



Vol. 98, No. 6

News & Events

George Washington Chapter

Chartered June 5, 1924

Pennsylvania Society ~ Sons of the American Revolution

Washington, Pennsylvania

November / December 2022



DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Saturday, December 3, 2022 @ 12:00 PM

Century Inn

2175 East National Road

Scenery Hill, PA. 15360

Phone: (724) 945-6600

Directions: From I-70 East of Washington take Exit 25 (Old exit 9) to Route 519 South. Follow 519 until intersection with flashing red stop light (Rt-40). Turn left Route 40 (National Road) goes into Scenery Hill. Century Inn is on the left.

Menu: Your choice – Turkey Club w/roasted potatoes and fresh fruit. **OR** Grilled Chicken Salad w/ House Vinaigrette, Tomato, Cucumber, Red Onion, Baguette. **BOTH** come with Dessert, Coffee or Tea. **Please specify your choice.**

***** \$27.00 per person *****

2023 DUES: *If you have not already paid your 2023 SAR dues please do so as soon as possible to avoid an extra \$10.00 reinstatement fee. They were due this year by November 30, 2021*

Minutes ~ Saturday, October 8, 2022

Call to Order: President Michael Merryman, called the meeting to order at Breezy Heights Restaurant, Avella, PA at 12:13 PM. After welcoming all President Merryman lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge. PASSAR 2nd VP Kurt Winter gave an Invocation.

Attendance: Nineteen (19) people, guest (7)

Compatriots (12) John P. Bruner, Helen Burne, Jason Cherry, Scott Horn, John K. Mathues, Dick Mellon, Michael D. C. Merryman, Jane & Ronald E. Miller, Karen & Philip J Neubauer, Linda & Larry L. Ridgway, Marie & Edward W. Schreiber, Alice & Tim Thomassy, Gary W. Timmons, Kurt J. Winter.

Officer Reports: The minutes from the August 20, 2022 chapter picnic were approved.



Washington County DAR Past Regent Karen Neubauer presents Ron Miller with the DAR Historic Preservation Recognition Award.

Officer Reports: The minutes from the August 20, 2022 chapter picnic were approved.

Secretary Report: Received chapter Friends of the Library thank you.

Financial Report: Current balance \$3,099.19.

Committee Reports:

Genealogy: President & Registrar Michael Merryman reported that 3 new applications and 1 supplemental are awaiting approval at National Headquarters.

Wreaths Across America: Wreaths Chairman Timmons gave an update on the wreath count.

Cemetery Sign Project: Ron Miller reminded all in attendance that sign # 59 was going to be installed after this meeting if any volunteers wanted to help.

Medals & awards: PASSAR 2nd VP Kurt Winter presented Michael Merryman with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters for getting 20 more new members since the last congress was held. Michael was also presented with a new award at the 2022 National Congress that was held in Savannah, Georgia – a Silver Liberty Medal which is now being presented to Compatriots

that have signed 100 or more new members. Michael now has a total of 112. VP Winter also reminded all about the youth contests that the SAR offers. Compatriot Timmons mentioned that Ron Miller received the Minnesota Stephen Tyler award for his cemetery project and that the George Washington Chapter ranked 5th out of 39 other chapters with membership of 99 – 150 in the National Chapter Americanism contest.

Washington County DAR Past Regent Karen Neubauer presented Ron Miller with the DAR Historic Preservation Recognition Award for his work on the Cemetery sign project. .

Old Business: Ron Miller had excess History Hunt water bottles that were left over and asked anyone that wanted one to take one.

New Business: A show of hands was asked for of people that have received email notice of PA Minuteman Magazine be able to be viewed. Only one person said they have been notified.



Jason Cherry

Program: Jason Cherry presented a first person program on Capt. William Trent and his work with the Ohio Company and a young George Washington during the French and Indian War.

Good of the Order: Compatriot Timmons mentioned that a Naturalization ceremony will take place at the Federal Courthouse in Wheeling on November 18, 2022. President Merryman reminded all in attendance of the Chapter Christmas party on December 3, 2022 at the Century Inn.

Adjournment: The SAR recessional was recited and 2nd VP Winter gave the Benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 PM.

Welcome new Members

We would like to extend the warm hand of friendship to our newest Compatriot Benjamin Andrew Mathues. Ben is the son of Compatriot John Mathues. Their patriot ancestor was James Marshal who in 1781 was a County Lieutenant in Washington County and also was the first Register of Deeds and Recorder of Wills for Washington County. We welcome Benjamin and look forward to him attending a future meeting.



