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1613 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Email: [Madison@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:Madison@scholarshipamerica.org)

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From: Liz Ray <lray@jamesmadison.com>  
Cc: 'Lewis Larsen' <llarsen@jamesmadison.gov>  
Sent: Wed, Aug 23, 2017 12:06 pm  
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act request

Good afternoon:

Please find Board Meeting Minutes for the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation for 2015 and 2016 attached; as per your email request below.

The Board of Trustees did not meet this year, 2017, as our Board is in transition awaiting the appointment of new members.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions and if you have not done so already, please check out our website – [www.jamesmadison.gov](http://www.jamesmadison.gov)

Best regards,

Elizabeth G. Ray  
Management and Program Analysis Officer  
James Madison Foundation  
1613 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## MINUTES

### *James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation Board of Trustees' Meeting*

June 25, 2015- 8:30 A.M.  
Senate Visitor's Center, Room 212

Senator John Cornyn called the Board meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Board members and principals present:

Senator John Cornyn, Chairman  
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, Member  
Dr. Catherine Allgor, Member  
Judge William Terrell Hodges, Member  
Dr. Drew McCoy, Member  
David O. Bickart, Esq., Foundation's Legal Counsel

Foundation and Congressional Staff Members:

Lewis Larsen, President  
Dr. Jeffry Morrison, Director of the Summer Institute  
Claire M. Griffin, Director of Special Projects  
Elizabeth G. Ray, Management and Program Analysis Officer  
Sheila Osbourne, Academic Assistant  
Jason McCray, Support Services Assistant  
Michelle Chin, Legislative Assistant, Senator John M. Cornyn  
Mike Thomas, Projects Director, Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
Richard Vanden Bosch, 2003 James Madison Fellow, California/  
2015 Congressional Fellow

At 8:30 a.m. Senator John Cornyn, Chairman of the Board, opened the Board meeting.

Senator Cornyn began by welcoming members and guests and introduced the Board members at the table.

Senator Cornyn began the first order of business and asked for a motion to approve the *Minutes* from the 2014 Board of Trustee Meeting. Judge Hodges made a motion, Dr. Allgor seconded, and the *Minutes* were approved by unanimous consent of the Board. Senator Cornyn then asked Mr. Larsen for the President's Report.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Larsen began by introducing the Madison staff. Professor Morrison received a full professorship; Claire Griffin is our Director of Special Projects; Kimberly Alldredge is a new employee; Sheila Osbourne is the Academic Assistant dealing with education issues; Elizabeth Ray is the Management and Program Analysis Officer dealing with financial issues; and David O. Bickart, Esq. is the Foundation's legal counsel. Mr. Larsen then reviewed the report on the James Madison Foundation's finances stating that the Foundation is financially sound and the endowment is untouched. The Foundation has never been as strong as we are now by growing the James Madison Education Fund, Inc. approximately \$700,000.00. Senator Cornyn asked where the Foundation was investing. Mr. Larsen stated that the endowment is invested in the U.S. Treasury and the James Madison Education Fund, Inc. is invested in the stock market. Purchasing the building was also part of the secret to the strong finances. The Foundation awarded 51 Fellowships in 2015 which is a bit less than in past years but by trimming down fellowship awards, this also saves money. There are currently about 1,400 Fellows with 85% still in the classroom. Mr. Larsen told the Board that the annual Summer Institute started on the past Saturday and gave thanks to Michelle Chin for arranging the White House visit. Mr. Larsen said two Cuban Fellows were to attend this year's Summer Institute but that the State Department was having technical malfunctions with printing visas, so only one Cuban Fellow had arrived.

Senator Cardin said he was leaving for Cuba this afternoon and could visit the US Intersect Section to help with the Cuban Fellow's visa. The Senator asked Mr. Larsen to give the information to Mike Thomas.

Senator Cornyn asked where the Foundation was on social media.

Mr. Larsen explained that the Foundation was full blown on Facebook and Twitter and we have a big national following. The Fellows are following the updates and promoting the Foundation and fellowship awards.

Mr. Larsen said some challenges facing the Foundation were the upcoming contract negotiations with Georgetown University. The Foundation is the one big program during the summer and is their largest source of income during that timeframe. Secondly, there are two Treasury bonds coming due and we are not able to match the interest on expiring bonds.

