The President’s Message

by President Toby Chamberlain

I want to start by saying what a privilege and honor it is to have been chosen as your president for 2016-18. I will strive to do my best for each of you and our Illinois Society. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Past Illinois State Society President Thomas Ashby for his leadership during the previous two years. His record as president and vice president is one to emulate. He leaves office with numerous accomplishments.

One of things I find particularly noteworthy is helping our membership climb back to over the 1,000 member mark and to remain there. Overall, I think our State Society is doing well but can we do better? My answer to that is a resounding yes!

With the addition of the Fort Armstrong Chapter and the Phoenix-like rise from the ashes of the Stephen Decatur and Ewington Chapters along with sustaining our membership of over 1,000 members, things have never looked better.

So what can we do to improve?

We must continue to recruit new members. Three of our largest chapters have over 426 combined members but five of our chapters are at the other end of the spectrum having less than 20 members each. It behooves all of us to help all of our chapters recruit additional members.

Attendance at the May Board of Managers was mixed and could be improved.

Attendance at the Friday night Dinner and Awards Night was about average as was the Saturday Youth and Community Service Awards Luncheon. The downside was the low attendance at the Saturday morning BOM Meeting with only 12 of our chapters represented. This is an area that we could and should improve on. Each chapter should strive to send at least one representative to each Illinois Society Board of Managers meeting.

Many of you have stepped forward and are filling Illinois Society committee positions and I thank you for what you are doing. We still have vacancies on several committees: Color Guard in the Central Illinois area, and Public Service Awards. If you are interested in helping the Illinois Society by volunteering to serve on one of these committees, contact me.

Our next Board of Managers meeting is in Springfield in August. On Thursday August 11, the Illinois State Color Guard will step off in the Illinois State Fair Parade. Contact Illinois Society Color Guard Commander Tom Ashby (tdashby@me.com) for information about participating in the State Fair Parade. The Board of Managers Meeting is August 12 & 13. On Sunday August 14 it is the State Fair Veterans Parade and all veterans will be admitted to the fair grounds at no cost.

I hope to see many of you there. Contact me at saichamb@comcast.net for information about participating in the State Fair Veterans Day Parade.
I am honored to be Senior VP for Illinois SAR. It is no surprise to any of you who know me that membership is one of my top priorities for all Illinois chapters.

If we are lucky, one new member in 10 will actually want to take an active part in the chapter. Without constant growth, chapters will not survive. Every chapter should be working hard to bring in ‘new blood’ to the organization and as such, turning over responsibilities while always helping the new officers do their jobs.

There are many chapter members who want to contribute and should be allowed to help their chapters grow.

The other growth area is in our SAR chapter programs. Many chapters have found that the more we participate in Eagle Scout Courts of Honor and Outstanding Citizens awards, the more new members we get and with membership comes folks interested in helping. I encourage all of you to work the programs, speak about SAR at Rotary and DAR meetings, JROTC awards ceremonies, and at other organizations. Many DAR chapters do not know that we allow any male under 18 in as junior members with the same status as members over 18 except that they pay less for dues. Keep in mind that if everyone got just one new member just think where all of our chapters would be!

Everything from 200 year-old historical documents to a variety of food baskets auctioned off

The silent auction conducted May 13 by the Illinois Ladies Auxiliary at the Board of Managers Award Dinner was again a great success. Bidding was spirited for the many and varied items donated by chapters and members throughout the state.

A total of $1,926 was raised thanks to the generosity of those attending the Illinois SAR annual meeting at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois.

Illinois Auxiliary members voted to donate $1,000 to the Illinois SAR cemetery marking project and $500 to the Center for Advancing America’s Heritage.

As a reminder, membership in the Auxiliary is open to the wives, mothers, daughters, stepdaughters, sisters, aunts, nieces and other women relatives of SAR members in good standing.

The ladies schedule many of their own events to coordinate with state board of management (BOM) meetings. They sponsor an annual fundraiser and provide activities for ladies who accompany their men to the BOM events.

The current dues are $5 per year, which also makes a lady a member of the National Ladies Auxiliary.

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**ILSSAR Registrar – Garry Grugan**

Effective immediately my new e-mail address is
gagrugansar@gmail.com.
Please update your contact information accordingly.
I apologize for the inconvenience.

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**Secretary — Drew Robinson**

Please notify me of address changes or deceased members, in order to keep your ILSSAR database up to date and your newsletter delivered to the correct address AT:
TheRobinsons_@comcast.net

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**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

For this issue, we were blessed with enough photos and copy to fill a 24 page edition. As such, a number of fine contributions had to be left out. Please scan the QR code at right to see more photos on the state website at www.illinois-sar.org
Wyndham Hotel room discount rate is $107.00 plus tax. The cutoff date for discount reservations is July 21, 2016. Call 217.789.1530 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution group rate. Dress is business suit, business dress or uniform.

