Fellow compatriots, I’d like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Thank you for being a member of the SAR and assisting us to inspire your community with the principles on which our nation was founded. That’s one of our National SAR’s Patriotic Goals. Sometimes we need to return to our goals at this time of year and that one in particular is a motivating force for me.

During the colder months, many of our chapters (especially in the north) take a pause in chapter meetings. This allows the chapter Board of Managers to plan goals, meeting locations, and programs for the coming year.

I have a few ideas, which you might include during your discussions: Do you have members who could help round out your complement of Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs (like Flag Awards, Eagle Scout, Citizenship Awards, Public Service Awards, and Veterans)?

Is there something you can do to encourage members to obtain a uniform and become part of the Color Guard? Perhaps a small stipend would help defray costs.

Would each of you be willing to call members you might know who have not yet paid their annual dues to get them active and involved? These very people might help out in the above items.

Just successfully completing some of the above ideas might rejuvenate your chapter and help it to truly inspire your community!

In other matters…

During the recent budget process we looked at our expenses and income for next year. I was made aware of something that the DAR does to increase its income: request donations from members for DAR’s Youth Awards programs. The DAR ladies tell us that they regularly enclose additional sums with their dues to support their various programs.

To generate more interest in individuals completing applications for our various youth awards, we decided a few years ago to increase those awards from $500 to $1000 for each State winner. As a result, we have had more applicants and created more interest in our Patriotic goals. Unfortunately, interest rates have been at a historic low. Interest and income we would normally receive from our investments have suffered, putting a burden on our budget.

Our organization is strong, but we need more income to make our efforts succeed. Please consider supporting the SAR youth and other programs of your choice (ROTC, Scouts, Orations, Essay, History Teachers and Veterans). Go the “extra mile”!

Send a donation NOW (to Treasurer Dick Chamblin, 825 Buccaneer Pt., Decatur IL 62521) AND when your dues notices come each year. These programs are our hope for the future and deserve our support!

Best wishes for continued success in 2016!
SAR members attend christening of new nuclear submarine

Three Illinois compatriots travelled to Groton, Connecticut for the christening of a brand new nuclear submarine, the USS Illinois. The festivities occurred the weekend of October 10.

Along with the three Illinois compatriots, 3000 others attended including Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner and Michelle Obama. According to one of the participants, “The three of us had a great boys outing.”

In the photo at right, pictured from left are Compatriots Dale Bottom, Allan Campbell, and John Dyrud, in front of the USS Illinois.

Great Lakes District Meeting

The 2015 Great Lakes District meeting was well attended with 42 guests for the Friday evening dinner and over 20 for the Saturday business meeting. Many National Officers were in attendance including President General Tom & Mickey Jo Lawrence, Secretary General Mike & Pricilla Tomme, Registrar General Russ & Laura DeVenney, Inspector General Warren & Nancy Alter and SAR Foundation President Sam Powell.

PG Lawrence gave an informative address Friday evening.

Above, PG Lawrence addresses the Friday dinner meeting. At right, Friday dinner host, IL President Tom Ashby introduces VPG Dick Chamblin who presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Allan Campbell for his photography at the meeting.

The Stark Award and You!

By Linda Ashby, President, Illinois Ladies Auxiliary

Are you, as an individual, or your chapter working toward the SAR Stark Award? The Ladies Auxiliary can help!

In keeping with National SAR First Lady, Mickey Jo Lawrence’s project for the year, SAR Ladies Auxiliaries on all levels have been challenged to “Help a Veteran.” At the Fall Leadership Conference, ladies “tied one on” and completed a number of beautiful fleece lap robes to be given to veterans.

At the State level, we ladies wrote Christmas cards to veterans and are renewing our efforts to collect small toiletries for veterans. You can help us help you!

Are you going on a trip with a group? Take a small box of Zip-loc bags and ask those in your group to help collect unused toiletries from their motel rooms. We did just that on a 3-day trip and collected 157 items to be contributed to Stark Award applicants! Do the same wherever you go: family trips, Board of Manager’s, Leadership Conference and National SAR Congress trips. Save those unused or charity holiday cards and pass them along to us. Make sure your wife knows about this project!

Count these items yourself or for your chapter, or bring them to Board of Managers meetings and give them to any Auxiliary member. Let us know if you are working on the Stark award. If nothing else, donate items to veterans locally.