Senator Cornyn asked if the Foundation invested in the stock market?

Mr. Larsen explained that the Foundation could only invest in the Treasury and that the James Madison Education Fund, Inc. was diversified in the stock market.

Dr. McCoy asked if the investment was done by computer.

Mr. Larsen confirmed that the James Madison Education Fund, Inc. was done by TDAmeritrade on a computer system. That the timing was good and that the endowment was growing. Unfortunately the growth potential is not there for the federal government (James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation).

Mr. Larsen mentioned that the Department of Interior has oversight over the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation since the Foundation is a micro-agency.

Mr. Larsen stated that resolution 427 was a disaster in civic education. He thanked Senator Cardin for his efforts in civic education legislation. People have been joining the Civic Renewal Network but outside of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, no one in the federal government is doing anything regarding civic education.

Ms. Claire Griffin explained that the Civic Renewal Network was out of the University of Pennsylvania started by a professor with granting money from the Annenberg Foundation. It is the first time that there is a renewal of old civic programs including Teach for America and We the People, which have not been funded for years.

Mr. Larsen said that there seems to be a movement on the House side to move the We the People program under the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation's prevue.

Senator Cornyn and Dr. Allgor asked for an explanation of We the People.

Mr. Larsen asked Ms. Claire Griffin to explain. Ms. Griffin stated that We the People was designed to get kids thinking about local, state and national politics, government, etc.

Mr. Larsen explained that the Fellows are included as a line item in the budget.

Senator Cornyn suggested that he could help.

Senator Cardin said that Senator Cornyn and he would look at the civic bill as authored by Senator Lamar Alexander.

Senator Cornyn stated that they would try working it pretty hard.

Mr. Larsen explained the new initiative of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation – the video series – Constitutional Conversations – which are out on the web and a resource teachers can use with their classes. Dr. Allgor was scheduled to do a video on Dolley Madison, Dr. McCoy would be returning to do another video, Dr. Kaminski, Dr. Zaggari, and Dr. Rakove were all included in the series. The videos are funded by donations to the Foundation.

Mr. Larsen then played a video clip of Dr. Morrison showcasing the Constitutional Conversation series.

Senator Cornyn stated that it was very nice.

Mr. Larsen said that the series would tie all the professors to the Foundation. It also promotes the fellowships by getting the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation name out via You Tube.

Ms. Michelle Chin asked where the series was filmed.

Mr. Larsen explained that all the production takes place right at the Foundation office.

Senator Cornyn asked if the series was posted to social media and what was the ability to tare and use social media.

Mr. Larsen said yes, on our website, our Facebook page, and we have our own You Tube channel with all the videos.

Mr. Larsen moved forward with the audited financial statements under Tab 3, the yellow page. Mr. Larsen stated that with the finances at this time, we may use up the endowment; it can't be increased as we are stuck at the Treasury and there is no growth in federal funds. All the growth is from the 501 (c) (3) education fund; this is what is used to allow the program to grow.

David O. Bickart, Esq. asked if the tuition continues to go up, is the Foundation unable to attract qualified applicants.

Mr. Larsen remarked that no we are still getting them; they often have to pay the difference of their tuition out of pocket. Fellows are key to what we are doing – they are great ambassadors for the program and are encouraging their colleagues to apply. Great Fellows are lobbed up to us from our current Fellows.

Mr. Larsen asked Ms. Claire Griffin to speak.

Ms. Griffin mentioned that 14% of our completed Fellows are not in the classroom but are providing educational and leadership throughout the educational system. For example, John Kin is currently an advisor to the Secretary of Education. Ms. Griffin also mentioned Joe Sangillo who was the 2014 Congressional Fellow and worked in Senator Cardin's office.

Senator Cardin said Joe is an incredible person and he was pleased to hear his name, nodding in agreement to Claire's praises of him.

Mr. Larsen expressed his frustration with the White House and their lack of filling Trustee vacancies.

Senator Cardin and Senator Cornyn asked if they could help. Senator Cardin asked how many vacancies there are and mentioned that the Executive Branch asks him every day to move their appointments. I can ask them to move on the Foundation's.

Mr. Larsen explained that Dr. Allgor's term was in override because the session ended and that Dr. Pauline Maier's untimely death was a huge loss.

