



Fall 2023

The Illinois Patriot

Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution
Illinois-sar.org

Illinois Society Meeting November 3–4

Compatriots will gather at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington on Friday & Saturday, November 3 and 4 for our next ILSSAR quarterly meeting.

This meeting was planned to be hosted in Peoria, but due to hotel rates being too high, it has been moved to Bloomington. With many of our compatriots and chapters scheduled for Veterans Day weekend activities and events, it was also moved to the first weekend rather than November 10–11.

The DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington is located at 10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington, IL. The phone number for hotel reservations is (309) 664-6446. A block of rooms are available for \$130 a night and includes buffet breakfast. Use registration “Sons of the American Revolution.” Rooms will be available at guarantee rate until Friday, October 13.

If you will be joining us for meals, the cost for dinner is \$40 per person for dinner and \$25 per person for lunch. You can pay cash (on the day of

the event), check (payable to ‘ILSSAR’), or Zelle (Treasurer@illinois-sar.org).

If you have any questions or require more information please contact Bill Wheeler by e-mail at bill.wheeler@illinois-sar.org.

Thanks and we look forward to seeing you in Bloomington on Friday, November 3–4.

Strategic Plan Work Begins

The Illinois Society has begun work on its 2023–2028 strategic plan and would like your input!

Compatriots Richard Ruedin, Illinois Society President, Bill Wheeler, Senior Vice-President, and Drew Robinson, Secretary serve as the Strategic Planning committee. The Strategic Planning Advisory Committee consists of Compatriots Mike Campagnolo, Toby Chamberlain, and Tom Ashby, past State Presidents.

National and District have recently updated their strategic plans and have asked State societies to coordinate, align, and support both National and District objectives in their plan.

The Illinois Society is also working with the Michigan Society SAR and Great Lakes District Vice President General David Van Hoof.

Our working strategic plan draft will be presented and discussed at the November meeting in Bloomington. The stated purpose of the Illinois

Society is to support Illinois Society chapters and facilitate the SAR mission of becoming a major recognized voice of the American Revolution by educating America about our Patriotic and historic past.

To facilitate our stated purpose, the Illinois Society endeavors to fulfill its role in the Great Lakes District vision *to be the foremost district in the NSSAR engaged in the promoting of the development of our nation from its founding principles.*

To fulfil the vision, the Illinois Society will have as its mission *to conduct patriotic, historical and educational activities and programs which perpetuate the memory of the men and women, who by their services and/or their sacrifices during the war of the American revolution, achieved the independence of the American people.*

Priorities of the working strategic plan draft include:

- Improve support for chapters’ activities and programs
- Provide annual training for state and chapter officers
- Establish program to attract and retain state officers
- Improve communication with National and chapters

Share your thoughts and suggestions and feedback for this important plan during the November meeting or with Bill Wheeler via email. Any questions are also welcomed.

During the November Society meeting we plan to do some SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of this working plan.

Our society depends on your participation and commitment.

Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution Officers 2022-2024

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The Illinois Patriot

is the official newsletter of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Published Quarterly (Jan/Apr/July/Oct)
Jason Butterick, Editor

Submissions, Photographs, Articles, and Chapter announcements/events can be submitted at the following e-mail address:

kybrd76@hotmail.com

Editor reserves right to edit submitted materials for space.

From the Desk of Richard Ruedin ILSSAR President



Calling to mind the address from General George Washington to his troops going into the winter at Valley Forge:

Washington issued general orders to the army, announcing that they and those who enlist "are now Troops of the United Provinces of North America," and expressing hope "that all Distinctions of Colonies will be laid aside; so that one and the same Spirit may animate the whole, and the only Contest be, who shall render, on this great and trying occasion, the most essential service to the Great and common cause in which we are all engaged."

We the members of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution need the "Sprit" that will animate the whole to be active in our given roles, State Level or Chapter Level, to strength our Mission: "to unite and promote fellowship among the descendants of

those who sacrificed to achieve the independence of the American people, to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom."

