

MINUTES

ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

January 5, 2012

President Ison convened the January meeting at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and 33 members were present. Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved. The financial report was given and approved.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Edward Higgins, James Coursey, Frank Nash, Danny Gilkey, John Freer, James Selbe, James Adams, III, and Jason Powell.

President Ison requested feedback from the membership regarding wearing nametags at open meetings.

A prospective member was voted on. The vote was affirmative, and letter will be sent to Lindsey Adams offering membership in the society.

Papers were presented Wendell, a member since 1960 and #1 in seniority and Duncan Cavanah, a member since 2006 and #31 in seniority.

Wendell Rorie presented his paper "The Last Train to Camden Rail Ramblings" which detailed not only memorable train trips by the author but also interesting perspectives about the rail industry. Nashville Union Station is of particular interest because although it is no longer used as a rail station, it is the location of a popular hotel and several restaurants.

Duncan Cavanah's paper "What Was Your Name Again?" explains how much more significant a person's nickname may be than his actual name. Nicknames might describe the character, ability, disposition, or physical characteristics of an individual. Who wouldn't vote for "Honest Abe" and who wouldn't want "Stan the Man" on his team?

Comments were made by Bob Cope, William Turner, Jim Adams, Robert Sivley, William Rowlett, Frank Nash, John Freer, Robert Harper, Mitchell Kaye, George Engler, Marvin Denison, Robert Ison and Jason Powell.

Presenters for the February meeting are Edward Higgins, III and ~~Mitchell Kaye~~ Marvin Denison

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

February 2, 2012

President Ison convened the February meeting at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

President Ison welcomed our newest member: Lindsey Adams.

Roll was called, and 29 members were present. Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. The financial report was given and approved. The total in the checking account was \$2296.48.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Rich Maddox, Marlin Anderson, and Chris Gilkey.

President Ison instructed members of the meeting committee (Tom Westerfield, Bob Cope, and Peter Nicolos) to decide where we would hold the open meeting on May 3rd.

Papers were presented Marvin Dension, a member since 1986 and #12 in seniority and Marlin Anderson, a member since 2001 and #22 in seniority.

In "The Great Enemy of Truth," Marvin Denison examined "inconvenient truths" while dispensing with comfortable opinions. He compared political attacks today with those of the 1820's and 30's and casualties during the Civil War with those we face now. He also pointed to the fallacy of modern educational theory and polling errors in 1948. He would have us become myth busters by thinking, not merely accepting.

Marlin Anderson presented his paper, "The Aphorism." An aphorism must obey five rules. It must be brief. It must be definitive. It must be personal. It must have a twist. It must be philosophical. Examples of aphorism included in the paper are: "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel;" "I never let school interfere with my education," and "the difference between a rut and a grave is depth."

Comments were made by Jim Adams, Danny Guffey, John Freer, and Terry Fuqua.

Presenters for the March meeting are Edward Higgins, III and Mitchell Kaye.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
March 1, 2012

President Ison convened the March meeting at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and 32 members were present. Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. The financial report was given and approved. The total in the checking account was \$2087.95.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Whitney Westerfield, Frank Nash, Jim Love, Edward Higgins, Jason Powell, Wynn Radford, Mitchell Kaye, and Bill Engler.

President Ison reminded the meeting committee that a decision must be made concerning a meeting site for open meeting.

President Ison presented personal concerns about the decline of participation by members regarding comments on papers.

Papers were presented Edward H. Higgins, a member since 1984 and #9 in seniority and Mitchell D. Kaye, a member since 2004 and #27 in seniority.

Edward Higgins presented "George Armistead, An Unlikely and Unsung American Hero." The paper details much of Armistead's life, particularly his service to our country as commander of Ft. McHenry during the War of 1812. In September of 1814, the fort was attacked by the British fleet. Due largely to Armistead's leadership and courage, the fort withstood the brutal attack, thereby saving Baltimore and undoubtedly our nation.

