



GADSDEN GAZETTE

A quarterly newsletter for the Gadsden Chapter
New Mexico Sons of the American Revolution



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THE GADSDEN GAZETTE MAKES ITS DEBUT!

The goal of the Gazette is to keep you, the members of the Gadsden Chapter, up to date with the goings on of the chapter, state and national. First, I want to acknowledge past efforts made by others at trying to keep you informed. Most recently Don Williams with his periodic "Report to the Chapter". I will endeavor to continue his good work and want to thank him for all he has done and continues to do for this chapter.

Although the Gazette is intended to be a quarterly newsletter, this inaugural issue will cover the major news from January - May, 2023 and Issue 2 will be for the third quarter of 2023 which will include June.

Robert E. Vance - Editor

MAY 2023

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

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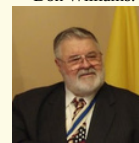
TJ VALLEJOS
shoutingtoast@gmail.com

This year has brought a lot of new changes to the chapter. We hit the road running and we haven't stopped yet. January saw the election of officers for the 2023 term, and we thank the team that led us in 2022.

(NOTE: As of 29 May, longtime secretary/treasurer Don Williams resigned his position. Bill Kinsella has been appointed secretary and Don Berger as treasurer. Help me thank Don W. for his past work and welcome Bill and Don B. in their new positions.)



Thanks to President William Baker and Secretary/Treasurer Don Williams.



CURRENT OFFICER TEAM



ROBERT E. VANCE
PRESIDENT



DAVE CURTISS
1ST VP
CHAPLAIN



BILL KINSELLA
SECRETARY



DON BERGER
TREASURER



BOB NORTHROP
GENEALOGIST

Meetings:
3rd Saturday of the month
Noon - 2:00 PM
(Subject to change)
No meetings July, August
Hacienda De Mesilla
1891 Avenida De Mesilla
Mesilla, NM

Thanks to Russ Wilson
www.rangercoin.com
and Don & Nancy
Berger for their work in
designing a new logo for
the chapter!

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President's Report



So many things have happened since the first of the year it is hard to decide what should be included in this Issue 1 of the Gazette.

I will begin by telling you it has been an honor to serve you for these short few months and look forward to see what we can accomplish together in the future.

Some goals that I set to try to accomplish during my term as president included developing a website for our chapter, exploring additional funding sources (more info on page #6), and recruiting other members for our chapter and state Color Guard. I also wanted to continue and expand my involvement at the state and national level in order to better serve you locally. More on these later.

It has been a very busy few months. First on my list of news to pass on is in regards to membership. Since January we have added 7 new members to our roster: TJ Vallejos, Bill Kinsella, John Hill, Shannon Franks, Greg Whited, Don Berger and William Myers. In addition Steve Graves transferred in from Texas. This is a much needed infusion of new blood many of these new members have been very active in chapter activities. Thank you!!! Also, we have 7 supplemental applications in the pipeline from our members. I want to encourage these new members to go to the National website (sar.org) and create an account in order to access the wide variety of materials available to members, ranging from our organizational manuals and forms to educational videos and more. If you need help with this please contact me or any other officer.

Several medals, awards and certificates have been presented, beginning in January with the Past President pin given to William Baker. Also in January we gave the Gadsden Medal to William's mother, Elsa, for her support to the chapter over the years. A certificate of appreciation was given to the Mesilla 1st responders for their assistance to one of our members. In April we presented the Gadsden Medal to Jeanne Kinsella and Sister Beth Daddio for their support to the community with a non-profit that provides clothing and other items to children in need. And in May we sent members out to high schools and universities to present ROTC and JROTC medals to deserving cadets. (See page #7)

In February we lost one of the pillars of our chapter and an important state officer, Andrew "Drew" Lyngar. He will be sorely missed. Our sister organization also suffered a sudden loss of one of their more active members and their chapter registrar, Carol McIntyre. Again, in May we lost another person who has been extremely supportive of this chapter for several years, that being Elsa Baker. Our chapter, the state and the community will be feeling these losses for years to come.

