

Sons of the American Revolution



Illinois Society

Michael S. Campagnolo, President

Report to the Great Lakes District
October 31, 2020

ILSSAR Organization

The Illinois Society currently has fifteen Chapters. The Illinois Society is divided into 3 regions, Northern, Central and Southern. In the Northern Region we have Fort Dearborn, Fox Valley, Kishwaukee, American Bicentennial and Fort Armstrong Chapters. The Central Region we have Captain Zeally Moss, General Joseph Bartholomew, Piankeshaw, Stephen Decatur, Springfield and Elijah Smith Chapters. The Southern Regions consists of General George Rogers Clark, Ewington, Lewis and Clark and Long Knives Chapters.

As of October 6, 2020, the Illinois Society membership stands at **1153** with an additional **21** awaiting National Society approval.

ILSSAR maintains an active web page to post both state and chapter events and information. This includes the quarterly posting of the **"Patriot"** newsletter, containing articles of interest to our members.

The ILSSAR Color Guard under Commander Jon Fixmer and Vice Commander Jim Wallace have a roster of **76**.

The ILSSAR will continue to hold the Board of Manager meetings (February, May, August and November) around the state at various locations to encourage attendance and participation. Chapters are encouraged to hold meetings in their respective regions at least once every two months.

ILSSAR Events 2020

Because of the Covid-19 outbreak all our Cemetery Marking Ceremonies, Chapter and State Parades with our Color Guard have been postponed until 2021. Our last face to face Board of Managers meeting was in Mt Vernon on February 7th & 8th. We have had virtual Board of Managers Zoom meetings on May 16th, June 27th, August 27th. Our final one of 2020 will be on November 12th.

On August 8th, 2020 SAR and ISCAR Partner to Provide **Packages For Patriots** by I.S.C.A.R. State President Diana Kwak It was a remarkable day in the 2020-2021 I.S.C.A.R. It served Packages for Patriots directly at the Operation Support-Our-Troops-America Warehouse in Lisle. It demonstrated the awesome power that C.A.R. members wield when we get involved hands-on. The day began with twelve members representing societies both in and out-of-state. Everyone arrived with something to contribute, from the eighty pounds of donations we received to the can-do attitude that comes with dedication. We were grateful for the help of many DAR and SAR members as well, including ILSSAR President Mike Campagnolo, Fox Valley President Ted Miller, and Bill Wheeler, who serves as both the Fort Dearborn SAR President and the I.S.C.A.R. Senior State President. After assuring that everyone was healthy and safe, we went straight to work - with members labeling items, making letter and hygiene kits, and preparing the assembly line. Once everything was ready, we began the packing process! It warmed my heart to see fellow C.A.R. members growing in confidence and getting excited about the work they were doing. When we can be involved at every step of the process and see an empty box turn into something tangibly impactful, I think we can awe ourselves with the magnitude of our service. And indeed, everyone in attendance at the 'Packing' Packet Meeting was awed by our results. In just one day, we accomplished a combined fifty hours of service and brought 150 care packages from ideas to reality. I am left beyond grateful to everyone who took the time and effort to come out and help, without whom the Packages for Patriots mission could not have been possible!



The **Cemetery Marking Ceremonies** are very rewarding, not just for the chapters but the surrounding communities as well.

The ILSSAR started the Cemetery Marking Program in 2014 by Compatriot and past ILSSAR President Franz Herder. When starting out you need to choose a Patriot. Send introduction letters of what your plan is to the city that will host the event. When the city has OK'd the plan, you need to pick a date for the event. We usually schedule an event 6-8 months in advance. The sign itself takes 6-8 weeks to make. There is a lot of planning involved like contacting local DAR, VFW, American Legion, Boy Scout Troops, Mayor, City Council members, State Representative and Historical Societies. The cost over the years has gone up a little. The foundry we use is called Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio. They charge around \$2200 for the plaque and post. When you order the sign from Sewah Studios there is an order form and you must supply the wording for the sign. In the past the GWF contributes \$500, the ILSSAR contributes \$500 and your chapter will have to come up with the balance. At the chapter level we have fund raisers and have been lucking by having some very generous individuals contribute.

Also visit the Sewah Studios website at sewahstudios.com

Feel free to email me or give me a call at (630) 464-4904 with any additional questions and concerns.

