



News & Events

George Washington Chapter

Chartered June 5, 1924



Pennsylvania Society ~ Sons of the American Revolution

Vol. 100, No. 2

Washington, Pennsylvania

March / April 2024

APRIL Chapter Meeting

Saturday, April 20, 2024

10 AM

Citizen Library

55 S. College Street

Washington, PA

Phone: (724) 222-2400

DAR/SAR Members and guests welcome

Please note meeting time.

Program: Local author Alan Fitzpatrick will speak of his latest book "Vengeance is Mine: The Untold Story of Bemino, Known as Killbuck, Lenape War Captain and Medicine Man". He will also have many of his books for sale after the meeting.

Minutes ~ Saturday, February 17, 2024

Call to Order: President Gary Timmons called the Chapter Meeting to order at the Washington County Historical Society, 48 East Maiden Street at 10:48. After welcoming all, he asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the SAR. Kurt Winter gave the Invocation.

Attendance: Fifteen people(11) Compatriots Gary Timmons, Kurt Winter, Donald Grimm, Ralph Busha, Richard White, Alex Brown. Michael Kuhlman, Ronald Malmgren, Bryan Cuning, Mickey Marshall and Phil Neubauer & guests (4) Clay Kilgore, Washington County DAR - Karen Neubauer and National Pike DAR Linda Grimm and Trudi Busha-Smith.

The minutes from the December 2, 2023 meeting were approved as sent.

Secretary Report: AJ Swerbensky brought to question how the group would like email's sent out. It was decided to send emails to Gary Timmons and blind copy the membership to protect their privacy.

Treasurer's Report: The Chapter has a balance of \$4,631.51. **Also, the chapter continues to look for a Compatriot who would like to serve as treasurer.** Please contact President Gary Timmons.

Officer Reports: Kurt Winter reported Pennsylvania is hosting the National Congress, July 11-15, 2024 in Lancaster PA. Please let him or Gary know if you plan

on attending. There will be Color Guard opportunities.

Old Business: None

New Business: New Compatriot Donald Grimm was sworn in by President Gary Timmons. Donald thanked Past President and genealogist Michael Merryman for finding the patriot who got him into the SAR. Please be sure to welcome Don to our Chapter when you meet him.

PASSAR 1st Vice President, and Past Chapter President Kurt Winter swore Bryan Cuning as our new chapter Vice President.

George Washington Chapter Centennial Celebration will be Saturday June 8, 2024 in the Hollywood Casino at The Meadows. The guest speaker will be Andy Masich from The Heinz History Center. The group discussed the favors, and have decided to support a local Washington County Business.

George Washington Chapter will be hosting the May 2025 132nd Annual PASSAR Meeting.

Leftover favors from the 100th Anniversary will be distributed to the PASSAR attendees, as well as given as Thank You gifts to future guest speakers.

Annual SAR, DAR and C.A.R. Picnic August 17, 2024.

We were not able to secure the pavilion we have used at McGuffey Park. There is another pavilion available at McGuffey Park, but it doesn't have a grill. Linda Grimm stated that Range Resources has updated the pavilions at Cross Creek Park and is looking into their availability and amenities on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Ron Malmgren suggested we also look into Mingo Creek.

On August 24th The Bradford House will be celebrating 200 years of soldiers. Representatives from various organizations have been asked to participate in the event; they will also be doing a cooking demonstration. Vice President Bryan Cuning's wife Katie is organizing and cooking at the event.

Good of the Order: Ron Malmgren discussed our chapter Flag (see article in this newsletter).

This year we are having early morning meetings mixed with some lunch meetings.

Please let us know what your preferences are for times and format, with or without food. Our next meeting will probably be at Citizen's Library on April

20, 2024 at 10 am.