Senator Cornyn said he would get Michelle Chin to work with you and Senator Cardin to work on a strategy to get nominations.

Mr. Larsen said if Senator Cardin couldn't get it done, than no one can.

Mr. Larsen then introduced Dr. Morrison to discuss the Summer Institute.

Dr. Morrison went explained that we are working to strengthen our academic presence by being a clearinghouse for all things Madison; by building relationships with institutions of higher learning; strengthening the Summer Institute; and creating the video series which gathers a stable of academics

who might not be around – brand them – and they are then around forever. Dr. Morrison mentioned Ms. Kimberly Alldredge’s work with a new Wiki page for the Foundation and that the Summer Institute has a new professor, Dr. Halperin and continues with Dr. Charlie Yonkers as our Summer Institute auditor.

Senator Cornyn said he was intrigued by online education disrupting higher education. There is so much free online, is there any authority to approve accreditation of online/free courses?

Dr. Morrison stated that each geographical region has an approving body.

Senator Cornyn asked if there was a way the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation could provide course credit for some of the online activities we are doing – i.e. Constitutional Conversations with top professors. What about a James Madison Foundation M.A. degree in the future?

Mr. Larsen said with technology and the internet, online education is exploding and taking away from the brick and mortar institutions. Harvard professor, Dr. Christiansen states that higher education is the next to go – a Walmart MBA from the University of Phoenix costs so much less.

Senator Cardin stated that it is a complicated situation mentioning UMUC as the largest for-profit university; how do you get accountability and accreditation; it is a challenge for universities.

Mr. Larsen said the handwriting is on the wall – going online rips apart the adjunct world with the top professors still being o.k. Adams State has begun an online degree through Gilder Lehrman. You can earn a master’s degree for \$6,000.00 and yet have the best professors available.

Senator Cornyn asked about consumer protection and scams.

At this point in time, Mr. Larsen introduced Mr. Richard Vanden Bosch, 2003 Fellow from California and the 2015 Congressional Fellow, and asked him to say a few words.

Mr. Vanden Bosch gave his talk.

### **Richard Vanden Bosch, Congressional Fellow – 2003 (CA)**

#### **Remarks for the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation Thursday, June 25, 2015**

#### **8:30 A.M. (Room SVC 210 of the Capitol Visitors’ Center)**

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about my experience with the James Madison Foundation as a Madison Fellow and Congressional Fellow. I received the James Madison Foundation California Senior Fellowship in 2003. At the time I was enrolled in the master’s program at California State University, Stanislaus, and employed full-time teaching U.S. history and government. I had also attended a few classes at Stanford University that I was able to incorporate as independent study classes in my master’s degree. These focused on *The Federalist Papers* and constitutional theory. I was thrilled at the opportunity to study at Georgetown University with some of the elite professors in constitutional history. The following summer of 2004 I attended the “Foundations of American Constitutionalism” at Georgetown. The information I received transformed my understanding of American history, constitutionalism, and political theory. I was also privileged to collaborate with gifted and brilliant educators from across the country. I realized that as smart as I thought

I might be, I was surrounded by exceptional historians and articulate writers who would challenge and encourage me to improve. The time at Georgetown was priceless, and unlike anything I have experienced in my life. I thoroughly enjoyed the lectures, small-group sessions, and learned innumerable things, especially from Dr. Morrison regarding religious liberty. I truly enjoyed the camaraderie with everyone, whether it was at lunch, in the halls, or proofreading my colleagues' papers, and I have established life-long friends. My time working with Congressman Denham has been short but enlightening, and I cannot wait to learn more. I want to understand better how a bill really becomes a law, how it is amended, how committees and hearings are impacted by seniority and party rule, and how the legislative branch works with federal agencies in the executive branch to provide oversight and accountability. Congressman Denham's Legislative Director Bret Manley has asked that I chronicle Mr. Denham's actions in committee, floor speeches, amendments, bills, interest group advocacy, etc. Although I have only been doing this for three days, I have done extensive research on Puerto Rican statehood and its political and fiscal implications, and attended a committee hearing on the topic. I also attended a Transportation Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials meeting regarding "Positive Train Control Implementation" in which Mr. Denham is the Chair. Through assisting with committee work, floor speeches, doing research for legislation, and meeting other staffers and collaborating with them, this transformational knowledge will translate directly into my classrooms. I have embraced the role of ambassador for the James Madison Foundation. Everywhere I go, whether it is grading A.P. U.S. history exams in Kentucky or attending a Gilder Lehrman, seminar in New York City, everyone will know about this incredible program. Being a Madison Senior Fellow and Congressional Fellow are badges of honor I will be able to carry with me for the rest of my life, and I would like to thank the Foundation and the Board of Trustees for these privileges. The investment you have made in my life has and will translate into the lives of the nearly 10,000 students who have had me as an instructor at both the collegiate and secondary levels in my 24 years of teaching. If the goal of the Foundation is for recipients to "have a unique opportunity to strengthen their research, writing, and analytical skills... and form professional ties that can significantly influence their career aspirations," then you have achieved this goal beyond all of my expectations."

