The Illinois Patriot

Illinois Society
Sons of The
American Revolution
www.illinois-sar.org
July 2015

The President’s Message
by President Thomas D. Ashby

It seems May, June and early July are a very busy time for everyone, but as summer settles in in late July, August or September, opportunity awaits many of us. What is that you ask? Well, it could be a vacation with family or friends, or in my case, it’s an opportunity to work on a little genealogy, visit a relative, a monument, a graveyard or a research facility. I guess that’s the “genealogist” in me. Well, I got to thinking, what if all of our 1046 ILSSAR Compatriots were to bring another person into the SAR – just one? We would double in size! Our chapters would have more members to help out, become Color Guard members or even be Committee Chairmen for important Chapter programs. That one new member isn’t an impossible task; many of us could sign up a Father, Son, Grandson or another relative. Did you know that young men under 18 can be SAR members? Give it a try! I’m sure it would make an impact.

Speaking of genealogists, we must ensure one is recruited as a Registrar for each of our chapters. It’s how we sustain and grow our membership. We lose many Compatriots in a year due to moving out of state or death and that’s something we can’t control. So, we have to constantly continue to recruit new members. We need to do that in all activities we are involved in. At that Outstanding Citizenship Award presentation, are we telling them a little about the SAR and mentioning that they, too, could possibly be members, and we (the Chapter Registrar) would be happy to help? If we present an EMT Award, are we asking if he might not qualify to become a Compatriot? We’d all be proud to have a Hero Medal recipient in our Chapters! At that ROTC presentation or Eagle Court of Honor, do we ask if they too would qualify? It could be a double honor to receive the award and also qualify as an SAR Compatriot. When we have a joint SAR/DAR meeting, do we pass out a “DAR Finder Report Form” (http://www.sar.org/node/285) so we can recognize ladies with medals and possibly win a DAR Chapter Monetary Award for recommending a qualifying relative or spouse?

There is another way we sustain members: by ensuring Compatriots turn in their dues on time. Last year we started early (September) to send out dues notices, hoping to have them all returned before the December 31st deadline when the NSSAR drops an individual who hasn’t paid. Then, we must pay a $5 reinstatement fee if we receive late dues. Now, we have a little time to react and contact Compatriots if we haven’t received their dues by November 31st. Chapter Presidents and fellow Compatriots can (and should) contact those who haven’t paid as soon as possible after we verify we haven’t received their renewals so they aren’t dropped. Of course, we need to stay in contact with all of our members and get as many involved as possible in SAR activities. Whether it’s being a Chapter Officer, helping out on the Color Guard or being on the Chapter Outstanding Citizenship, Eagle Scout, Fire/EMS/Police, ROTC, Knights Essay, Rumbaugh Orations or History Teacher Award Committees, every job is important for both the Compatriot who helps and the chapter he helps. Remember, an involved, active Compatriot will be a renewing Compatriot.

Another important contribution that Compatriots who are interested in genealogy can make is to develop a biography of their Patriot ancestor, maintain it in your chapters, and send it to National to be included in the Patriot and Patriot Grave Index. If you would like to develop a biography, you can contact Douglas Collins, the NSSAR Chairman of the Patriot Biographies Committee for additional information at aliedoug@twc.com.

If you have other Patriots you are related to, besides the one you joined the SAR with, you can submit supplemental applications for each of those. You then facilitate several things; you, of course, receive a certificate indicating you are related to another patriot ancestor and are eligible to wear a star on your SAR member medal ribbon and you also make your research available to others who are seeking a way to join the SAR. Perhaps your supplemental will be the only primary Patriot another potential member needs to be able to join.

So, I hope everyone will find a way to let that genealogist in you play a role in helping the SAR become a stronger organization. Happy Summer to all!
SAR Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 26 to July 1
NSSAR 125th Annual Congress, Louisville, KY, Galt House Hotel. Call 1-800-916-4339 for reservations. Ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.

August 13
Illinois State Fair Parade – ILSSAR Color Guard, Springfield. If you will be participating in the parade, contact ILSSAR President Tom Ashby at tdashby@me.com or 309-202-4067.