Dr. Mitchell Kaye presented his paper "Forgiveness --A Personal Perspective," in which he describes his own struggles with forgiving the German people due to the horrors inflicted by them during the Holocaust. He made great strides in this struggle when he met a German couple who became close friends. That relationship helped him see the potential good in all people.

Comments were made by Terry Fuqua, Robert Harper, Robert Cope, Russ Guffey, James Adams III, Hollis White, John Freer, Wynn Radford, William Turner, Wendell Lynch and Robert Ison.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
April 5, 2012

President Ison convened the April meeting at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and 26 members were present. Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. The financial report was given and approved. The total in the checking account was \$1636.24.

Excuses for previous absences were given by James Selbe, Robert Sivley, James Coursey, and Marvin Denison.

Duncan Cavanah of the Nominating committee nominated Robert Harper, Marlin Anderson and David Cavanah for the offices of President, Vice-president, and Secretary/Treasurer for 2012-2013. The nominations were accepted by the society by acclamation.

President Ison announced that the Open Meeting would be held at Oakland Manor on May 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

Papers were presented Whitney Westerfield, a member since 2010 and #36 in seniority and Chris Gilkey, a member since 2010 and #39 in seniority.

In Whitney Westerfield's paper "The Paths of Success," he asks, "What is success?" and "How does one achieve or maintain success?" He answers these questions by examining the lives and businesses of Steven Jobs and Bill Gates. The answers are not always predictable or what we want to hear because success is unpredictable but achievable through great personal sacrifice and after some measure of failure.

Chris Gilkey presented "Who'd a Thunk it: Kool-Aid, Bobcats, and ... Scrotums?" In this presentation, Mr. Gilkey reveals his lifelong ambition of being a school's mascot. The responsibilities of a mascot are explained and the value of "letting Loose" is examined. The questions I asked and perhaps answered as to why schools would choose to have mascots such as UGA, the Blue Devil, Big Al, Big Red, the Racer, and the Wildcat. But no one can provide an adequate answer as to why the Rhode Island School of Design hockey team is represented by Scrotie, the giant scrotum that skates on ice. Remember, always support your team.

Comments were made by Robert Harper, James Coursey, Duncan Cavanah, Marvin Denison, Tom Westerfield, James Selbe, Ken Dougherty, James Adams, III, Lindsey Adams, William Turner, Robert Sivley, and Wynn Radford.

Presenters for the Open Meeting were announced as James Adams, III, and James Selve.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
May 3, 2012

The May Open Meeting of the Athenaeum Society was convened by President Robert Ison at 6:30 p.m. President Ison welcomed 29 members and 40 guests and requested that guests feel free to comment on the upcoming papers. He then asked members to introduce themselves and their guests.

The papers were presented by James G. Adams, III, a member since 2009 and #34 in seniority and Dr. James Selbe, a member since 2010 and #37 in seniority.

James Adams III presented "A Ghost in Kentucky's Forests: A History and Possible Return of the American Chestnut Tree." The paper details the demise of the American Chestnut which was at one time one of our state's most abundant species. In 1908, there were around four billion. Between 1910 and 1935, nearly all of these were killed by an Asian fungal blight. Less than one hundred mature American Chestnuts are still living. In 1983, a foundation was formed in an effort to restore the American Chestnut. If that group is successful, maybe many future generations of American can enjoy the "King of the Hardwoods."

In "The Origin of Selected Cliches," Dr. James Selbe details common clichés and their origins. The origin of many clichés is in doubt as is their original meaning. If research led to more than one explanation, Dr. Selbe simply chose the one that fit his purposes and presented that. Among the clichés presented to the society are: "it's my way or the highway," "it's a gas," "In like Flynn," "get cold feet," "cut to the chase," and "beating around the bush." Dr. Selbe concluded with advice to all: "So don't go against the grain, and give up the ghost, but instead take it to heart and recognize this promise. If the good Lord is willing, and the creek don't rise, the sun will come out tomorrow, we will rise and shine and realize that any day above ground is a good day. Thank you and may God bless."

