

# The Illinois Patriot



## Illinois Society Sons of The American Revolution

[www.illinois-sar.org](http://www.illinois-sar.org)

January 2020



Richard Chamblin

### A Message From The President

By ILSSAR  
President  
Richard  
Chamblin

Since the August Board of Managers meeting, I presented a program on the Constitution to the Stephen Decatur DAR Chapter for Constitution Week. Later that month I participated in the Leadership Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

In October, I attended the Veterans Recognition Luncheon at the Stephen A. Douglas DAR Chapter. This was the Chapter's official visit by State Regent Sharla Luken, and I was honored to escort her to see the grave marking for a true Daughter, Florinda Wood Martin (my third great-grand-mother).

Because of impending hip replacement surgery in November, my activities became more limited as the fall progressed. I met with the Kishwaukee Chapter in Rockford, where I installed new officers and attended their luncheon and business meeting. The chapter members impressed me with their plans for the future and their interest in increasing the number of chapter activities.

I was unable to attend several events because of the limitations on my travel.

So, while I was home getting ready for the surgery and then recuperating, I used my time to reflect on what I had learned in my 18 months as State President.

Illinois SAR chapters are active in their communities. Here are some of the reasons for being so proud of our chapters:

Most chapters participate in the Outstanding Citizens program recognizing high school seniors.

Many chapters have active color guard squads that participate in parades and other patriotic events. Some even have musket squads.

...Continued on next page.



CAR members from left: Max Hohmeier, Olivia Roden, and Paige Roden lay a wreath at the grave of Revolutionary War Patriot Aaron Miner in Elk Grove Village.

**ABC chapter and CAR Aaron Miner Society members join the DAR in Elk Grove for a Wreaths Across America event.**



Every December in cemeteries throughout the world, wreaths are placed at the graves of veterans and first responders. The mission of Wreaths Across America is to remember, honor and teach. Elk Grove Cemetery is the resting place of two Revolutionary Patriots,



ABC Chapter President Lee Braden laid a wreath at a descendant of RW Patriot Aaron Miner, above. At left, wreaths were placed around the marker to Skinner and Miner provided earlier largely by the George Washington Endowment Fund.

Eli Skinner and Aaron Miner. On Saturday, December 14 the ABC chapter of the SAR, and the Aaron Miner Society of the CAR, joined the Eli Skinner DAR chapter of Arlington Hts. to honor, remember, and place wreaths to these and other patriots there.

## Report from the Senior Vice President Mike Campagnolo



I hope everyone and their families had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

When I become ILSSAR President in May 2020 I will try to attend as many chapter meetings around the state as possible because each chapter has its own unique meeting

style. This is a great place to pick up different ideas that you can bring back to your chapter. We can ALL learn from other chapters and feed off one another. We are on the same TEAM with the same objectives. Not only should the ILSSAR President or Sr. Vice President travel to different chapters, I encouraged all members to visit a neighboring chapter and bring a friend! I think you will find the experience rewarding.

The Northern Region BOM venue in November 2020 will be up for debate at the February BOM in Mt. Vernon. After a very disappointing turnout in Lisle in 2019, we need to discuss not only the venue, but whether we want a luncheon. (We do need the luncheon for the Civilian Awards in May).

I am open to all ideas of changing the BOM weekend format partially or entirely or just leaving it the same.

## President Chamblin's January Message continued

Grave and cemetery markings are nearly universal.

Most chapters recognize Eagle Scouts, veterans, first responders, and/or proper flag display.

Many chapters issue newsletters.

A few chapters conduct Knight Essay, Rumbaugh Oration, and/or Schweizer History Teacher contests.

We do all these things but I hear comments about wanting to do more and I hear frustration over the limitations imposed by a lack of active members.

Lack of active members restricts the number of programs that can be carried out and places undo hardship on the active members. I noticed that common reasons given for not being active were job and family obligations. Those are valid reasons.

Factors that seem to be important to a member's decision to be active include:

- recognition of the importance of the activity to the community and the goals of the SAR.
- interest in the activity.
- confidence that he will not be expected to commit more time than he wants.

Addressing these issues may improve participation. We all recognize the importance of recruitment and retention. Encouraging new members to help in these activities gives them

a sense of contribution to the chapter.

I have noticed that standing before the members attending a meeting and asking for a volunteer is seldom successful. Instead, a chapter committee chairman may want to approach a new member about assisting with his committee. Explain to the member why he would be valuable and what role he could play in the success of the committee's activities.