August 14 & 15

August 16
Illinois State Fair Veterans Parade – ILSSAR Color Guard, Springfield. This is an easy parade, one-third to one-half mile in length. If you will be participating, contact Brigadier General (retired) Lou Myers at loumye@gctv.com or 217-632-7076.

September 25 & 26
NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY, Brown Hotel. Call 1-877-926-7757 for reservations.

October 30 & 31

November 6 & 7
ILSSAR Board of Managers Meeting, Marriott Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria, IL. Call 1-800-228-9290 for reservations. Ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate - $124 plus tax. Free self-parking and breakfast buffet.

February 26 & 27, 2016

Date TBA 2016
NSSAR 126th Annual Congress, Boston, MA, dates and hotel to be determined.

Date TBA 2017
NSSAR 127th Annual Congress, Knoxville, TN, dates and hotel to be determined.

Ladies Auxiliary holds silent auction at BOM

By Lola DeGroff

A huge thank you goes to those that provided items for the Illinois SAR Auxiliary silent auction: Captain Zeally Moss Chapter, Springfield Chapter, Salt Creek Chapter, Fox Valley Chapter, General George Rogers Clark Chapter, Tom and Linda Ashby, Steve and Jane Bradley, Toby and Sue Chamberlain, Candy Corn, Becky Dobias and Jerry Whitson. Successful bidders took home premium wine, fruit, cheese, chocolate and nuts, deluxe coffee, assorted teas, a bottle of George Washington’s rye whiskey, a pen made from a tulip poplar tree on Thomas Jefferson’s estate, a framed historic print, a boy’s colonial costume or a handmade infinity scarf.

Proving once again that our members and guests love sweets, the item drawing the most bids was the hickory nut and handmade caramel candy made and donated by Jerry Whitson. Smart candy maker that he is, Jerry carried candy samples in his pocket and shared them with interested bidders. The auction raised $925.

Auxiliary members voted to donate $700 to the ILSSAR Cemetery Marking Project and $500 (using some funds from money already in the treasury) to the Center for Advancing America’s Heritage in Louisville.

Plans are being made for Auxiliary members to tour the historic Edwards Place while the men meet during the August Board of Managers meeting. Membership in the Auxiliary is open to the wives, mothers, daughters, stepdaughters, sisters, aunts, nieces and other women relatives of members of the SAR who are in good standing. Dues are only $5.00 per year. We would love to have you join us. Contact Auxiliary President Linda Ashby ( lkashby@frontier.com ) for more information about the Illinois SAR Auxiliary.

ILSSAR Registrar – Garry Grugan

Effective immediately my new e-mail address is gagrugsarsar@gmail.com. Please update your contact information accordingly.
I apologize for the inconvenience.
Senior Vice-President Toby Chamberlain’s Comments

Cemetery Marking

The ILSSAR Graveyard Marking project that identifies cemeteries where Revolutionary War Patriots are buried continues to grow under the guidance of Franz Herder and Dave Ashbrook. If you would like to help financially with this project, send your donation check to ILSSAR Treasurer Dick Chamblin (825 Buccaneer Pt. Decatur, IL 62521). Make your donation check payable to ILSSAR and indicate it is for the ILSSAR Cemetery Marking Program.

Grave Marking

On April 19th I presented a SAR wreath at the Captain William Penny DAR Chapter grave marking of Jacob Henry Shutt at the Wimmer Historic Cemetery in Auburn, IL. SAR Color Guard participants from the Springfield Chapter included Bob Dennison, Dick Chamblin, Dan Hrenko, Richard Moldenhauer and Jim DeGroff (General George Rogers Clark Chapter). Brigadier General (retired) Lou Myers (Springfield Chapter) provided the sound system for the ceremony.

Date Change

Take note of dates for the 2016 ILSSAR Annual Congress Awards Night and the Community and Youth Awards Lunch. Due to a schedule conflict at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, we have had to move our meeting dates up one week to May 13 and 14.

ILSSAR Chapter Visit

Sue and I attended the Fox Valley Chapter Annual Dinner on April 26th - chapter officers were installed and several awards were presented that included Heroism Award to Andrew Wilson, Scouting Award to Trevor Boliech and Outstanding JROTC award to Matthew Fleckenstein. The meeting started on time and was well run from start to finish with one event flowing into the next. If any of you have a chance to attend another chapter meeting, I urge you to do so. It is a great way to pick up new ideas for your own chapter meetings.

