



Michigan Society Sons of the American Revolution

MICHIGAN REPORT

Presented at the Great Lakes District Meeting
October 26, 2013

The Michigan Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (MISSAR) is proud to host the 2013 Great Lakes District Meeting. Welcome to Grand Rapids, a "Pure Michigan" city and home of the President Gerald Ford Museum. We are pleased to have our fellow compatriots and honored guests join us in celebrating President Ford's 100th birthday year.

MISSAR has eight chapters representing 322 society compatriots. Last year we mourned the passing of eleven (11) compatriots. However, we celebrated the addition of thirty-four (34) new members. We are mounting efforts to increase recruitment, encourage more active participation and improve retention of current members. While we will continue to use more traditional methods such as the buddy system to encourage retention of members, we will also focus on the use of technology to make our society more visible to the community and to attract new members.

MISSAR continues to hold meetings around the state at various locations to encourage attendance and participation. This year MISSAR Board Meetings are scheduled to be held in Frankenmuth, Chelsea, Oakland County and East Lansing. Chapters are encouraged to hold meetings in their respective regions at least once every two months, with telephone conference calls being utilized to supplement communications throughout the state.

The MISSAR Color Guard represents an active part of educating the community about the mission of our society. During the past year Color Guard members participated in Wreaths Across America at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. Compatriots marched in the Clarkston 4th of July Parade with an audience well in excess of 20,000 people. MISSAR was represented at annual veteran's services at the St. Paul's Cathedral in Detroit. The Color Guard under Commander Gerald Burkland also collaborated with various chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and local VFW's to conduct multiple grave dedications for patriots buried in Michigan. Finally, MISSAR was represented at the 3rd Annual Vigil at General Washington's tomb at Mt. Vernon. This is an event the Great Lakes District proudly initiated three years ago.

MISSAR maintains an active web page to post both state and chapter events and information. This includes the quarterly posting of the Michigan Wolverine Minuteman, containing articles of interest to our members.

MISSAR presented a total of 41 awards and certificates during the past year. This included recognition of 21 members of the ROTC and a scholarship to an Eagle Scout Robert Mitch Huber. We continue to actively support the CAR in our state, including their fund raising efforts for a World War II monument in our state. We also presented Compatriot Joseph Conger with the Patriot Medal and Compatriots Donald Nutt and Charles Barr III with the Meritorious Service Medals. Three compatriots were recognized for past military service and a state liaison for Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam was appointed.

During the past year MISSAR was represented at the NASSAR National Congress, NASSAR Leadership Training events, and the Great Lakes District Meeting in Illinois. The MISSAR President is in the process of attending chapter meetings throughout the state to help support the five point plan outlined by the NASSAR President General. We invite you to visit the many attractions in the Grand Rapids area.