



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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Volume 11, Issue 1

January, 2011

* * * NOW HEAR THIS * * *

Gala Evening Set for January 8th

By the time you receive this newsletter, we hope that you will have made your reservation for the gala event planned for January 8th. If you have not, there may still be time. A reservation form is provided at the end of this newsletter.

At this event, about which much has already been said, General Peter Pace, USMC Retired, will receive the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Award. President General Simpson, VASSAR President Bowen and other national and state SAR officials will be among the large crowd participating in this special evening at the Belle Haven Country Club. We hope you are planning to attend.

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Your Input is Needed for the Chapter's Annual Report

Compatriot Ray Hawn is assembling the information required for our annual report. If you have contributed your time to charitable activities please report that fact to Ray by e-mail to rayc486@hotmail.com or by telephone to 703-504-6108. Information on your participation in Chapter, VASSAR and NSSAR events is also important.

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December Was a Very Busy Month

The Chapter's final meeting for 2010 featured the installation of officers for the coming year and an address by VASSAR President Bob Bowen.



From the left, Treasurer Elston, Secretary Kellerman, Vice President Briggs, and President Carr take their oaths of office from VASSAR President Bob Bowen.

President Bowen told us an interesting story of how persistent research resulted in the discovery of a previously unidentified patriot. The lesson is simple. When the genealogical trail grows faint, don't give up.



Our newest members, Kevin Carl and David Smith, were inducted by VASSAR President Bowen and received their membership certificates.

Supplemental Certificates were presented to Compatriots Bob Whitehead and Jack Felt.



Outstanding members of the Alexandria Sheriff's Department were recognized. Deputy Sheriff Bryant Vaughn received the SAR Medal for Heroism and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne received the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.



Sheriff Lawhorne and Deputy Sheriff Vaughn display their awards.

L to R: Bob Bowen, Sheriff Lawhorne, Bob Carr, Deputy Vaughn, Jack Pitzer, and Rodney Vaughn.

The citation for Deputy Vaughn's medal described how he placed his own life in danger when he investigated suspicious activity at a neighbor's home. His investigation interrupted three individuals

who were in the process of burglarizing the house. One of the suspects fired a handgun at Deputy Vaughn from a distance of ten feet. Without hesitating, Deputy Vaughn returned fire and took cover. The suspects fled the scene.

Sheriff Lawhorne's Commendation Medal recognized his energetic leadership and distinguished service to law enforcement in the City of Alexandria during his 27 years with the Alexandria Police Department and two subsequent terms as City Sheriff.

In a separate ceremony held at Alexandria's Fire Department Headquarters on December 16, the exemplary performance of two more Fire Department members was recognized. Paramedic Matt Strauss received the SAR Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal for his outstanding professional skill in the treatment of an injured citizen. Strauss responded to a bicycle accident where a woman was unconscious, suffering from numerous injuries and having difficulty breathing. His clear thinking, calmness and knowledgeable treatment undoubtedly saved her life



Following the ceremony at Fire Department Headquarters, Paramedic Strauss and Specialist Misiti show their certificates to fellow staff members.

L to R: Fire Chief Thiel, Paramedic Strauss, Specialist Misiti, Bob Carr

Outreach Specialist Patsieann Misiti was presented the SAR Fire Safety Commendation Medal for her extensive efforts to promote fire safety within the community and region. She organized, coordinated and evaluated numerous events in

Alexandria schools, government offices, service organizations, senior citizen groups, private firms and other organizations. As president of the Virginia Life Safety Coalition, Specialist Misiti collaborates with educators across the Commonwealth to identify trends and problems facing fire departments and works effectively to address these issues. She also represents the Alexandria Fire Department on the Council of Government Fire Prevention Educators sub-committee.

The Chapter acknowledges the energetic and effective work of Compatriot Jack Pitzer, Chairman of the Chapter's Public Service and Heroism Award Committee, who arranged for the presentation of these awards.

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Responding to an invitation from the Saint Andrew's Society, several members of our Chapter participated in a memorial service and wreath-laying ceremony at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House on December 4th. Several members of the Saint Andrew's Society, including its president Vern McHargue, are also members of the George Washington Chapter.