**Thursday, August 11 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 Wyndham. Please let Color Guard Commander Tom Ashby know if you plan to participate at tdashby@me.com or 309.202.4067.

**Friday, August 12 Dinner**

We will have a cash bar and social hour from 6 to 7 pm. Dinner at 7 pm. Following dinner, our speaker is author, Eddie Price, who will speak on the Battle of Blue Licks, a Revolutionary War program. Eddie wrote the book “Widder’s Landing” on life during the War of 1812.

**Saturday, August 13 Board Meeting**

The meeting will start at 8:30 am. The lunch begins at noon.

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I will attend the BOM meeting but not any meal events: ___________________  

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**Friday and Saturday Meal Requests**

- **Friday Dinner:** Grilled Chicken Provencal, w/green beans and Dessert: $35 each
- **Saturday Luncheon:** Grilled Sirloin, Seasonal Vegetables and Dessert: $30 each

Member name: ___________________  
Spouse name: ___________________  
Guest name: ___________________  
Special Diet Needs: ___________________

**NOTE:** Meal payment is due not later than August 4th. Meal requests received after August 4 will cost $40.00 for Friday dinner and $35 for Saturday lunch.

Mail personal check payable to “ILSSAR” for meal total to:

Compatriot Jim DeGroff  
6 Ridgefield Drive, Troy, IL 62294-1925  
Phone: (H) 618.667.8660  
e-mail: jimdegroff@charter.net
Youth and Community Awards highlight 2016 annual luncheon

Above, Fox Valley Commpatriot and JROTC Chairman Dale Bottom congratulates one of the JROTC winners, Vanessa Flores. At right, Eagle Scout Award Chairman George Tinkham presents an eagle statue to Eagle Scout Zachary Harbin, who thanked his parents profusely for encouraging and supporting his scouting work.

SA R 2016 - 2017 Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

August 11, 2016
Illinois State Fair Parade & Illinois SAR Color Guard, Springfield. If you will be participating in the parade, contact Color Guard Commander Tom Ashby at tashby@me.com or 309.897.8483.

August 12 & 13, 2016
Illinois SAR Board of Managers meeting, Springfield, Wyndham Hotel (formerly the Springfield Hilton Hotel). Room rate of $107.00 per night includes two full breakfast buffet coupons per room and one complimentary parking pass per room. Cutoff date for reservations is July 21.

Call 217.789.1530 for reservations. Remember this is the State Fair weekend and last minute rooms are almost impossible to find.

September 29 - October 1, 2016
National SAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY, Brown Hotel. Call 877.926.7757 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.

October 28 & 29, 2016
Great Lakes District Meeting, Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI. Room rate and reservation information will be published when it becomes available.

November 4 & 5, 2016
Illinois SAR Board of Managers Meeting, Peoria Pere Marquette Marriott Hotel, $115.00 plus tax. Sons of the American Revolution rate includes free self-parking and two free breakfast buffet coupons per room. Cutoff date for reservations is January 13, 2017. Call 309.862.9000 or 800.228.9290 for reservations.

February 3 & 4, 2017
Illinois SAR Board of Managers meeting, Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel, $139.00 plus tax. Sons of the American Revolution rate includes free self-parking and two free breakfast buffet coupons per room. Cutoff date for reservations is January 13, 2017. Call 309.862.9000 or 800.228.9290 for reservations.

July 6 - 13, 2017
National SAR 127th Congress, Knoxville, TN. Hotel information to be determined.
New officers for 2016 - 2017
From left: Tom Ashby, Outgoing President; Ronald Peck-Genealogist, Mike Campagnolo-Northern Region VP, Dan Crafton-Southern Region VP, Dick Chamblin-Treasurer, Jim DeGroff-Senior VP, Ken Griffin-Sargeant At Arms, Gary List-Recording Secretary, David Ashbrook-Chaplain, Drew Robinson-Secretary, and Lou Myers-Central Region VP.

After handing the presidential gavel over to incoming President Toby Chamberlain, Tom Ashby received gifts of an engraved clock and a set of tumblers and a decanter.

The Captain Zeally Moss Chapter of the ILSSAR began the year with a presentation in March by Dr. Allan Campbell on the events and issues from the Spring Leadership Conference in Louisville, KY. A major vote was held about the future of the museum at our national headquarters with approval to proceed.