The New Mexico Society Color Guard is up and running, although membership is a little lean right now. The Color Guard handbook was completed and approved by the State BOM and has been posted on the state website. Hopefully we can grow the color guard in the future and start participating in different events around the state to showcase our society. (See page #8 for more info.)

Lastly, I want to encourage anyone who might have an interest, to get involved at the national level. The two big national events are the semiannual Leadership meetings held in Louisville, KY in the spring and fall and the annual Congress which is held in different states each year. I have attended each Leadership meeting since my application was approved and have thoroughly enjoyed my time spent there, networking with compatriots from all around the country. I have met so many great people and have made some lasting friendships. There are numerous committees available to join covering a wide variety of subjects, and they can always use the help. These leadership meetings are basically the workshops for the business of the society and congress is the business meeting where action is taken on the leadership work.

While both events are geared toward the business of the society, congress tries to offer a little more to those who attend. Congress last year was held in Savannah, GA and my wife and I had time to take in many of the sights around Savannah. This year's congress is going to be in Orlando, FL and a tour of the Kennedy Space Center is being offered to attendees. Registration just recently opened up and attendance is available to any member in good standing. While it might be too late for you to plan for Orlando, you can start planning for next year, to be held in Lancaster, PA. Once you attend one, you'll be looking forward to the next.

Remember, this is your Chapter and your society. Get involved and enjoy yourself at the same time.

Yours in service, Robert E. Vance

In Memorium



**USMC MGySgt. (Ret.)
ANDREW S. LYNGAR**

21 May 1935 - 18 Feb 2023

Andrew, or Drew as he preferred to be called, was born to Andrew and Marjorie Lyngar in Carthage, MO. After graduating from Western Military Academy in Illinois he went on to study Chemistry, Physics and Biology at Pittsburg State University in Kansas. He also earned Master of Business Administration in Finance at Rockhurst University in Missouri. He entered the USMC in 1955 and served for the next 34 years active and reserve obtaining the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. In addition to his military career, Drew worked in the Quality Control and Compliance area in the food industry until he retired.

Drew married the love of his life, Portia Mettscher in Joplin, MO in 1961 and were happily married for 54 years until her death in Feb 2014. He is survived by son Lance M. Lyngar and daughter Andrea S. Lyngar.

Drew joined the SAR in 2009 and served as past Gadsden Chapter President; New Mexico State President; Vice President General - Rocky Mountain District; New Mexico State Registrar and Trustee and served on several national committees.

On the 19th of May, Drew was interred, along with his wife, Portia, in the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery, where Portia's father and mother are interred.



**USAF Lt. Col. (Ret.) ELSA J. BAKER
26 APR 1944 - 12 MAY 2023**

Elsa Baker served in the USAF from 1965 to 1987 with stations all over the country. She worked as a finance officer and a budget officer, and had two tours in the Pentagon. One was as the budget analyst for the F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft programs and the other was as a branch chief for management of procurement appropriations.

Elsa retired in Las Cruces with her husband, Navy Capt. Walter F. Baker (past chapter member and SAR Minuteman), and their son William (current chapter member and past President). She also served as president, secretary and treasurer of several veteran organizations.

She did the concept design for the Veterans Memorial Park and served as park chairwoman on the Veterans Advisory Board for the city of Las Cruces.

Elsa assisted in the operation of the Veterans Resource and Referral Office in Las Cruces for eight years. She was also a member of the Vietnam War Memorial Committee and advocated for the annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event at Veterans Memorial Park.

Elsa has previously received the Profiles of Courage Award by the Vietnam Veterans of America; six national citations by the Military Order of the World Wars;

Elsa was interred in the Fort Bliss National Cemetery on the 24th of May where her late husband Capt. Walter Baker is interred.



