A very Happy New Year to all SAR Compatriots and your families!
As we begin a new year, I would ask each of you, in your own Chapters, to get involved in the process of recognizing our students, teachers and community first-responders. This can be done in several ways:

- Volunteer as a committee member or chairperson of one or more of the SAR recognition programs: Outstanding Citizenship Award, Knights Essay Contest, Rumbaugh Orations Contest, Outstanding American History Teacher Award, Eagle Scout Recognition/Scholarship, JROTC/ROTC Outstanding Cadet Award, and Fire/Police/EMS Recognition.

- Encourage your chapter to appoint one committee, of the above (usually the Outstanding Citizenship Committee), to encourage high school counselors in your geographic area to make students and teachers aware of the SAR recognition programs available to them. These include: The Outstanding Citizenship certificate and pin for an eligible senior, The Knights Essay Contest for all students, The Rumbaugh Orations Contest for all students, and The Outstanding American History Teacher award for “one of a kind” history teachers.

- Ask your chapter Eagle Scout Recognition/Scholarship Committee to contact the local Scout Councils in your area and encourage them to post a link for Eagle Scouts to the National Scholarship information at NSSAR http://www.sar.org/Youth/Eagle_Scout. Indicate your chapter’s willingness to honor ALL new Eagle Scouts with a recognition certificate.

- Encourage your chapter to have the JROTC/ROTC committee contact the Military Instructor of all programs in your area to indicate your chapter’s willingness to present an Outstanding Cadet award.

- Promote your chapter’s Fire/Police/EMS recognition committee work with local and regional Police, Fire and EMS officials to identify recognition-worthy first-responders in your chapter area.

- As a representative of your SAR Chapter, help to present these awards to the Students, Teachers, Eagle Scouts, JROTC/ROTC Cadets and outstanding Fire/Police/EMS award winners. If you have a Revolutionary War Uniform, wear it to the presentation! Line up some publicity so the awardee and the SAR will be noted by the public. You’ll make a dramatic appearance to help all remember the SAR.

If we do these things, we all will be filled with a sense of pride in the SAR and will be praiseworthy members of our Communities. We will have fulfilled one of our SAR purposes and instilled a sense of recognition and gratitude in the award recipients. We will let our communities know that we are there “for them”.

Did you know that NSSAR has started a couple of new Youth Recognition Programs: an Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest and a Middle School Brochure Contest? Information on these can be found on the http://www.sar.org website under the Youth Education tab. ILSSAR currently does not have a committee for these relatively new programs and I’m looking for a volunteer to be its chairman for our state. Please contact me (tdashby@me.com) if you feel that this is something you’d be interested in.

Another goal for the coming year is to continue Past ILSSAR President Bruce Talbot’s efforts to use the recently rewritten SAR Handbook (available at the ILSSAR website (http://illinois-sar.org/index.html) under Members Only Tab) and the NSSAR Americanism Committee PG’s Cup score sheet (https://www.sar.org/node/283) and Instructions (http://www.sar.org/node/1939) as a guide for Chapter Activities.

Have a great SAR year in your local Chapter and be sure that your Chapter is represented in the ILSSAR Board of Manager’s Meetings held quarterly!
SAR Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 6 & 7, 2015

March 6 & 7, 2015
NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Brown Hotel, Louisville KY.

May 15 & 16, 2015

June 26 to July 1, 2015
NSSAR 125th Annual Congress, Louisville, KY, Galt House Hotel. Call 1-800-916-4339 for reservations. Ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.

August 13, 2015
Illinois State Fair Parade – ILSSAR Color Guard, Springfield.

August 14 & 15 2015

September 25 & 26, 2015
NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY, Brown Hotel.

October 30 & 31, 2015
Great Lakes District SAR Annual Meeting, Lisle, IL. Hyatt Hotel.

November 6 & 7, 2015
ILSSAR Board of Managers Meeting, Marriott Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria, IL. Call 1-309-637-6500 for reservations. Ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.

