

**EXPLORERS CLUB WASHINGTON GROUP (ECWG)**  
**Annual Report for calendar year 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016**  
Prepared by Lonnie Schorer, MN98 - Vice-Chair ECWG

Our annual election meeting, scheduled to be held during our black-tie reception and dinner at the Cosmos Club on December 3, 2016, will take place at the 28 January 2017 reception and dinner.

**2016 ECWG Board Officers**

Chair: Jack Williams, FN03  
Vice Chair: Lonnie Schorer, MN98  
Secretary: Bill Runyon, MN01  
Treasurer: Bruce Blanchard, MED78  
Program Director: Michael Max, FN05  
Membership Director: Michael Wyrick, MN08  
Immediate Past Chair: Craig Cook, MN01

**2017 ECWG Board Officers**

Chair: Lonnie Schorer, MN98  
Vice Chair: Michael Wyrick, MN08  
Secretary: Bill Runyon, MN01  
Treasurer: Bruce Blanchard, MED78  
Program Director: Michael Max, FN05  
Membership Director: Deborah Bell, FN14  
Immediate Past Chair: Jack Williams, FN03

**2016 Standing Committee Chairs**

Program Committee: Michael Max, FN05  
Membership Committee: Michael Wyrick, MN08  
Grants Committee: Polly Penhale, FN91  
Public Relations and Outreach Committee: Craig Cook, MN01

**2017 Standing Committee Chairs**

Program Committee: Michael Max, FN05  
Membership (and Outreach) Committee: Deborah Bell, FN14  
Grants Committee: Polly Penhale, FN01  
Public Relations and Web Editor: Craig Cook, FN01

Ad-hoc Nominating Committee 2016: Craig Cook, MN01

Ad-hoc Nominating Committee 2017: Jack Williams, FN03

**ECWG Board Members (15):**

*Class of '16*

Donald J. Gerson, FE78  
Joyce M. Johnson, FN03

*Class of '17*

Deborah Bell, FN14  
Tony K. Meunier, FE84

*Class of '18*

Caroline A. Baker, FN04  
Charles Davidson, MN12

Polly A. Penhale, FN91  
Cynthia J. Stuart, MN13  
Arnella Trent, MN10

*Linda Perry, FN13*  
Betsy Stewart, MN05  
Lee M. Talbot, MED57

*Daniel Y. Gezari, FN07*  
Marilyn E. Livingood, FN03  
Sarah K. Yeoman, FN07

Those listed in italics resigned their board positions due to work conflicts and insufficient time to devote to the board.

**On December 20, 2016, the following slate was approved by the ECWG Board as the Class of 2019:**

Don Gerson FE78  
Polly Penhale FN91  
Michael Manyak MED92  
Terry Garcia MN13  
Joyce Johnson FN03

Board members meet at 11:30 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, excluding July and August. In the fall of 2016, the ECWG Board was informed by the National Geographic Society that it would no longer have free use of a NGS meeting room. The ECWG Board has been discussing alternative meeting spaces.

Minutes are on record for each Board meeting.

**Membership:**

In 2016 the ECWG Chapter welcomed 16 new members.  
Fellow-3, Member-7, Associate-3, Term-2, Student-1.

In 2016 the ECWG Membership Committee received 13 inquiries/requests for applications: Fellow-2, Member-3, Associate-8, Term-0, Student-0.

Two new applications have been submitted to Headquarters for consideration:  
Fellow-1, Member-1.

Our 2016 membership directory was filed with Club headquarters in November 2016. Total ECWG membership (2016-year-end): 261 members listed in the ECWG 2016 Member Directory.

11 were reported as deceased in 2016. 7 ECWG members either relocated or lived outside the ECWG area, and 23 were dropped by ECWG for non-payment of dues.

**Dinner/Luncheon with Speaker Meetings:**

- Saturday, 16 January 2016. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Tom Kinsch, MN06.  
Title: Ebola in West Africa and the USA – Myths and Realities  
Attendance: 28 members/18 guests = 46 attendees.
- Saturday, 20 February 2016. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Gabby Salazar, MN15

