



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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Volume 10, Issue 6

September, 2010



Led by the Fifes and Drums of Prince William III and the VASSAR Color Guard, George Washington Chapter members and friends march up Mount Vernon's Bowling Green on their way to the Independence Day Wreath-Laying Ceremony at General Washington's Tomb.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Our Chapter will resume its regular meeting schedule on **September 18** at our usual venue, the Belle Haven Country Club. **Note that this meeting is NOT on our regular "second Saturday" schedule.** The schedule has been changed for this meeting to accommodate the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting which will be held in Winchester on September 10-11. The Semi-Annual Meeting will be held at Winchester's Hilton Garden Inn. Details, including the agenda and registration forms are available on the VASSAR web site which can be reached via a link on our Chapter web site at gwsar.org. Cut-off date for registration is

September 1. We hope that many Chapter members will be able to participate in the Semi-Annual Meeting.

We also hope for a good turn-out for our Chapter meeting on September 18. Dr. Christopher Klemek has been engaged to fill the guest speaker spot. We expect him to discuss Revolutionary War era settlements along the east coast with emphasis on the mid-Atlantic and New England regions.

Dr. Klemek is an assistant professor of history at George Washington University, and splits his time between New York City and the District of Columbia. He earned his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania, having previously attended Ohio State University, the University of Hamburg, and the Free University of

Berlin. Dr. Klemek's doctoral thesis received the best dissertation prize from the Urban History Association in 2005. He was named visiting scholar at the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in Cambridge.

With sponsorship from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Municipal Art Society of New York, Dr. Klemek co-curated the accompanying publication, *Block by Block: Jane Jacobs and the Future of New York* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2008). His forthcoming book, *Urbanism as Reform: Modernist Planning and the Crisis of Urbana Liberalism in Europe and North America, 1945-1975*, will be published by the University of Chicago Press.

Please join us for what promises to be a very interesting discussion. The usual reservation form will be found at the end of this newsletter.

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Appointment of a Nominating Committee

BYLAW No.12, Section 4, reads as follows: "The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the membership no later than the seventh regular meeting of the chapter. This committee shall consist of three members including two past Presidents. The Nominating Committee shall report to the Chapter at the regular meeting immediately preceding the annual meeting."

Based on the above, the nominations for the Nominating Committee must be made and voted on no later than our October 9 meeting. Therefore, Chapter members are asked to submit names of those they would wish to serve on the Nominating Committee to the Chapter Secretary, Don Kellerman at aced9@cox.net or call him at 703-768-2442. The Nominating Committee will develop the 2011 slate of officers to be voted on at the November 13 meeting. The newly elected officers will be installed by the VASSAR President at the December 11 meeting.

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President's Column

Dear Fellow Compatriots:

Over the past three months your Chapter has been very involved in local, state and national SAR events. They will have participated in over nine events before we commence our fall and winter meetings on September 18.

During the month of May, Paul Wagoner, ROTC Awards Chairman presented a number of awards to JROTC units - see separate article. On May 15th Vice President Paul Briggs, his wife Gina and Ray and Reba Hawn attended VASSAR's "Presidential Initiative" event, the marking and dedication of a plaque near Raphine, Virginia. This event honored 24 Revolutionary War soldiers and 24 soldiers of the War of 1812. On May 31, the Chapter fielded a large contingent of Compatriots and friends to march in the National Memorial Day Parade. Thanks to everyone who attended.

June was not only an extremely hot month, it was very busy as well. On June 18 and 19, Vice President Briggs and Gina attended the first ever SAR sponsored Annual Conference on the American Revolution at West Point, New York. On June 20th the Chapter sponsored a multi-chapter baseball game – see article below. On June 24 through July 1, Julia and I attended our first national congress, SAR's 120th National Congress, in Cleveland, Ohio. More on that later.

On June 19th in a very hot hollow in the mountains near Jollett, Virginia, Don and Nancy Kellerman and Julia and I attended the marking of the grave of Jacob Smith at the Jollett Cemetery. This event was sponsored by the Fort Harrison Chapter SAR and Massanutton Chapter DAR. The ceremony was attended by over 225 descendants of Jacob Smith. VASSAR and DAR were both well represented.

On July 4th, the Chapter conducted the 49th Wreath-Laying at George Washington's Tomb and participated in swearing in 101 new US Citizens at Mount Vernon. Details on page 3, below.