President Ison presented the Hal King Twinkie Award to Wendell Rorie, William Rowlett, Dave Cavanah, Robert Ison, and John Soyars. He thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
September 6, 2012

President Harper convened the September meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and twenty-nine members were present. Minutes of the April and May meeting were read and approved. The financial report was given and approved. The total in the checking account was \$2905.31.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Peter Nicolas, James Coursey, Russ Guffey, George Byars, Wendell Lynch, and George Engler.

President Harper appointed Wendell Rorie, James Adams III, and Danny Gilkey to the Committee on Membership. He also appointed Hollis White, Russ Guffey and Marvin Dennison to the Committee on Nominations.

Papers were presented by Robert B. Sivley, a member since 1970 and #3 in seniority and John T. Soyars, a member since 2010 and #35 in seniority.

Robert Sivley presented "Faculty Psychology and Modern Neuroscience" in which he explored the theory that challenging oneself with hard classes and difficult mental endeavors might increase intelligence. His conclusion was less than certain although his Latin and Greek studies did manage to deepen the convolutions of his brain.

John Soyars brought Superman, Captain Marvel, Batman, and Wonder Woman to us in "Unmasking the Mask: Mythological and Psychological Interpretations of the Super-Hero." The author points to the desire of all people (especially children) to become Super-Heroes with their ability to right wrongs, fly, and defend our friends and family. He also points to the connection of the superhero stories to mythological tales as well as describing the psychoanalysis of the Batman.

Comments were made by Danny Gilkey, Peter Nicolas, Jim Selbe, James Coursey, George Byars, Bob Ison, Whitney Westerfield, Wynn Radford, and Rob Harper.

Presenters for the October meeting were announced as William T. Turner and George H. Byars.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
October 4, 2012

President Harper convened the October meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and twenty-eight members were present. Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. The financial report was . The total in the checking account was \$3053.01.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Lindsey Adams, Frank Nash, John Freer, and Chris Gilkey.

Hollis White, member of the Nominating Committee, nominated Wendell Lynch for vice-president. The nominee was confirmed by acclamation.

President Harper presented a resolution (see attached) honoring Tom Westerfield. As President Harper stated, Tom will always be remembered by this society.

The Membership Committee (Wendell Rorie, James Adams III, and Danny Gilkey) placed a slate of candidates before the society. These candidates will be voted on at the November meeting.

Papers were presented by William T. Turner, a member since 1964 and #2 in seniority and George H. Byars, a member since 1987 and #14 in seniority.

William Turner's paper titled "Away, I'm Bound Away, Who Went West?" describes the movements of Americans. During the 1800s, many Americans made the move from Virginia to Kentucky and other points west. Among those moving from Virginia were three future Presidents, future Congressmen, and even ancestors of the author.

In "Monsters," George Byars answers the question "What's the deal with monsters?" George first encountered the boogiemer when he was five and hasn't been the same since. Other monsters detailed are the Cyclops, witches, Big Foot, the Thing, Dracula, and psychotic killers. We must all take care to control the monster within ourselves.

Comments were made by Danny Gilkey, Chris Gilkey, Peter Nicolas, Marvin Denison, Hollis White, Wynn Radford, John Freer, and Whitney Westerfield.

Presenters for the November meeting will be Hollis White and Robert Ison.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
October 4, 2012

President Harper convened the October meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and twenty-eight members were present. Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. The financial report was . The total in the checking account was \$3053.01.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Lindsey Adams, Frank Nash, John Freer, and Chris Gilkey.

Hollis White, member of the Nominating Committee, nominated Wendell Lynch for vice-president. The nominee was confirmed by acclamation.

President Harper presented a resolution (see attached) honoring Tom Westerfield. As President Harper stated, Tom will always be remembered by this society.