By Compatriot Allan C. Campbell, M.D.

The USS Illinois is an attack submarine of the Virginia class, currently under construction in Groton, CT. It is an advanced stealth multi-mission nuclear-powered submarine for deep ocean anti-submarine and littoral (shallow water) operations. It will gather intelligence, deploy special forces and attack land targets.

I attended a presentation by three of the crew, including the Chief of the Boat, recently at our local boat club. They were giving a series of presentations around the State of Illinois to promote awareness, provide support for the crew during construction and raise money for the launching and commissioning activities, which are done with private funds. The launch date is expected to be in October with the commissioning in early 2016 after sea trials.

The vessel is 377 feet long, 34 feet wide and can carry 16 Tomahawk missiles and has four torpedo tubes. It has a special lock-out/lock-in chamber for a mini-submarine for special operations. It is coated with an anechoic substance and has a pump jet propulsor so as to be "deadly quiet".

Support is provided through the 786 Club, a 501C(3) organization and all donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Donations may be made online at www.ussillinois.org or by mail to USSICC, PO Box 96, Lockport, IL 60441.

All donations are appreciated. Donors of $1000 and above are invited to the Commissioning. For more details, visit the website www.ussillinois.org.
The Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution

Board of Managers Meeting, August 13-15, 2015

Springfield Hilton Hotel room discount cutoff date is July 23, 2015
Call 800-445-8667 or 217-789-1530 and ask for code “SAR” for the ILSSAR group rate
$105 per night (includes parking and breakfast for two hotel guests)

Thursday, August 13th Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade
Participants in the State Fair Twilight Parade should meet between 5:30 and 5:45 pm at the corner of 9th and North Grand. Step off is scheduled for 6 pm. Out of town participants are encouraged to stay Thursday night at the Hilton. Please let President Tom Ashby know if you plan to participate at tdashby@me.com or call him at 309-202-4067.

Friday, August 14th Dinner and Program
Our social hour will start at 6 pm with a cash bar. Dinner is at 7 pm with our speaker following dinner. Our speaker is one of our own – Compatriot Tim Smith from the Piankeshaw Chapter. Tim will speak about his book on Joseph Gurney Cannon (known as Uncle Joe) who served in the United States House representing Illinois, and as Speaker of the House from 1903 to 1911.

Saturday, August 15th Board of Managers Meeting and Luncheon
Saturday morning free breakfast buffet at Bennigan’s for hotel guests (bring your hotel check-in meal coupon). Check out time is 11 am. Free parking for hotel guests. BOM meeting starts at 8:30 am. Luncheon begins at 12:00 noon.

Sunday, August 16th Illinois State Fair Veterans Parade
Please let Lou Myers know if you plan to participate at loumye@gcctv.com or 217-632-7076.

Friday and Saturday Meal Requests
I will attend the BOM Meeting but not any meal events: ________

Friday dinner: Grilled sirloin steak, au gratin potatoes, asparagus & wild berry charlotte: $35
Saturday luncheon: Roast turkey with cranberry sage stuffing, whipped potatoes & key lime parfait: $30

Member name: _______________________________ Friday _____ Saturday _____
Spouse name: _______________________________ Friday _____ Saturday _____
Guest name: _______________________________ Friday _____ Saturday _____
Special meal needs: __________________________________________

Mail personal check payable to “ILSSAR” for meal total to:
Compatriot Toby Chamberlain Phone: 217-483-6267
230 Marblestone Drive, Chatham, IL 62629 e-mail: saichamb@comcast.net
The American Bicentennial Chapter of the Illinois SAR has added seven new members over the past several months and is proud to welcome new members Thomas John, Ken Alexander, Michael Pracht, Christopher Pracht, James Nelson Grant, James Doyle Grant and Daniel Grant.

On April 15, 2015 the ABC SAR Chapter awarded an ROTC Medal to C/CPO Mathew Hufano. The ILSSAR awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship medal to C/CPO Illiana Mendoza. Both of these awards were made to the recipients at the District 214 NJROTC award ceremony at Wheeling High School.