We have had an active spring and summer within our Chapters, and this fall and winter we must continue to carry this spirit of actively engaging our local citizens to better understand the principles that our forefathers fought to create this One Union, Under God, Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. These should not be just words recited, these must be understood to be the basis of all of our patriotism and teachings to the public, in schools and in presentations.

I am proud of the reported Chapter activities. Please continue your efforts in education though your public activities and presentations. This is the "essential service to the Great and common cause" that General George Washington announced to his Troops.

I am your humble servant,
Richard R. Ruedin
ILSSAR President

A Message from Bill Wheeler Senior Vice-President



Compatriots,

While we are coming to the end of Summer, there are still plenty of events coming up that we all can participate. The Hugh Barr grave marking will have just taken place in Grandview, Illinois

at the time of the newsletter publication. The Fox Valley chapter will be holding a Flag Day Monument dedication on Sunday, October 1st in Batavia, Illinois. On October 27th and 28th, in Bay City, Michigan, the Great Lakes District SAR will be holding their annual meeting. The Illinois Society SAR will be having our final meeting of the year in Bloomington, Illinois on November 3rd and 4th. Veterans Day is coming up on November 10th. And we hope that everyone will be participating in the annual Wreaths Across America event on December 16th. These are just a few of the events that are taking place throughout the remainder of the year. We encourage all of you to attend as many of these events as possible.

Going back to the Great Lakes District

(GLD), the Vice President General for the Great Lakes District, David Van Hoof, has undertaken the task of publishing a strategic plan for the district. As such, the Illinois Society is in the process of creating a strategic plan that incorporates and supports the National and GLD plans. These plans will be available on the ILSSAR and GLD website once they are published.

Finally, it is that time of the year that chapters should be thinking about the History Teacher Award and Good Citizenship awards. Chapters should send letters to their schools informing them of the awards and encouraging submissions. The state winner for the History Teacher Award will receive \$1,000 award and a plaque. Good Citizenship certificates are awarded, optimally, to a student in every high school in Illinois. Chapters should award these certificates to male or female students based on noteworthy qualities in dependability, cooperation, leadership, and patriotism. Generally, these awards are made in May but chapters and schools may adjust timelines as necessary. If you have questions about either of these awards, please see the ILSSAR/ NSSAR websites or contact your local chapter. Of course, if you have any questions or we can be of any assistance in supporting these awards, please feel free to contact me.

Benshoof Named ILSSAR Chancellor

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret. Army Judge Advocate General) Terry Benshoof is Chancellor of Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The Illinois Society Board of Managers approved his nomination unanimously at its August meeting held in Effingham.

The Chancellor, who in all instances shall be an attorney-at-law admitted to practice in the state society's jurisdiction, gives opinions on legal matters affecting the society when such questions are referred to him by the proper officers.

Mr. Benshoof has over fifty years of comprehensive legal experience in taxation and corporation practice. He graduated with his Bachelors of Arts in Political Science (with honors and distinction) from the University of Illinois-Chicago in 1968. He received his Law Doctorate from De Paul University in 1971 when he also began practicing as a licensed attorney in Illinois.

He is a member of the DuPage, Kane, and Illinois State Bar Associations. He also has served as the Judge Advocate (general counsel) at the national, state and local level for the Reserve Organization of America, a not-for-profit veterans' organization, and represented American Legion posts, the Anan Harmon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on legal matters. He is currently the Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton. Mr. Benshoof has served most of his legal practice in assisting not-for-profit organizations.

He is also an author and lecturer on taxation, probate, and military family law topics.

Illinois Society Seeks To Fill Officer Vacancies

The Illinois Society Board of Managers Nominating Committee seeks compatriots as candidates to fill current officer vacancies. Officer vacancies include Recording Secretary, Historian, and Sergeant-at-Arms.