In April, Terry Lynch gave an excellent presentation as Alexander Hamilton at the Soangetaha Country Club in Galesburg. Of course, there is a major musical on in New York about Hamilton, which tells the story of saving his image on the $10.00 bill.

In May, Judge Don Bernardi gave a presentation on our Constitution discussing original intent and current issues of interpretation at the Weaver Ridge Golf Club in Peoria.

At the May 13 meeting of the Board of Managers of the ILSSAR in Springfield, Gary Grigan and Dr. Allan Campbell were awarded Patriot Medals. Compatriot Grigan was not able to attend the ceremony due to his firefighting duties. Our Chapter received a certificate for perfect attendance at the BOM meetings.

In June, Dan Leifel, Esq. presented on “John Jay, The Most Hated Founding Father” at the IVY Club in Peoria. Other presentations are scheduled through October, including a review of the NSSAR Congress in Boston. See www.captainzeallymoss.org for the schedule.

... By Dr. Allan Campbell
American Bicentennial Chapter

Judicial review reviewed at ABC chapter meeting

The May 2016 meeting of the American Bicentennial Chapter included a pizza lunch and an informal discussion by attending members regarding ideas for increasing membership and turnout at the chapter meetings. A number of ideas were brought up for future consideration.

Following that discussion, a Great Courses presentation was given by Thomas L. Pangle, a Professor of Democratic Studies in the Department of Government at The University of Texas.

The lecture covered the timely topic of “The Supreme Court and Judicial Review” as that concept evolved in debates between the founding fathers at the nation’s inception.

The presentation was given by way of electronic media and was followed by a brief discussion of the importance attached to the current unfilled Supreme Court Justice position.

Kishwaukee Chapter

Chapter members travel to Rockford for scout awards

Scout Chairman Andy Hill and Chapter President Ray Beets of Kishwaukee Chapter SAR both attended the Blackhawk Area Council Scoutings 2015 Adult & Youth Recognition Dinner on March 6 at the Radisson Hotel in Rockford. They presented SAR certificates to 34 of the Eagle Scouts in attendance out of a total of 173 certificates prepared.

The number of Eagle Scout recipients continues to grow from one year to the next. They also presented the Outstanding Eagle Project award. Ray has attended the past 3 years in his Colonial Uniform, which seems to be a crowd favorite.

Ft. Armstrong Chapter

Jim Barnett, center, received his SAR Certificate at the Ft. Armstrong chapter meeting in May. Presenting the certificate were Tom Ashby on the left and Chapter President Dave Keenan on the right. Also at the meeting, Tom did a program on “Savannah during the Revolution.”

Decatur Chapter

Chapter small but growing

The Decatur Chapter Color Guard laid wreaths at the annual Memorial Day salute to all veterans in Fairview Park, Decatur and at the annual Korean War Memorial In Graceland Cemetery, Decatur.

We currently have 8 members and working on 5 more. We are planning our first meeting for some time this summer.

... By Dick Chamblin, Acting President
The Ewington Chapter recognized outstanding seniors from local high schools. The awards ceremony was held on Tuesday, April 19, at the First Baptist Church in Effingham.

The chapter’s Outstanding Citizenship Awards Chairman Larry Smith said, “The Ewington Chapter serves Fayette, Effingham, Marion, Clay, Shelby, Coles, Cumberland and Clark Counties. We are so pleased with the response from the high schools.”

The following students were recognized with SAR Outstanding Citizenship Awards: They are (not all pictured): Eric Wolff, Altamont H.S.; Addison Cage, Brownstown H.S.; Benjamin Ashby, Centralia H.S.; Jessie Laughlin, Clay City H.S.; Chase Chandler, Cowden-Herrick H.S.; Kendra Flood, Cumberland H.S.; Collin Robert Hecht, Effingham H.S.; Parker Moses, Flora H.S.; Lane Thomas Brown, Marshall H.S.; Trenton Bitting, Mattoon H.S.; Lara Barbee, North Clay Community H.S.; Dawson Cade Williams, Odin H.S.; Madison Karrick, Patoka Community H.S.; Grant Dubiel, Ramsey H.S.; Kyla Burton, St. Anthony H.S.; Ryan Cape, Salem Community H.S.; Kade Gambill, Sandoval H.S.; Kelcie S. Darnell, Shelbyville H.S.; and Chase Riley, South-Central H.S.

Outstanding high school seniors from the Effingham area stand for a photo after receiving awards from the Ewington Chapter.

The Ewington Chapter
SAR Eagle Scout badge awarded to Salem Boy Scout

Fort Dearborn Chapter
Member awards at BOM

Ft. Dearborn Compatriot Franz Herder, at left, receives the State Medal of Distinguished Service from Outgoing President Tom Ashby. Above, Ft. Dearborn Chapter President John Dyrud gets a standing ovation as he receives the Man Of The Year Award from Tom Ashby.