On August 12, Julia and I traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to attend the 2010 NSSAR Atlantic Middle States Conference. Here we renewed friendships with many compatriots and their wives we had met and enjoyed at the 120th Congress in Cleveland. The purpose of the conference was to receive reports from the nine state societies that make up the SAR Atlantic Middle States and to conduct a "Candidates Forum" at which all individuals running for National office made their pitches. Subsequently, a vote was taken to determine which candidates would be indorsed by the Atlantic Middle States Conference in the election of National officers for

2011. See VASSAR President Bowen's report on page 7, below. This process will be conducted in all 15 regions before the 121st Congress that will be held in Winston Salem, North Carolina, next year. Each of you should plan to attend. It is a once in a lifetime experience -- one Julia and I very much enjoyed.

During the last week in August, we will be sending out the dues statements for 2011. Please be on the lookout for your statement and return it with your payment as soon as you can. All dues must be received no later than December 1, 2010.

On September 10 and 11, the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting will be held in Winchester. As many of you as can should plan to attend. The main meeting is held on Saturday and you could easily drive to Winchester and attend the meeting. Check the VASSAR web page for details and a schedule of events.

The first meeting of the Chapter for the fall season will take place on September 18th, a week later than our normal meeting date. Do not miss this meeting. We will induct at least nine new members and pass out a number of certificates and awards.

Lastly, the NSSAR Fall Leadership meeting will be held on September 23, 24 and 25th in Louisville, Kentucky. Julia and I plan to attend and invite each of you to come along.

We have a very busy fall season ahead of us and I encourage each of you to get involved with the chapter activities. We need a chairman for the Fire and Safety Committee and the Graves Marking Committee. If you are interested, please contact me or any member of the BOM.

Hope everyone has enjoyed a safe and happy summer and I look forward to seeing each of you on September 18.

Faternally,

Bob Carr
President/Registrar

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George Washington Chapter Celebrates its 49th Annual Independence Day Wreath Laying at General Washington's Tomb

On Independence Day, Chapter members and guests gathered at George Washington's Mount Vernon to honor the Chapter's namesake by presenting a wreath at the General's Tomb. This was

the Chapter's 49th consecutive performance of this traditional ceremony. Compatriots and family members, led by musicians from the Fifes and Drums of Prince William III, the VASSAR Color Guard and Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from the Colonial District, BSA (Doug Brisson, Commissioner), paraded through the Bowling Green to the Tomb. At the Bowling Green, many Mount Vernon guests joined the parade.

In the quiet glade near the Tomb the assembled crowd was treated to an oration by Ms. Rebecca Tamiru.



That talented young woman is this year's George Washington Chapter Oration Contest Winner. She later became 2nd runner-up in the VASSAR Oration Contest. Her flawless recitation of the award-winning oration was very well received.



At the Tomb's entrance, Chapter President Bob Carr introduced Compatriots Don Baldwin and Robert Wine-land, who served as wreath bearers

for the presentation of the wreath.

Don Baldwin is a Past President of both the Chapter and VASSAR. Robert Wineland served our Armed Forces as a surgical technician during World War II.

Compatriots and guests completed the ceremony by laying red carnations at the foot of Washington's sarcophagus. Boy Scouts assisted in this ceremony by distributing the carnations to the long line of participants.

Following the wreath-laying ceremony, 101 immigrants representing 45 different countries were welcomed as new citizens of the United States in a ceremony conducted on the Bowling Green. At this ceremony, the Colors were presented by the VASSAR Color Guard and Chapter President Carr introduced Marine Lance Corporal John Carlos Ordonez.



Lance Corporal Ordonez, a member of the group that received citizenship at this ceremony, led the new citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**120th Annual Congress
Sons of the American Revolution
Cleveland, Ohio**

On June 24, Julia and I drove to Cleveland, Ohio, to attend the 120th Annual Congress which was

held from Saturday, June 26, through Wednesday, June 30. We arrived a day early because on Friday, June 25, there was a seminar on Genealogy and a workshop on color guards that we wanted to attend. Brent Morgan, the VASSAR Registrar, conducted the genealogy seminar. Most interesting was the discussion on the provision of a letter with an application that may be questionable to the NSSAR genealogist without such a letter – IE: Preponderance of Evidence. The Color Guard workshop provided good information on organizing color guards at the chapter and state level.

Saturday was the first official day of the Congress and was devoted primarily to registration and the Host Societies reception. On Sunday things started to get serious and we attended the newsletter seminar, First Time Attendee orientation, Memorial Service for Compatriots that died during the past year, First Ladies Reception for the wives, and the most exciting event - - the finals of the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations Contest, at which the Virginia contestant won the National Championship.

On Monday, the formal opening of Congress was held at which all attendees were greeted and the rules of the 120th Congress were adopted. Following was a Special Presentation and Recognition of Gifts where the PG called for the presentation of gifts from societies, chapters and individuals. The remainder of the morning and afternoon business session consisted of General Officer reports and committee reports.