We can help make it a brighter year for many veterans and, at the same time, help those working toward the Stark Award. Thank you!
The Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution
Board of Managers Meeting February 12 & 13, 2016

The Bloomington-Normal Marriott hotel room discount cutoff date is January 22, 2016. Call 309-862-9000 and ask for code “Sons of the American Revolution” group rate $129 per night (includes self-parking and breakfast for two hotel guests)

Friday, February 12

We will have a cash bar available at 6 to 7 PM. Dinner and our speaker, Joseph Cozzi, will follow. Joseph is a senior at Fenwick High Schools and was the 2015 ILSSAR Rumbaugh Oration winner who went on to finish second in the National Society oration contest. As a high school senior, Joseph is eligible to participate in the 2016 oration contest. Joseph will recreate his 2015 oration, John Adams: Setting the Precedent of Integrity and Justice in America.

Saturday, February 13

There is a free breakfast for hotel guests. The check out time is 11 AM. There is also free parking for hotel guests. The Saturday meeting is at 8:30 AM to 12 PM. The Saturday luncheon is 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM.

Friday and Saturday Meal Requests

Friday dinner: Pork Tenderloin, Mixed Grain Pilaf and Chef’s selection of Seasonal Vegetables & Dessert: $35 each

Saturday luncheon: Grilled Chicken Breast with Honey Rosemary Glaze, Mashed Sweet Potatoes and Chef’s selection of Seasonal Vegetables & dessert: $30 each.

Member name: _______________________________________ Friday _____ Saturday ____

Spouse name: ________________________________________ Friday _____ Saturday ____

Guest name: ___________________________________________ Friday _____ Saturday ____

I will attend the BOM Meeting but not any meal events: _________

Mail personal check payable to ILSSAR for meal total to:
Compatriot Toby Chamberlain
230 Marblestone Drive, Chatham, IL 62629

Phone: 217-483-6267
e-mail: saichamb@comcast.net
SAR 2016 Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 12 & 13
ILSSAR Board of Managers Meeting, Bloomington/Normal Marriott Hotel, $129.00 plus tax includes free self-parking and breakfast for two. Hotel is located at 201 Broadway Ave., Normal, IL. Call 309-862-9000 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.

February 25 & 27

May 13 & 14
ILSSAR Board of Managers Meeting, Springfield President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, $102.00 plus tax. Call 1-866-788-1860 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.

July 8-13
NSSAR 126th Congress, Boston, MA, Westin Copley Hotel. Call 866-716-8108 and ask for the NSSAR 2016 Boston Congress rate $199.00 plus tax.

September 29 – October 1
NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY Brown Hotel. Call 1-877-926-7757 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.

Time capsule to include SAR document

The Elijah Smith Chapter was asked to provide a document for inclusion in a time capsule to be placed in the Charters of Freedom Monument in Jacksonville, IL. The monument was gifted by Mary Jo and Vance Patterson of North Carolina to the citizens of Morgan County, Illinois and dedicated on May 30, 2015. It is located on Jacksonville’s downtown square and includes brass plaques encased in a glass and stone structure.

The Charters of Freedom includes the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Along with other local organizations, we created a document describing the purpose, beliefs, and dedication of the Sons of the American Revolution, including its history.

Our chapter was originally chartered in 1896 under the name of John Adams. The document named members at that time and our present chapter, Capt. Elijah Smith, and all its present members. The capsule is scheduled to be opened 100 years after dedication.
Ewington Chapter

Court of honor for New Eagle Scouts

The Ewington Chapter recognized two new Eagle Scouts in Troop 121 on November 21st. The Court of Honor was held at the WJLY radio station in Ramsey, Illinois. Acting chapter president Jim DeGroff and chapter Eagle Scout chairman Ron Wood presented the awards to Seth Eddy and Isaac Green.

At right, DAR representative Kathy Carey presents a community service award to Chapter President David Keenan.

From left are Ron Wood, Seth Eddy, Isaac Green, and Jim DeGroff.

Fort Armstrong Chapter

Chapter’s restoration work at site of Fort Armstrong recognized

ILSSAR President Tom Ashby attended the Fort Armstrong Chapter meeting on November 18. During that meeting, Kathy Carey of the local DAR chapter presented the Fort Armstrong Chapter President David Keenan with a Community Service Award for the Fort Armstrong’s efforts to clear a memorial stone’s site at the location of Fort Armstrong along the Illinois River.