Finally, I would like to see every chapter publish a newsletter several times each year. Sharing your activities with other chapters gives your members a sense of accomplishment and pride. You may give other chapters some new ideas for projects or activities.

I hope to see many of you at the Board of Managers meeting in February at the Doubletree Hotel in Mt. Vernon.

I hope you have a festive holiday season spending time with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you all next year

**ILSSAR Registrar Garry Grugan**  
My e-mail address is  
[gagrugansar@gmail.com](mailto:gagrugansar@gmail.com).  
Please update your files. Thanks!

### **Secretary — Drew Robinson**

Please notify me of address changes or deceased members, in order to keep your ILSSAR database up to date and your newsletter delivered to the correct address AT:

**[therobinsons\\_20@comcast.net](mailto:therobinsons_20@comcast.net)**



## ILSSAR Calendar of Events for 2020

### **Southern Region BOM**

February 7 and 8, 2020 Board of Managers, Mt Vernon, IL meeting at the Double Tree by Hilton Mt. Vernon. 222 Potomac Blvd, Mt Vernon, IL 62864. Ph: (618) 244-7100. Rooms at \$99 each night for the SAR rate. Our dinner speaker will be TBD.

### **NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting**

The week of February 27 thru 29, 2020, SAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY, Brown Hotel. Call 888 888-5252 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.

### **May Central Region BOM**

May 15 and 16, 2020 Board of Managers, Springfield, IL at the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield Double Tree, Springfield, IL 62701. Rooms at \$102 each night for the SAR rate. 701 E Adams Street, Ph: (217)321-2436. This meeting is our annual SAR chapter and individual awards night. We will have the Ladies Auxiliary Silent Auction. No Guest Speaker for this event.

### **NSSAR 130th SAR National Congress**

July 9 thru 15, 2020 National SAR 130th Congress, Richmond, VA,

at the Richmond Marriot, 500 E Broad St. Richmond, VA 23219 Ph: (800) 535-4028. Room rates \$165. Booking Link:

<https://book.passkey.com/event/49965781/owner/12987/home>

### **August Central Region BOM**

August 14 & 15, 2020 Board of Managers, Springfield, IL. The BOM dinner/banquet is 14 August Friday night at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre 700 E Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701. Ph: (217)789-1530. We have rooms at \$121 each night at the SAR rate, with free breakfast and free parking On Saturday 15 August our BOM meeting followed by lunch. Our speaker TBD.

### **NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting**

The week of September 24 thru 26, 2020, SAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY, Brown Hotel. Call 888 888-5252 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.

### **Northern Region BOM**

Last Northern Region BOM last November in Lisle was not very well attended. We may have to re-think the venue location for November 2020.



## Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution



### Illinois Society Quarterly BOM Meeting February 7 & 8, 2020 at the Double Tree by Hilton 222 Potomac Blvd. Mt Vernon, Illinois

The Double Tree by Hilton room discount rate is \$99.00 plus tax includes free parking.  
Cut-off date for discount reservations is **January 29, 2020**.

Call **(618) 244-7100** and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution group rate.

**Friday, February 7th buffet dinner begins at 7pm in the Salon AB Room.** We will have a cash bar and social hour from 6pm to 7pm Following dinner, our speaker is **TBD**

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**Saturday February 8th Board Meeting** will start at 8:30 a.m. in the **Salon DE Room**.  
Ladies Auxiliary meeting begins at 8:30 in the **Blackgold Board Room**. Following the meetings at 11:45 we will have a light lunch buffet with soup and sandwiches in the **Atrium Room**

***Cut along dashed line below and return***

I will be attending the BOM meeting on Saturday but not any meal events: ☐

**Friday Potomac Dinner Buffet:** *A Choice of Honey Grilled Chicken Breast, Baked Cod or Sliced Roast Beef. Side Dishes of Country Green Beans, California Blend Vegetables, Whipped Potatoes and Wild Rice Blend. Fresh Baked Rolls, Ice Tea and Coffee with Dessert. **\$33***

**Saturday Chef's Deli Buffet:** *A Choice of sliced Honey Baked Ham, Roasted Turkey Breast. Side Dishes of Pasta Salad, Potato Salad, Homemade Chips, Traditional Breads, Variety of Cheeses and Hot Fruit Cobbler. Luncheon served with Iced Tea & Coffee **\$17***

Member name: \_\_\_\_\_ Friday Buffet \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Buffet \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse name: \_\_\_\_\_ Friday Buffet \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Buffet \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name: \_\_\_\_\_ Friday Buffet \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Buffet \_\_\_\_\_

Special Diet needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests may be written on back

**Make checks payable to "ILSSAR" for meal total to:**

Compatriot Mike Campagnolo  
1196 Cactus Trail  
Carol Stream, IL 60188  
Cell (630) 464-4904 Email: [mscfoxvalleysar@att.net](mailto:mscfoxvalleysar@att.net)



## Lewis and Clark Chapter

### L & C Chapter helps dedicate monument to Revolutionary War Patriot George Bridges

On the warm, windy Saturday afternoon before Veterans Day, 185 years after his death in 1834, George Benjamin Bridges, Revolutionary War soldier, prisoner of war and Illinois pioneer, had visitors.