- **Recording Secretary Duties:** The Recording Secretary shall aid the Secretary in carrying out the functions and responsibilities of the office of Secretary. His specific duties are as follows: • Record, or cause to be recorded and preserved, the minutes of meetings of the Board of Managers and the Annual Business Meetings of the State Society. • Send copies of the minutes of the meetings to the President, Secretary, Historian, Editor of the *Illinois Patriot* and all other Board of Manager members. • Record the additions and corrections made to the minutes, the dates of their final approval, and forward the corrected and approved original of such minutes to the Historian for preservation in the archives of the ILSSAR.

- **Historian Duties:** The Historian shall collect and file with the Society such historical data as may be brought to his attention concerning battles/incidents and soldiers/patriots of the American Revolution, particularly as they relate to the State of Illinois, as well as major activities of the Illinois Society and Chapters. The Historian shall be responsible for collecting and depositing in the proper safe depository the official State Society's reports and papers for each year, minutes of All board of managers meetings, officer and committee annual reports, as well as an annual report from each chapter. Corrections and additions to the minutes of all business meetings will be kept and filed by the Historian. Copies of the *Illinois Patriot* shall be kept in this file. The Historian shall work with the Historian General for the NSSAR

in depositing valuable materials and collections of the Illinois SAR. The Historian shall be responsible for collecting and depositing in the proper safe depository the official State Society's reports and papers for each year, minutes of ALL Board of Managers meetings, officer and committee annual reports, as well as an annual report from each chapter. The Historian shall keep on file in the ILSSAR archives records of, and location of all Revolutionary War Patriots buried in Illinois as provided to him by the Revolutionary War Graves Committee.

- **Sergeant-at-Arms Duties:** The Sergeant-at-Arms shall assist in preserving order as the President may direct. He shall handle the physical arrangements within the meeting room including seeing that the furnishings, P.A. system, lighting, flags, decorations, regalia, etc. are present, adequate and in proper order. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for the flags and any other equipment needed for the ILSSAR meetings. He shall maintain them in proper state of repair, deliver them to, and install them in the meeting place for the conduction of the ILSSAR meetings. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain a current record of name, location and custodian of items of furniture, office equipment, flags and standards, computer, amplifying equipment and/or recording equipment, and other such property owned by ILSSAR. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for having printed each year's ILSSAR stationery and envelopes.

Interested individuals should contact the Nominating Committee Chair,

Mike Campagnolo
(C) 630-464-4904
Email: mscfoxvalleysar@att.net

Welcome New Members & In Memoriam

Captain Elijah Smith

Larry Franklin Lamb
Steven Leon Hardin

Captain Zeally Moss

Ronald Keith Scott

General Joseph Bartholomew

Dr. David Brian
Williams

Kishwaukee

David Glen Steele

Long Knives

Marshall Ray Porter

Springfield

Graham Andrew Turk

In Memoriam

Robert L. Hoaglin

July 24, 2023
Stephen Decatur



*Ray Porter receives his
Membership Certificate
from Long Knives Chapter
President Tom Edmondson.*

Mark Your 2024 Calendar Illinois Society Meetings

**Friday—Saturday
February 2-3, 2024
VFW Post 10302
Springfield**

**Ramada Springfield North
Room Reservations:
217-523-4000**

**May 3-4
(Annual Meeting/Awards)
Abraham Lincoln Hotel
Springfield**

**August 9-10
Effingham Holiday Inn**

**November 1-2
Doubletree
Bloomington**

The Illinois Patriot Winter 2023 (January)
*Deadline for Submissions: **December 20.***

Chapter Capsules

News from Our Chapters



Compatriot Thomas Lamb was presented with the Military War Service Certificate and medal by President Sid Welles at Elijah Smith Chapter.



Compatriot Danny Marks was presented with the Military War Service Certificate and medal for his service in the Vietnam War by Elijah Smith Chapter President Sid Welles.

Ewington

A grave marking ceremony for Patriot soldier Hugh Barr was held on September 16 at the Barr-Johnson Cemetery near Grandview in Edgar County.