By Birth Month

PS John Curtiss - 20 Jan 1739
 Dave Curtiss
 Pvt Stephen Northrup - 22 Jan 1759
 Robert E., James Northrup
 PS Nathan Lewis - 26 Jan 1707
 Dave Curtiss
 Pvt Isaac Newall - 31 Jan 1753
 Dave Curtiss
 Pvt Phillip Peter Baker - 26 Feb 1759
 Chris Lauderman
 Lt Col William Washington - 28 Feb 1752
 Harry Murray
 Brig Gen William Russell Sr - 4 Mar 1735
 Paul Voegeli
 Pvt Hugh Stephenson - 14 Mar 1743
 Bob Fike
 Pvt Henry Baugh - 4 Apr 1762
 Tom Rigsby
 Sgt John Rockett - 16 Apr 1761
 Robert E. Vance
 Pvt Gad Pomeroy - 22 Apr 1759
 Bob Sherman
 Sol John McCliman - 29 Apr 1756
 Timothy, Travis Howsman
 Pvt William Blakely - 12 May 1760
 Wayne Mitchell
 Pvt William Daniel - 12 May 1760
 TJ Vallejos

By Death Month

Maj John Moore - Jan 1809
 Bob Thum
 Brig Gen William Russell Sr - 14 Jan 1793
 Paul Voegeli
 Pvt Jonathan Warner - 14 Jan 1845
 Bob Northrup
 Sol Samuel Leidy - 27 Jan 1845
 George Richards
 PS Ratliff Boone - 2 Feb 1799
 Darin Rouse
 Pvt Thomas C. Jones - 5 Feb 1856
 John Hill
 Sol Herber Berger - 11 Feb 1815
 Don Berger
 Pvt Gad Pomeroy - 14 Feb 1834
 Bob Sherman
 Sgt Ebenezer Landers - 14 Feb 1846
 Russ Wilson
 Pvt David Vance - 28 Feb 1800
 Robert E., Paul Vance; James Lee
 Pvt Jesse White - 1 Mar 1839
 Tom, Jacob, Mathew Rigsby
 Lt Col William Washington - 6 Mar 1810
 Harry Murray
 Pvt Hugh Stephenson - 15 Mar 1822
 Bob Fike
 Surg David Holmes - 19 Mar 1779
 Bob Clark
 Gen Thomas Posey - 19 Mar 1818
 Paul Voegeli
 PS John Curtiss - 25 Mar 1801
 Dave Curtiss
 Pvt Bull Ambrose - 27 Mar 1789
 Patrick Peck
 PS Bernardo P.J. Miera Y Pacheco - 11 Apr 1785
 Bill Kinsella

Remembering Our Patriots



By Death Month (Cont.)

Pvt William Daniel - 13 Apr 1855
 TJ Vallejos
 Pvt Elijah Fenton - 17 Apr 1776
 Dave Curtiss
 Pvt Jacob Alter - 18 Apr 1814
 Warren Alter

By Death Month (Cont.)

Maj George W. Thornton - 30 Apr 1781
 Paul Voegeli
 Pvt Phillip Peter Baker - 2 May 1837
 Chris Lauderman
 Pvt John Anderson - 11 May 1807
 William Rice
 Sgt John Rockett - 11 May 1848
 Robert Vance
 Pvt William Blakely - 12 May 1847
 Wayne Mitchell

Unknown Month

Lt Alexander McClellan - 1762-1824
 Jim Libbin
 PS William McClure - 1757-1814
 Tom Rigsby
 Pvt William Patterson - 1728-1791
 Eric Randler
 Pvt Phillip Stickleman - 1758-1845
 Carl, Don Connor
 PS John Stryker - 1724-1795
 Greg Whited
 Pvt William H. Taulbe - 1748-1839
 Tom Rigsby

Chaplain's Corner

I recently calculated that at age 76, around 85% of my life has been spent and I probably only have about 15% left, i.e. the gas gauge is about to hit the "low on fuel" indicator! That caused me to notice a poem written by Parker J. Palmer that is entitled "Everything Falls Away". Palmer's point is that we follow a thread throughout life. Much of life changes but the overall thread doesn't change. Here is his poem:

Everything Falls Away

There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. William Stafford
 Sooner or later, everything falls away. You, the work you've done, your successes, large and small, your failures too. Those moments when you were light, alongside the times you became one with the night. The friends, the people you loved who loved you, those who might have wished you ill, none of this is forever. All of it is soon to go, or going, or long gone. Everything falls away, except the thread you've followed, unknowingly, all along. The thread that strings together all you've been and done, the thread you didn't know you were tracking until, toward the end, you see that the thread is what stays as everything else falls away.