At right, DAR representative Kathy Carey presents a community service award to Chapter President David Keenan.

Two items to note from President Ashby

Tom Ashby has a goal for the Illinois SAR and that is for us to participate in the Grade School Poster and the Junior High School Brochure Contests. In order to do that, we need an educator or interested compatriot to lead a committee to judge a State winner for each of these contests. This person would coordinate with each chapter to contact the grade/junior high schools in their chapter area to make them aware of the contests, rules and where to send entries. Once a State winner is selected in each contest, the committee chairman would forward entries to National for judging. If you are interested, please contact me at tdashby@me.com or call me at 309-897-8483.

The Illinois SAR needs a volunteer for Finance Chairman. I know there is someone out there with a head for finance. The Finance Chairman’s duties include preparing the budget based on previous ones and input from Illinois State officers, insuring our money is invested properly and presenting a report at our quarterly Board of Managers meetings. This is not a terribly hard job. If you have the willingness and the skills, please e-mail Tom Ashby at tdashby@me.com or call me at 309-897-8483.
Fox Valley Chapter

Revolutionary War Patriot honored in Naperville ceremony

Revolutionary War veteran John Dudley was honored Sept. 19 with a commemorative marker in Naperville Cemetery by the Sons of the American Revolution – Fox Valley Chapter.

“Dudley is one of only 15 Revolutionary War veterans identified in the Northern Illinois area,” said Michael Johnston, former Fox Valley Chapter president, lead researcher on John Dudley, and the chapter’s historian.

Johnston learned more about Dudley through numerous sources including Dudley’s Revolutionary War pension file and federal census records dating back to 1790. “It is a very rare occurrence to locate a new patriot,” Johnston said. “The most recent was Israel Warner in 2008 in Big Woods Cemetery.”

John Dudley was born Feb. 25, 1758 in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. During the Revolutionary War in 1776, he sailed across the Delaware River with General George Washington and assisted in the capture of 900 Hessian soldiers in the subsequent surprise attack at the Battle of Trenton on Dec. 26.

On January 3, 1777 John Dudley saw action in the Battle of Princeton, at which hundreds of British soldiers were captured. In May of that year, he returned to Fort Ticonderoga with the militia. Then, in September 1777 he fought at the Battle of Saratoga, where British General Burgoyne surrendered.

Following this battle, the militia was discharged, and Dudley returned home to Newport, New Hampshire. He passed away on January 2, 1846 at his son’s home in Lisle Township, DuPage County at the age of 87 years, 10 months and 7 days. He is buried in Naperville Cemetery.

“John Dudley and his fellow patriots worked together to establish a new country of opportunity and hope for future generations,” Mayor Steve Chirico said. “Our forefathers’ sacrifices should be honored and remembered for all time.”

Naper Settlement President and CERO Rena Tamayo-Calabrese said, “Each of us stands firmly on the horizons others have brought to light for us. I can comfortably say that without the sacrifices made by men like John Dudley, we would not be here today.”

Fox Valley President Michael Campagnolo said that the SAR is marking the graves of Revolutionary War veterans to protect the gravesites and to preserve them. “We want to make people aware of the historic significance of these Revolutionary War patriots,” he said. “It’s also an opportunity for schools to teach their students about an important time in our history when we became an independent nation.”
New members receive membership certificates at annual Ladies Night Out Dinner

The General George Rogers Clark Chapter held its annual Ladies Night Out on November 24th at Julia’s Banquet Center in East Alton. Several new members were presented their membership certificates. Lola DeGroff presented a program on the Navajo Code Talkers in World War II.

Edwardsville Eagle scouts honored at court of honor

General George Rogers Clark Chapter Vice President Charles Dorisa and Robert Ritenuto presented Eagle Scout certificates and badges to Raleigh Brazier, Danny Duncan and Kyle Walsh.

The Court of Honor was held at Eden United Church of Christ in Edwardsville on November 28th.
General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter

Chapter celebrates 40th anniversary with good memories and fun

By Virgil D. Short M. D.
GJB SAR Chapter Chaplain

The General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution celebrated its 40th Anniversary Oct. 13, 2015 at the Lakeside Country Club. This was attended by 37 members and guests including wives, Thomas D. Ashby, President of ILSSAR, Richard E. Chamblin, NSSAR Great Lakes District Vice President General, and Cherie Valentine, Regent of the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the DAR.

