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# THE LANDMARK

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September/October 2018

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Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville  
P.O. Box 99, Annville, PA 17003

## ‘We would be glad to add some flowers’: Celebrating the life & legacy of Richard Franklin Charles (1931-2018)

President’s Message, by Michael Schroeder

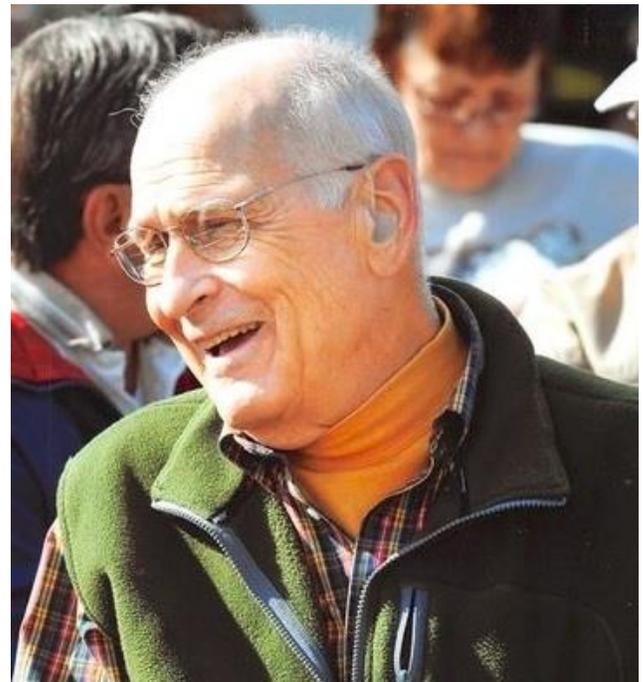
On Friday, September 20, 2002, Dick Charles, Vice President of the Annville Township Board of Commissioners, wrote a letter to a constituent on East Main Street regarding the Annville Streetscape Project. In a meeting the previous day, Dick got an earful from the man about the raft of inconveniences the project would cause him and his family – including his electrical cable & meter being moved from one corner of his house to another, and the trench to be dug in his backyard to bring electric service to an adjacent property.

Dick listened, negotiated a path forward, and the next day wrote the letter to put their agreement in writing. “The present construction activity is an inconvenience, I know,” he acknowledged. “We regret that the trenching will temporarily mar the appearance of your back yard. However, if you would desire, we would be glad not only to repair the trench with grass, but also add some flowers or shrubs in a way that would be pleasing to you.”

He concluded the letter by putting his constituent’s concerns in the bigger context of the well-being of Annville as a whole. “Your good citizenship and patience as the Streetscape is built is much appreciated, and I sincerely believe that we will all have a safer and more attractive Annville when it is complete.”

This letter, plucked from the cache of material that Dick Charles kindly donated to FOOA before his passing, perfectly captures the Dick Charles I came to know and respect. It shows a true public servant. A problem solver. Practical and empathetic. Reasonable and sensible. A skilled negotiator marked by decency and fair play. Willing to go the extra mile. Concerned with the common good. A genuinely good citizen.

We dedicate this issue of *The Landmark* to the life and legacy of Richard Franklin Charles (1931-2018). To celebrate that life and legacy, I reached out to people who’d worked with Dick over the years. What follows is a sampling of what they had to say.



**Erik Arneson** of Cornwall Borough, in an August 21 letter to the *Lebanon Daily News*, wrote that “Dick Charles was the model of a good citizen – determined, persistent, collaborative, and genuinely nice, a problem-solver who never gave up when presented with an obstacle. I am a better person for having known him.” I wrote to Erik to ask if he might elaborate, and he wrote back:

“I met Dick Charles about two decades ago. He was working to secure funding for the Annville streetscape project and I was state Senator Chip Brightbill’s chief of staff. It was immediately apparent that Dick was a consummate professional and a true gentleman. And perhaps most of all, indefatigable. Working on a project that required collaboration between multiple state agencies, local officials, local business owners, and college officials would exhaust just about anyone. It

seemed to give Dick more energy. The streetscape project wouldn't have happened without him. Many other people played key roles, but Dick held everything together. When delays happened, he managed them. When someone said 'no,' he convinced them to change their mind or found someone else to say 'yes.' Whatever happened, he made it work. Dick Charles was committed to his community. He is an example of the best of us, someone we would all do well to emulate."