Follow that thread as far as you can and you'll find that it does not end, but weaves into the unimaginable vastness of life. Your life never was the solo turn it seemed to be. It was always part of the great weave of nature and humanity, an immensity we come to know only as we follow our own small threads to the place where they merge with the boundless whole.

Each of our threads runs its course, then joins in life together. This magnificent tapestry - this masterpiece in which we live forever.
 Parker J. Palmer

This feels so very true with one possible upgrade. As Christians we perceive another common thread that runs throughout the bible, from Genesis to Revelation, It is the story of God's plan, of his interaction with mankind before Jesus, with Jesus and after Jesus. Our lives intermingle within that thread whether we are aware of it or not. And my life has intermingled with it for over 76 years! I can't wait to experience the rest of the story.

Chaplain Allen



*Dave Curtiss
 Gadsden Chapter
 Chaplain*

Revolutionary War History

George Washington and French Involvement in the Revolution *By Robert E. Vance*

When someone mentions the name of George Washington the first thing that comes to mind is that of either our first president or General of the Continental Army. But did you know that before the revolution he was a British officer and his actions in that role had a major impact on France's decision to assist the colonies against Britain.



COL George Washington of the Virginia Regiment

George Washington's military experience began in the French and Indian war with a commission as a major in the militia of the British Province of Virginia. In 1753 he was sent as an ambassador from the British crown to the French officials as far north as present-day Erie, PA. Later that year he led another expedition to the area to assist in the construction of a fort at present-day Pittsburgh, PA.



The "Half King" Tanacharison

On May 28, 1754, a group of British soldiers and Mingo warriors approached the encampment of French Ensign Joseph Coulon de Jumonville. The man leading the British Forces was 22 year old Washington - who, despite being a LT COL of the Virginia Regiment, had never seen combat. In contrast, the leader of the Mingo was Tanacharison, the "Half King", experienced warrior and statesman in his mid 50's. Given that the Ohio Valley was a contested area not just between Britain and France, but also between multiple Native nations, Tanacharison may have had strong motivation for Britain to advance to war. Some think that he manipulates and exploits the situation and maneuvers Washington into a conflict with the French that Washington had no business sparking.

Upon reaching Jumonville's camp, they attacked, killing Jumonville and several of his soldiers. While the question of who fired first remains in dispute, according to one Mingo warrior, it was Washington himself. In the aftermath, the French accused Washington of having led an unprovoked attack against the French during peacetime. Technically, the skirmish was a military victory for Washington - but a diplomatic loss. The fact that he had attacked France, a country with which Britain was not at war, gave France a huge propaganda advantage.

The French retaliated at the Battle of Fort Necessity and unlike Jumonville, it was a military and diplomatic disaster for Washington. On July 3, the French, Huron, Odawa and Iroquois fighters overwhelmed Washington's men, ultimately forcing their surrender. The terms included, unbeknownst to Washington due to poor translation, that he take responsibility for the assassination of Jumonville.

After 9 years the French and Indian war ended in 1763 with France's expulsion from the Ohio River valley and its ceding all of its territories in modern day Canada to Britain.

It was during this conflict that Washington learned some valuable lessons. He gained a strong understanding of military organization and logistics and also observed British tactics from the inside. In addition, he learned the hard way, that winning any war in the colonies would require Native allies.



General George Washington

Fast forward to the end of 1775, the Americans were irrevocably engaged in an all-out struggle for complete independence from Britain. The Continental Congress had set up the Committee of Secret Correspondence and had designated Arthur Lee as its agent in London.

Here enters a man, well known in France as a highly popular dramatist, playwright, entrepreneur and spy, Pierre August Caron de Beaumarchais.