Those gathered in the Bridges family cemetery in St. Clair County to dedicate a new memorial cenotaph included six of George Bridges' descendants, members of the Lewis & Clark Chapter of the Illinois Society of Sons of the American Revolution and the O'Fallon Historical Society and Boy Scouts from Troop 46.

Bridges was born February 12, 1762 near Elizabethtown, North Carolina. He enlisted in the Salisbury militia March 10, 1777, and served 19 months. In 1780 and 1781, he served four three-month terms. "For a time, he acted as drummer boy for his company," said Cemetery Detectives President Thomas Schwarztrauber, adding that this was a very dangerous assignment because the drummer was vital to battlefield communications.

The Rev. James Bridges, George's 4th great-grandson, said his ancestor trained as a blacksmith as a young man in North Carolina. After the war, he married Margaret Ann "Nancy" Edwards in Newberry County, South Carolina. The couple had their first child, William, in 1789.

The family later moved to Kentucky, where William married Margaret "Peggy" Armstrong. Rev. Bridges continued. From there, the family moved to Madison County, Illinois about 1811. It was previously believed that George died there, and his name is on a Daughters of the American Revolution memorial plaque of Revolutionary War soldiers buried in that county.

However, the Cemetery Detectives visited the family cemetery in 2015 and began to clear it of weeds and move headstones back from a field, where they had been placed to keep them from vandals, Schwarztrauber said. In 2018, the group learned that a land transfer record documented that George Bridges died in O'Fallon, he said.

The Cemetery Detectives obtained permission from Rev. Bridges to repair and reset stones in the cemetery. Besides George, they believe Nancy, William and Peggy Bridges are buried in the family cemetery along Hagemann Road in O'Fallon Township.

The Lewis & Clark SAR chapter presented a community service award to Schwarztrauber and the Cemetery Detectives earlier this year.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a national organization with state societies and local chapters. Its purposes are patriotic, historical and educational. For details, visit [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org). Counties served by the Lewis & Clark chapter are St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Clinton and Jefferson. Email [info@lccsars.org](mailto:info@lccsars.org) for information.



Family members/descendants from left: Scott Bridges, Karl Schoenhofen, Rev. Jim Bridges, Alora Schoenhofen, Celeste Bell, and Seth Bridges.

## Ewington Chapter

### Interesting trend develops in new memberships as chapter grows

Ewington has been steadily growing in membership as the chapter has been averaging two new members per month for 2019. More interesting is that the majority have been fathers and sons. While the Chapter has been active in participating in a variety of events to enhance visibility and to meet potential members, the majority of this growth has been through the efforts of Ewington Registrar, Robert Lybarger. Without his efforts this growth in membership would not have happened. The good news is that this growth is continuing as 12 new applications have been submitted and are awaiting approval at Louisville. Special thanks to Bob for his efforts.

Activities in the past quarter included an historic flag display at the Kinmundy Log Cabin Pioneer Days on Saturday



Joe Harris, left, and Bob Lybarger discussed historical flags at Pioneer Days with attendees.

September 28. Compatriots Bob Lybarger and Joe Harris attended and shared the history of the historic flags on display. Naturally this was done while wearing uniforms which resulted in some comments, salutes and in one case being addressed as Colonel. Response from those attending was good and hopefully will lead to new members.

Ewington also had an informational table at the Rotary Veterans Fair on November 8 at the Effingham High School cafeteria. Various groups were present to inform veterans of services and benefits available to them and included a free lunch to all veterans and their families. Again, this was an opportunity to make contacts. Special thanks to Bob Lybarger and Steve Wyatt for helping with this.

## General George Rogers Clark Chapter

### Chapter presents 19 flag awards to area patriotic citizens in Madison County.

By Jim DeGross

The Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter held its 23rd annual Flag Award Ceremony at the Madison County (Illinois) Court House in Edwardsville on Nov. 7, 2019. The ceremony is part of the chapter's efforts to promote patriotism and love of country.

