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**RENEWING THE FOCUS ON ANDREW JACKSON****New name, new direction, new board members announced**

HERMITAGE, Tenn. (October 2, 2014) – After 125 years, the Ladies’ Hermitage Association is getting a new name, a national board of trustees and a new focus on America’s seventh president, Andrew Jackson.

The Association will now be called the Andrew Jackson Foundation and will add to the board nationally known figures like National Public Radio journalist Mara Liasson and two Pulitzer Prize winners, historian Jon Meacham and Charles Overby, former CEO of the Freedom Forum and the Newseum, and CedarStone Bank President Bob McDonald.

The changes to its name and board composition are part of a multiyear plan that will refocus attention and debate on Jackson and his presidency, on his relevance to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and on the historic site he called home, The Hermitage.

“Like Mount Vernon and Monticello, The Hermitage is a national treasure,” said Debby Patterson Koch, board regent. “Andrew Jackson’s presidency came at a pivotal time for a young America. We are developing new ways to explore his life and presidency at The Hermitage and in the historical discussion.”

“Andrew Jackson is one of our most important and least understood presidents,” said Jon Meacham. “He inspired Abraham Lincoln, and Harry Truman considered him one of the four most important presidents in the history of our nation. I am looking forward to being part of the Foundation and the effort to conduct a new national discussion on Jackson.”

The Hermitage CEO, Howard Kittell, says the expansion to a national board of directors is one of the first steps toward a new focus on Jackson and the facility.

“Andrew Jackson’s presidency was a watershed in the making of America,” Kittell said. “Any study of the early days of our country quite naturally brings one to The Hermitage, where we have preserved the facility much as it was in Jackson’s time. We have many exciting new plans for 2015, and I am grateful to have such a distinguished board to help lead us in the years ahead.”

The Hermitage is one of the oldest historic site museums in the United States and is a National Historic Landmark. The Tennessee State Building Commission has approved the Foundation’s revised and restated bylaws.

## **About The Hermitage**

The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, is one of the largest and most visited presidential homes in the United States. In 1856, the state of Tennessee purchased the property from the Jackson family, entrusting it to the Ladies' Hermitage Association in 1889 to operate as one of America's first historic site museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 30 historic buildings, including restored slave cabins. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as archaeology and the history of slavery have enhanced the experience of more than 180,000 annual visitors. For more information, visit [www.thehermitage.com](http://www.thehermitage.com).

## **2015 Andrew Jackson Foundation Board of Trustees**

### **New Members**

#### **Mara Liasson**

Liasson is the national political correspondent for National Public Radio, providing extensive coverage of politics and policy from Washington, D.C. During her tenure, she has covered six presidential elections and won the White House Correspondents Association's Merriman Smith Award for daily news coverage. Liasson also appears regularly on FOX News, as a panelist on "Special Report" with Brett Baier and "Fox News Sunday."

#### **Bob McDonald**

McDonald is president and chief executive officer of CedarStone Bank. A Nashville native, he currently serves as chairman of the board of trust of Cumberland University. He has also been chairman of United Way of Wilson County and chairman of the Lebanon/Wilson County Chamber of Commerce.

#### **Jon Meacham**

Meacham is an author, most recently of "Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power," a No. 1 New York Times best-seller. Meacham received the Pulitzer Prize for "American Lion," his best-selling 2008 biography of Andrew Jackson. Formerly editor of Newsweek, he now serves as executive editor and executive vice president of Random House and as a distinguished visiting professor of political science at Vanderbilt University and of history at The University of the South.

#### **Charles Overby**

Overby is an adjunct journalism instructor at Ole Miss and chairman of the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics at Ole Miss. For 22 years he was chief executive officer of the Freedom Forum, a nonpartisan foundation that educates people about the press and the First Amendment. He was CEO of the Newseum from 1997 to 2011 and supervised the building of the Newseum on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.

Continuing on the board are:

**Lin Howard Andrews**  
Community Volunteer

**Carol Daniels\***  
Director of Sales and Marketing  
Gannett/Leaf Chronicle

**Anne Davis, ex-officio**  
Managing Attorney  
Southern Environmental Law Center

**Vince Durnan**  
Director  
University School of Nashville

**Darrell S. Freeman**  
Founder and Executive Chairman  
Zycron, Inc.

**Cindy Garfield**  
Community Volunteer

**Charles K. Grant**  
Shareholder  
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell,  
& Berkowitz, PC

**Jason Hale, ex-officio**  
Assistant Attorney General  
State of Tennessee

**Debby Patterson Koch\***  
Finance and Administration  
State of Tennessee

**Gina Lodge\***  
Chief Executive Officer  
FSI

**Ashley McAnulty\***  
Vice President  
Stephens, Inc.

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Interim Director  
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**Kathy Nevill\***  
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**Emily J. Reynolds\***  
Former Secretary of the U.S. Senate

**Frances Spradley\***  
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McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations

\*Member of the Executive Committee

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