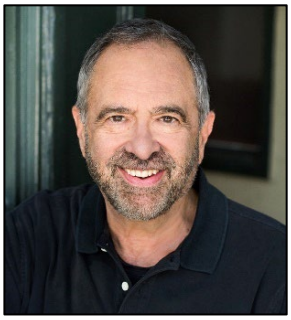
President:



David A. Lamdin (Newport '15, London '17, and Chicago '18), Arlington, VA, is a retired Federal employee, and former personnel sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves. A native of the capital region, he earned his bachelor's degree from University of Baltimore, and M.A. from George Washington University. David is an active member in the arts scene of Washington, D.C., including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 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 2015–22.

Vice President:



Richard Brandi (Newport '09 and 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 and 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 B.A. from University of California, Berkeley, an MBA from Golden Gate University, and an M.A. 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 the 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 Historians 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 the *Journal of Planning History*, *The Argonaut* (San Francisco Museum and Historical Society), and *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.

Treasurer:



James Russiello (Newport '12 and 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, an 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, and 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 nonprofit 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 92nd 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 2012–15, and as the summer schools administrator from 2015–16. 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 2013–23, during which time in 2018 he arranged the complicated donation of the Society's archives (dating back to 1959) 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 from 2023–24.

Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter Editor:



Lori Thursby (Newport '98 and 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, Oxford, OH, 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 in May 2024, the VSA Spring Study Tour in Seattle in May 2025, 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.

Membership Secretary:



Christine Dalton (Newport '22), Mt. Dora, FL, is a historic preservation consultant 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 12 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, MD), a B.A. in Environmental and Growth Management Studies from Rollins College with a Minor in Business Administration (Winter Park, FL), and an A.S. in Architectural Design and Construction Technology from Seminole State College (Sanford, FL). 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 13 years.

Director:

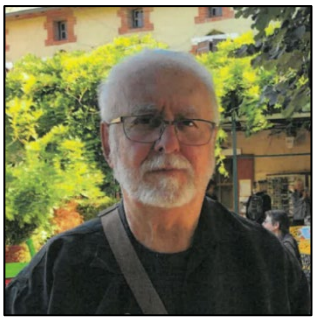


Nancy McAleer Golden (Newport '98), Santa Barbara, CA, is a retired marketing professional and fundraising consultant, previously working for 21 years at Time, Inc., and as a manager at Pubaid SA, London. She earned her bachelor's degree from Russell Sage College, and certificates in marketing from Direct 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 1999–2018, the last two years as chair, and Santa Barbara Symphony from 2014–16, 2018–19, and 2021–22.

She volunteered for the Adult Literacy Program (2014–17) and Summer Reading Program (2014–20) at the Santa Barbara Public Library, as an advisory and fundraising committee member of the Friends of Women, Culture & Development, UC Santa Barbara, from 1999–2002, the San Francisco Education Fund in 1989, and the Volunteer Services for the Elderly in Yorkville from 1975–87. She presently volunteers for Meals on Wheels (since 1999), as a member of the Navigator Circle Committee of the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, and on the Development Committee of the Central Coast Outdoor Adventures (both since 2022).

Nancy was a director of the national VSA from 1981–99, including serving for a time as the Membership and 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 1978–87, serving as its recording secretary in 1984–86, and president in 1986. She served as a director and newsletter editor of the Alumni Association from 2001–18, and its president from 2004–16.

Director:



John Anthony Martine, AIA (London ’79 and ’13, Newport ’07, and Chicago ’16 and ’19), Pittsburgh, PA, is a preservation architect, who recently retired as the founding partner and principal of Strada Architecture LLC, a multidisciplinary architectural and urban planning design firm with offices in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. A practicing architect for over 50 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 the 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 served 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.

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, it 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 2019–24, and as the Education Manager at the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, FL from 2018–19.

Kristen earned a bachelor's degree in art history and a BFA in Fine Arts at Flagler College in Saint Augustine, FL, and an 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 and 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.

Director:



Kenneth H. P'Pool (London '85 and 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, MS, 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 Charnleys 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 2005–13 and a director of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers from 1992–96 and1999–2004. Ken earned bachelor's degrees from David Lipscomb University and the University of Tennessee Nashville, and a master's degree in historic preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. Ken has served on the national VSA's preservation committee since 2019.

Director:



Kenneth C. Turino (London '93 and 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 2000–24, during which time he also ran their acclaimed Program in New England Studies (PINES), and previously worked at the Lynn Museum in Lynn, MA, as its the Executive Director from 1986 to 2000, and The Lyceum in Alexandria, VA, as its Assistant Director from 1982–86.

Ken earned his bachelor's degree from Salem State College, and master's degree 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 has 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, 2003–04) from the International Association of Art Critics, Boston Chapter.

Ken has served as a consultant for many prominent historic properties, including Fallingwater (2023), Mill Run, PA; The Grand Army of the Republic Museum (2022), Lynn, MA; the Newport Restoration Foundation (2020–21), Newport, RI; Trent House (2020), Trenton, NJ; Oberlin Heritage Center (2019), Oberlin, OH; Pendarvis Historic Site (2019), Wisconsin Historical Society, Mineral Springs, WI; Madame John's Legacy (2019), State Museum of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA; James Madison's Montpelier (2016), Orange, VA; Connecticut Landmarks (2016, 2019–ongoing), Hartford, CT; Charnley-Norwood House (2013), Ocean Springs, MI; and the Hermann-Grima and Gallier Historic Houses (2007), New Orleans, LA, among others. He has been a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society since 2000, a commissioner of Essex National Heritage Area (Essex, MA) since 2010, 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 (2016–23), Salem, MA, and co-chair of the Small Museums Committee (1995–2000), and co-chair of the professional affinity group for exhibitions (2006–10), both at the New England Museum Association.

Ken co-edited *Reinventing the Historic House Museum: New Approaches and Proven Solutions* (Rowman & Littlefield, Lanham, MD, 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* (Picton Press, Rockport, ME, 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; and *The Public Historian*, a journal of the National Council on Public History; and in the following 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 1995–2005.

Alumni Study Tours Director:



Sergei Troubetzkoy (Newport '90), Lynchburg, VA, has a career in tourism that has spanned nearly 40 years. One of his positions included leading tours for over 14 years for the Smithsonian Resident Associates. His professional experience has also included planning trips for the VSA, including two VSA Annual Meetings, one VSA conference, and a VSA study program: all received glowing reviews and all made money. Sergei currently serves as the Director of Tourism for the City of Petersburg, VA on a part-time basis, helping the City to rebuild its tourism program, which was abandoned several years ago when the City faced financial challenges.



Sibyl McCormac Groff, New York, NY
Chair, Member Relations Committee



James Buttrick, Boston, MA
Chair, Endowment Fund Committee