This year's recipients were Gary and Linda Henson, Pin Oak Township; Robert and Dianne Parker, Collinsville Township; Gary and Pat Criley, Edwardsville Township; Jack and Deborah Baker, Jarvis Township; Lucille Rakers, St. Jacob Township; and Larry and Patricia Goodwin, Saline Township. Also recog-

nized but not present were: Monty Newberry, Chouteau Township; Stephanie Sendabaugh, Granite City Township; Bill Sullivan, Helvetia Township; Don and Louise Pendegrass, Marine Township; Carl and Sara Stratton, Nameoki Township; and Ora Leonard, Venice Township.

Special thanks to members of the Madison County Court who attended the ceremony, lending importance to the event.

The General George Rogers Clark Chapter has been active in the local area since its organization in February 1986. Chapter activities include sponsorship of a Little League team, honoring heroic deeds of first responders and brave citizens, recognizing JROTC and ROTC cadets, recognizing outstanding American history teachers and Outstanding Citizens from high schools, participating in Wreaths Across America, honoring Eagle Scouts, and identifying and marking Revolutionary War patriot graves. Additional information is available on the chapter website or by calling Jim DeGross, 667-8660.



Recipients of GGRC's flag awards are shown with chapter members at the ceremony.

## Fox Valley Chapter



Officers for 2020 sworn in at the Fall Luncheon from left are: Eric Ingersoll, Treasurer; Max Cockrell, Sgt. At Arms; Paul Carenen, Historian; Jon Fixmer, Vice President; Kevin Alcott, Secretary; Terry Benshoof, Co-Registrar, Mike Campagnolo, ILSSAR Sr. Vice President.



### On guard at Washington's Tomb

By Jon Fixmer, Fox Valley Color Guard Commander

I participated in a vigil for General George Washington at Mt Vernon this past fall. I stood a couple of watches guarding his tomb. I was honored to have a moment alone in the tomb to reflect upon his legacy. One of my ancestors was sent to guard Mt Vernon after the Battle of Germantown and before the Valley Forge encampment. He was born at Alexandria so I'm sure he was familiar with the place. Apparently, Washington had received some intelligence that the British Navy was planning on sailing up the Potomac to raid or capture Mt Vernon. It gave me chills thinking that eight generations later, I was standing watch at Mt Vernon in a Continental uniform same as my ancestor.



# General Joseph Bartholemew Chapter



**L-R: J. Gordon Bidner, Trooper Justin Lankford, Detective Jared Biebaum, Deputy Dillon Hodges, Jeff Kretlow, Roger Hollis**

## Public Service Certificates and Medals presented at Annual Constitution Meeting

The General Joseph Bartholemew Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held their annual joint Constitution Week meeting Sep 17, 2019, 1:00pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church, Normal, IL. The meeting was a Commemoration of the ratification of the US Constitution, as well as, an expression of gratitude to our First Responders for their service and dedication.

The GJB SAR Chapter annually honors outstanding members of our local First Responders in the departments of Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, EMS, and Heroes. The GJB SAR Public Service Committee for these awards consist of Chairman and GJB SAR VP Jeff Kretlow, and committee members Ed Proctor, Virgil D. Short MD, David Dougall, Bill Hammitt, Roger Hollis, Ray Owens, and Alan White. Presentations by Chairman Jeff Kretlow assisted by Roger Hollis to the outstanding recipients of the 2019 Public Service Certificates and Medals were made to:

District 6 Trooper Justin Lankford; Master Sergeant Tim Sweeney, not in attendance; McLean Co. Sheriff's Office Deputy Dillon Hodges; Detective Jared Bierbaum;

Heroism: Alan White, a wheelchair bound 69 year old gained hero status after diving into the lake at Miller Park where his great-grandson



**In his wheelchair, Gary White is shown with family behind and Jeff Kretlow to the left and J. Gordon Bidner to the right.**

had accidentally fallen into the water. He is disabled but when he saw the child go underwater without other help available he summoned all his strength and jumped in to get him. He was able to find him and hold him above water until help arrived to take him to safety. The child was uninjured but Gary had bruised and scraped legs and needed assistance in getting out of the water. The speaker, introduced by J. Gordon Bidner, Pres. of GJB SAR Chapter, was Ret. Assoc. Circuit Judge David Butler. His presentation was entitled "Living the Bill of Rights Requires the Courage of Our Convictions." The meeting was closed with comments from the President of the GJB SAR Chapter, J. Gordon Bidner and the Vice Regent of the LGS DAR Chapter, Paula Garrett, followed by the SAR Recessional led by Lance McCormick, GJB SAR Chapter Treasure.



