

Virginia Commission on the Centennial of Woodrow Wilson's Presidency



A handwritten signature of Woodrow Wilson in cursive script.

INITIAL STAFF BRIEFING

Senate Room A
General Assembly Building
Richmond, Virginia
June 21, 2011

Brenda H. Edwards, *Senior Research Associate*
Mindy Tanner, *Editor and Research Associate*
Division of Legislative Services

COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Honorable Richard P. Bell
The Honorable Benjamin L. Cline
The Honorable John S. Edwards
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
The Honorable R. Steven Landes
The Honorable Paula J. Miller
The Honorable Brenda L. Pogge
The Honorable Linda T. Puller
Mr. W. Taylor Reveley, IV, Esquire
Dr. Don W. Wilson
Dr. Fitz W. M. Woodrow, Jr.

STAFF

Ms. Brenda H. Edwards, *Senior Research Associate*
Ms. Mindy Tanner, *Research Associate*
Ms. Gwendolyn L. Foley, *Senior Operations Staff Assistant*
Division of Legislative Services
Mr. Hobie Lehman, *Assistant Coordinator of Committee Operations
and Sergeant-At-Arms*
Senate of Virginia

President Woodrow Wilson



- Born Thomas Woodrow Wilson on December 28, 1856, in Staunton, VA
- Father a Presbyterian minister; mother the daughter of a Presbyterian minister
- Reared in a home in faith and scholarship were valued and appreciated
- Attended Davidson College
- Bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1879
- Law degree from University of Virginia Law School
- Doctorate from John Hopkins University in 1883
- Professor of jurisprudence and political economy at Princeton University
- Professor at Bryn Mawr College and Wesleyan College
- Princeton University President, 1902-1910
- Governor of New Jersey, 1911-1913
- President of the United States, March 4, 1913- March 3, 1921
- President during World War I
- Nobel Peace Prize recipient in 1919
- Proponent of the League of Nations
- Died February 3, 1924

Sources: Biography. Nobelprize.org
Cooper, John Milton, Jr. Woodrow Wilson: A Biography. New York: Vintage Books, 2009
C-SPAN in the Classroom. Woodrow Wilson: American Presidents Life Portrait
Woodrow Wilson. PBS American Experience

Virginia Commission on the Centennial of Woodrow Wilson's Presidency

Legislative History

The 2010 Virginia General Assembly created the Virginia Commission in the legislative branch of state government for the purpose of planning, developing, and implementing statewide programs and events to commemorate the centennial of President Woodrow Wilson's election and presidency.

Statutory Provisions

Voting. “No recommendation of the Commission shall be adopted if a majority of the Senate members or a majority of the House members appointed to the Commission (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the Commission.”

Statutory Provisions

Tenure

- Legislative members and ex officio members serve terms coincident with their terms of office
- Nonlegislative citizen members may not serve more than four consecutive two-year term
- Chairman and vice-chairman must be members of the General Assembly.

Statutory Provisions

Compensation and Funding

Legislative members of the Commission compensated pursuant to § 30-19.12

Nonlegislative citizen members compensated pursuant to § 2.2-2813. All members reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825

Funding for the costs of compensation and expenses of the members shall be paid from such nonpublic funds as may be received by the Commission

Centennial of the Woodrow Wilson Presidency Fund

- Special nonreverting fund created in the state treasury to receive gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds from any source that be received by the Commission for its work
- Interest earned on moneys in the Fund will remain in the Fund
- Monies in Fund will not revert to the general fund
- Fund must be used solely performance of Commission's duties

Commission's Duties

- Plan, develop, coordinate, and implement statewide programs, events, and activities to commemorate the centennial of Woodrow Wilson's election and presidency from 1912 through 1921
- Appoint an Advisory Council
- Seek, receive, and expend gifts, grants, donations, bequests or other funds from any source to support the work of the Commission
- Promote and encourage research and scholarship on and an interdisciplinary examination of (i) the life, presidency, contributions, and legacy of Woodrow Wilson and (ii) the historical importance of his presidency to the American presidency, scholarship, international and domestic relations, and political and social systems
- Offer educational and cultural opportunities to increase historical literacy of the Woodrow Wilson election and presidency, highlight significant events and achievements during his administrations, and assess the effect of his presidency on contemporary society
-