Captain Elijah Smith Chapter

One of the recent highlights for the Captain Elijah Smith Chapter, happened at the May Board Of Managers award dinner when chapter Compatriot Sid Wells received the Bronze Roger Sherman medal for a long period of service to the ILSSAR.
Above, Fox Valley compatriots march in Chicago’s Memorial Day parade. At right, Fox Valley Chapter President Mike Campagnolo accepts the certificate for Chapter Of The Year 2015-2016 from Illinois SAR President Tom Ashby. The award was presented at the Spring Board of Managers meeting in Springfield for the chapter’s “outstanding performance in accomplishing the goals of The National Society.”

Great weather and huge crowds for Memorial Day

Our GJB SAR Memorial Day pre-parade meeting was held on May 30 at Bob Evans Restaurant on IAA Drive. The host for the meeting was Don Hyland. Those present included J. Gordon Bidner, Don Hyland, Dave Ashbrook, Al Abbott, Virgil Short MD, Bud Lewis, Lance McCormick, Bob Bowen, and Bill Hammitt who engaged in discussion concerning a number of issues of interest to GJB SAR Chapter.

It was decided to allocate $100 dollars for handouts for the Danvers Jul. 4, 2016 Parade. The ILSSAR Annual Meeting of May 13-14, 2016 was discussed. The remainder of the meeting was enjoyed in fellowship among compatriots of those GJB SAR Members present. Of particular interest was Bud Lewis’ account of his adventures transporting staff and equipment between campaign stops during the Presidential Campaign of Eisenhower and Nixon. After the meeting, those participating in the Memorial Day Parade, J. Gordon Bidner, Dave Ashbrook, Don Hyland, Virgil Short, Al Abbott, Bill Hammitt, and Bob Bowen, left to reconvene in the parade formation area in downtown Bloomington.

The parade was made up of floats, marching military units, other marching units and floats of patriotic and other civic organizations, and marching band units from area high schools. The parade began in downtown Bloomington and ended at Miller Park.

The weather was beautiful, the crowds huge, enthusiastic, and responsive to our members in Revolutionary attire.

... By Virgil D. Short MD, GJB SAR Chaplain
Eagle scouts honored at ceremony

Members of the General George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution presented Adam Kelso with the SAR Eagle Scout Award certificate and badge during a ceremony held at the Bond Christian Service Camp in Mulberry Grove on Sunday, May 1.

Adam, a senior at Highland High School, is a member of Troop 91 in Hamel, Illinois. He earned an impressive 38 merit badges. His Eagle Scout service project was the design and construction of an archery range at the Bond Christian Service Camp where he has worked for several summers.

Adam is the son of Caine and Kara Jeanne Kelso of Alhambra. GGRC Chapter Registrar Jim DeGroff said, “Recognizing outstanding young people is one of my favorite things we do in SAR. It is especially enjoyable when the person being recognized is one of our own, a chapter member such as Adam.”

Adam, his brother Aaron, father Caine, and grandfather Paul, are descended from Hugh Kelso, a major in the North Carolina militia during the Revolutionary War. There were also many other ways in which men and women became patriots other than serving in the military.

More information is available on the chapter website at http://www.ggrc-sar-il.org/ or by contacting Jim DeGroff at 618.667.8660.

New Eagle Scout in Edwardsville

Congratulations to Troop 31’s newest Eagle Scout Alex Miller. Eden Church in Edwardsville sponsors the troop. Alex’s Eagle Scout project was building new benches to be placed in the courtyard of the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wood River where he is a member. Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter members Jim DeGroff and Robert Ridenour presented Alex a certificate, a pocket Constitution and the SAR Eagle Scout badge.

Othniel Looker Chapter

Youngest of seven children gets outstanding citizenship award too

March is a busy month for the Othniel Looker SAR Chapter in Robinson. Being a quiet farming community, there are only four high schools in Crawford County. The chapter presents the SAR Good Citizen Certificates to outstanding seniors yearly.

The chapter has also traveled down to Lawrence Co. for the last 20 years and presented SAR certificates to their outstanding seniors also.

The Toussaint du Bois DAR chapter has been gracious in inviting the SAR chapter to its Citizenship meeting. At the meeting, the SAR and DAR presented their certificates to these outstanding young citizens.

This year, Othniel Looker President Carl Jones, presented a certificate to the Red Hill High School senior, Paul Williams.

Paul comes from a family of six girls and one boy. He is the youngest. All seven children in this family have achieved the status of “honor student”. All the girls have received the DAR Citizenship Award and of course Paul not wanting to break the record was also awarded the SAR Good Citizen Certificate.