At a special luncheon on Monday, youth awards were presented for the Americanism Poster Contest, Children of the American Revolution Presentation, Outstanding JROTC Cadet, Knight Essay Contest, Rumbaugh Oration Contest and Eagle Scout Award. This was a most impressive group of young men and women and they made your chest swell with pride.

Monday evening was Recognition Night at which ceremonies were held to honor compatriots, chapters and state societies for having rendered outstanding service to the National Society during the year. Our Past President The Honorable David Walker received recognition.

Tuesday morning, we attended the Atlantic Middle States breakfast meeting at which President General Elect Sympton spoke to the group and discussed his goal for his term as PG. Following the

breakfast, the second session of the Congress was convened with the presentation of gifts and then continued with committee reports. Upon completion of the committee reports, candidates for General Officers of the National Society were nominated and the final report of the Credentials Committee was submitted. There was no afternoon session as it was devoted to Council Meetings and Huddles.

Tuesday night was the outgoing President General's banquet at which our State President was the Master of Ceremonies. He made us all proud.



Eight chapters received the Tomb of the Unknowns
2010 Streamer

During the presentation of the President General's awards, the George Washington Chapter, along with all other chapters that participated in PG Ed Butler's wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, received the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery, 2010 streamer.

On Wednesday, the final session of the Congress was held at which the election of Vice President Generals, National Trustees and General Officers was conducted. The remainder of the day was devoted to meetings by the new leadership. On Wednesday evening the installation banquet for the new General Officers, and Vice President Generals and President General were held. Most impressive was the George Washington Ring ceremony at which the new President General received the replica of George Washington's ring.

Thursday morning was spent saying good byes to those wonderful friends we met while in Cleveland

and Julia and I were glad to be on our way back to Alexandria.

This was a great experience for the both of us. You really learn what SAR is all about and you gain a whole new perspective on the Society. I would encourage each of you to experience it at least once while in SAR. Don't wait until you are too old to walk a lot and enjoy the city in which the meeting is held. Go while you are young and vigorous. We will be going to Louisville in September to the Leadership Conference/Trustee Meeting and plan to attend the 121st Congress in Winston Salem next year. Please come join us.

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JROTC Awards Program

The George Washington Chapter has presented certificates and medals to very worthy JROTC cadets at five local high schools. A sixth high school is scheduled to include a JROTC program this fall. Chapter JROTC Awards Coordinator Brigadier General Paul D. Wagoner, USAF (retired), commented on the remarkable talent and accomplishments of these fine young Americans. For example, Cadet First Lieutenant Nicolas Laffosse, a rising senior at Fairfax County's Lake Braddock High School, has a 4.2 Grade Point Average and is an All Conference Varsity Swimmer, an Eagle Scout and Senior Patrol Leader. Further, Cadet Laffosse was selected to participate in the West Point Spring and Summer Leadership Seminars and plans to attend West Point after graduation. This was Lake Braddock High School's first year with a JROTC program, which was well supported by staff, school leaders and administrators.

Other cadets receiving awards for 2010 are:

First Sergeant Nijee Taylor of Thomas Edison High School; First Sergeant Anthony Rossi of Hayfield High School; Sergeant Major Kaleb Madison of Mount Vernon High School; and Major Eric Williams of T. C. Williams High School. Cadet Donell Sniper of West Potomac High School will receive his award in November.

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REGISTRAR'S REPORT

New Members

The George Washington Chapter continues to grow. Since my last report in the May newsletter, nine new members have been approved. At present, twelve new members are awaiting induction. Eleven new member applications are at National awaiting approval. Seven new applications are being worked, of which two have been sent to the applicants for review and signature. We have one transfer from C.A.R. to SAR in process. Two reinstatements are being worked.

Supplemental Applications

Over the summer, nine supplementals have been approved. Presently, there are eight drafts out to applicants for review and signature. Three supplemental applications are in process. This backlog has been significantly reduced since Mike Elston and Julia (my wife) have been assisting in the preparations of both member applications and supplemental applications.

All supplemental applications are being processed based on receipt date. Where a member has submitted multiple supplemental applications, only one will be processed before moving on to the next member submission in the queue. Other members have supplemental applications to submit. Those members should submit their supplementals in order to get in the queue. Please submit only one supplemental at a time.

Application Notes

National has significantly improved on the turn-around time on all applications. In May, the waiting time was close to six months. Over the summer they have reduced the wait to approximately four months and are striving to reduce this time further. One of the results of the 120th Annual Congress in Cleveland was the recognition that the long turn-around time impacts on recruiting and retention. This resulted in new President General Sympton establishing a special committee to study retention of members. I have asked to serve on that committee.

Any Compatriot having the name of someone who is interested in joining our chapter, please e-mail their name and address to me (capt7cs@aol.com) or Mike Elston (treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com) and we will send them an information packet along with a letter explaining the application procedures and the benefits of being a member of our chapter. If you would like to have a New Member packet to give to someone, see me at the meeting and pick up a packet.