Dr. McCoy then asked about the relationship between the Foundation and Ashland University – that the program must be a dream come true for the Foundation. What percentage of the Fellows are getting their degree at Ashland University? What is the relationship between the Foundation and Ashland University? Does the relationship concern you?

Mr. Larsen stated that the Foundation never gets involved in the process of the Fellows choosing their universities. If Fellow are struggling, the Foundation does suggest Ashland University as a possible choice. Some universities do not accept the Georgetown credit for the Summer Institute. It is being paid for and the Foundation wants those credits included in the degree program. The University of Wisconsin is doing the same thing. A degree earned in the summer is perfect for teachers. These are some of the complications faced by the Foundation.



Dr. Morrison continued that the Foundation does not handle the selection of the Fellows so as to avoid any incestuous implications you are hinting at Drew. Where the Fellows are doing their degree is not a factor. (NOTE – they must be earned at an accredited university or online program)

Dr. McCoy said he liked how Ashland combined the online teaching with face-to-face time.

Dr. Allgor complemented Dr. Morrison and mentioned a Montpelier program that was not a competition but it used to be all things Madison – a summer camp for professors which received a gift from David Rubenstein of \$10 million for the house and an archeological project on the slave quarters. Because they have moved from an ideas focus to a material focus, this has created an opportunity for the James Madison Memorial Fellowship to fill that gap.

Mr. Larsen mentioned that the Montpelier website shows James Madison as the underdog of the Founding Fathers. He said that the presidential homes are changing their focus – the Foundation is bringing them the greatest teachers and they are charging us more and more – are they about education or running a business?

Dr. Allgor discussed historic home missions and an intellectual shift – more of a material culture.

Mr. Larsen stated that the Foundation does have a relationship with David Rubenstein as the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation was created out of that subcommittee – the Decatur House of the White House Historical Society.

Senator Cardin mentioned that he was hosted at the Library of Congress at a broad-based focus event and it would be nice to get Rubenstein to realize the importance of the Madison program.

Mr. Larsen thanked the Senator for his support; that he enjoys his job and finds it a privilege to work at the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Board members had the opportunity to meet and have a photo taken with the Fellows from their state.

### **MEETING WITH MADISON FELLOWS**

The meeting adjourned to Senate Visitor's Center, Room 210 (the two rooms were adjoining so the divider was pushed open) and the Board members moved their seats to face the Fellows from the Summer Institute who were gathered to meet with the Board. Senator Cornyn addressed the Fellows and introduced each Board member before opening the floor for questions. Senator Cornyn and Senator Cardin were called away to Senate business and the remainder of the Board spent about an hour asking and responding to questions from the Fellows.

## MINUTES

*James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation*

*Board of Trustees' Meeting*

June 30, 2016- 8:30 A.M.

Senate Visitor's Center, Room 212

Senator John Cornyn called the Board meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Board members and principals present:

Senator John Cornyn, Chairman

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, Member (arrived after the Board meeting)

John B. King, Jr., Secretary of Education, Member

Dr. Drew McCoy, Member

David O. Bickart, Esq., Foundation's Legal Counsel

Foundation and Congressional Staff Members:

Lewis Larsen, President

Dr. Jeffry Morrison, Director of the Summer Institute

Claire M. Griffin, Director of Special Projects

Elizabeth G. Ray, Management and Program Analysis Officer

Sheila Osbourne, Academic Assistant

Jason McCray, Support Services Assistant

Michelle Chin, Legislative Assistant, Senator John M. Cornyn

Mike Thomas, Projects Director, Senator Benjamin L. Cardin

John Resendez, 2012 James Madison Fellow, California/2016 Congressional Fellow

Senator Cornyn welcomed President Larsen, the Madison staff, the congressional Fellow and Secretary John B. King, Jr. Since it was such a small group of Board members, Senator Cornyn was happy to enlist the help of Secretary King.