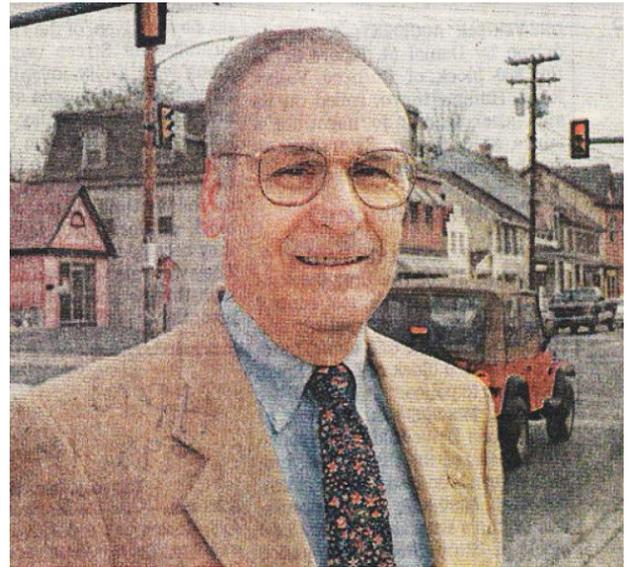
**Al Yingst** served for many years on the Annville Township Board of Commissioners. He was and remains a Republican. Dick, who also served as Township Commissioner for many years, was a Democrat. In 1990, Al asked Dick, then Vice President of Advancement at Lebanon Valley College, to head up the Greater Annville Committee, which he did for the next dozen and more years. In Al's telling, both he and Dick formed part of The Breakfast Club at Schwalm's in Cleona, which met five days a week through the 1990s and 2000s (a group that included, among others, John Synodinos, Greg Stanson, Bill McGill, Ron Spiese, and Jerry Chepolis).

"I had many good years with Dick, we were friends for many years and enjoyed each other's company," Al recalled. "What I most remember is Dick's desire to make Annville a better place for all, and his willingness to work to achieve that goal. He was always seeking advice & suggestions. I was more of a fiscal conservative, but we were in the same boat with the Township, pretty much on the same line. Oh sure, we had our political differences, but it never damaged our friendship."

**Kathy Moe** also served for many years on the Greater Annville Committee as its community representative. "Dick was always such a gentleman, always carefully considering what people were saying and trying to find a solution to whatever kind of problem arose," Kathy recalled. "He was a real problem solver, and a genuinely kind and caring man."

**Tanya Richter**, former FOOA President and longtime Annville resident and citizen-activist, expressed similar sentiments. "I just remember how Dick was wonderful to work with, he always listened and took seriously what you had to say, and he knew how to move things forward. He was persistent, that's for sure. A hard worker too, and just a genuinely nice man. Dick Charles represents the very best of Annville."

**Carol Hickey** of Hickey Architects worked with Dick on various projects in the 1990s and 2000s, including the Streetscape Project. "Oh my gosh, he was terrific!" she exclaimed when asked what she recalled about working with him. "His work on the Streetscape project was just amazing. Dick created the financial packages that made the projects work. He always respected and acknowledged everyone's design opinions and was



*Dick Charles, undated photo from the Harrisburg Patriot-News, ca. 1995.*

cooperative and engaged everyone, without compromising the project goals. It was a real pleasure to work with him. He was always willing to listen and understand other persons' or groups' concerns. He also had the stick-to-it-iveness we needed when people or issues would flare up, as they sometimes did. I have nothing but fond memories of working with Dick. He was so gracious and personable."

**Tom Hanrahan**, director of campus communications at Lebanon Valley College, also worked with Dick for many years on various projects. "Dick had an amazing work ethic, and his optimism and can-do attitude was contagious," as Tom was quoted in a front-page *Lebanon Daily News* story of August 21. "This was particularly evident through his work as the leading force seeing the Annville Streetscape Project to fruition, despite countless obstacles and naysayers. I think of Dick every time I walk down Main Street and realize his legacy."