The girls have all gone on to college and are now teachers, or working in various businesses. Paul is also going to enter college this year and he too will have a bright future.

... By Carl Jones, President Othniel SAR – Robinson, IL.
Long Knives Chapter

Dra ke Cem etery gets marker for Patriots

The Long Knives Chapter was recently very pleased and honored to dedicate a Revolutionary War Veteran’s Plaque at the Drake Cemetery located in very rural Williamson County. The Cemetery holds the remains of Benajah Gill and John Damron, two Revolutionary War Veterans. Compatriot Jim Wallace’s coordinated efforts made the event’s routine seem flawless. The Long Knives Color Guard and chapter compatriots were assisted by compatriots from other Chapters, the DAR, the BSA, and many others. Members of the Gill and Damron family were able to be in attendance for the dedication.

Memorial Day at Mound City National Cemetery
The Long Knives Chapter again continued its annual Memorial Day tribute to the fallen at Mound City National Cemetery in Mounds, Illinois. The event is the largest Memorial Day remembrance ceremony south of Saint Louis. The Long Knives Color Guard marched in honor alongside the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Union and Confederate re-enactment soldiers, as well as the Boy Scouts of America. If you have never visited this National Cemetery, it is worth the drive to see it. Remains of Union, Confederate, and soldiers of all wars since lie in final repose within this beautiful cemetery.

Law Enforcement Officer of The Year named
The Lewis & Clark Chapter has named Monroe County Deputy Sheriff Larry Gardner as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for his dedication to the Backstoppers, an organization that supports families in need after the loss of their first responder in the line of duty. Gardner has served for 12 years on the committee that raised more than $231,000 for the Backstoppers. Sheriff Neal Rohlfing said Gardner has been vital in making Backstoppers Trivia Night a success.

Lynden Prange, chief of the Maeystown Fire Department and president of the county Backstoppers, said, “Larry is the heart and soul of our organization.”

Heroes Honored
On January 3, a house fire call went out in Cahokia. Five Cahokia policemen were the first to respond and they rescued an elderly couple. For their actions, the Lewis & Clark Chapter of the SAR presented each an Award for Heroism. The officers are Lt. Gary Brewer and Patrolmen David Heine, Gary Craig, Eric Waszak and Courtney Ross.

Police Chief Dave Landmann said Lt. Brewer was first on the scene. He found the front door unlocked and open. He entered the residence and found thick smoke, with visibility being less than one foot. Lt. Brewer discovered an elderly disabled female in the living room. Canine Officer Heine arrived and entered the residence. They carried the female from the residence and began treating her for smoke inhalation and minor burns. Canine Officer Craig, Officer Waszak and Officer Ross arrived and were able to pull the second victim out of the burning house.

Lewis And Clark Chapter

Long Knives Chapter presents ROTC Awards
The Long Knives recently presented ROTC awards and medals to several cadets. At SIU, Compatriot Jack Cramer had the privilege of presenting the SAR Army ROTC Award and medal to Cadet Orlando Armstrong. Compatriot Gerald Whitson was able to present the SAR Air Force ROTC Award and medal to Cadet James Van Alstine. Also, Compatriot Cramer presented the Junior ROTC Award to Brandon Humes from Richland High School in Olney.
On May 28, the Springfield Chapter held a SAR sign dedication that identified three Revolutionary War Patriots buried in Springfield’s Oak Ridge Cemetery.

The names of the Patriots identified on the sign are Moses Broadwell, Thomas Owsley and Henry Owsley. Oak Ridge is the second most visited cemetery in the United States, second only to Arlington National Cemetery.

The dedication ceremony was attended by about 125 people that included 12 living descendents of the three Patriots. ABC News affiliate television channel 20 and the State Journal Register Newspaper also covered the event.

The permanent location of the sign is near the receiving vault of President Abraham Lincoln which assures very high visibility.

At left, Compatriot Dick Chamblin was honored with one of three Patriot Awards at the May BOM mtg. Also at the BOM awards dinner, Genl. Lou Myers received the Meritorious Service Award from President Tom Ashby.
May’s Board of Managers meeting marked the end of Tom Ashby’s presidency of the Illinois Society Sons of The American Revolution and the beginning of Toby Chamberlain’s presidency.

Outgoing President Ashby was given gifts as expressions of gratitude for his two years at the helm.

Incoming President Chamberlain in his remarks, stressed goals of increasing membership and getting members more involved in committees and BOM attendance. He is shown in the photo receiving the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal from Outgoing President Ashby for his long service to ILSSAR.