Senator Cornyn acknowledged the service of the Madison staff and motioned for the meeting to commence. Professor Drew McCoy motioned and Secretary King seconded the motion. Senator Cornyn turned to Lew for the President's report.

Mr. Larsen: Excited to have John as a Trustee and alumni Fellow.

Several big contracts were renewed – Georgetown and Scholarship America – both with five year contracts. Georgetown was happy to have us renew. Scholarship America reduced their contract costs as we signed with them for five years.

Majority leader, Kevin McCarthy is renewing funding for the We the People program under civic education which hasn't been funded in ten years. There is a strong desire to provide funding for a Madison center and to have the Foundation run the program. The Senator would like to be on the Foundation's Board.

Senator Cornyn – I will have Claire reach out to initiate the We the People program with Senator McCarthy on the Board and to reach out to Senator Lamar Alexander about funding for the We the People program.

Mr. Larsen – Senator Cornyn and Senator Cardin's terms are ending at the end of this year.

Senator Cornyn – would be great to get Senator McCarthy and Bobby Scott on the board – it will be reviewed.

Mr. Larsen – Tab 2 – Board of Trustee's chart – we haven't had members of Congress; Judge Hodges is finished at the end of the year. Judge Colloton is on the short list for the Supreme Court. Joe Manchin was our last governor. Pauline Maier passed away and Professor McCoy is serving a 2<sup>nd</sup> term on the Board.

Senator Cornyn – asked if Professor McCoy would consider a reappointment

Professor McCoy – Would reconsider except for the vetting process – FBI investigation he was told he had a very boring life; the process was straightforward with the Bush administration; with Obama, the White House it was more difficult; Pauline Maier complained – there is nothing about me that would embarrass the Board.

Mr. Larsen – Tab 3 - finance discussion – review of treasury bonds page; the Foundation goes to Treasury to buy bonds- premium price, do it because the cost ends up being the same; you pay a premium to get a higher interest rate – when that was done in the past, the Treasury called the bond and the Foundation lost 1 million dollars. Admiral and I went to the Treasury and were told they were taking it and could call it whenever they liked. I refuse to pay premiums or discounts and propose to you, Mr. Chairman that we get Mr. Bickart to review for the Board and to have permission to grant that the \$830,000 bond coming due in November be reinvested at market rate to help growth as we are stuck at 2% growth rate.

Senator Cornyn – You can get 5%? When would the Board need to approve the proposal? Please provide a written proposal to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Bickart – the reason the Fund was created was for investment purposes and the Fund only supports the Foundation. Otherwise the program might get wiped out. There is no legal reason that the James Madison Foundation can't grant funds to the James Madison Education Fund, Inc.

Senator Cornyn – will think about it; it should be put in a formal written resolution, we can read and understand for complete transparency.

Mr. Larsen – will put together a proposal with David Bickart. \$41,000.00 grant given back to the government – the principal is at the Fund. We pay for the James Madison Foundation and the James Madison Education Fund, Inc. to be audited by independent auditors which is not necessary as a government agency, in order to be as transparent as possible.

Senator Cornyn – that is smart.

Mr. Larsen – explained the 501 (c) 3 to Secretary King; Georgetown is predicting a leveling off – eventually out-pricing us – the solution is to have less Fellows attend for the same amount of money; Georgetown recognizes that they are out pricing themselves; some Fellows are taking loans, etc. You need to make costs affordable if you want Fellows to continue at your universities.

Secretary King – who is on the Fund Board?

Mr. Larsen introduced the staff – Admiral is President, I am Secretary, and Elizabeth Ray is Treasurer.

Senator Cornyn – does the money for the Fellows come from income or the principle?

Mr. Larsen - explained the Fund's establishment under Edelman. Don't want to touch principal, only awarded if funding is there; plead to Secretary King, if you have discretionary funds perhaps we could have privately funded monies

Senator Cornyn – Is Senator Alexander familiar with the program? It is a right fit for Senator Alexander.