**GJB SAR Chapter 2020 attending officers and Members-at Large, L-R: J. Gordon Bidner, Pres.; Lance McCormick, Treasure; William White, MAL; Jeff Kretlow, VP; Ray Owens, Sergeant-at-Arms; Virgil Short, Chaplain; William Hammitt, Genealogist; Alan White, Assist Sec.; David Edwards, MAL**

## Chapter veterans honored

GJB chapter members were recognized and honored for their services and sacrifices in protecting and maintaining our liberties and freedom. The chapter has 24 members who have served during WW II, Korea, Viet Nam, Desert Storm, or Afghanistan Wars, and one member who is on active duty. Three members are recipients of the Bronze Star.

In recognition of them a picture poster was created with all the names listed by war service. The picture poster appeared in the Normalite Newspaper published just before Veterans' Day. An electronic copy was given to each GJB Veteran and this theme was carried on in the program provided each attendee.

As another expression of our gratitude for their services the meal expenses for all veterans attending was provided by the GJB SAR Chapter.



# Long Knives Chapter

## Long Knives carve out a grueling fall schedule

For the chapter, fall usually means “full Schedule” and it seems that this year, it was extremely full. We started September with our annual fundraiser; selling raffle tickets to support our grave marking goals. Members rallied at several local events to raise funds including; September 28-29 at the Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days, October 5 at the Jefferson County Historical Society Heritage Festival, and October 19-20 at the Ft. Massac Encampment. Thanks to our chapter members, over \$2400 has been raised.

The color guard stepped out this fall with participating in numerous events. September 7 was the Marion Patriots Parade honoring veterans, military, law enforcement and first responders. It is an annual event for us and one we truly enjoy.



**Long Knives color guard marched in the Marion Patriots Parade.**

On October 1, the 6th Veterans Honor Flight returned to the Marion Veterans Airport with the color guard leading the way through the crowd of friends and family.

were on hand to present colors at a ceremony to rededicate a plaque being relocated to the Williamson County Administrative Building located in Marion. The plaque originally presented by the DAR, honors Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Williamson County.



**Present at the Daniel Chapman Grave Marking Ceremony: Jim Wallace, Lance Newman, Brian Corder, Jim Whitt, Steve Haldeman, Tom Edmondson, Jack Cramer, Jim Johnson, and Alan Lang. Not pictured were Michael Spinks and Evertt Rhine.**



**From left: Carterville Police Chief Michael Flanigan, Long Knives Chapter President Lance Newman, and Sergeant Aaron Glenn during presentation of Hero awards.**

On November 9, the Long Knives were pleased to honor three local heroes. On the July 27, 2019 a car, traveling at a high rate of speed, went off the road and entered Crab Orchard Lake.

Officer Sam Tyner of the Carterville Police Department witnessed the event and came to the elderly driver's rescue, Swimming out to the submerged vehicle. Two other officers, Sean Dobbins and Sergeant Aaron Glenn arrived shortly after. They too entered the water and all helped to bring the driver to safety.

Sergeant Glenn and Police Chief Michael Flanigan were on hand for the presentation of hero medals and certificates. They were grateful that they were recognized for their service from the SAR.

As fall turns to winter, The Long Knives Chapter is looking forward to a short rest, our annual Christmas Party and the prospects of the coming new year.



**Color guard members waiting for the honor flight to arrive from Washington D.C.**

This year, the Long Knives sponsored an attendant. Each veteran that makes the trip is required to have an attendant to help them in their journey. The chapter has been present for all of the flight returns and considers it a great way to honor our war veterans.

On November 3, the color guard was on hand to assist the Daniel Chapman Chapter of the DAR with a grave marking ceremony for their chapter namesake at the Vienna Fraternal Cemetery. This event also marked the DAR chapter's 110 year anniversary. The color guard presented colors and conducted a musket and mourning salute.

On November 8, Long Knives members



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## *Elijah Smith Chapter*

### **New Elijah Smith member has a distinguished war service record**

**By Chapter President Sid Welles**

A new member, Steve Ham, from Mt. Sterling, IL. was presented his new membership certificate and welcomed into the Elijah Smith Chapter by President Sid Welles at the monthly meeting in November.

Steve was also recognized for his war service by the SAR Veterans, the Recognition Committee, and was presented with the Distinguished War Service Certificate and medal. It also included the War Service Bar for the Global War on Terrorism.

All of the Sons of the American Revolution and especially the Elijah Smith Chapter, Illinois Society, thank Steve Ham for his years of service to our country.