2016
NSSAR 126th Annual Congress, Boston, MA, dates and hotel to be determined.

2017
NSSAR 127th Annual Congress, Knoxville, TN, dates and hotel to be determined.

Our weekend started with the wonderful presentation by Barbara Kay at the Friday BOM evening dinner. Barbara portrayed Martha Washington emphasizing not only Martha’s courage, patriotism, and commitment to her husband, but also her personal family trials.

On Saturday we gathered for a short business meeting where we discussed plans for our Silent Auction to be held at the Medals and Awards Dinner in May 2015 in Springfield. Our theme for auction items this year will be Wine and Baked Goods. Please be ready to contribute! We made motions for changes in our bylaws to be voted on at the May meeting in Springfield.

After the meeting we bundled up and hiked down to visit the Riverfront Museum. At the museum we were given a private tour by Dr. Bill Marshall of the stunning Impressionism to Modernism exhibit. We toured a second exhibit on folk art from the Bishop Hill region by Swedish artist Olof Krans. Thanks to Marlene Campbell for making these arrangements.

We look forward to our February meeting in Bloomington. The February BOM is always nice as we gather in the Board Room at the Marriott for our meeting. Please join us on February 6th for coffee and a presentation on Digital Scrapbooking by Lola DeGroff.

Oops! A correction is needed

The photo on page #6 of the October Patriot misidentified those pictured. The cut line should have been L to R Dick Chamblin, Lou Myers, Toby Chamberlain, Tom Ashby and John Dyrud at the 124th SAR Annual Congress George Washington Fellow luncheon in Greenville, SC.
Senior Vice-President Toby Chamberlain’s Comments

ILSSAR Membership

As we neared the end of 2014, I looked back on what we have done right. Thanks to the hard work of BOM members, chapter presidents and some of our members, our membership numbers have started to climb back toward 1,000 and is currently at 958 and growing after the disappointing 20 plus percent membership decline of 2013. We currently have over 20 new membership applications waiting for approval in Louisville meaning we could cross the 1,000 member number early in 2015.

Not only is there growth in our membership numbers but the number of ILSSAR chapters is increasing. The new Quad Cities chapter is almost ready to join the ranks of active ILSSAR chapters. Additionally, the Decatur chapter is nearing resurrection after previously turning in their charter. Also returning to active status is the Ewington Chapter. When these chapters are all active we will have 17 ILSSAR chapters.

Cemetery Marking

The Graveyard Marking project that identifies cemeteries where Revolutionary War Patriots are buried has taken off under the guidance of Franz Herder and Dave Ashbrook and has seen growth with more chapters participating with future markings in both the central and southern regions planned.

Committees

Our ILSSAR committees are active in our outreach programs (American History Teacher Award, Color Guard, Eagle Scout, Flag Awards, Law, Fire/EMS, Knight Essay, Illinois State Historic Sites, Outstanding Citizenship, ROTC, Rumbaugh Oration and Veterans Affairs) and are doing much to put ILSSAR in the public eye.

ILSSAR Chapter Visits

During the past two months I have visited four chapter meetings (General Joseph Bartholomew, General George Rogers Clark, Elijah Smith and Piankshaw).

All of the chapters I visited are moving forward with NSSAR and ILSSAR programs and each has a unique way of doing things. If you have a chance to visit another chapter’s meeting, it is a great way to spread ideas of what is working for your chapter and find out what is working for them.
February Board of Managers’ meeting reservation form

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

Friday and Saturday Meal Requests

Friday Dinner: Flat Iron Steak with Demi Glaze, Roasted Yukon Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables and Key Lime Pie: $35 each

Saturday Luncheon: Chicken, Seasonal Vegetables, Carrot Cake; $30 each

Member name: ____________________________  Friday ____  Saturday ____

Spouse name: _________________________________  Friday ____  Saturday ____

Guest name: _________________________________  Friday ____  Saturday ____

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

For more information, contact Toby Chamberlain
by e-mail at saichamb@comcast.net
or by phone: (H) 217-483-6267, (C) 217-299-1966