Our May 17, 2015 the Chapter meeting began with celebration of the agreement with France that acknowledged the United States to be a free and sovereign nation, and discussion that France pledged to begin hostilities with Great Britain and to support the new nation with finances and military support, integral to bringing a timely end to the conflict.

An awards ceremony for Ryan Peterson and Holly Peterson followed that discussion. Ryan Peterson is the current president of the Aaron Miner C.A.R. chapter. Ryan was awarded the Bronze C.A.R. Medal of Appreciation for his extensive service. Holly Peterson is currently the Senior President for the Aaron Miner C.A.R. chapter. She was awarded the Silver C.A.R. Medal of Appreciation for her equally extensive work at the local chapter and State society level of C.A.R.

The Chapter’s guest speaker at the meeting was Terry Parke, Senior District Executive for the Blackhawk District, with the North Suburban Council, Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Parke, who spent over 20 years in the Illinois Legislature as a State Representative, gave an informative speech about the positive effect that organization had on his own leadership development and his life’s opportunities. Mr. Parke noted that the Boy Scouts are involved in developing young people that will be future leaders of the country, and he welcomed the support of the SAR. Larry Wade, the Chapter’s President and a former Scout Master himself, presented Mr. Parke, on behalf of the membership of the Chapter, a $250 donation to the Boy Scouts.

CZM Compatriot Gary List presents Illinois Knight Essay winner

A Dunlap, Illinois resident won the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Award. Melissa Lucken is a home schooled, high school senior. She is currently enrolled as a dual credit student at Illinois Central College. Melissa has competed in speech and debate for five years and has taught and developed curriculum for six debate camps.

Melissa believes her speech and debate activity have not only developed her ability to communicate effectively but have also cultivated an interest in the areas of policy, philosophy and economics. She hopes to become an economics teacher following college graduation.

The award was presented to Melissa by Gary List, state SAR chairman for the Knight Essay Contest, and State President Thomas Ashby. The award includes a cash prize and certificate. Melissa’s essay will now compete with essays from other state winners at the national level. Students entering the essay contest must submit an original essay covering topics based on original research about an event, person, philosophy or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution.

For more information on the Illinois SAR or the essay contest, see the state website: http://illinois-sar.org/.
Captain Zeally Moss Chapter
summer and fall activities

Three of our Chapter will be attending the National Meeting in Louisville in June. The Captain Zeally Moss Chapter remains active with monthly meetings through October.

Our programs are as follows:

**June 24: Peoria**
IVY Club 682-5419. Ron Kirchgressner - Civil War Surgeon (Major Conover, Surgeon 108th Infantry)

**July 22: Kewanee**
Kewanee Dunes Golf Club

**August 26: Peoria**
IVY Club Jim Beard - My Revolutionary Ancestor

**September 23: Galesburg**
Soangetaha Country Club. Allan Campbell - Revolutionary War

**October 28: Peoria**
Lariat Steak House. Garry Grugan ILSSAR Registrar - SAR applications

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The following items are some things the Elijah Smith Chapter has been doing since January 1.

**Good Citizenship Awards:** 30 high schools in the West Central Illinois Region were solicited. The majority responded with senior level students accepting the Outstanding Citizenship Award certificate and lapel pin.

**Membership:** In the last six months, Elijah Smith has received two new members, Robert Dalton and Philip Hadden. Three prospective members are in process of completing their registration. They are Philip Dodsworth, Danny Marks, and Tyson Manker. With the expert guidance of our Registrar, Jim Neese, the applications should be completed soon.

**Other activities:** Plans are in process for presentation of Flag Awards and Eagle Scout Awards in our district.

The Elijah Smith Chapter made a $100 donation to the Morgan County Genealogical Society.

