

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
GREAT LAKES DISTRICT ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
MADISON, WISCONSIN ~ NOVEMBER 7-8, 2014**

WISCONSIN REPORT BY 2014-2015 WISSAR PRESIDENT ROGER BOEKER

Wisconsin members welcome their compatriots from Michigan and Illinois. Wisconsin has five active chapters located in the four corners and center of the State. State membership is 167 men.

Some outstanding members of WISSAR are with us day:

- **Robert Stone** is our state genealogist and has shepherded more than 70 new members and facilitated scores of additional Patriot stars; Bob manages an information and recruitment table at DAR and genealogy club gatherings, usually with a color guard member in uniform garnering much interest
- **Gerald Helgeson** rides herd on a dozen members of the State color guard who are members from all over Wisconsin; the guard has made flag presentations at the Badger, Bucks, Brewers, and Packer games plus Memorial and Veterans Day at the State Capitol; the guard marches in Labor Day and Flag Day parades; the guard presents the flag and distributes wreaths at Flags Across America
- **David Dean**, Past GLD VPG, performs school presentations, usually illustrated with a full uniform color guard member that explains his equipment while Dave describes the critical Christmas Battle Trenton; Dave also is the co-editor of the award-winning Badger Patriot State Newsletter
- **James Noble** is chairman of our State awards program and is assisted by **Lee Will**; he does the research on the requirements, verifies qualifications of the member, and processes the acquisition and delivery of decorations; Wisconsin makes ROTC awards at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Whitewater and La Crosse; Jim has just acquired a civilian Silver Distinguished Service award for a Whitewater postmaster that found an decades old, undelivered Purple Heart, ran down the descendant and made the presentation to the family
- **Robert Granger** has handled the Eagle Scout of the Year and Knight Essay contest for decades; he recently was honored for 50 years as a Scouter by the BSA; Bob is retiring from these positions and will be very hard to replace
- **Charles McGee** has revived the Stephen Tainter Chapter that meets in Eau Claire, WI; they are active the major projects of WISSAR and NSSAR; like the members mentioned above, Charles is a contributing member of the WISSAR Board of Directors and gives great advice on building and sustaining membership in a chapter
- **Aaron Krebs** is our Vice President General for the Great Lakes District and the immediate past president of WISSAR, the State Secretary, and my personal mentor for SAR duties
- **William Erbes**, unable to be here today, is our WISSAR Treasurer; in that capacity he has improved our membership billing, collection and state budgeting protocols; Bill gives us valuable input on almost all topics beyond the treasurer's job.

My personal project is to visit a chapter meeting for each unit in Wisconsin during the 25014-2015 year.

A major project of the State Society is the emplacement of a life-size Revolutionary War statue of a soldier loading his musket with a ramrod. This statue is the property of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and was displayed in its lobby on the Capitol Square, for years, I asked for permission to create and show a plaque that named the 45 Patriots buried here in Wisconsin. Answer: State statute authorized display of items related only to war activity during Statehood, i.e. after 1848 C.E. Finally the statue was removed and put into storage and offered on loan to WISSAR. This statue will be installed at the St. Johns Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield, WI. The display room is a rotunda where parents and cadets await appointments with school staff. Dedication of the statue is planned for May 15, 2015. WISSAR Color Guard will attend and all GLD members and color guards are invited