Beaumarchais

Almost from the ending of the French and Indian war in 1763, France began working on plans to regain what they had lost. The role Beaumarchais was playing in London in the summer of 1775 was that of secret agent for Louis XVI. Lee and Beaumarchais began serious discussions of the possibilities for French aid. After continued pleas for assistance by Lee and with reasoned and impassioned arguments for French interventions most of the French cabinet was won over. It was agreed that assistance would be given to the Americans, but not with the intent that they would be victorious in their war with Britain, but until the French armed forces were strengthened to the point of being able to deal effectively with the British in open warfare. France would be careful to maintain a sufficient semblance of neutrality. Beaumarchais was summoned from London and told to immediately submit a plan for clandestine assistance to the American cause. (So in spite of Washington's role in defeating and humiliating France in the previous conflict, he would receive French assistance in this conflict).

To maintain the semblance of neutrality, officially the French government would have no part in this plan. Beaumarchais was to set up a cover firm for which he would assume all risks. As initial capital, he received a loan of one million livres. He had been in discussions with Spain as to the benefits to them in this endeavor and received another million from the Bourbon crown in Madrid. He then raised another two million by selling stock to his personal business acquaintances and friends. With this he would purchase from French arsenals such supplies - guns, powder, muskets, shoes, clothing - as might be needed. He charged Congress a reasonable price for what he delivered and accepted payment in tobacco, rice, indigo and cotton, which he would be able to market in Europe. By the end of 1776 he had collected 200 field pieces, 300,000 muskets, 100 tons of powder, 3,000 tents and large amounts of ammunition. He also has a blanket, a pair of shoes, and two pairs of wool stockings for each of 30,000 men along with other misc. items. The first shipment, having eluded the British, arrived at Portsmouth, NH in April. They were delivered to the northern army under Horatio Gates, and there can be little doubt that they were vital to the success of his campaign against Burgoyne the following autumn. Thus it could be said that Beaumarchais had provided the means which brought France completely and overtly to the aid of the infant republic.

References:

- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/when-young-george-washington-started-war-180973076/>
- <https://www.history.com/news/george-washington-french-indian-war-jumonville>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington_in_the_French_and_Indian_War
- <https://www.cia.gov/static/27a5b4a0e2c146897adff5415ab24835/Beaumarchais-and-American-Revolution.pdf>



**GADSDEN
CHAPTER
WEBSITE
GOES ONLINE!**

GREETINGS COMPATRIOTS!

The website is up and running! Some growing pains, but nothing that couldn't be worked out. I highly encourage you to check the website and let me know your thoughts! Special thanks to Don Berger for his logo design!

<https://www.gadsdenmsar.org/>

Here is just a general overview of the website. There is an About Us with some History of the Chapter (Still in the works, as of this writing), Chapter Officers, Donations, and Contact page.

There is a membership page that helps visitors apply to the organization that forwards to the National SAR. There are helpful links to assist them in their genealogical quest.

Updates have an Awards section and memorial page for passed compatriots (Thank you, Robert Northrup!)

One section I am incredibly proud of is the Additional Resources. Here you will find valuable websites, forms, and publications for members, such as the By-laws, NMSAR Handbook, and Color Guard Handbook. This is for you as a one-stop shop for documents. More will be added as they become available. We will have an archive of the newsletters as they are published and an Apps page for people who want to incorporate their smartphone and instructions for Family Tree.

If there are documents you would like incorporated, useful tools or websites that helped you and can assist future members in joining our organization, or just general suggestions, don't hesitate to contact me, and I will see them added! You can contact me via the Contacts page or by email at shoutingtoast@gmail.com

TJ Vallejos - Gadsden Webmaster

FUNDRAISING

As you know, our chapter dues are only \$10 per year and that is our primary source of revenue. I anticipate that our roster will hit about 50 members this year. Even with that modest increase in membership, our funds will not go far and we are very limited in the programs that we can support. One such program is the public service, heroism and life saving medals we present. These medals, certificates and folders run about \$40 and last year we presented 11, which ate up most of our dues revenue for the year. This year I plan on asking the state BOM to reimburse the cost of these medals, as is done for the ROTC program, but if that request is denied it will have a serious impact on our budget. So as you can see, we need to come up with additional sources of revenue. Any suggestions or ideas would help. Contact Don Berger.