The evening began with a social hour during which background patriotic music and a picture show of chapter events and meetings was supplied by Don Hyland. The meeting was then called to order by J. Gordon Bidner, Pres. GJB SAR Chapter and opened with the pledges led by members of the chapter and invocation. Before the meal, he offered a toast to the GJB SAR Chapter and guests using Souvenir Glasses for the occasion that were kept by attendants.

Following the meal the invited guests, as noted above, presented congratulations, proclamations and good wishes to the chapter. Memories of the chapter, both near and distant, were presented first by Clark Killingsworth reading the recollections of the chartering process by Rev. Ron Bogart and early history of the chapter by William T. Anderson, both charter members and neither able to attend. William Hammitt first read memories by Harry Hoit and then presented Recent History of the GJB SAR since the 35th Anniversary. Lance McCormick presented memories and showed memorabilia of his history with SAR, genealogy, and lineal descent from his Patriot.

An Open Forum was then conducted by J. Gordon Bidner during which those attending were invited to make statements or ask questions following which the event closed with the SAR Recessional.

November meeting has a Veterans Day theme

The GJB SAR Chapter of the NSSAR held its Nov. meeting on Nov 11, which was also Veterans Day. The meeting was held at the Michaels Restaurant in downtown Bloomington. The chapter welcomed its newest Compatrriot, Duane Harmes, with Bill Hammitt, GJB SAR Chapter Genealogist, assisted by Toby Chamberlain, ILSSAR Sr. V. P. presenting him his NSSAR Membership Certificate and our SAR Pin.

The speaker was Jeff Kretlow who spoke on “Veterans Day From Normandy to Afghanistan” in which he chronicled his grandfather and his own military history. His grandfather was a WW II veteran who was in General Patton’s command and participated in the Normandy invasion, as well as, the remainder of the war in Europe. Jeff began his military history in 1988 as a Marine serving during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, as well as, Operation Just Cause in Panama being honorably discharged in 1993. In 2006 he entered the Illinois Army National Guard and was sent to Officer Candidate School and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 2007. He was deployed to Afghanistan in 2011-2012 with the Army.

Jeff showed albums and mementos of his own deployments, as well as a case which he had made honoring his grandfather’s service in WWII containing his picture, dog tags, medals, rank and service strips, flag, etc.

Jeff is employed by the McLean County Sheriff’s Dept. and received the GJB SAR Chapter Law Enforcement Award on two occasions before becoming a member in 2014. He is currently a captain in the Illinois Army National Guard serving as an instructor at the Officer Candidate School.
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**Kishwaukee Chapter**

**SAR, CAR, and DAR chapters share parade duty in Woodstock**

Fox Valley compatriots Jon Fixmer and Mike Campagnolo joined Kishwaukee Chapter compatriot Ray Beets along with the Kishwaukee Trail DAR and CAR members in Woodstock’s Christmas Parade November 29. They marched to the Woodstock square which was packed with people. They passed out candy to the children and took a lot of photos with families.

In the top photo, Mike Campagnolo marches with the Kishwaukee banner. Above, the marchers pose for a group photo, and at right, Santa makes an appearance with the group.

**Chapter honors Boone County State’s Attorney**

“Kishwaukee Chapter presented a Law Enforcement Award to Michelle Courier at their October 17 Chapter meeting. Michelle, the first female Boone County State’s Attorney, is currently in her second term, served a 4-year term on the County Board, was a Research Associate for a chief judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit, graduated from NIU and U of I, speaks German and during her tenure as State’s Attorney has worked to aggressively prosecute gangs and child predators, with an emphasis on creating a Gang Task Force.”
Long Knives Chapter

On September 12, the Long Knives Chapter Color Guard was asked to lead the 11th annual Veterans on Parade march through downtown Marion, Illinois. This parade is an annual salute to all Veterans. With the large VA Hospital in Marion, the National Guard Armory in Marion, plus the Veterans Home in Anna, Illinois, the region has a huge Veteran population.

