



George Washington Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter



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Volume 14, Issue 4

April 2014

SAR PRESENTS INTERNATIONAL MEDAL TO DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO US



Top: President General Joseph W. Dooley (left), a dual member of the George Washington Chapter, met with His Excellency Rudolf Bekink (center), Ambassador of the Netherlands to the United States, at the Dutch Embassy and presented him with the SAR International Medal. The GW Chapter's Immediate Past President Mike Elston (right), who serves as Vice Chairman of the NSSAR Government Relations Committee, arranged the meeting and accompanied PG Dooley. GW Chapter Member Ernie Coggins served as the photographer.

Bottom Left: PG Dooley and Past President Elston presented a certificate of appreciation to Marieke Voskuil (center), executive assistant to the ambassador, who was instrumental in making the visit to the embassy possible.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

April 12, 2014

Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA.

May 10, 2014

Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA.

September 13, 2014

Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA.

Events Information

April 13 - Celebration of Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC (DCSSAR event).

April 26 - Commemoration of James Monroe's Birthday

April 28 - James Monroe Gravesite Ceremony

President's Corner



*M*y fellow compatriots,
our March chapter meeting was well attended and featured two exciting program events. We were honored to have the Honorable Terrance W. Gainer speak to us. He gave us an extremely engaging

talk on his role as the Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate. We presented him with the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and certificate, recognizing the many accomplishments he has made over his career in law enforcement. As a highlight, I was delighted to receive a hand written thank you note from Mr. Gainer thanking us for this award.

We were also honored to present Claire Wang with our chapter's first place award in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations Contest. She gave her oration at the chapter meeting and impressed us all with a powerful oration.

During the March meeting, we also launched our new member buddy program. Compatriot Dave Thomas volunteered to be our first "buddy member", and he was matched up with our newest member, Compatriot Ted Godwin-Stremmler. Our chapter Board of Managers also endorsed a focused effort to reduce the costs of running our chapter and to initiate an option for members to opt out of receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, which will save production and mailing costs. However, not to alarm anyone, if a member does not opt-out and wants to continue to receive a mailed paper copy, he will not need to do anything and will continue to receive the mailed copy. The Board also agreed to look into further enhancements to our chapter program in order to encourage more participation in chapter events and to reduce member attrition.

In March, we completed the accounting of the Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala and the Board of Managers approved an additional \$200 contribution to the USO, bringing the total contribution to \$1200. This is a major accomplishment for our chapter and will do much to serve the USO mission of supporting military members and their families.

On Thursday March 20th, for the very first time, our chapter Treasurer Greg Bodge presented Middle School Brochure Contest first, second and third place certificates and monetary awards to three middle school students.

On Saturday March 29th, our chapter sponsored two grave marking ceremonies, dedicating markers to two patriots of the American Revolution - John Orr and Richard Major. In spite of the rain, we had very good attendance at both ceremonies. A big thank you to Jamie Callender, our Graves Registration Chairman, for coordinating all of the logistics for this event and a big thank you to Dick Kusserow for his donations that paid for the markings.

We were also honored to have several special guests, including our own Mike Elston, VASSAR Third Vice President and our immediate past president; Reverend Howell Sasser, VASSAR Chaplain; Al Lewis, President of the George Mason Chapter; Bill Price, President of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter; Emily Elston, Recording Secretary Virginia Society C.A.R.; Darrin Schmidt, VASSAR Color Guard Commander; and the Reverend Carol Hancock, Interim Rector at St. John's Episcopal Church in attendance.

April has a number of events on tap that I encourage you to attend. First, our monthly chapter meeting will feature as our guest speaker LTC Les Melnyk, who will be presenting "Colonial Militia in the War for Independence". The weekend of April 15 has two great events scheduled: the Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, North Carolina and James Madison's Birthday at Montpelier in Orange, Virginia. If you would like to participate, please let me know.

Please consider joining in on these great opportunities in April. Your participation is always greatly appreciated!

Scott Wagoner

President

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 275 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings are held at 11:30a.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: Scott Wagoner 571-239-3221
Vice President: Dwight Whitney 540-349-2375
Secretary: Jim Mobley 202-465-6680
Treasurer: Gregory Bodge 770-789-3252
Registrar: Paul Walden 703-347-9770*

*Immediate Past President:
Mike Elston, 703-680-0866*

This monthly newsletter is edited by Matthew Jones. Inputs from chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to mpjones36@gmail.com or call 217-246-2687.

Did you know?

Paul Revere never shouted the legendary phrase later attributed to him ("The British are coming!") as he passed from town to town during his midnight ride on April 18, 1775. The operation was meant to be conducted as discreetly as possible since scores of British troops were hiding out in the Massachusetts countryside. Furthermore, colonial Americans at that time still considered themselves British.