**Jim Scott**, former Annville Township Commissioner and Dick's longtime friend, gets the last word here, as he was memorably quoted in the same front-page article:

"[LVC president John Synodinos] had a vision for the college and for the town. He understood that they thrived or failed together. He had that vision, and Dick Charles made that happen. He adopted Annville. He identified himself as a resident of Annville. He worked tirelessly to make downtown Annville happen, and for that he was rewarded by the confidence of the electorate which put him into office for four consecutive terms.

"They said of Caesar Augustus that he found Rome of brick and left it of marble. I've thought of Dick Charles in that vein, except I think he found Annville of mud and left it of brick."

# Annual Dinner Meeting

## Friends of Old Annville

**Saturday, November 10, at 6:00 PM**

Annville American Legion  
35 South Manheim Street in Annville

### Featured Presentation

## “Tales from the Trenches: Preserving Local History Records from Annville & Lebanon County”

With Dr. Adam T. Bentz, Archivist & Librarian, Lebanon County Historical Society

Also, Annual Business Meeting with Pictorial FOOA Retrospective of 2018

Wine and Cheese Mixer, Buffet Dinner by *Chef on the Go* (Rebecca Briody), Dessert, and  
Coffee

Cost: \$28 per person



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### Friends of Old Annville Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$28/person

Payment Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(payable to “FOOA”)

Mail this form and payment to: **Jill Palanzo, 515 East Main Street, Annville, PA 17003**

Deadline for reservations: **Wednesday, October 31, 2018**

**NOTE:** You can also make reservations online. Go to [www.fooa.org](http://www.fooa.org) and click the **DONATE** tab. Fill out the form, and in the “**Donate to**” box, select the option “**Annual Dinner**”. You can pay for the dinner with a credit card, but you must go through PayPal to do so. If you donate to the Annual Dinner as described, you will be registered for the dinner.

## BALLOT FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FRIENDS OF OLD ANNVILLE, INC.

The following individuals will appear on the ballot at the Annual Dinner Meeting to serve on the FOOA Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 term:

President . . . . .	Michael Schroeder
Vice President . . . . .	Doug Nyce
Secretary . . . . .	Tucker Hull
Interim Treasurer . . . . .	Kathy Moe
Member at Large . . . . .	Jim Gill
Member at Large . . . . .	Joerg Meindl

## FOOA Fall Program: “Videos of Remembrance”

Historic Annville Train Station, 155 N. Moyer St., Sunday, October 21 at 3:00 p.m.

We hope you can join us at the historic Annville Railroad Station for our Fall Program, **Videos of Remembrance**.

Over the past few years, students at Lebanon Valley College have created a series of videos about Annville history that include the founding of FOOA, the history of the Quittie Creek Nature Park, and how the move toward historic preservation in Annville began in the 1970s. The videos include photos of



historic figures and historic sites around town and many lively interviews with your friends and neighbors, all knowledgeable Annvillians. Other videos feature the top 20 historic homes of Annville as selected by the FOOA Board, and some 1932 footage of some areas around Annville, including the waterworks, a local covered bridge, the Bethlehem steel cinder banks, and the Union Canal.

In the 1890's, the Reading Railroad began passenger service to Annville by building the Annville Train Station on Railroad Street just east of Lebanon Valley College. The station was in operation from 1891 to 1969. It sat vacant until 1976. The station was dismantled and moved to New Cumberland for 22 years. In 1998 the station was sold to the Friends of Old Annville. Led by Blanche Schaeffer and Kathy Moe, FOOA raised the money to purchase, move, and reconstruct the Annville Train Station at 155 North Moyer Street on track-side land owned by Eagle Graphics Incorporated. FOOA, supported by a grant from the *Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development* and by donations from local citizens, rebuilt and restored the station to its original height and original appearance. The project was completed, and the station was officially re-opened in June 2000.

Enjoy apple cider and light snacks while watching historic videos, soaking in the beauty of the historic Annville Railroad Station, enjoying time with your friends & neighbors, and allowing your mind to drift back in time.

