

# An Examination of Future Options for the Athenaeum Society

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## Mission statement

- As stated in the December 2010 Constitution & Bylaws:
- “The name of this Society shall be “The Athenaeum Society.” It shall have for its objective the increase of knowledge and information among its members on the subjects relating to the Arts, Biography, History, Literature and Sciences.”
- There is a specific prohibition regarding discussion of religion and politics noted on line 52.

1.

Who are we?



# Who are we?

- Original members
- Year of formation
- Brief history





## 2. Storage of Papers

# Storage of Papers



- Papers are currently stored at the Hopkinsville Historical Museum
- Approximately 600 papers are archived (34 years x 18 papers/year)
- Earliest paper available 1982
- Papers prior to 1982 have been destroyed. It is unlikely that we will recover significantly more in the future.

# Storage of Papers

- William Turner and the Secretary of the Society, David Cavanaugh have maintained the library of The Society \*\*
- Current members access the library at the Museum
- The complete minutes of the Society have been compiled by William Turner and includes topics presented.



3.

# Creation of Website



# Creation of Website

- Create committee to guide and implement. Obtain bids for website design and maintenance. First bid is \$500 to create and maintain the website. Would report to the Executive Committee.
- Goal is to create as complete a library as is possible by collecting, scanning, storing, archiving and making available all available previous papers on computer storage devices with a Cloud back-up.
- Purchase appropriate scanning devices with Society funds.
- Maintain ongoing collection of new papers.

# Creation of Website

- Open dialogue amongst members on recent papers (blog).
- Post brief biographies and photos of all current members with contact information. Post year end Society group photos.
- Encourage contact and comments from previous members.
- Make available all previous papers and Society minutes to members. Consider allowing access to outside scholars and interested persons.



## 4. Quality of Papers

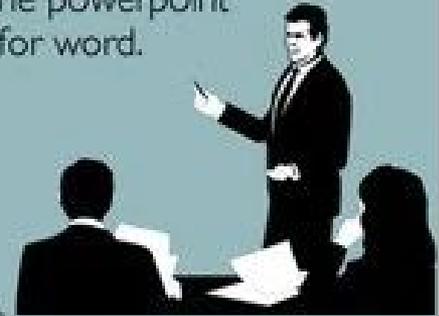
# Quality of Papers

- Papers should document references and sources
- Establish an award for best paper given in that year. Have award named after a prominent society member. Give recipient \$100 from Society for use by the winner to donate to charity of their choice and a plaque.
- Evaluation form for each presented paper to be completed by the audience and the papers judged on appropriate criteria (e.g. content, originality, presentation, thoroughness, humor etc.) a panel would then select the winner from the years' papers.
- Have paper of the year presented at open meeting.
- Give award and plaque at that meeting.
- Encourage current members to give constructive criticism of papers at meeting, not just polite approval.

5.

# Presentation Engagement

For my presentation today, I'll be reading the powerpoint slides word for word.



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# Presentation Engagement

- Improve quality of presentation by utilizing projector and sound system.
- Available free of charge from The Holiday Inn

**INTERNAL RECRUITMENT**



**6.**

# Membership Recruitment & Retention

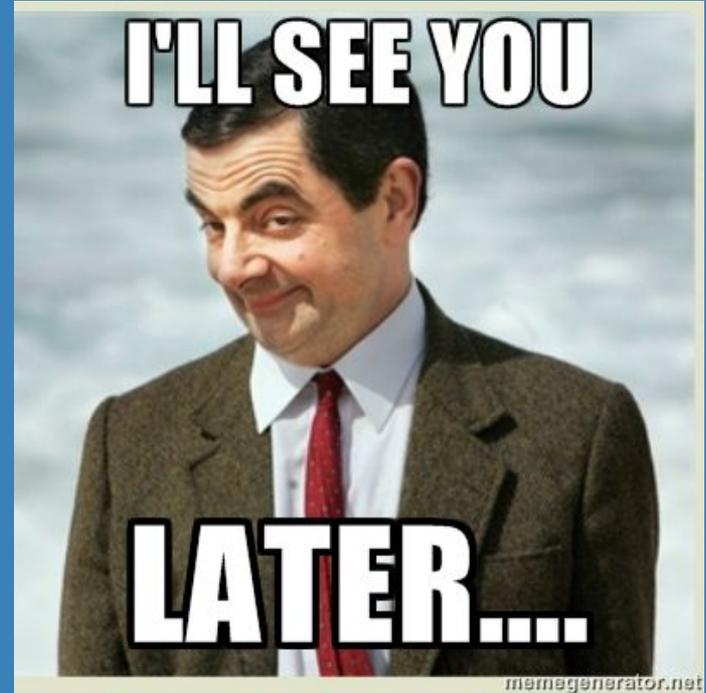
# Membership Recruitment & Retention

- “Best and Brightest”
- Diversity
- Assign mentor to first year members to encourage integration into society. need regular follow-up
- Provide info packet to first year members with history of Society (Wm. Turner paper), pin or patch, web access password.
- New membership category “observational member” for a 1 year term to allow persons of interest to the Society to attend meetings and contribute to discussions. Possible candidates include: foreign business people, temporary residents of Hopkinsville, military etc.
- Would be non-voting, paper optional. Will add a new dimension and perspective to meetings.

# Membership Recruitment & Retention

- Consider a yearly survey of the membership re: quality and health of society, new ideas and comments.
- Design a patch representing the Society that can be sewn onto a blazer pocket or a tie with logo. Encourage members to wear same.

7.  
Members  
Departing



# Members Departing

- President will report on health issues of significance affecting membership duties to the Society (with the affected members' consent).
- Brief discussion of a departing member and their reasons for departure should be communicated to the Society at a meeting by the president. Attempts at continuing a relationship with that member by website participation, if appropriate, should be encouraged.
- If a Society member suffers the loss of a close family member, it should be reported to the society at a meeting by the president with the members' consent. We should actively acknowledge these losses as a Society.

# Let's review some concepts

## 1. Who Are We?

- Established in 1902, we are an organization dedicated to discussion of knowledge & information in the immediate local area.

## 2. Storage of Papers

- Papers have been stored at the Hopkinsville Historical Museum. Proposition to make them more accessible through web and blog access.

## 3. Creation of Website

- Create website to preserve and disseminate work of the Society.

## 4. Quality of Papers

- Encourage high standards of authorship & establish “best of year award” and present at open meeting.

## 5. Presentation Engagement

- Utilize projector and audio system to engage audience.

## 6. Membership

- New members should be best and brightest drawn from entire community. Mentor new members & provide “membership package.” Consider “*observational status.*”

## 7. Membership Departing

- Keep current on members' health and family status.

# Sources

- Constitution and Bylaws of Athenaeum Society of Hopkinsville. Revised and Adopted December 2010
- Conversation with David Cavanaugh, Secretary of Athenaeum Society 12/23/2015
- Conversation with Professor William Turner 1/11/2016 and 2/22/2016
- Conversation with Robert Sivley PhD 1/26/2016
- Conversation with Kendrick Daugherty MD, President of Athenaeum Society 02/08/2016
- Battle of Thought and Expression. A Centennial History of the Athenaeum Society of Hopkinsville, Kentucky 1902-2002. William Turner. Delivered on April 4, 2002
- 100 Years of the Athenaeum Society Hopkinsville, Kentucky History, Constitution and By-laws (&) Membership. April 1902 April 2002

Thanks! Any questions?





# Thanks!

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