Source – www.history.com

April Guest Speaker



The speaker for our April luncheon is Lieutenant Colonel Les' ("Lesh") A. Melnyk of the Army National Guard. The former historian at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia, Colonel Melnyk has in store for us a discussion on the Colonial militia in

the War for Independence.

Lieutenant Colonel Les' Melnyk was commissioned a military intelligence officer in 1988 through ROTC and subsequently received an appointment in the New York Army National Guard where he served the first ten years of his military career as a traditional guardsman in a variety of command and staff positions. He transitioned to active duty in 1998 to serve as Army National Guard historian at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va. He has served in historian and public affairs positions at the National Guard Bureau and at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In 2010, he deployed for a year to serve as the command historian for US Forces-Iraq.

LTC Melnyk is currently Chief of Strategic Communications for the Army National Guard Directorate, National Guard Bureau, having served in that capacity since May 2012. He supervises a staff of communications experts and provides direct support and counsel to the Director, Army National Guard. Among other duties, he oversees the production of speeches, briefings, web content, stand-alone publications, articles, white papers, and congressional testimony, and ensures the Director's priorities are integrated and supported in all products of the Army Guard Directorate.

Born and raised in Queens, New York, he is a product of New York City public schools from grade school through graduate school, having

been awarded his Ph.D. in History in 2004 from the City University of New York. He is married to Stephanie Scott, Ph.D., a native Washingtonian. They and their two children live in Stephanie's childhood home of Takoma, D.C.

New Member

WILLIAM GODWIN-STREMLER



Compatriot Godwin-Strempler was born on Fort Belvoir, Virginia but was raised around the world.

He received a B.A. in Bible and Theology with a minor in Naval Science from San Jose Bible College and the California

Maritime Academy. He later received a M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Ted, as he prefers to be called, is currently a Chaplain in the U.S. Army, where he has worked for 22 years.

He and his wife the Rev. Dr. Andrea are raising their 6 year old granddaughter named Esther and have two daughters, Naomi 27 and Danielle 25.

Ted's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot Asa Foote, who served as a logistics officer in Connecticut during the Revolutionary War.

Please welcome our newest member Compatriot William Edward (Ted) Godwin-Strempler

Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report one new member and one supplemental application were submitted and four new membership applications have been received.

Below is a summary of the applications that were approved and submitted since the last Registrar's Report. The applications are listed in the approximate order in which they were approved or submitted.

New Member Applications Approved

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Patriot</i>
David Richard Scott	George Lohr
Owen Richard Scott	George Lohr

New Member Applications Submitted

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Patriot</i>
Stephen P. Markle	Gad Corse

Supplemental Applications Approved

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Patriot</i>
David John Stringfellow	Lewis Vallandigham
David John Stringfellow	Daniel Edmonds
David John Stringfellow	Richard Ashcraft
David John Stringfellow	Garret Thew
David John Stringfellow	John Thew
David John Stringfellow	Richard Calkins
James Lewis Mobley	Hugh McCain
James Lewis Mobley	Charles Strong
James Lewis Mobley	James Strong
James Lewis Mobley	Robert Strong
John Robert Mobley	Hugh McCain
John Robert Mobley	Charles Strong
John Robert Mobley	James Strong
John Robert Mobley	Robert Strong

Supplemental Applications Submitted

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Patriot</i>
None	None

Paul Walden, Registrar

Highlights from March Chapter Meeting



Top: The Honorable Terrance W. Gainer, Sergeant at Arms for the United States Senate, was presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal by Vice President Dwight Whitney and President Scott Wagoner.

Bottom Left: Chapter President Scott Wagoner presents our newest member, William Godwin-Stremmer, with his membership certificate

Bottom Right: Claire Wang receives our chapter's Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations Contest first place award certificate from Richard Sherman, Youth Activities Chairman, and Chapter President Scott Wagoner

March 29th Grave Marking Ceremonies



Top Left: Graves Registration Committee Chairman Jamie Callender provided well researched biographies on the life and times of the honored patriots.

Top Right & Bottom: SAR members from the George Washington Chapter and other parts of Virginia honored patriots Richard Major (TOP) and John Orr (BOTTOM).