Fort Dearborn Chapter

President Tom Ashby wishes to announce that, “It is with much sorrow that I am advising you of the passing of Fort Dearborn Chapter President and Past ILSSAR President Bing Seibold.” Here is a link to his obituary: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/chicagotribune/obituary.aspx?n=Arthur-Bingham-Seibold&pid=173631099

Despite Bing’s passing, the January 15 luncheon meeting at 11:30 AM at the Union League Club in downtown Chicago will go on as scheduled. Bing has helped hundreds of SAR members with their application research and will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

A change in Patriot editors

The Patriot newsletter has a new editor, Compatriot Scott Sanders. I am a member of the Fox Valley Chapter and have taken on the position from Fox Valley former president Rod Herbig, who has done an excellent job with it for years. Many thanks to Rod!

Because the software I’m using is different than Rod’s, please follow these guidelines so your copy and photos look their best:

– Copy and photos are due to me March 10, June 10, September 10, and December 10 for each following issue.
– Photos should be in the .jpg format and shot at the highest resolution setting possible, for the best print reproduction.
– Please include caption info for each photo, which should include names for those pictured, a brief description of what is happening in the photo, and also the name of the photographer.
– My email is w9run1776@gmail.com and my phone is 708.969.1776. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

Compatriot Scott Sanders
Annual Battle of Yorktown commemoration

The ABC chapter met on October 19 for our annual Battle of Yorktown commemoration. Compatriot Bruce Wright and Conrad O’Conner were presented with their membership certificates and sworn in as SAR members by President Larry Wade. Larry also presented Bruce with his son’s certificate and rosette lapel pin. Jeremy Rogers was awarded the Lamplighter award for his continued financial support of the National SAR Library in Louisville, KY. Mike Cobb was awarded (in absence) the Chapter’s perfect attendance to the State meetings. Larry also awarded him the past president pin. Geoffrey Thompson, Sergeant-at-Arms, was awarded the national ribbon to place on the chapter flag for the National President General’s initiative for awards, memorials, and monuments, including cemetery markers. William North (absent) received the 50 year SAR membership certificate.

Our speaker was 1st Sergeant (retired) David T. Davis U.S. Army, now a civilian working with the Department of Defense. David gave an informative speech on threats facing the country. He spoke of overcoming disadvantage and of having a supportive family. He also spoke of the opportunities that being in the service gave him, opportunities that he otherwise would not have had. He said that it is difficult to find suitable recruits that meet the moral and educational requirements that must be met in order to enter the armed services.

David expressed gratitude for organizations such as the SAR. He stressed the importance of reaching out to the nation’s youth in order to make them aware of the country’s history. David feels that this will help to motivate young people, increase their chances of entering the service, and increase their chances to access the opportunities that it offers. He regularly speaks to youth today about the opportunities that the military provides.

Larry presented David with an appreciation certificate and a gift from the chapter- 1st edition Victory of Yorktown. David stated that the 1st streamer on the Army flag is the Yorktown streamer.
The Captain Zeally Moss Chapter of the SAR concluded a most productive year in 2014. We had excellent and well attended monthly meetings from March through October, beginning and ending with Brian "Fox" Ellis portraying Illinois Governor Ninian Edwards and Chief Gomo, then Lewis and Clark. Terry Lynch portrayed James Madison in June. Gordon Bidner, David Ashbrook, Tom Ashby, Nick Mainz, Gary List, Joe Dutttinger and I all presented programs. A new website for the Chapter was created (www.CaptainZeallyMoss.org). At our October meeting, Gary List was elected President for the 2015-2016 term, with John Foster as Vice President (President Elect) and continuing as Secretary. The other officers remain the same.

On July 4, the plaque honoring Captain Zeally Moss was dedicated on Soldier’s Hill in Springdale Cemetery in Peoria. Photos and information from that project were submitted to the National Society of the SAR and we received the second prize with recognition and a check for $500, sponsored by the President General Joe Dooley, who attended the Board of Managers Meeting. At that meeting, our founder, Compatriot Tom Ashby, was sworn in as President of the Illinois State Sons of the American Revolution. Gary List became the Recording Secretary and Chair of the Knight Essay Committee.