The Elijah Smith Chapter meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at the Morgan County Genealogical Society offices in Jacksonville, Illinois.
Ewington Chapter

The Ewington Chapter, Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution recognized outstanding seniors from local high schools. The awards ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 5, at the First Baptist Church in Effingham. The following students were recognized with SAR Outstanding Citizenship Awards: Serena Strullmyer, Altamont H.S.; Kaitlyn Bran on, Centralia H.S.; Sarah Weiler, Clay City H.S.; Carson Lorton, Cowden-Herrick H.S.; Sarah Hall, Cumberland H.S.; Madeline Paige Field, Effingham H.S.; Bryce Pearce, Flora H.S.; Dylan Clapham, Mattoon H.S.; Ariel Porter, North Clay Community H.S.; Gavin Ray Meredith, Odin H.S.; Ashley E. Grumlick, Patoka Community H.S.; Michael C a mez, Ramsey H.S.; Peter Keller, St. Anthony H.S.; Mason McIntosh, Salem Community H.S.; Katie Jo Bryan, Sandoval H.S.; Anne Louise Jesgarz, Shelbyville H.S.; Mia Campbell, South-Central H.S.; and Collin Nestleroad, Vandalia H.S.

Each student received the Outstanding Citizenship Lapel Pin, a certificate and a copy of the Constitution of the United States of America. The award is presented in recognition of the recipient’s furthering of American citizenship principles and the student is nominated by the high school considering the student’s overall scholarship and citizenship.

Ewington Chapter’s Outstanding Citizenship Awards Chairman Larry Smith said, “The Ewington Chapter serves Fayette, Effingham, Marion, Clay, Shelby, Cumberland, and Clark Counties. We are so pleased with the response from the high schools. This is believed to be the first time the Ewington Chapter has presented these awards and we are very much looking forward to making it an annual event.”

Each member of the SAR is a direct descendant of those patriots that achieved the independence of the American people either through military service, public service or by providing food, lodging or some other service to the cause. The objectives of the SAR are patriotic, historical and educational. Jim DeGroff, acting chapter president said, “Throughout Illinois, in big cities and in small towns, SAR members are working to promote patriotism and preserve the ideals of freedom. If you think you have a patriot and would like to join us, we would love to have you attend our meetings. The next meeting will be at the First Baptist Church, Effingham, on May 21st at 11:30 a.m.” Contact Larry Smith, 618 548-4579 for more information on the Ewington Chapter.

In the above photo, those present at the awards ceremony include front row, left to right: Mia Campbell; Sarah Hall; Madeline Paige Field; Anne Louise Jesgarz; Ariel Porter; and Serena Strullmyer.

In the back row are Joe Harris; Larry Smith; Robert Rideour; Dylan Clapham; Carson Lorton; Gavin Ray Meredith; Michael C a mez; Collin Nestleroad; Jim DeGroff and Bill Wilson.

Fox Valley Chapter

Fox Valley Chapter Compatriot Dale Bottom presented the ILSSAR Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC) award to Cadet Lieutenant Krystal Pena, from Chicago’s George Westinghouse College Prep School. The award was presented during the Society’s Annual Youth and Community Awards Luncheon in Springfield on May 16.

Commander (USN, retired) Robert S. Laufenberg, Senior Naval Science Instructor at the school, called Krystal, “one of the BEST! She is a great leader, respected, honorable, and dedicated.” He said Krystal takes public transportation to and from school and makes many personal sacrifices to meet odd schedules for buses and trains when school duties or work require her presence. She received a $500 award and an engraved sword and is entered into the national competition. Cadets are nominated by local Illinois chapters and are required to write an original essay in 500 to 700 words on the topic: How has JROTC prepared me to be a better citizen of the United States of America.
Fox Valley activities and honors

At left, Fox Valley Compatriots Rod Herbig and John Fixmer carry the flags in Chicago’s Memorial Day parade. Above, Fox Valley members prepare to march in Wheaton’s Memorial Day parade with the Perrin-Wheaton chapter of the DAR chapter and the William Gary chapter of the CAR chapter, both from Wheaton.

Above, Rod Herbig and Mike Campagnolo visited the Grande Park Elementary School in Plainfield, and taught 5th graders about American Revolution History, flags of the Revolution, flag etiquette, how to fold the American Flag. At right, Rod Herbig received the chapter’s Patriot Award.

Eighteen high school students were recognized with Outstanding Citizenship Awards from the Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The ceremony took place April 30th at the First Christian Church in Edwardsville. The students were nominated by their schools based on their dependability, cooperative spirit, leadership, service to their school and community, evidence of personal values and patriotism.

Each recipient received a certificate, a pin and a copy of the Constitution of the United States of America. The SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award is presented in recognition of the recipient’s furthering of American citizenship principles.