Mr. Larsen – Can I have Board permission to meet with Senator Alexander's staff?

Senator Cornyn – without objection – Lew has permission/it is not managed by OMB – it is managed by the Fund Board – Claire can also help with that.

Mr. Bickart – OMB oversees our actions related to Congress.

Mr. Larsen – stronger this year than last but problems ahead

Senator Cornyn – You are right to be cautious.

Mr. Larsen – this is the reality – other foundations get appropriations; Truman, Albright and Udall

Senator Cornyn – let's not give up on it; we have the Secretary of Education and people with clout.

Mr. Larsen – highlighted the Foundation’s track record; we have a 95% success rate with our original endowment and the staff have not had a raise in years.

Mr. Bickart - the Foundation is very frugal

Senator Cornyn – small but effective

Mr. Larsen – Cuban Fellow report– Manuel and why he was chosen. We should only choose senior scholars who teach American history. Now we’ll take a minute to let Jeff talk about academics.

Dr. Morrison – Nice to meet you; we are in the midst of the Summer Institute – two weeks in with a near record number of Fellows – started with a private audience with Justice Kennedy – so we hit the ground running. We tried to get Justice Thomas but he was not available.

Mr. Larsen – it can be hard to get a Justice – a couple of them do not speak to large groups

Senator Cornyn – what about Justice Alito?

Mr. Larsen – he never does it

Dr. Morrison– Justice Thomas is staying despite rumors to the contrary; Summer Institute is going well – same faculty – stabilizing – continue to gel – Terri Halperin is the junior professor – there are three senior professors; for the James Madison Lecture – Professor Ed Lengel will be presenting – he does the Journal for American History, and is a George Washington scholar – working papers, digital editing. Professor Howard gave the Lecture last year – promised to be brief.

Mr. Larsen – the Fund donated \$167,000.00 to the Foundation; the Fund has gone up @\$700,000.00.

Mr. Larsen introduced John Resendez – working on the house side and teaching in southern California

John Resendez – thanked the Board and the staff

Congressional Fellow Statement:

*First, I would like to thank the entire James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation; the board and staff for allowing me to share my experiences today. I am honored to address such a distinguished group of public servants.*

*The James Madison Memorial Fellowship has not only been the greatest accomplishment of my career so far, but also one of the most profound personal growth journeys of my life; second only to becoming a husband and father.*

*When I applied for the Fellowship in 2011, I could not contain my excitement when imagining how winning this award would add to my professional prestige and also serve as a financial windfall. I put together the best application I could muster and hoped. When I received my rejection letter later that spring, I struggled to make sense of what happened. After a great deal of reflection and patient conversations with Foundation staff, I realized that my mindset was all wrong.*

James Madison Memorial Foundation Board Meeting  
June 30, 2016  
Room 212 – Capitol Visitors Center

*The James Madison Fellowship is not about prestige and a scholarship, it is about service to our local communities and our country **THROUGH** scholarship. In that spirit I applied again in 2012 and the proper reorientation of my outlook was rewarded by the Foundation, who honored me with membership into this elite family of educators.*

*My Masters journey, which ended in the spring of 2013 with a degree in Political Science from California State University, Fullerton, sharpened my reasoning, fed my intellectual curiosity and empowered me with the knowledge to guide my students through the constitutionally circumscribed process of improving our democracy.*

*As part of that Masters pursuit, I attended the Foundation's Summer Institute on the Constitution in the summer of 2012. When I arrived, I was inspired by the acumen of my colleagues and their commitment to the wellbeing of their students. The Fellows were supportive, not competitive, and the professors, which included Dr.'s Morrison and Dreisbach, challenged us to reach new intellectual heights. Fellows from that Institute still communicate, congregate and collaborate with each other, even to this day. Our experiences in lecture and discussion have been a model that I have since worked to replicate with my own students to prepare them for college and most importantly, public discourse.*

*My time at the institute was so profound that I worked for two years to come back as a Congressional Fellow, again enduring the sting of rejection in 2015. I have only been working in the office of Congressman Ami Bera of the CA-7<sup>th</sup> district for a couple of weeks, but I am happy to report that my service to the House of Representatives has been illuminating and the work substantive. While this position has drawn me out of my comfort zone in many ways, the Congressional Fellowship has also moved me toward my ultimate goal of attaining the real world experiences that are necessary to bridge the chasm between theory and practice for my students.*