Wreaths Across America 2022

Our 2022 Wreaths Across America campaign did very well. To date, sponsors for **2,200** wreaths have been received. The majority of these sponsors continue to come from our mass mailing. Nearly 400 envelopes were sent to those people, and organizations that have sponsored wreaths in the past and Ron Miller sent out over 100 additional e-mails to past sponsors as a way to cut our printing and mailing expenses. As always, we get a tremendous response from these mass mailings. For every two wreaths sponsored, the cemetery receives a third wreath at no additional cost. We would like to acknowledge the following individuals and groups that have sponsored wreaths since our last newsletter: 1st Christian Church of Charleroi, Howard Abel, Academy Real Estate, Altmeyer Funeral Homes, Mary Andrews, Donna Antone, Daryl Allegretti, Richard Altman, James Amato, American Legion Post 1, American Legion Axillary Unit 9902, Jack & Char Andes, Larry Armenini, Judy Babish, Mark Bails, Julie Barkhurst, Sue Beels, Marty & Judy Beichner, Carol Bell, Dixie Bennett, April Betzner, Jacquelyn Bianchi, Joanne Bier, Jeanne Boback, Darryl Bourguignon, Myrna Bowman, George Bushmire, Bob Byrne, Gary & Roberta Cameron, Madeline Chopp, Kathleen Clark,

Ruth Conrad, Diane Courtwright, James Coyne, David Curdie, Louise Curley, Sharon Curry, Sam Cushey, John Darby, Nancy Davidson, Debbie Davis, Diane Delvecchio, Patty DeThomas, Jacqueline Donaldson, Joseph Dudas, Sharon Dunmire, George & Shirley Dvorcek, Joe Dyga, Vicki Dzikowski, Bob Edgell, John & Sue Edgerly, Deborah Farabee, Rebecca Fehl, Ralph Ferry, George Flory, John Folmar, Janet Ford, Ken & Peg Foreman, Judith Forsythe, Munaii Franjione, Mary Frankhauser, Larry Franklin, Pat Freismuth, Carl Garrett, James Garrett, Kathy Garrett, Beverly Gashel, Gen. Anthony Wayne Chapter-SAR, Joanne George, Daniel Gill, George & Melissa Gillo, Col. Richard Glass, Lois Gnagey, Grace Lutheran Church, Mona Graham, Dan & Lisanne Gresh, Barbara Griffin, Grisell Funeral Homes, Ed Guna, Adrienne Guelker, Bill & Sandy Gullborg, Jean & Joanne Gump, Frank Gwynn, Amy Hamilton, Jay Hammers, Valerie Haney, Tony & Linda Haswell, Joan & Denise Helsel, Sue Hensel, Martha Hepburn, Cheryl Hindman, Melodee Hyde, Marilyn Izzi, James Jaap, Rose Marie Jacanin, Daniel Jones, Bob & Marcia Kaminski, Jeanine Keenan, Sarah Kleeh, Jean Kloss, Richard & Sharon Knoblich, Linda Knudson, Cheryl Kondik, Casimier Korowicki, John Kovacs, Kulesa, Marie Kunselman, Mary Lachman, Mike & Kathy Leone, Beverly Livingston, Isabella Livolsi, Patricia Lutz, Bonnie Magdalene, Malinowski Family, Larry Manning, John Marano, Victor Mazzocco, Rodney & Nancy McCracken, Charles McDermitt, Ester McElravy, Bonita McGowan, Charles McMillan, Edward McVeigh, Robert Mead, Donna Metts, Virginia Mickitsch, Jeanette Miller, Ron & Jane Miller, Jay & Rita Mortan, Leigh Moss, Mt. Pleasant UM Women, Robert & Sharon Muntan, Harry Murtaugh, Albert & Patricia Nagy, Donna Nardine, Cathy Narehood, Lynn Nelson, Phil & Karen Neubauer, Susan Ozolins, Parkinson's Ferry Society-CAR, Judy Parks, Frank Pasden, Dolores Peters, Barbara Pirhalla, Albert & Sandra Pizzuti, Pat & Julia Plunkett, Pamela Podany, Kathleen Poisel, Emelie Poplarchik, Debra Powell, Bernie Price, Martha Quigley, Greg & Deb Richardson, Vincent Romano, James Rowan, Nancy Rubis, Richard Saccani,