GGRC Chapter Chairman Harry Nelson said, “The SAR has been instrumental in promoting the qualities of dependability, cooperation, leadership and patriotism in the community and nation-wide for many years. We are pleased to honor these outstanding students.”

Each year the chapter invites high schools in the Madison, Jersey, Macoupin, Bond, Calhoun, Greene, and Montgomery Counties to selected one young man or woman from their senior class to accept the awards.

General George Rogers Clark Chapter

Left to right. Front row: Chapter Outstanding Citizenship Awards Chairman Harry Nelson; Compatriot Bill Wilson; Thomas Boyer; Julie Bruns, Megan Wittich, Tristen Carroll, Katelyn Fox; Compatriot Robert Ridenour.
Back row: Compatriot Jim DeGroff, Mike Stimac, Willow Ann Tolly, Anthony Stephens, Hunter Joseph Bassler, GGRC Chapter President Marv Meng; GGRC Chapter Vice President Charles Dobias.
Members of the GGRC Color Guard participated in the Memorial Day ceremony honoring the veterans buried in the Oak Lawn cemetery in Glen Carbon, Ill..

Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter President Marv Meng, Robert Ridenour, Jim DeGroff and Charles Dobias present the SAR Eagle Scout award badge, certificate and Constitution booklet to Matthew "Reed" Milnor of Troop 7. For his Eagle Scout project, Reed planned, organized and led teams to map, document and clean veterans’ grave markers in Upper Alton (Oakwood) Cemetery.

Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter Vice President (and ROTC/JROTC Chairman) Charles Dobias presented the Outstanding JROTC Award to Nathan Backstrom.

Kishwaukee Chapter

The Kishwaukee Chapter held its last Spring meeting for 2015 on Saturday May 30 at the Boone County Family Restaurant in Caledonia with 9 SAR members and a total of 16 people in attendance. The guest speaker was SAR chapter member Frank Crawford (seated in photo at right). Frank is a Civil War historian and author who spoke to the group about his adventures in writing, Civil War history and two of his latest books, “In the Shadows of Lincoln and the Civil War” and “Proud to Say I Am a Union Soldier”. Many of the members spoke with Frank after the program and purchased his books which he also autographed. Chapter members plan to march in the Independence Day parade in Cherry Valley and welcomes any other SAR members throughout Illinois who wish to join them at noon that day at Village Hall, and members also plan to attend Cantigny Revolutionary War Reenactment in September.

SAR member Frank Crawford, seated, chats with Kishwaukee Chapter members and guests after his presentation to the group.
General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter

2015 Good citizenship Scholarship Banquest

The Annual SAR Good Citizenship/Scholarship Banquet, sponsored by the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution, was held April 9 at the Bloomington Country Club. There were 110 in attendance including students from 20 High Schools in McLean and Woodford counties who were competing for a $1,000 scholarship graded on their participation in activities demonstrating their dependability, cooperation, leadership, patriotism, and scholarship. Guests attending included their parents, teachers, and school representatives, three members for Outstanding Citizenship Awards, members and their wives from the GJB SAR Chapter, and others who included Mr. Robert Widmer, Pres. Heartland Community College, Thomas D. Ashby, Pres. of Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Lynn Gray, Representative of the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, and members of the press.

The students were introduced individually, allowed to introduce their parents and school representatives, following which they were presented with the Outstanding Good Citizenship recognition Certificates, a Citizenship Pin, as well as, a pocket copy of the U. S. Constitution. Following this the winner of the $1,000 Scholarship, Dillon A. Hari—from University High School, was announced and the award presented.

Long Knives Chapter

Murphysboro police officer receives ILLSAR heroism award

A Murphysboro, Illinois police officer, Benjamin Jones, received the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Medal for Heroism in May. The award was presented during the Society’s Annual Youth and Community Awards Luncheon in Springfield.

Officer Jones was the first to arrive at the scene of a fire where a man was trapped inside his house. Jones kicked in the locked door and was immediately engulfed in heavy smoke. He found the unconscious victim and dragged him safely out of the house.

The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal is awarded to those that have served with distinction in the field of law enforcement. The medal recognizes exceptional service or accomplishment in the field by police officers and those that make and enforce the law including attorneys, judges, prosecutors and legislators. Officer Jones was nominated for the award by the Long Knives SAR Chapter.