SAR Compatriot and Saint Andrew's Society President McHargue addresses the crowd in the Burial Ground of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

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President's Column

Compatriots,

Happy New Year! Hope you all had a wonderful and joyful Christmas. Here we are

beginning a New Year – What good fortune will it bring to each of us, the Chapter and SAR? Many I hope.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and the hard work you gave to the Chapter this past year. Special thanks goes to the Board of Managers and the committee chairmen for their extraordinary work in making each and every one of our meetings interesting and the Chapter successful this past year.

In reflecting on the goals set out in my message in the January 2010 newsletter, we are well on our way to accomplishing those goals. The first was to activate the membership to become more involved in Chapter activities and to increase the engagement of the Chapter with VASSAR and NSSAR. I believe we have done this. More members of the Chapter have been involved in grave-marking and wreath-laying ceremonies at both Chapter and state level events. Chapter representatives have attended the semi-annual and annual VASSAR meetings and attended the national Congress in Cleveland and the Fall Leadership/Trustee meeting in Louisville.

The second goal was to review, revise and update the Chapter By-Laws. Thanks to Jack Shawn and Don Kraft, this task is nearly complete. The only step remaining is the final review by the BOM and presentation to the membership at large for review, comment and approval.

The third goal of producing a Chapter Handbook is nearly complete. Don Kellerman has taken on this task and the BOM has decided that the handbook will be a loose-leaf booklet that will lend itself to frequent updates by removing and replacing pages rather than having to reprint the book in its entirety. Members should receive their new books early next year.

Our fourth goal was to increase the Chapter's interaction with local SAR chapters, our sister DAR Chapter Kate Waller Barrett and local patriotic organizations. We have done this in the following ways – joint grave-marking ceremonies, participation in the National History Contest, attending and supporting events sponsored by other chapters. We have also discussed a joint fund-raiser for Fisher House with our sister DAR chapter as well as including them in the Chapter's social functions.

We have more work to do on the fifth goal which is to implement those recommendations received in the questionnaire that was completed in 2009. This included possible different monthly meeting times and locations, less expensive meals and the furtherance of those goals established in the NSSAR, VASSAR and Chapter By-laws.

I look forward to working with all of you in continuing to accomplish those goals as set out above, to the establishment of the Chapter Color Guard, and to increase the participation of members of the Chapter in local, state and national functions.

Julia and I wish each of you a Happy New Year with good health and prosperity throughout the year. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Peter Pace Gala at Belle Haven Country Club on January 8 starting at 6:00 PM. Don't miss it. Make your reservations right away. Contact Mike Elston at treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com or call him at 703-680-0866 or 703-915-9396. This is our big event for the year – Please support your Chapter!!

Faternally,

Bob Carr
President

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Start George Washington's Birthday Off Right

Attend a Special Service at His Colonial Parish Church: Historic Pohick Church

Our Chapter's namesake was instrumental in selecting the site for the present Pohick Church and served on its Vestry. Each year, the church celebrates General Washington's birthday with a service of Holy Communion from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer – the liturgy with which Washington would have been familiar – in the church where Washington worshiped both before and after the Revolution. It should be noted that a few concessions to modern times are made in the service. For example, prayers for the King will not be said! The service is followed by a breakfast in the parish hall with a guest speaker. The topic usually relates to George Washington in some way. At just \$5 per person, this breakfast is quite a bargain. The church is located at 9301 Richmond Highway (at the intersection with Telegraph Road), in

Lorton, Virginia. Five of our members are also members of the church.

The Washington's Birthday Service begins at **8 a.m. on Monday, February 21, 2011**. The service is free; tickets for the breakfast can be purchased in advance from our Chapter Treasurer, Michael Elston, or at the door.

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REGISTRAR'S REPORT

New Members

Since my last report in the December newsletter, one new member has been approved. At present, four new members are awaiting induction. Fourteen new member applications await approval at National. Ten new applications are being worked, of which one has been sent to the applicant for review and signature. One transfer is pending from the Dakota Society.