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Comments were made by Danny Gilkey, Chris Gilkey, Peter Nicolas, Marvin Denison, Hollis White, Wynn Radford, John Freer, and Whitney Westerfield.

Presenters for the November meeting will be Hollis White and Robert Ison.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

President Harper presented the following resolution:

It is fitting that we pause at this point in our October program for a moment of silence to pay our respects to fellow Athenaeum member Thomas Westerfield, who passed away since our last meeting. Tom has left a lasting impression on this society. We recognize him with deep appreciation for his engaging papers, his active participation in commentary, and his warm sodality.

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
November 1, 2012

President Harper convened the November meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and thirty members were present. Minutes of the October meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The total in the checking account was \$2892.47.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Ken Dougherty, Jim Coursey, Bob Sivley, and Jason Powell.

The List of prospective members that was presented by the membership committee was trimmed to four. They will be voted on in December.

Papers were presented by Hollis White, a member since 1999 and #16 in seniority and Robert Ison, a member since 2000 and #18 in seniority.

In "The Good Judgment Project," Hollis White makes a Chicago cab driver mad by asking him one question. He then demonstrates questionable judgment by asking us ten questions. The questions were designed to be similar to questions that Hollis answers as a member of the Good Judgment team. Project leader Phillip Tetlock and others have discovered that complicated questions might be answered more accurately by averaging the answers of a large number of people rather than accepting the views of a small number of experts. The ultimate goal of the team is to improve intelligence gathering in our country so that we may more accurately predict important events.

Robert Ison presented "The Battle of Perryville and the Struggle for Kentucky." On October 8, 1862, Perryville, Kentucky, became the most important community in the world as Confederate forces commanded by General Braxton Bragg face the Union Army of Ohio under the command of Major General Don Carlos Buell. Although neither commander was completely clear on what was happening and the strength of the forces they were facing, it is quite clear of the devastation significance of the battle. There were more than 7,600 casualties that day, and Kentucky was essentially lost for the Confederacy.

Comments were made by Peter Nicolas, Terry Fuqua, Wynn Radford, Wendell Lynch, Jason Powell, James Selbe, John Freer, bob Sivley, Danny Gilkey, and William Turner.

Presenters for the December meeting will be William M. Rowlett and George W. Engler.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES
ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
December 6, 2012

President Harper convened the December meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn, Hopkinsville.

Roll was called, and twenty-two members were present. Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The financial report was made. The total in the checking account was \$2549.03.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Whitney Westerfield, Edward Higgins, and George Engler.

Four prospective members were voted on, and all four votes were affirmative. Letters of invitation will be sent out by Secretary Cavanah.

Papers were presented by William M. Rowlett, a member since 1970 and #4 in seniority and George W. Engler, a member since 1983 and #7 in seniority.

Dr. Rowlett presented his paper "Who said Western Kentucky people were illiterate?" and in so doing exclaimed "not he." The author detailed the lives and writings of many with a connection to the Jackson Purchase area of our state. He spoke with pride about authors and journalists like George Bingham, Gene Graham, Bobbie Ann Mason, Felix Holt, Joe Creason and others. Irvin S. Cobb deserved and got special mention as Dr. Rowlett spoke not only of accomplishments (over 60 books, 300 short stories, plays and scripts for movies), but also of his exploits as a newsman.

George W. Engler presented "The Enemy Within." Paul Rosbaud was born in 1887. While fighting for Germany in the first World War, he was captured by the British in 1917. He was treated kindly and came to admire the Brits. Thus a great partnership was started which helped to ensure the victory of the Allied Forces in the second World War. Between November 1939 and the end of the war, Rosbaud turned over information to the Allies on the German atomic bomb, long-range military rockets, rocket-propelled gliders, anti-aircraft missiles, as well as many other military secrets. His contribution to our victory is unmistakable.

Comments were made by Robert Sivley, Robert Ison, George Byars, and Mitchell Kaye.

Presenters for the January meeting will be Wendell Lynch and Lindsey Adams.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah
Secretary/Treasurer