Revolutionary War firearm presentation

In October, Chapter President Jack Cramer was invited to speak about the SAR to an Appleseed class at the Marion Gun Range where they were putting on a two day class. They teach firearm safety and rifle marksmanship combined with lessons on the Revolutionary War, the founding fathers, and the constitution.

Earlier this year, President Cramer was invited to their Range Master’s meeting in Effinham to give a talk on the SAR. Then again in April, we returned again to the classes at the Marion Gun Range. We brought a number of flintlocks and Revolutionary War equipment to display. Jim Wallace presented a class on weapons, uniforms, equipment and then took the class to the range for a live fire demonstration on loading and firing of a flintlock weapon. This demonstration was a big hit. Mr. Wallace skillfully fielded numerous questions about weapons and equipment.
Salt Creek Compatriot Chris Gomez recently presented JRROTC Medals and Certificates to the following High Schools:
1. Admiral David Farragut,(Gen George S. Patton) Career Academy
2. Gage Park (Army) Academy
3. Benito Juarez Academy (Marine)
4. Phoenix Military (Marine) Academy
5. Marie Sklodowska Currie Metropolitan Academy (Marine)

Recently, Chris Gomez met with Cadre and distributed Certificates and medals to Bloom Township (Naval), Bloom Trail (Naval), Dwight D. Eisenhower, (USMC), Proviso East (Naval), Proviso West (Naval), Shepard (Air Force), and Richards (Naval).

Springfield Chapter

May Springfield chapter meeting
ILSSAR Senior Vice President Toby Chamberlain issued the oath of office for chapter officers for 2015-16 at the May chapter meeting. Pictured LtoR are Cheryl Chamblin, incoming President Dick Chamblin, ILSSAR Senior Vice President Toby Chamberlain, Recording Secretary Cletis Underwood, Treasurer and Chaplin Steven Bradley, Genealogist Lou Myers and former chapter President Dan Hrenko.

Grave marking event in Auburn
On April 18th members of the Springfield Chapter Color Guard (Dick Chamblin, Bob Dennison, Dan Hrenko and Richard Moldenhauer) plus Jim DeGroff - General George Rogers Clark Chapter presented the Colors at the DAR Captain William Penney Chapter grave marking of Revolutionary War Patriot Jacob Henry Shutt at the Historic Wimmer Cemetery in Auburn, IL. Springfield Chapter Compatriot Lou Myer furnished the sound system for the program. ILSSAR Vice President Toby Chamberlain presented a SAR Wreath at the grave of Shutt. Shutt served in the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment.
ILLSAR’s Man of the Year announced at Spring BOM Dinner

Dave Ashbrook, member of the Joseph Bartholomew Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, was named Man-of-the-Year of the Illinois Society of Sons of the American Revolution at the ILSSAR Annual Meeting and Award Banquet held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL May 15, 2015. Dave has been a very active and involved SAR member since he became a member of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution Nov 3, 2004. In addition to Man-of-the-Year recognition at the Banquet he received the Silver Good Citizenship Certificate and Oak Leaf Cluster, the NSSAR National Service Award, the Meritorious Service Medal, Cemetery Marking Award, and the ILSSAR Silver Color Guard Oak Leaf Cluster.

At the National level he has attended numerous Spring and Fall leadership meetings and/or Congress in Louisville since 2008 and has received the George Washington Fellow Award.

His friends and compatriots at GJB SAR Chapter know him as being involved and always ready to assist. Some of the things he did/does for the chapter has been to develop name tags with the SAR Pledge and Recessional on the reverse side, as well as a member booklet, a GJB SAR activity sheet to provide students at the Annual Good Citizenship/Scholarship Banquet, serves as a Color Guard for Eagle Scout presentations, Cemetery Markings, meeting veterans returning from Honor Flights. He Chairs committees on Public Relations, Nominating, and the 40th GJB SAR Chapter Anniversary Celebration, and serves on Eagle Scout, Finance, and Color Guard Committees.

Dave is currently Vice President of the GJB SAR Chapter and Chaplain of the ILSSAR. Thanks Dave for your dedication and service to Sons of the American Revolution.