Fox Valley

Compatriots participated in the Flag Day Monument dedication in Batavia on October 1. The \$1.5 million monument is a tribute to Dr. Bernard J. Cigrand, a Batavia dentist who worked tirelessly to promote a day of recognition for the American flag. The first flag day was declared on June 14, 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson.

The monument incorporates milestones of American history, honored veterans, as well as equinox and solstice.

General Joseph Bartholomew

The Illinois Society Board of Managers presented Compatriot Steve Kern with its Patriot



L to R: Compatriots Ron Feldman (Fox Valley) Ray Beets (Kishwaukee) DAR Officers (names unavailable at press), Jon Fixmer (Fox Valley) and Mike Campagnolo (Fox Valley) at Flag Day Monument Dedication, Batavia, October 1, 2023

Medal at its May meeting. This one-time award recognizes exceptional service to chapter, state society, and general community.

On Friday, September 15, the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of the

American Revolution and the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held a joint meeting to Commemorate the US Constitution and kick off Constitution Week from

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Participants at Hugh Barr graveside marking ceremony, Barr-Johnson Cemetery, near Grandview, Edgar County

September 17-23. The keynote speaker was Robert Irons, PhD of Illinois Wesleyan University who spoke on “The Promise of

the Preamble and the Path to Fulfillment.” He has coauthored a book on the subject. Two members of the audience were

presented with an autographed copy of Dr. Irons’ book.

The GJB SAR Chapter presented certificates and commendation medals to first responders in our community. Firefighter/Engineer Rich Batka of the Bloomington Fire Department received the Fire Safety Award and the Heroism Award went to Correctional Officer Timothy Hinman of the McLean County Sheriff’s Department. Law Enforcement Medals were awarded to Sergeant Nathan Haynes of the McLean County Sheriff’s Office, Troopers Ryan Billingsley and Jacob Nimrick of the Illinois State Police, and Sergeant Kiel Nowers of the Bloomington Police Department. Daren Deverman of Corn Belt Energy



General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter presented its awards for first responders on September 15. left to right: Stephen Kern (Chairman, GJB SAR Public Service and Heroism Committee), Firefighter/Engineer Rich Batka (Bloomington Fire Department), Sergeant Nathan Haynes (McLean County Sheriff’s Department), Trooper Ryan Billingsley (Illinois State Police), Trooper Jacob Nimrick (Illinois State Police), Daren Deverman (Corn Belt Energy) and J. Gordon Bidner (President of the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter of SAR). Officer Timothy Hinman (McLean County Sheriff’s Department) and Sergeant Kiel Nowers (Bloomington Police Department) were not available for the picture.

Corporation received the Life Saving Award.

The LGS DAR presented Stephen Kern with a US Flag that had flown over DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, DC in recognition of his commitment to patriotism.

Approximately 70 members of the community were in attendance at Grace Church in Normal to honor the US Constitution and the 2023 public servants, heroism, and life saving honorees.

Kishwaukee

Compatriots participated in the Flag Day Monument dedication in Batavia on October 1.

An informational table about chapter activities was held at Midway Village Museum in Rockford during their World War II days on September 30-October 1.

Chapter awards were presented during the September meeting.

Long Knives

At the August Illinois Society Board of Managers Meeting, Compatriot Greg Westfall was honored with the Roger Sherman Award for exemplary service as State Registrar. His innovative ideas to incorporate technology may assist in speeding up the national membership application process.

Over the summer, the chapter planted its first of several "Liberty Tree" in a park in Murphysboro, the Jackson County Seat. It is part of the national program to plant trees for the upcoming 250th Anniversary in 2026.

Each year at the Du Quoin State Fair, held in Southern Illinois, there is a special day set aside to honor Gold Star



Long Knives Chapter purchased a White Oak tree as participants in the Liberty Tree project. The tree was planted in a park in Murphysboro, the county seat of Jackson County. The chapter plans to plant a tree in each of the fifteen counties in their district. Dedications are being planned for the 250th anniversary year in 2026.



Long Knives Chapter President Tom Edmondson and Vice-President Patrick Haskel are manning the Booth at the Fair.