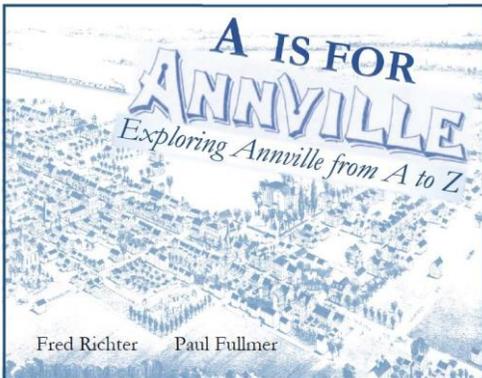
— Douglas L. Nyce, Liz Lingle and Owen Moe, FOOA Program Committee

**Candoris Volunteers  
 Help to Maintain the  
 Historic Annville Train Station  
 31 August 2018**



**Confronted with peeling paint, faded sealant, cracked caulk, and other ravages of time, volunteers from Candoris Technologies in Annville generously gave of their time & labor to spruce up the Old Train Station on a lovely late summer's day in August. FOOA extends its sincere gratitude to the Candoris volunteers!**

***A IS FOR ANNVILLE – THE PERFECT GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS!***



Looking for an educational gift for someone you love? Get some of your holiday shopping done now and enjoy a bit of Annville history with Fred Richter and Paul Fullmer's marvelous pictorial history book, *A is for Annville*. With its creative display of hundreds of photographs and dozens of thought provoking questions and activities, *A is for Annville* engages and educates children and adults of all ages.

This 80-page softcover book with color photos is available for \$18 per copy, or \$15 each for two or more copies (includes sales tax). Books may be picked up at 102 Locust Street in Annville, or, for an additional \$2 per order, copies will be delivered to addresses within five miles of Annville Township. Or, up to two books will be mailed any place in the contiguous 48 states for \$5 per order; add \$1 for each additional book mailed. All profits are donated to the Friends of Old Annville.



----- *A is for Annville Order Form* -----

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to FOOA.



**Box 99, Annville, PA 17003**

**Address Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lebanon, PA  
17042  
Permit No. 184

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Please note that your MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE can be found on the mailing label of this issue of *The Landmark*. Please send your dues and address change to Rachel Noll, 1673 Louser Road, Annville, PA, 17003-8856. Questions? Call Rachel at (717) 867-2137.

Individual & Student \$ 5.00    Family (2+ persons) \$ 10.00    Business \$ 25.00    Friend of FOOA \$ 50.00 ★  
Benefactor \$ 100.00 §    Founder ..... \$ 250 ❖

### **RENEWALS**

Mrs. John E. Albright  
The Baldwin-Dubin Family  
The Beazley Family §  
Frances S. Bova ★  
Mr. James K. Brandt  
Tim & Audrey Brandt  
Mr. Donald R. Brown  
Karl & Gloria Brown §  
M/M Delmar Cook  
Mrs. Jeanne DeLong  
Matt & Natalie Duvall  
M/M Michael Eschenfelder  
John E. Feather, Jr., DBA Feather &  
Feather Law Office §  
Jay A. & Maria Felty, DDS  
Helen L. Ferguson

Paul W.K. Freeland  
Sally A. Gentile  
M/M George Gerber  
M/M Frank Heilman  
Lucille L. Hemperly  
Mrs. Evelyn Hoffsmith  
Mrs. Gerald Hossler  
Carole Kline  
Susan Belmer Kollet-Harris  
Gordon & Joan Lehman  
Elizabeth Lingle ★  
Victoria Mattassa-Nuding  
Mr. Anthony Mattassa, Jr.  
Mrs. Eri Meyer  
Mrs. Berneice Miller  
Claire Moyer

M/M George Shuey  
Dr. Alice J. Strange  
Jay & Kim Kreider Umble  
David H. Wallace ★  
M/M William K. Watson  
M/M John Witmer  
Steve Yeakel §

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Ms. Linda R. Brandt  
M/M Ed Felty, DBA Allen Theater  
& Backstage Cafe  
Julie L. Hess ★  
Derrick & Katelyn Hilton