- Title: Island Biodiversity: Saving the Next Dodo  
Attendance: 23members/18 guests = 41 attendees.
- Tuesday, 15 March 2016. DACOR House. Speaker: Don Gerson, FE 78:  
Title: Digital images of naturally occurring really beautiful stuff.  
Attendance: 14 members/4 guests = 18 attendees.
  - Saturday, 16 April 2016. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Boyd Matson, MN03  
Title: The Adventure Begins When Things Go Wrong  
Attendance; 36 members/38 guests = 74 attendees.
  - Saturday, 21 May 2016. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Robert Nyland.  
Title: Archaeology of the Confederate Submarine *H.L. Hunley*.  
Attendance: 34 members/29 guests = 63 attendees.
  - Saturday, 23 July 2016. ECWG Annual Summer Picnic at Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens. Organizer: Deborah Bell. Acres of spectacular East Indian Lotus were blooming at their peak, NPS personnel provided a fact-filled walking tour, followed by a potluck picnic at the edge of the ponds.  
Attendance: 8 members and 9 guests = 17 in attendees.
  - Friday, Saturday, Sunday 23, 24, 25 September 2016 –ECWG Bombash, held at Gettysburg National Military Park, PA. Organizer: Arnella Trent  
Highlights: 3-hour private tour of the Battlefield; dinner lecture with Tom Vossler (Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired), co-author “The Gettysburg Campaign” and “A Field Guide to Gettysburg”; a tour of Seminary Ridge Museum and Cupola.  
Attendance: 5 members and 5 guests = 10 attendees.
  - Saturday, 15 October 2016. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Dorothy Fragaszy  
Title: Hercules with a tail: Stone tool use in wild bearded capuchin monkeys  
Attendance: 16 members/12 guests = 28 attendees.
  - Saturday, 19 November 2016. Cosmos Club with Circumnavigators. Speaker: Becca Peixotto. Title: The view from the end of the cave  
Attendance: 37 members/25 guests/19 Circumnavigators = 81 attendees.
  - Saturday, 3 December 2016 Gala. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Dr. James Green.  
Title: The Search for Life Beyond Earth in Space and Time.  
Attendance: 38 members/40 guests – 78 attendees.

**ECWG Exploration and Field Research Grants Program:**

The Explorers Club Washington Group’s Exploration and Field Research Grants Program was established to encourage young men and women to add to the body of

knowledge of the earth, its people and the universe through exploration and field research.

The ECWG Student Grant Program is partially financed by those whose contributions are greater than the annual ECWG dues amount. 4 members donated \$500+. 8 members donated \$200+. 31 members contributed at least \$70.

Applications were reviewed by the Grants Committee, and grants were awarded to the following five graduate students enrolled in a college or university in the local area (Washington, DC; Virginia; West Virginia; Maryland). Grants total: \$11,062.

The awardees and their projects are:

- Laurence Dumouchel, Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology, George Washington University, “What the world looked like when we started walking upright: The environments of the earliest Australopithecus”, Kenya (PhD)
- Sean Knox, Frostburg State University, Biology, “Migration Chronology of Waterfowl and Associated Wetland Food Production at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Morris County, New Jersey” (MS)
- Sean M. Lee, George Washington University, Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology, “Trade-offs between social & physical development in wild bonobos (*Pan paniscus*)”, Republic of Congo (PhD)
- Alice Millikin, West Virginia University, School of Natural Resources, “Assessing Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) population health in created isolated wetlands to inform habitat creation”, West Virginia (PhD)
- Becca Peixotto, American University, Anthropology, “Exploration and Archeological Survey in the Great Dismal Swamp”, Virginia (PhD)

### **FY 2016 Financial Report**

Reported by Bruce Blanchard, Treasurer

As stated in the ECWG Articles of Procedure:

ECWG was granted tax-exempt status under sec. 501 ©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in 1990, was incorporated in the State of Delaware, and received a certificate of authority to operate in the District of Columbia in 1994. It was granted tax-exempt status by the District in 1998.

The Short Form 990-EZ - Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax - for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, was filed with the Internal Revenue Service and Club headquarters by ECWG Treasurer Bruce Blanchard on November 13, 2016.

During fiscal year 2016, ending June 30, 2016, our net worth decreased by \$6. We were unable to make our routine transfer of \$5,000 from our operations account to our exploration (student grant) account. After awarding 5 grants, amounting to \$11,062, our grant account ended the year down \$2,622 for an end-of-year total of

\$67,743. This amount may seem large, but our LTAD distribution from FY2015, which amounted to \$39,976, was transferred to our exploration savings account during FY2016.

As of June 30, 2016, we had 199 dues payers out of a total membership of 261. Although we have kept our base dues at \$25/year for 18 years and have reduced dues for Student Members during that period, we are finally increasing our dues about \$10 a year.

FY2016 financial statements, including monthly program revenues, member contributions, and member attendance, are a matter of record.

**Video Library:** ECWG has 240 recorded dinner lectures on DVDs. The lectures, recorded from 17 October 1987 through 5 December 2016, have been transferred to DVDs. All DVDs were reviewed and verified by Board Members. The Board resolved to ensure that these DVDs are available for purchase. A complete list may be found at [explorersclubdc.org](http://explorersclubdc.org)

Click on “Buy DVDs of ECWG Speakers” in the top banner.

**Public Relations and Outreach Committee** under Craig Cook FN01 is overhauling the chapter’s website. The job is about half completed. Online payment for dinner meetings is now in place for ease of reservations and payment. A reservation database has also been installed to complement the payment system.

Work has begun on a membership database that will connect members having like exploration interests. Communications will be sent targeting similar interest members, making it easier for these members to connect. An identification badge system is being developed that will assist members and guests in finding other members with like interests during chapter events. The goal will be to make this information available prior to events so attendees can make contacts. The ultimate goal of this project is to retain membership and increase attendance.

**ECWG Board Flag Expedition: In August 2016,** ECWG members Lew Toulmin MN04 and Michael Wyrick MN08, along with EC members from other chapters, traveled to the Republic of Vanuatu to interview, study and document the previously unknown “Female Chiefs of Vanuatu.”