

MICHIGAN REPORT
Presented at the Great Lakes District Meeting
November 7, 2014
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The Michigan Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (MISSAR) was proud to host the 2013 Great Lakes District Meeting at the Historic Amway Grand Hotel. We were honored to have President General Joseph Dooley and Color Guard Members from the Great Lakes District participate in a memorial service celebrating President Ford's 100th birthday year.

MISSAR has eight chapters representing 365 society compatriots an increase of 13.4% over the 322 members reported last year. We celebrated the addition of fifty-two (52) new members an increase of 52.9% over the thirty-two (32) new members added the previous year. We are continuing efforts to increase recruitment, encourage more active participation and improve retention of current members. We are continuing to use traditional methods such as the buddy system to encourage retention of members, but are also focusing 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 of Manager's Meetings were held in Frankenmuth, Chelsea, Rochester, Ann Arbor, 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 Accost America at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. 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 (Dewitt; Grand Blanc; Holly; and Oakland County, Michigan). The MISSAR Color Guard also participated in memorial and celebratory events across the State including: Veteran's Day Celebrations in Frankenmuth and Detroit; Saugatuck Celebration; Roscommon Celebration of "Star Spangled Banner"; and the 10th Anniversary of the Elias Cady CAR Chapter. Most recently our Color Guard participated in the dedication of a portrait of General Washington donated to Lapeer High School. This was one of three portraits donated by MISSAR Chapters during the past year.

Jerry Reed, MISSAR Past-President lead a successful effort to create a NSSAR sanctioned ring. This official ring includes the SAR logo and a carved image of General Washington. Purchase of this ring is limited to members of NSSAR and includes a \$30.00 donation from each ring to the Heritage Library.

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. Under the leadership of MISSAR 2nd Vice President Michael Huey we also established a Facebook page. We are immediately able to post photos of color guard events and a wide range of interesting historical information to attract interest in our society.

MISSAR presented a total of 41 awards and certificates during the past year. This included recognition of 21 members of the ROTC and scholarships to Eagle Scout Lee Cleaveland and Knight Essay winner Benjamin Bolzman. We also provided letters of congratulations and certificates of recognition for 32 new Eagle Scouts.

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 William Vette with the Patriot Medal and Compatriot Rodney Wilson with the Meritorious Service Medals.

During the past year MISSAR was represented at the NASSAR National Congress, NASSAR Leadership Training events, and the Great Lakes District Meeting in Michigan. We also actively participated in National projects including the General Washington portrait donations and the State donation to the National Heritage Library. MISSAR has enjoyed an active year and look forward to the continued growth of our State Society.