In March, Don Berger was appointed to chair our new fundraising committee. He has been hard at work trying to solicit donations and kicking around some ideas for fundraising. We also determined that the companion coin to the Gadsden Medal would be our "Chapter Coin", we have sold about half of our first order and still have some available to members at \$10 each. These started off our fundraising campaign and now with our new logo we are exploring building a line of chapter merchandise, such as cups, hats, shirts etc. Once we develop these items they will be made available at the chapter meetings or possibly on the website, once logistical details are ironed out.



Gadsden Medal Companion Coin

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Don Connor - Apr 5



Paul Hunsberger - Jan 17

Patrick Peck - Jan 24

Tim Howsman - Mar 7

Travis Howsman - Mar 7

Paul Voegeli - May 17



Gary Campbell - Jan 26



Russ Wilson - 8 Jan

Bennett Dials - 12 Jan

Greg Ivey - 14 Jan

Wayne Mitchell - 14 Jan

Harry Murray - 14 Jan

Bob Sherman - 21 Jan

Don M. Williams - 24 Jan

Robert Middleton - 4 Feb

Timothy Howsman - 15 Feb

George Dials - 22 Feb

Eric Randler - 27 Feb

Travis Howsman - 7 Mar

William Rice - 11 Mar

Carl Connor - 12 Mar

Jacob Riggsby - 15 Mar

Roger Dombrowski - 2 Apr

Chris Lauderman - 3 Apr

Bill Dials - 12 Apr

Darin Rouse - 22 Apr

Tom Riggsby - 26 Apr

Bill Kinsella - 1 May

Dave Curtiss - 3 May

Warren Alter - 7 May

Robert E. Vance - 11 May

Don Berger - 25 May

Don E. Williams - 29 May

To foster the principle of the "citizen-soldier" exemplified by the Minutemen of the Revolutionary War days



R
O
T
C



J
R
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C

This year, the Gadsden chapter again presented 14 medals.
3 Silver ROTC and 11 Bronze JROTC, including one sent to Alconbury Middle HS in England.



NMSU
27 APR 2023
JORDAN SAENZ
BILL KINSELL
EDGAR CORRAL

SILVER

NMMI
12 MAY 2023
ROBERT E. VANCE
JOSUE MARTINEZ



BRONZE



ORGAN MOUNTAIN HS
27 APR 2023
BILL KINSELLA
IVAN WINNER



MAYFIELD HS
20 APR 2023
ERNESTO NEVAREZ
BILL KINSELLA



SANTA TERESA HS
02 MAY 2023
DANTE FLORES
DON BERGER



HOT SPRINGS HS
19 APR 2023
STEVE GRAVES
ELI ROZMIAREK



ALAMOGORDO HS
12 MAY 2023
ROBERT E. VANCE
NYELSON CASTILLO



CLOVIS HS
05 MAY 2023
ROBERT E. VANCE
JOEL TROCEL



NMMI
12 MAY 2023
ROBERT E. VANCE
SAMUEL PETERSON

LAS CRUCES HS
04 APR 2023
TREVIOUS GEORGE
BILL KINSELLA

GADSDEN HS
11 MAY 2023
MARTIN GARCIA
TJ VALLEJOS

DEMING HS
16 MAY 2023
ZECHARIAH TEAGUE-SMITH
LTC TODD MOULTRIE

ALCONBURY MIDDLE HS
BENJAMIN WILSON
COL JOHN PARDO

NOT PICTURED

Color Guard

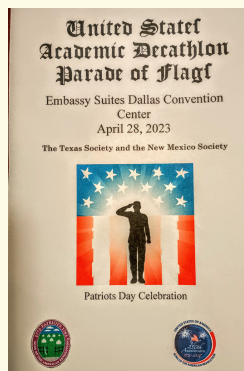
The NM color guard has been inactive for several years. After attending my first leadership meeting last year, I decided to try and resurrect the guard. Since then, I represented the chapter at the Veterans Day Parade in Las Cruces and have represented NM at events in Texas and at Leadership and Congress. There is some interest from a couple of members with Gadsden and one from the Albuquerque chapter, but we need help. Anyone who might be interested, please contact me. *Robert E. Vance - New Mexico Color Guard Commander*