In this large parade, all Veterans are encouraged to participate. The parade itself stretched over a mile from the beginning to the end. The spectators watched a continuous stream of Veterans, floats, bands, and Civic Organizations for well over an hour. Long Knives Color Guard members in attendance were Lance Newman, Jack Cramer, Jim Wallace, and Steven Haldeman.

Chapter participates in patriot grave marking ceremony

The Long Knives Color Guard assisted the Lewis and Clark Chapter in memorializing Pvt. Millington Couch, Patriot. The Ceremony was held November 14, at the Preston Cemetery, Preston, Illinois. The Long Knives Chapter sent five Compatriots to help make the day special for the family attending. Members attending were: Jim Wallace, Jack Cramer, Jerry Whitson, Lance Dixon, and Steven Haldeman. Private Millington Couch served with Roebuck’s Battalion, South Carolina Militia.
Springfield Chapter

Springfield compatriots join ILSSAR color guard for two parades

Seven Springfield Chapter members joined with the combined Illinois Society Color Guard in the August 13th Thursday night Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade. It is estimated that over 4,000 spectators lined the parade route. Chapter members who participated were Dick Chamblin, Dan Hrenko, Lou Myers, Karl Reed, Drew Robinson, George Tinkham and Toby Chamberlain.

Leading the combined color guard and carrying the Illinois Society SAR Banner were Sadie and Cora Brillhart, the grand-daughters of Springfield Chapter Past President Dan Hrenko.

On Sunday August 16th the chapter also participated in the Veterans Day Parade.

Chapter members Dick Chamblin, Lou Myers, Toby Chamberlain and George Tinkham along with DAR members Polly Myers and Sue Chamberlain rode on a float Lou and Polly had decorated for the parade.

Flag certificate awarded to the DAR

The Springfield SAR Chapter presented a SAR Flag Certificate to the Captain William Penny DAR Chapter on December 5, 2015. The certificate was awarded to the Captain William Penny Chapter for establishing Patriot Garden Park in Chatham, IL where the United States Flag is flown 24 hours a day.

Help for national is needed

The National SAR is very concerned about Educational Outreach to our schools, which are teaching about the Revolutionary War. National will provide curricula and informational material such as maps, CDs and DVDs about various subjects that teachers or compatriots can use to properly educate our youth. It would be helpful for a person with an educational background or interest to coordinate this information distribution at the State level. Step forward and let me know of your interest! If interested, please contact Tom Ashby at tdashby@me.com or call him at 309-897-8483.

Veterans award presented

Springfield Chapter Compatriot George Selby (left) was presented the SAR Service to Veterans Medal and Certificate by Toby Chamberlain. Compatriot Selby is very active in service to veterans. Each year he participates in 15 to 20 veteran funerals and places over 200 flags on veterans’ graves for Memorial Day.
The Preston Cemetery in Randolph County echoed with a musket volley, rifle salute and Taps November 14, as patriotic and veterans groups honored Revolutionary War veteran Millington Couch and unveiled a new headstone with the details of his service.

Couch, who died in Randolph County in 1827 at age 77, served as a private in Roebuck's Battalion of the Spartan Regiment of South Carolina militia. This served in 22 battles and skirmishes from August, 1780 to April, 1782.

The ceremony was co-sponsored by the Lewis & Clark Chapter of the Illinois Society of Sons of the American Revolution and the Liberty Bell of the West Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. Also participating were the Long Knives and General George Rogers Clark SAR chapters, and other groups.

Ginny Hopp of Carthage, Mo., a distant cousin of Couch, said Millington was born about 1750 in either Virginia or North Carolina. He died in the Plum Creek area of Randolph County in 1827 and has many descendants still in the area.

Four direct descendants attended the event: Michael Thompson of Perryville, Mo., a 6th great-grandson, and his daughter, Daria; and Michael's sister, Carolyn Huddleston of Sparta, and her daughter, Bethany.

John Meacham of the Lewis & Clark SAR chapter spoke about the history of Roebuck's Battalion, focusing on the pivotal Battle of Cowpens in northwestern South Carolina on January 17, 1781. Twelve companies of Roebuck's Battalion are known to have fought at Cowpens, and it is probable that Millington Couch was with them, Meacham said. He noted that militiamen were ‘do it yourself soldiers’ who lacked the military training and discipline to face veteran troops on a battlefield. They were, however, skilled at guerilla warfare. The war probably could not have been won without them.