Commission's Duties

- Encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout Virginia to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of Woodrow Wilson's election and presidency
- Identify and implement various means to increase public knowledge and awareness of Woodrow Wilson, memorialize and preserve his history and legacy in Virginia, among children and young adults throughout the Commonwealth
- Promote the development and conduct of programs designed to involve all citizens in activities that commemorate the centennial of Woodrow Wilson's election and presidency
- Seek the assistance and collaboration of diverse organizations and interested parties, in Virginia and out of state, with expertise or experience to facilitate the Commission's work
- Report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly
- Perform such other duties, functions, and activities as the Commission deems necessary to facilitate and implement the objectives of its statute

Staff Support

- **Primary staff—Division of Legislative Services**
 - ✓ Legal
 - ✓ Research
 - ✓ Policy analysis
 - ✓ Other services
- **Administrative—Senate Clerk's Office**
 - ✓ Logistics
 - ✓ Meeting arrangements
 - ✓ Polling
 - ✓ Recording votes
- **Technical assistance—**
 - ✓ All agencies upon request of the Commission



Commission's Expiration



July 1, 2014

Commemorative To Do List

THEME

- A theme should be selected that resonates throughout the Commonwealth, emphasizing the significance and legacy of Woodrow Wilson's Presidency
- A thematic approach should be used for meeting to highlight and bring visibility to key aspects of his life and presidency
- A thematic approach should be used initially during the organizational phase of the Commission for informational purposes and to facilitate planning

Examples

- *100 Years: Remembering Woodrow Wilson's Legacy*
- *Woodrow Wilson's Presidency: Still Making a Mark in Virginia Today*
- *Woodrow Wilson's Presidency: Influencing History 100 Years Later*

Commemorative To Do List

LOGO (Ideas)

- Photo of President Wilson with the Presidential seal as background; White House shadowed in background; Washington DC skyline }Capitol, White House
- Use of sepia tones with splashes of red, white and blue, stately and presidential
- Other ideas

Website Domains

- vawoodrowwilsoncommission.dls.virginia.gov
- vawwcommission.dls.virginia.gov

Commemorative To Do List

Message of the Commemoration

- Should provoke an emotional investment among citizens to become familiar with President Woodrow Wilson and his contributions to the nation and world
- Should attract citizen participation and involvement in commemorative programs and activities.
- Provide a bridge from the past (the Wilson era) to contemporary events, stressing the relevance of history to current events

Target Audience

- World War I descendants and enthusiasts
- Heritage groups
- Scholars
- Historians
- Policy Makers
- General public
- Public and private school students K-12
- Students at public and private institutions of higher education
- Classroom teachers
- College history faculty and staff
- Community and professional organizations
- National and other state commemorative groups
- Private organizations
- Other entities

Commemorative To Do List

Communications, Public Relations, and Media

- Develop the Commission's website for the dissemination of information regarding the commemoration (**website is a part of DLS*)
- Develop a public relations campaign
- Establish a media relations packet
- Issue press releases at appropriate times
- Conduct interviews and press conferences
- Write op eds and articles for publication

Partnerships and Collaborations

- Identify local, state, and federal agencies with which to partner for the commemoration
- Seek collaborative efforts with community organizations and professional associations

Commemorative To Do List

Funding

- Establish a fundraising campaign to cover the costs of the commemoration

Schedule

- Establish a schedule for the commemoration, its programs, events, and activities
- Establish goals for the commemoration
- Develop an overall strategy and criteria for each year of the commemoration

Legacy of the Commemoration

- Identify the objectives to be accomplished by the commemoration
- Determine the commemoration's legacy

Citizen Advisory Council

Duties and Responsibilities of Advisory Council

- Act in an *advisory capacity* to the Commission regarding plans proposed for the commemoration
- Assist the Commission as requested in identifying historians, scholars, and other interested persons with whom it can collaborate or seek further assistance
- Make recommendations to the Commission as requested to facilitate an effective and successful commemoration throughout the Commonwealth
- Carry out such other tasks as the Commission may require