Flag Certificate Ceremony March 9th at 10:30 Kurt Winter, will present The Paramount Senior Living Facility at Bethel Park with a flag certificate. This facility promptly fixed an electrical issue that was preventing their light for their flag to shine. Kurt has asked members of the Color Guard to attend, meeting at the facility at 10, no weapons please. Paramount is having their Veteran Residents to attend.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:51 Then the attendees were given a tour of the Historical Society's new home, along with the history of the building.

Respectfully Submitted by AJ Swerbensky



President Timmons (L) inducted Donald Lee Grimm as the chapters newest Compatriot.



PASSAR 1st Vice President Kurt Winter (C) installed Bryan Cunning as the new chapter Vice-President



Our latest sign has been installed at the Old German Lutheran Church Cemetery. Special thanks goes out to Chip Zelch.



Above: Ladies of the DAR joined with the George Washington Chapter as they presented a Flag Certificate to the Paramount Senior Living at Bethel Park. The DAR ladies also presented veterans certificate to those veterans in attendance.

Wanted

The chapter is in desperate need of someone to step up as Treasurer. Our long time Treasurer Ed Schreiber has been having health issues and we need to help relieve him from this task so he can focus on his health. It really is not that hard as there are only a few checks throughout the year that are written. The main thing is when we have a meal you would receive the reservations along with checks for deposit. All SAR dues are now sent to the state society so that is one less thing the Treasurer is responsible for. If you think you would be willing to help out **YOUR** chapter please contact Gary Timmons (304) 242-8759



Ron Miller (L) and Ron Malmgren display the newly created George Washington Chapter Flag in 2010.

The flag of the George Washington Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society by Ron Malmgren

Our chapter flag was designed as a symbol of the patriotic fervor of Western Pennsylvania prior to, and during the American War for Independence. Western Pennsylvania was incorporated into Westmoreland County on February 26, 1773. Washington County was not formed until March 28, 1781. Although this area was also claimed by Virginia until the completion of the Mason-Dixon Line of demarcation in 1784.

The inspiration and basis of the flag's design was from one of the few surviving Revolutionary War battalion banners. The banner, or flag of Col. John Proctor's Independent Battalion Westmoreland County Pennsylvania was created in the Fall of 1775, most likely in Philadelphia when the Battalion was ordered to New Jersey in December of 1776, although the banner was never carried in battle. The militia fought in skirmishes every day until February 1777. It was then order back to defend the western frontier.

The design started as a British design known as the red ensign. These were typically flown over British forts and on British ships. The red ensign was a red flag that featured the British Grand Union in the first canton i.e. the upper left hand corner of the ensign. In our flag this Grand Union has been replaced with thirteen alternating red and white stripes. The 13 stars, of course, represent the original States in the newly formed union.

This was commonly seen on other U. S. Continental regimental flags of the American Revolution.

The rattlesnake was also a common symbol used on flags since Ben Franklin's illustration featuring a disjointed snake and the words "Join or Die" after the 1754 Albany Plan of Union. This rattlesnake emblem was also inspired by the snakes painted upon the drums of the Continental Marines as were the words

"Don't [sic] Tread on Me." In December 1775 a Colonial correspondent wrote that the rattlesnake "never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged, ever surrenders. She is, therefore, an emblem of magnanimity [sic] and true courage. The Col. Proctor's flag is the oldest surviving rattlesnake flag from the American Revolution.

At the top of the flag is a bald eagle, America's national bird. This represents the newly declared independent United States.

Placed in the center is a blue keystone representing, of course, Pennsylvania, the "Keystone State." This nickname reflects it's central role in the founding of the United States.

The last, but most important symbol was placed in the center of the blue keystone and that is the profile of George Washington. He is the namesake of our chapter and more importantly a founding father, the Continental Army's Commanding General, and of course our first President. Washington's life has been intertwined in Western Pennsylvania since he was a young man. His excursions into Western Pennsylvania led him to acquiring land in the region and helping the area to develop. For these reasons we honor his achievements and his memory by placing George Washington's profile in the center of our flag.





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