**Washington's Birthday Celebration
Laredo, Tx - 18 Feb 2023**



**National High School
Academic Decathlon
Frisco, TX
28 Apr 2023**





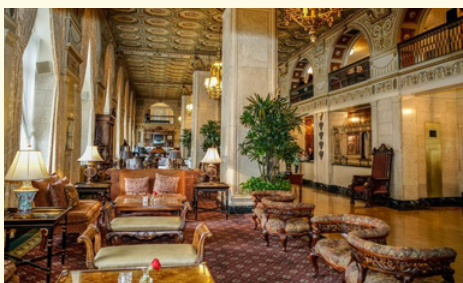
NSSAR AFFAIRS



Spring Leadership Louisville, KY March 2 - 4, 2023



Leadership meetings are held semiannually at the Brown Hotel in historic downtown Louisville, Kentucky, 335 W. Broadway. Built in 1923, the elegance and old charm of this hotel surrounds you and takes you back in time.



It is a short distance from NSSAR headquarters at 809 W. Main St.



A stay at the Brown is worth the trip by itself. Attending to the business of the Society and meeting compatriots from around the country is a perk.

Leadership meetings are where business of the Society gets done, with the majority of it happening on one day, Friday. With so many committees, the meeting times overlap for most of them, making it difficult or impossible to attend all you might be interested in. But in this day and time many of the committees augment their in person meetings with Zoom meetings throughout the year. So if you have an interest in participating and helping with any of the committees listed in the members section of the SAR website inquire about joining, although you do not need to be a member of any committee in order to sit in on the proceedings.

Some of the information I gathered from this spring meeting follows.

Started off with a state secretary/registrar roundtable hosted by national registrar Jon Toon and executive director Todd Bale. They noted that for the first time in 8 years, all reconciliation reports were submitted prior to March 1st. Also noted was that there is some training available on the national website in the E-learning tab.

The medals and awards committee discussed a new color guard medal for any child (membership not necessary) 18 and under that marches with a color guard at any event.

Genealogy committee items of note: The time to review new applications is down to about 13 weeks with an approval rate of 74% and supplementals are 25 weeks with a 78% approval rate. Staff is working diligently to improve those numbers. There is a change to the DNA policy to expand beyond GENS 2-3, provided that the DNA proof argument is prepared by a board-certified genealogist with DNA specialization. There are currently 17 genealogists recognized by NSSAR.

(Genealogy Cont.)

Another item of note is a proposal to submit to the medals and awards committee a new "Members" neck ribbon. Currently supplemental stars can be worn on the blue, buff and white neck ribbon, which can only be worn once a member has held an officer position. This ribbon will be re-named "Officer Neck Ribbon". The proposed will be named "Member Neck Ribbon" and only the full size SAR member badge and supplemental stars will be allowed on this ribbon.

The nominating committee presented names for General Officer positions up for election at Congress in July, including John Todd - PG; Gary O. Green - Genealogist General; Brooks Lyles - Historian General. Also Minuteman nominations include current color guard adjutant Ken Goodson and past color guard commander Lou Raborg.

Trustees meeting:

There is a proposal to increase national dues. This will be voted on at congress in July and if approved will take effect January 2024. The proposed increase is \$15, from \$35 to \$50. Historical increases are: 2003, \$20-\$25; 2010, \$25-\$30; and 2015 \$30-\$35. Budget year 2022 shows a deficit of \$292,000. Shortfalls are in collected dues and fees which were based on projected growth that isn't being met. From 2018 to 2022 growth basically flatlined with a modest increase of only 3000 members in 5 years. In addition, purchasing power of the dollar is down 29% since 2015. 2023 is budgeted at breakeven yet looking at a \$97,000 deficit. If nothing is done the deficit will increase to \$431,000 by 2026. The impact of the current deficit means no new genealogy staff and proposed IT project will be put on hold.