At the most recent BOM, Allan Campbell became Chair of the Rumbaugh Oration and C.A.R./DAR Relations Committees. Gary Grugan, ILSSAR Genealogist, will become Registrar.

Our program for 2015 (4th Wednesday evening March through October) will be listed on our website when complete. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as Chapter President for the previous two years.
Fox Valley Chapter

Revolutionary War Days in Wheaton are annual highlight for Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter of the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution on September 13 participated in Revolutionary War Days at Cantigny Park in Winfield, Illinois.

The chapter has had a SAR recruitment table set up every year at this event to help answer questions and recruit new members.

Cemetery marking project to highlight chapter’s work in 2015

We have two Revolutionary War patriots that the Fox Valley Chapter voted on in July for the ILSSAR Cemetery Marking Program. We are planning to have both dedications sometime next year. Eventually down the road we would like to have all our patriots that are buried in our five-county area honored. The following are brief biographies of both patriots courtesy of our website.

Abner Powers was at Valley Forge with George Washington's army. He fought in several famous battles: Bennington, Saratoga and the final battle, Yorktown. He lived to be almost 92 years old and is buried in the Lily Lake cemetery in Lily Lake, Kane county, Illinois.

Powers was born in Springfield, Addison County, Vermont on December 15, 1760, the 10th of 11 children and the 6th of 7 sons born to Nathaniel and Hannah (Hartwell) Powers. In 1776, while still a boy of 15, he enlisted as a drummer boy with the 1st New Hampshire Regiment, and served in this capacity for two years. While serving as a drummer, Abner was present at the Battle of Bennington, the Battle of Saratoga, and shivered through the long, cold, miserable winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

John Dudley crossed the Delaware with George Washington's army in the immortal Christmas attack, and he fought in the battles of Trenton, Princeton and Saratoga. He lived to be almost 88 years old and is buried in Naperville cemetery in Naperville, IL.

Dudley was born February 25, 1758 in Seabrook, New London County, Connecticut. In 1776, at the age of 18, he was living in the town of Newport, Cheshire County, NH. At Washington’s famous crossing of the Delaware, there, for the first time, on December 26, 1776, John Dudley met the enemy British Forces. During this famous battle and subsequent American victory, John Dudley took part and assisted in capturing about 900 Hessian soldiers.

In February, 1777 John Dudley’s enlistment expired and he returned home to New Hampshire, arriving on March 1, 1777. Later, his unit was called up again and took part in the Battle of Saratoga, which forced the surrender of Burgoyne. After the battle of Saratoga, the militia was once again discharged, and John Dudley went home to Newport.

Dudley died on January 2, 1846 at the age of 87 years.
New officers, members, and awards highlight Fox Valley’s Fall Dinner

New Fox Valley Officers were sworn in at the Fall Dinner in Woodridge. From left are FV Webmaster Don Parrish, FV Member at Large Scott Sanders, FV President Mike Campagnolo, FV Secretary Harry Reineke IV, FV Treasurer Eric Ingersoll and FV Vice President Rod Herbig.

Photos by Compatriot Don Parrish

General George Rogers Clark Chapter

Chapter honors patriots buried in Glen Carbon

Revolutionary War battle flags lining both sides of the driveway for the Nix/Judy Pioneer Cemetery in Glen Carbon were blowing in the breeze as the Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter, Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution dedicated a large, cast-aluminum plaque at the cemetery entrance. The dedication took place on September 21.

The two-sided plaque contains a short biography of six Revolutionary War patriots and recognizes their part in establishing our country’s freedom. The six are: William Biggs, John Nix, Isham Randle, Richard Randle, Henry Thornhill and Josias Wright.

State SAR President Thomas Ashby helped unveil the plaque. He said the marker program is being done so that Glen Carbon and other communities with Revolutionary War Patriots interred near them might know of the sacrifices and service of these Heroes. “We take pride that these founding fathers of our country brought their families to Glen Carbon to help perpetuate the American ideal. We dedicate this monument to those brave Heroes, recognizing their marvelous contributions to creating the United States of America as a gift to the citizens of Glen Carbon, who are honored by these Patriots’ eternal presence,” he said.