*Much of what we teach about the American system at the secondary level is abstract. The messy application of concepts such as the Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances and Federalism, to name a few examples, are difficult for teenage minds to truly grasp without relevant real word examples of their application conveyed by experts and hands-on activities guided by skilled educators. The Senior Fellowship bestowed upon me skills that I have used to facilitate the understanding of fundamental Constitutional principles and I have already begun to develop lessons predicated on my work in the Congressional Fellowship that will scaffold the practical application of those principles for my students.*

*At the institute and in my Master's program, I gained more than knowledge, I gained perspective. Afterward, my confidence grew and the purpose of my work in the classroom clarified.*

*This opportunity has solidified my lifelong learning habits and reinforced my open and democratic classroom demeanor. I will never again be the teacher on high, imparting knowledge to my students below. In my classroom we are all learners, just at different stages, who must work together to make each other better. When my senior government class is over at the end of each school year, my students become my peers as they have the same capacity to impact society as I do, for better or worse. If that thought doesn't raise the stakes of my work, I don't know what will.*

*Along with my Foundation colleagues, I have spent years studying the Constitution and have hoped that my students and I could rise to the lofty standards set by the Framers. In this country we often ask what*

*the Framers intended when they wrote the various clauses of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights or what they might do if they had to make the same types of decisions our current politicians have to make. Whether you practice textualism, strict construction or loose construction, the saliency of the Constitution in our daily lives is undeniable. Thinking critically about the history that created our founding document and the history that has been created by it since its ratification is not merely an interesting intellectual exercise, it's an obligation to be taken seriously by every American citizen.*

*History is a store house of good and bad ideas. Our challenge is to explore the past, find the best ideas, and bring them to bear on current problems. It is likely, that our classes will be the final structured opportunity that our students will have to be engaged in the history and practice of the Constitution. We must make these precious experiences illuminating, engaging and practical. It is our duty as educators to use the study of history, government and politics to instill within our students the citizenship skills and passion for civic duty that is absolutely necessary for the continued prosperity of the American system. This is the only way we will have a chance to rise to the Framers standards and dare I say, exceed them.*

*Thank You*

Senator Cornyn – if you could author an amendment to the Constitution, what would it be?

John Resendez– clarification on the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment; our country needs some guidance

Senator Cornyn – article 5 – the idea of a current day constitutional convention of states

Secretary of Education – asked John – how has the fellowship helped you; how have you used your fellowship experiences in your classroom?

John Resendez – sharpened reasoning, means of inquiry, higher quality of discussions, civil discourse, practice in discussions, took risks in approaching Constitutional questions and more controversial subjects

Mr. Larsen – any other questions?

Secretary of Education – how has the fellowship evolved?

Mr. Larsen – initial and current/once/running program/teachers did what they said – they would do – studying in classroom; Fellows are educators; didn't go to law school – as to Secretary of Education – teaching in their community; special conferences; new president of NCSS is a Madison Fellow, proud of Madison fellowship; tell Fellows this is the most prestigious fellowship; your performance in the classroom; at Bill of Rights, National History Day – friend of ConSource, Civics Renewal Network, combining groups together; focus on fellowship; doing Constitutional videos – when Dr Maier died, we realized so many great professors are getting older and as they go, we lose that knowledge; trying to get Professor McCoy

Senator Cornyn – not a greater need than history teachers – a noble service

Mr. Larsen – the country is in turmoil/we have been well over a decade without an earmark

Senator Cornyn –want to talk to Senator Lamar Alexander about funding civic education

Secretary of Education – NCLB – need more focus on civic education

Meeting adjourned at 9:30

## **MEETING WITH MADISON FELLOWS**

The meeting adjourned to Senate Visitor's Center, Room 210 (the two rooms were adjoining so the divider was pushed open) and the Board members moved their seats to face the Fellows from the Summer Institute who were gathered to meet with the Board. Photos were taken with Board members and Fellows from their states. Senator Cornyn addressed the Fellows and introduced each Board member before opening the floor for questions. Senator Cornyn was called away to Senate business and Senator Cardin arrived as Senator Cornyn was leaving. The remainder of the Board spent about an hour asking and responding to questions from the Fellows.