Families and every Veteran who wishes to attend. This year, once again, the Long Knives Chapter manned a Welcome Booth to greet Families and Veterans

attending the State Fair. As part of the display, Sons of the American Revolution literature and information are made

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David W. Van Hoof
Vice President General GLD (elect),
State President Mickey McGuire
Of the Michigan Society
Sons of the American Revolution
And
Chapter President Ronald Barnard
The Paul Emory Chapter

Cordially invite you to the
Annual Great Lakes District Banquet and joint host state meeting
With the Michigan Society SAR
Friday, October 27th and Saturday, October 28th, 2023



Doubletree by Hilton
Bay City – Riverfront
One Wenona Park Place
Bay City, MI 48708
(989) 460-1703

\$109.00 plus tax through October 6, 2023. Reservation includes free self-parking.

Link for room reservations:
<https://book.passkey.com/go/SonsoftheAmericanRevolution>

available to the public.

The chapter will participate in the Ft. Massac Encampment on October 21-22.

Stephen Decatur

Compatriots Larry Burgett and Jason Butterick joined with members of the Stephen Decatur Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their bell-ringing observance of the ratification of the Constitution at the Stephen Decatur statue and plaza in front of the Decatur Civic Center on Monday, September 18. The two organizations have recently renewed their connections and are working together on several area projects anticipating the 250th anniversary.

Are You A George Washington Fellow?

The George Washington Endowment Fund (GWEF) was created to establish a permanent restricted fund, the income of which would provide annual funding for the support of NSSAR unfunded or underfunded committees and special projects. 80% of the corpus earnings are withdrawn for NSSAR project support. The remaining 20% is added to the permanent fund.

George Washington Fellows are elected through a single \$1000 gift or annual installment payment plan as a permanent gift to fund. It is not limited to SAR members; spouses, children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces are also eligible.

All new George Washington Fellows receive a beautiful gold



pin, a certificate acknowledging their GW Fellow status, and listed with all GW Fellows in the SAR Genealogical and Research Library.

Additional information, including brochure and form are available at the [SAR Foundation website](https://www.sar.org/fellowship). Consider a gift today!

Dates & Deadlines

State Eagle Scout Awards

Chapter submissions by January 15.

Knights Essay

Open to all high school students
Chapter deadline: December 15

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, the SAR will be providing event news and educational resources, including videos covering various aspects of the Revolutionary War. Visit their site at america250sar.com.

The SAR Education Committee also has a dedicated website at education.sar.org.

Rumbaugh Oration

Chapter deadline: December 20
State deadline: January 20

Schweizer History Teacher

Chapter Deadline: January 15
State deadline: February 1

State Contacts

Eagle/Knights/Rumbaugh

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**3/4
NOV
2023
AT 6PM**

NOVEMBER ILSSAR MEMBER MEETING



**DoubleTree by Hilton
Bloomington**

REGISTER YOURSELF TODAY

<https://forms.office.com/r/euUWrMt>



Illinois Society Sons Of
The American Revolution
999 N. Plaza
Schaumburg, IL 60173

DATES TO REMEMBER

Great Lakes District Annual Meeting
Bay City, Michigan

Friday, October 27—Saturday, October 28, 2023

Illinois Society Members Meeting
Bloomington

Friday, November 3-Saturday, November 4, 2023

Illinois Society Members Meeting
Springfield VFW Post 10302

Friday, February 2—Saturday, February 3, 2024

Illinois Society Annual Meeting
Abraham Lincoln Hotel—Springfield
Friday, May 3—Saturday, May 4, 2024

134th National Congress
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, July 10—Tuesday, July 16, 2024

More Ways To Stay Informed

Here are even more ways to connect with SAR events & news

National Society

sar.org

[facebook.com/
sonsoftheamericanrevolution/](https://facebook.com/sonsoftheamericanrevolution/)

Great Lakes District

illinois-sar.org/gld.html

Illinois Society

illinois-sar.org