Father Nicholas Finley, himself a veteran, praised the SAR for all they do in remembering those who served. Members of the chapter provided the color guard and six of them read biographies of the Patriots. Granite City resident Don Bradford sang God Bless America.

GGRC Chapter President Jim DeGroff thanked Steve Ellsworth State Farm Insurance, Cassens Auto Sales, the Edwardsville Rotary, and Boilermakers Union Local 482 for their generous donations. Additional funding for the purchase of the plaque was provided by the National and State SAR Societies. The Village of Glen Carbon helped clear the site for the marker.
GGRG chapter members march in parade and present awards

At left, members of the GGRC Chapter participated in the Edwardsville Veteran’s Day parade. Those shown are: Jim DeGroff, Robert Ridenour, Bob Kilzer, and Chuck Dobias. Also participating but not shown were Larry Smith and Larry Smith, Jr.

At right, Michael Best, Olive Township received his award from GGRC Chapter President Jim DeGroff.

Compatriots Bob Kilzer (Color Guard) and David File, committee chairman, are shown during a ceremony honoring 12 families who fly the flag correctly. The ceremony was held on November 20th at the Madison County Court House.

General Joseph Barhtholomew Chapter

Public service awards highlight September meeting

Constitution Day 2014 General Joseph Bartholomew Sons of the American Revolution Chapter Meeting Report

The GJB SAR Chapter held its Constitution Week meeting Sep 18 at the Calvary United Methodist Church. This meeting has traditionally been held jointly with the Letitia Green Stevenson Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter and was so scheduled this year, however, this year their chapter had a conflicting out of town NSDAR meeting requiring their presence. In the past they have provided location and speaker arrangements so when GJB Chapter was notified they would not be able to meet jointly this year those agenda items had to be assumed by GJB Chapter which explains the change of location and speaker.

The meeting was hosted by Gordon Bidner, President of the GJB Chapter of NSSAR, with 60 attendees including members and their wives, members of the LTG DAR Chapter unable to attend their out of town meeting, the award recipients, members of the first responders departments, and speaker. We were pleased to have among the attendees a McLean County Board Member Paul Segebian and the Bloomington, IL Mayor, Tari Renner. Those GJB SAR members in attendance were Gordon Bidner, Bill Hammitt, Don Hyland, Dave Ashbrook, Virgil Short, Al Abbott, William White, Alan Washburn, Bud Lewis, Clark Killingsworth, Edward Proctor, Jeff Kretlow, Ray Owens, and Robert Bowen (applicant).

During the meeting Gordon Bidner presented Bill Hammitt, Chapter Registrar, with the NSSAR Liberty Certificate, and Oak Leaf Cluster in recognition of outstanding service in the recruitment of new members and retention of old members.

Continued on next page.
Meeting’s speaker related US constitution to challenges of the 21st century

The GJB SAR Chapter presented 2014 GJB SAR Public Service Awards to outstanding members of our local first responders in the departments of Law Enforcement/EMS. Presentations were made by Bill Hammitt, Chairman of the Flag, Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, and EMS Committee.

The outstanding recipients of this year’s recognitions were:

Law Enforcement - Sheriff Mike Emery, retiring in the near future, having done a very admirable job as our county sheriff for the past 8 years bringing much professionalism to the office and his promotion of mental health services to inmates of the county jail.

EMS - Firefighter Paramedic Doug Roosevelt of the Normal Fire Department for his resuscitation and ultimate recovery of a drowning 3 year old while off duty at Clinton Lake.

The speaker was Dr. Thomas Eimermann, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, Illinois State University who spoke on The U. S. Constitution: Can it handle the challenges of 21st century politics? In this the problems of forming a government for a new nation, United States of America, including the development and adoption of the Constitution were discussed, as well as some of the challenges which progress of time with an expanding nation and changes in technology and morals present in interpretation of the Constitution now 237 years old.

Refreshments were provided with cookies by Jean Hammitt and drinks by Gordon and Sandi Bidner.