David Samila, Sandy Schiffauer, Regina Schohn, Joyce Schrader, Ralph & Barbara Scott, Bernard Seik, Rich & Sandra Simms, James Slovick, Kathleen Sneed, Betty Snider, Amy Solobay, South Side Historical Society, Cheryl Sprague, William & Karen Sprowls, Joan Stewart, Karen Stewart, William & Sue Stewart, David & Linda Stiles, Steven Stout, Patti Stritzinger, Elizabeth Szoke, Tim & Alice Thomassy, Ron Tkach, Nancy Waddle, Cathy Walters, Shirley Washam, West Alexander American Legion Auxiliary Unit 656, Susan Whipps, Kate Wilson, Patricia Wilson, William & Betty Wilson, Kurt & Cindy Winter, William Wolfe, Anne Woodburn, Ruth Yago, Thomas Yoho, Michael Yopek, Daniel Zajdel

The National Cemetery of the Alleghenies is returning to the one day ceremony and wreath laying. Please join us on Saturday, December 17 at noon for the ceremony and wreath laying. Due to continuing on-going construction in the cemetery, parking will be a problem and they are asking people to car pool if possible. Arrive early, dress warm and meet us near the POW Flag at our George Washington Chapter 'boulder' for our brief SAR ceremony. Hope to see you there!



Report from the Color Guard Commander

As I have stated many times, the Color Guard is the public face of the SAR, and of our chapter. It is the primary way in which we present ourselves to the public. It is our best recruiting tool. It is how we actively, proudly honor our Patriot Ancestors. It is, in my opinion, the most important thing that we do. That said, I herein respectfully submit my end-of-summer report for your consideration.

The 2022 summer season was, by any measure, a raging success for the George Washington Chapter Color Guard. Among our accomplishments:

- A full morning training session in early spring. A first for us.
- The Claysville Memorial Day Parade, with 11 marchers and the debut of our drummer
- Squirrel Hill grave rededication of two Patriot graves with 12 marchers and a drummer.
- Whiskey Rebellion parade with 11 marchers and drummer.
- Color Guard members worked recruiting booths at the Whiskey Rebellion Festival, and at Oliver Miller Homestead.
- Historic Purviance Cemetery statewide meeting and grave rededication of six Patriot graves with 12 participants and fife and drum accompaniment.
- This year we added several new members and welcomed back a couple of previously inactive members.
- Compatriot Bryan Cunning assumed the role of Officer in Charge. Bryan's experience and dedication to excellence resulted in much improved drilling skills.
- Previously unclear black powder liability coverage was codified.
- A strict, written firearm protocol was instituted.
- In addition to our chapter sponsored events, several members of our Color Guard represented our chapter at events at Fort Laurens in Bolivar, OH and Fort Henry in Wheeling, WV. This fall Color Guard Members will be at events in Point Pleasant, WV, and at Mount Vernon, guarding the tomb of George Washington.

We ended the season on a high note with a truly excellent program in Claysville. Going into our off season, we have several objectives:

- Recruit new members, with a goal of at least 15 on our roster. We already have three new members signed up, so we're off to a good start.

- Start next year with a full-time fifer and drummer.
- Meet several times over the winter to hone our drilling skills and strengthen our esprit de corps through social interaction. Become a stronger team.
- Rely on our more senior members to give presentations at our winter meetings on subjects related to better honoring our Patriot Ancestors when we are "In Kit".
- Establish an inventory of available kit items that will help new and existing Color Guard members upgrade their appearance.
- Rely on our more experienced members to assist new members with kit development and drill technique as we honor the contribution of Baron Von Steuben.

Our goal for 2023 is to participate in at least three parades and three grave rededications. We have already identified two possible rededication sites. Our mission will continue to be honoring our Patriot Ancestors, while constantly, aggressively recruiting new members.

There are a few areas that I believe require attention at the Chapter level. Among them:

- I recommend the establishment of an "Events Committee" to coordinate complex challenges like Grave Rededications and recruiting events. I have spoken with several other chapters who use this structure with great success.
- As a follow-up on the above, I feel we need to be aggressive with recruiting more of our existing membership into our Color Guard and recruiting activities. There are many support functions that don't involve marching or shooting. I believe this should be a recurring agenda item at Chapter meetings, and mailings should go out repeatedly. At present, a large burden in terms of time and expense is borne by a very small group of compatriots. Burnout is an issue.

God willing, Bryan will return as Officer in Charge. I will return as Commander. All color Guard

members I have spoken to intend to return next year.

By copy of this report, I am personally thanking the current members of our Color Guard for their unfailing devotion to our mission.

HUZZAH! *Chip Zelch*



George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
c/o Gary W. Timmons
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