SAR National Web Site

I encourage all Chapter members to log on to the Chapter, VASSAR and NSSAR web sites. These web pages contain a significant amount of information concerning Chapter, State and National "goings-on."

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Take Me Out to the Ball Game



SAR members from the George Mason and George Washington Chapters along with family members enjoyed a hot Sunday afternoon in June at the Potomac Nationals game in Prince William County.

Unfortunately, the P-Nats lost to the Lynchburg Hillcats, but the attendees are already looking forward to next year's SAR Day at the Ballpark!

Many thanks to Chapter Treasurer Mike Elston for his work in organizing this special event.

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SAR Atlantic Middle States Conference

VASSAR President Bob Bowen has distributed the following report on the significant results of the SAR Atlantic Middle States Conference:

Gentlemen:

Well, your Virginia delegation has returned from the AMS Conference in Philadelphia. And, a great Conference it was.

We won the Jersey Devil plaque again. That honor is based on a mathematical formula that takes in account the number of members attending and the distance of that state's capital from the conference site. I don't know what the final numbers were, but Virginia had eight (8) primary members in attendance and that gave us the Jersey Devil. With dual members thrown in, Virginia was represented by 13 members, including the President General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Genealogist General and Registrar General.

Primary members in attendance were President Bob Bowen, President-elect Mark Brennan, Secretary Bill Broadus, Genealogist General Joe Dooley, Former President General Bruce Wilcox, Past Presidents Trice Taylor and Larry McKinley, and George Washington Chapter President Bob Carr. 3rd Vice President Kent Webber stopped by for breakfast Saturday morning, but had business elsewhere and did not attend the Conference.

The Candidate's forum Saturday morning produced the following endorsement for General Officers in 2011-2012:

President General Larry Magerkurth (dual Culpeper Minute Men)

Secretary General Steve Leishman (dual Culpeper Minute Men)

Treasurer General Joe Dooley (primary George Mason)

Chancellor General Tom Lawrence - Texas

Genealogist General Larry Cornwell - Alabama

Registrar General Lindsey Brock (dual Culpeper Minute Men)

Historian General Chuck Lampman - California

Librarian General - Mike Wells - Alabama

Chaplain General Rev. James C. Taylor - Texas

Surgeon General Dr. Abraham "Rudy" Byrd III - Arizona

SAR Foundation Board - David Sympson (dual Culpeper Minute Men)

Semper Fi -

Bob Bowen, President Virginia Society, SAR

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Calendar of Coming Events

September

10-11 VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting - Winchester, VA.

10-11 Constitution Day - Montpelier, VA.

18 Regular meeting of our chapter.

October

1-3 Battle Days - Point Pleasant, WV.

9 Regular meeting of our chapter.

19 Battle of Yorktown - Yorktown, VA
Time TBA.

November

13 Regular meeting of our chapter.

December

4-5 Battle of Great Bridge - Chesapeake, VA.

11 Regular meeting of our chapter.

11 Wreaths Across America - National Cemeteries. Time TBA.

January 2011

8 Regular meeting of our chapter.

February 2011

12 Regular meeting of our chapter.

19 Crossing of the Dan - South Boston, VA.

25-27 2011 VASSAR Annual Meeting-Richmond.

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 200 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings are held at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (June, July & August excepted) at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia.

Present officers are:

President: Bob Carr 703-780-3066
Vice President: Paul Briggs 703-768-6910
Secretary: Don Kellerman 703-768-2442
Treasurer: Mike Elston 703-680-0866
Registrar: Bob Carr 703-780-3066

This monthly newsletter is edited by Don Kraft, who depends heavily on inputs from chapter officers and committee chairmen. Inputs from others are always welcome. Please send your inputs and comments to kraftdon@att.net or call 703-451-6132.

September 18, 2010

Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

Please use this form to make a reservation for the chapter's lunch at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia. **The lunch cost is \$35.00 per person.** Check in and social time begin at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon.

Feel free to invite your wife and friends as your guests.

RSVP no later than Monday, September 13th.

Walk-ins will be accommodated if possible, but note that to cover the Club's charge for serving those without a timely reservation a walk-in price of \$37.00 is required.

Name: _____

A check for ____ persons in the amount of \$ ____ payable to **G. W. Chapter SAR** is enclosed.

Mail this reservation form with your check to: Michael J. Elston, Treasurer

P.O. Box 336

Lorton, VA 22199

You may also make your reservation by e-mail to treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com or call Mike at 703-680-0866.

It is important to provide advance notice of attendance to be sure you get a seat.

Valet parking is available.