By Chaplain Virgil D. Short MD

Kishwaukee Chapter

Members brave the cold to carry new chapter banner

Kishwaukee Chapter members, Rich Stabenow and Ray Beets, got to show off their new chapter banner at the Woodstock Christmas Parade. They joined members from the Kishwaukee Trail DAR Society and Major Watson CAR Society.

It was a very cold day but the soldiers endured, just like our patriot ancestors would have so many years ago.

By Ray Beets, President-Kishwaukee Chapter

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Long Knives Chapter

Chapter participates in Wreaths Across America

A December activity for GGRCC is Wreaths Across America. This year the chapter will place the tributes to veterans at cemetery graves on Dec. 13. Member Charles Dobias coordinated the 2013 event, which was enhanced by a three-inch snow. Placing the wreaths were (from left) Past President Ronnie D. Hicks, President Jim DeGroff, Robert Ridenour, Eric V. Reelitz and Thomas E. Beavers.
Salt Creek Chapter

New member welcomed at annual holiday meeting

On December 4th we had our annual holiday meeting with the LaGrange-LePortage DAR Chapter. The evening began with a buffet supper which was followed by a short meeting led by Franz Herder and Becky Thames-Simmons. Historian Leslie Goddard then entertained the group with stories of Chicago as candy capital of America and why Chicago was such a powerful location for candy making. Following the program, new member Scott Upp was welcomed and introduced. Mike Campagnolo, Eric Banfield and Franz Herder invited attendees to support our statewide Cemetery Marker and Flag Recognition programs.

New member Scott Upp, left, is welcomed by Franz Herder.

Springfield Chapter

Kentucky grave marking

On September 28th ILSSAR President and Captain Zelly Moss Chapter member Tom Ashby and Springfield Chapter members Dick Chamblin and Toby Chamberlain traveled to Paris, KY to attend the DAR Jemima Johnson Chapter grave marking of Revolutionary War Patriot Esther Stilly Kennedy. Esther furnished beef to the Continental Army during the war. Esther is the patriot of Toby. Esther’s husband John Kennedy fought at the Battle of Guilford Court House where he was taken prisoner and died four months later of starvation on a British prison ship.

From left, ILSSAR President Tom Ashby and Springfield Chapter Compatriots Toby Chamberlain and Dick Chamblin who attended the DAR Grave Marking for Esther Stilly Kennedy in Paris, KY

Harvest Day Festival visited by Springfield color guard

Springfield Chapter Color Guard members presented the colors for Petersburg Harvest Day Festival at Petersburg, IL on September 20, 2014. The Harvest Fest Parade kicked off the historical festival on Saturday. A multitude of events are held during the weekend including an Art Exhibit at the Prairie Palette Art Gallery, a VFW 21 Gun Salute held at the local Veterans Memorial, the Harvest Fest 5K Run and the public was invited to learn more about history at the Menard County Historical Museum. Visitors also enjoyed the Vintage Ag Association Tractor Display and enjoyed a Car Show on Saturday.

Pictured front row L-R is McKenna Lambert and Cora Brillhart. Second row L-R Vice President Richard Chamblin, Karl Reed, General Louis Myers and President Dan Hrenko. General Myers followed the color guard in his van playing patriotic music on his speaker system.
At the Fox Valley Chapter’s fall dinner, the featured speakers were from The Tobias family guitar store in Downers Grove. They presented a musical performance featuring special limited edition Taylor guitars crafted from the wood of the Nation's last surviving Liberty Tree, in Annapolis, Maryland. After performing several songs, they told how and why these unique guitars were made.

The Liberty Tree (guitar) is a Grand Concert model with back and sides of gloriously figured, chocolate-and-vanilla-colored tulip poplar harvested from the Liberty Tree, and an abalone-edged top of Sitka spruce. A laser-etched, burly maple inlay of a scrolled Declaration of Independence extends from the fingerboard onto the guitar top. The rosette combines a crescent of 13 stars (one for each of the original Colonies) around one half of the soundhole, opposite an early battle pennant that flew during the Revolution. A depiction of the first post-Revolution American flag is inlaid in dyed maple on the peghead. They are truly works of art.

...Description from the Taylor guitar website