Supplemental Applications

Ten supplemental applications are being worked. Fifteen supplemental applications are at National awaiting review and approval. Five were approved in December so far.

Other members have supplemental applications to submit. These members should submit their supplementals in order to get in the queue. Please submit only one supplemental at a time.

2010 Application Summary

Eighty-six application forms were processed by the Registrar and Assistant Registrar in 2010. Of this number, forty-two were new member applications. Eighteen new members have been approved and fourteen are at National awaiting approval. Ten applications are presently being worked.

Of the eighty-six applications, there were forty-four supplemental applications with nineteen approved, fifteen are at National for approval and ten are still being worked on.

We had a very good year!

Application Notes

Any Compatriot having the name of someone who is interested in joining our Chapter or was a former member and has dropped out, please e-mail me (capt7cs@aol.com) or Mike Elston (treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com) with their name and

address and we will send them an information packet along with a letter explaining the application/-reinstatement 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.

We are looking for a new Registrar. If anyone is interested in becoming the Chapter Registrar, please contact me at the above e-mail address or call me at 703-780-3066.

SAR National Web Site

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

Bob Carr
Registrar

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Chapter Notes

Our Chapter mourns the passing of Compatriot Thomas Selby. At the age of 85, he lived a full life and will be dearly missed by his family and many friends. Burial took place on December 10 at the Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria.

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Members Continue to Provide Generous Financial Support

The George Washington Chapter depends on the generosity of its members to meet its annual expenses. The Board of Managers extends its appreciation to the following members who made contributions to the Chapter in the Fourth Quarter of 2010. Remember, the SAR is a 501(c)(3) charity, and donations are tax deductible.

More than \$100

Carr, Robert F.

More than \$50

Einhaus, Robert H.
Harris, Dr. Charles E.
Jones, Steven Bart

Up to \$50

Bayler, Theadore W.
Brown, Capt. Larry W., USN (ret.)
Crittenberger, Willis D.
Harrington, Rodney P.
Homesley, Wilburn Wade
McHargue, W. Vernon, Jr.
Pitzer, Jack T.
Procter, John Ogden
Schmidt, Col. Austin B.C.
Schmidt, Peter H. V.
Seesholtz, John R.
Torrans, William Kenan
Whitney, Dwight E.

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Calendar of Coming Events

January 2011

8 Regular meeting of our Chapter.
This will be a gala event featuring
the presentation of the SAR Gold
Good Citizenship award to
General Peter Pace.

February 2011

12 Regular meeting of our Chapter.
19 Crossing of the Dan - South
Boston, VA.
21 OPMH Wreath-laying and
Washington Birthday Parade in
Alexandria
25-27 2011 VASSAR Annual Meeting-
Richmond.

May 2011

21 President General Simpson will
present a wreath at the Tomb of
the Unknowns.

RESERVATION

for

January 8, 2011, Gen. Peter Pace USMC (Ret) Gold Good Citizenship Award

Dinner

Please use this form to make reservations and to select you meal choice for the chapter hosted gala event at the Belle Haven Country Club.

TIME: Cocktails & Hors D'Oeuvres - 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Dinner – 7:30 PM

PLACE: Main Ball Room, Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road,
Alexandria

ATTIRE: Black tie optional, as are personal medals and decorations

MEAL CHOICE: 1. Medallion of Beef w/sauce of Cabernet Wine & wild rice
2. Herb Roasted Salmon Filet w/lemon herb sauce & Roasted Garlic potatoes

COST: \$65.00 per person

PARKING: Free, however valet parking will be available

RSVP : No later than December 31, 2010

Please indicate below your name and guest name if applicable and meal choice

NAME: _____ Meal choice, please circle 1 2

GUEST: _____ Meal choice, please circle 1 2

A check for ____ person(s) in the amount of \$ _____ payable to the G.W. Chapter SAR is enclosed.

MAIL RESERVATION TO: Michael J. Elston,
Treasurer, P.O. Box 336, Lorton, VA 22199

You may also contact Michael Elston at
treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com or call him at 703-680-0866

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