



Great Lakes District
Vice President General's Report – October 31, 2020

It has been a very unusual and interesting year since we met in Ann Arbor last year. In a normal year, we would be gathered together in person and my successor would be presiding and reporting to you. Due to the COVID situation and the cancellation of Congress my time in office has been extended for an additional year as have the terms of the other General Officers.

After the last District meeting and prior to the COVID restrictions I attended a number of Chapter meetings, a MISSAR Board of Managers meeting and the Spring Leadership Meeting. I also attended a DAR Chapter meeting, the M.S.C.A.R. State Conference, a Veterans Day ceremony, a Wreaths Across America event, several Volunteer Service Committee meetings at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital and a Sea Cadet awards ceremony.

Since the COVID restrictions were initiated, I haven't travelled to visit the other states in the District, but did participate in virtual meetings of Board of Managers for all three State Societies and several Chapters. I held a Zoom meeting of the GLD Society Presidents in May. On the National level, I've attended four virtual Trustee meetings and a DAR Liaison Committee meeting.

I was able to arrange a private meeting with the staff at the new Fisher House at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor to present a donation and tour the facility. While the usual Memorial Day events were cancelled, my wife and I joined a member of the VFW post to place flags on the graves of veterans in the two veterans' sections at the local cemetery.

This past summer, our Chapter held two in-person meetings in a picnic shelter in a local park. The Chapter, together with the Michigan Society of the War of 1812, sponsored a well-attended grave dedication for father and son Patriots who fought in the Revolution and the War of 1812 respectively. I attended these events and joined the Color Guard at a DAR Patriot grave dedication.

This fall, I attended the Battle of Kings Mountain commemoration and eight of the nine virtual N.S.C.A.R Regional meetings. For the Great Lakes Regional meeting, I presented greetings by a prerecorded message.

MISSAR conducted a virtual training course for Chapter genealogists and registrars. The course included six sessions. The program was well attended, including a few members from the Arizona Society. I participated in all of the sessions and presented a portion of one of them.

Thank you for participating in our first virtual District meeting and I look forward attending Congress in Washington.

James Petres

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Vice President General