Middle Right: VASSAR Color Guard

Future Events 2014

- April 11** - Thomas Jefferson's Birthday Commemoration, Monticello, Charlottesville, VA, 10:00 a.m. James H. Webb, Jr., former U.S. Senator from Virginia, has been a combat Marine, a counsel in the Congress, an assistant secretary of defense and Secretary of the Navy, an Emmy-award winning journalist and a filmmaker, and is the author of 10 books, is the recipient of the 2014 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Citizen Leadership and will speak at a special ceremony on the West Lawn. ‡
- April 12** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. Our guest speaker, LTC Les Melnyk, will present a discussion on the Colonial militia in the War for Independence. *
- April 13** - Celebration of Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC (DCSSAR event). ‡
- April 26** - Commemoration of James Monroe's Birthday at the Monroe birthplace farm, 4460 James Monroe Highway, Colonial Beach, VA, 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided afterward at the Moose Lodge nearby. †
- April 28** - James Monroe Gravesite Ceremony, Hollywod Cemetery, 412 South Cherry Street, Richmond, VA. The wreath-laying ceremony is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. (subject to change by the Army which conducts the ceremony). †
- May 9-11** - Raid on Martin's Station, Cumberland Gap, VA. †
- May 10** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. No speaker. Following chapter business and lunch, we leave for Mount Vernon and a private tour of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. *
- May 26** - National Memorial Day Parade, Washington, D.C. **
- May 31** - Wreath laying at the grave of Bermuda-born patriot and Treasurer of the United States Thomas Tudor Tucker, at Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC (DCSSAR event). **
- June 21-22** - SAR Conference on the American Revolution, Williamsburg, VA. †
- June 28** - VASSAR Executive Committee Meeting, Fredericksburg, VA.
- July 4** - 53rd Annual Independence Day Ceremony and Wreath Laying at General Washington's Tomb, 10 a.m., Mount Vernon, VA. *
- July 19-24** - 124th National Congress in Greenville, SC. †
- August 8-9** - Atlantic Middle States Conference. †
- September 13** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. *
- September 17** - Constitution Day at Montpelier, Orange, VA. †
- September 19-20** - VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, near Manassas, VA. †
- September 25-28** - NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY. †
- October 3-5** - Point Pleasant Days, Point Pleasant, WV. ‡
- October 6-7** - Battle of Kings Mountain, Kings Mountain, NC. ‡
- October 11** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. *
- October 18-19** - Yorktown Victory Celebration, Yorktown, VA. †
- November 8** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. *
- November 11** - Veterans' Day Wreath Laying with Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NDSAR, at General Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, VA.
- December 5-6** - Battle of Great Bridge Celebration, Chesapeake, VA. †
- December 11** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. *

Legend:

** Chapter event; ** Chapter-sponsored state or national event; † VASSAR/NASSAR event in which GW members are encouraged to participate; ‡ Other SAR event of significance that GW members should consider attending*

April Dates In History American Revolutionary War

April 18, 1775 - The Rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes

April 19, 1775 - The first battles of the American Revolution were fought at Lexington and Concord, - "the shot heard 'round the world" as minutemen and redcoats clash marking the beginnings of armed conflict between Great Britain and America.

April 27, 1777 - Benedict Arnold's troops force a British retreat at Ridgefield, Connecticut.

April 25, 1781 - Greene defeated at Hobkirk's Hill, SC

April 19, 1783 - Congress ratifies preliminary peace treaty

Source – www.ushistory.org



The Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest is a new national SAR contest this year. The winners of the chapter-level contest were Jenna Free (center), first place; Kasey Franklin (right), second place; and Jasmine Blanco Vargas (not pictured), all sixth graders at Rippon Middle School in Woodbridge, Virginia. Chapter Treasurer LTC Greg Bodge, U.S.A. (left) presented the winners with certificates and checks at the school's grade-night ceremony. Each winner prepared an original brochure relating to General Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox." Jenna Free's brochure went on to win the VASSAR competition and will be entered in the national contest.

No People can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.

President George Washington

George Washington, first inaugural address, Apr. 30, 1789

Saturday, April 12, 2014

Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA

Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

Please make your **reservation by telephone or e-mail**. This is the preferred way to ensure your reservation is received in time to get a seat. Please send reservations by Wednesday, April 9.

This month only, send reservations and payment to Gregory Bodge. For e-mail reservations, send to gbodge@hotmail.com with **RESERVATION** in the subject line.
For call-in reservations, call **Greg at 540-318-6717**.

The lunch cost is \$35.00 per person (\$12.00 per child) and you may pay at the door or send a check in the mail in advance of the meeting. Make checks payable to "**G.W. Chapter SAR.**" Walk-ins will be accommodated if possible, but to cover the Club's charge for serving those without a timely reservation a walk-in price of \$40.00 is required.

When calling or writing, please include the following:

Compatriot Name: _____

Guest Name (s): _____

When mailing checks, be sure I'm notified in time to hold seating for you and your guests! Please include the following information:

Compatriot Name: _____

Guest Name (s): _____

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

Mail this reservation form and your check to:

Gregory Bodge
Treasurer, G.W. Chapter SAR
14 Northampton Blvd
Stafford, VA 22554

Check-in and social begin at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon. Valet parking is available.