Below is a colloque from one of our Cemetery Marking Ceremonies in Mokena, IL

Patriot Charles Denny Grave Marking Ceremony – Saturday, September 7, 2019



Drummer Will Jennings



Keynote Speaker:
Retired U.S. Air
Force Major General
Mark Anderson →



William Martin VFW
Post 725 - Post
Commander James
Hogan ↓



Mokena Mayor
Frank Fleischer and
Charles Denny's
descendants –
Stacey Mae →
McGowan Olson
and Wilma
McGowan



Patriotic Flower Spray
Courtesy of the William Martin VFW Post 725



← Left:
FVSAR
Chapter
President
Ted Miller

Sponsored
By:



Color Guard: L-R – Jon Fixmer, Max Cockrell, Ted Miller, Mike Campagnolo, Ray Beets, and Will Jennings



Founders Crossing DAR Chapter and
Charles Denny's descendants



Right:
FVSAR
Chapter
Secretary
Kevin
Alcott served as
the
Ceremony
Emcee

Photos courtesy of FVSAR Compatriot John Lansing



The **General George Rogers Clark Chapter** Sons of the American Revolution is participating in Wreaths Across America again this year. The event will start promptly at 11:00 a.m. December 19, 2020, at Glen Carbon Cemetery. If you can come and assist, please do so. If you can come in uniform, please do so; you can be part of the color guard. If you have a flintlock or musket you can be part of the honor salute. However, if you do not have a uniform or weapon, you can still attend and assist.

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Budget and Finances and Audit

Our budget for programs and projects for 2020 is \$23,000

The Illinois Society holds net assets of approximately \$ 303,000 which includes earmarked endowment Funds.

Illinois Society has engaged the accounting firm of Sulaski & Webb of Bloomington, Illinois, to conduct limited audit and examination of the societies accounting procedures. We are currently in auditing process.

Ladies Auxiliary

Our Ladies Auxiliary is very active, meeting quarterly at the BOM meetings. The last in person BOM meeting was in February in Mt Vernon. The ladies usually have a Silent Auction at our May Medal and Awards Banquet raising funds for the CAAH, donating \$500 for the past several years. The Ladies Auxiliary also helps with funding for our ILSSAR Cemetery Marking Program.

2020 ILSSAR Ladies Auxiliary Officers: President Cheryl Chamblin, Vice President Anita Harris
Secretary Tina Robinson, Treasurer: Jane Bradley

Medals and Awards for 2020

NSSAR Awards: Admiral Furlong Award for Flag awards presented by state.

Knights Essay Participant Streamer

Eagle Scout Participant Streamer

Gold Roger Sherman Medal: Richard Elston

Minnesota Society Stephen Taylor Award: Leonard J. Szaltis (certificate)

Liberty Medal: Roger K. Swim Medal

James DeGroff Jr 1 OLC

Norman G. Dickey 1 OLC

Robert E. Lybarger 1 OLC

Edward J. Miller 2 OLC

Ronald L. Peck 1 OLC

William M. Wheeler 2 OLC

Unfortunately, since we weren't able to gather in May for our annual awards dinner and luncheon, here are the ILSSAR award winners:

Silver Roger Sherman Medal and Certificate: Charles Dobias Dr Ray Owens Scott Sanders Jack Cramer

ILSSAR Color Guardsman of the Year: James Wallace **Silver Color Guardsman:** Mike Campagnolo **Silver**

Meritorious Service Medal: Drew Robinson Gary Grugen Karl Reed Dick Chamblin **Silver Good Citizenship:**

Dr Virgil Short Jay L. Cummins William A. White War Service Medal: William A. Owens **Military Service Medal:**

Geoffrey Thompson Patriot Medal: James Wallace Ralph "Sid" Welles Gerald Whitson **Man of the Year:** James

Wallace Partners in Patriotism Certificate: Zeally Moss Chapter **Flag Certificates:** George Rogers Clark Fox

Valley Fort Dearborn Stephen Decatur Long Knives Springfield Gen Joseph Bartholomew Captain Zeally Moss

Chapter **Presidential Citation Certificates:** Fox Valley Springfield Gen George Rogers Clark Cpt Zeally Moss

American Bicentennial Fort Dearborn Ft Armstrong Lewis and Clark Long Knives Stephen Decatur **Joel Willis**

Newsletter: General Joseph Bartholomew General George Rogers Clark

Sincerely,

Mike Campagnolo



ILSSAR President