

## 2017 National Spring Leadership Meeting

### Attendees.

1. Jim Lindley
2. Bob Doughty
3. Greg Lucas
4. John Berg
5. Doug Nelson
6. Teri Lindley
7. Kathi Nelson
8. Keith Weissinger

### Upcoming Events:

- 2017 Annual Congress, July 2-7, 2017, Knoxville, TN
- Fall Leadership Meeting, Sept 28-30, 2017
- Spring Leadership Meeting, March 1-3, 2018

**Articles of Association Presentation.** An early original copy of the Articles of Association of the Continental Congress signed on October 20, 1774 was on display. It bore the signature of Washington and many other noble historic American figures and was on loan to the SAR from the National Archives.

**Patriot Biographies Committee.** 5,250 patriot biographies have been submitted so far. Chairman Doug Collins said they are getting 50 a week. He reminded us to include our chapter name and state society so they get credit towards a flag streamer. Internet Technology Chairman Bill Marrs mentioned his IT committee is getting close to putting the patriot biographies online. The chairman also noted they plan to start working with the Patriot Graves committee. It was suggested that each state society put a link to the national patriot biographies committee on their state webpage.

<https://www.sar.org/compatriots/committees/patriot-biographies-committee>

The chair noted that we need to let Chapter President's know how to make a patriot biography submission. There is a patriot graves form that can be used at <https://sar.org/sar-forms-and-manuals>. It was suggested, on new member electronic applications, that if more data was added to the service section, with corresponding proof documents, this can be used in your patriot biography. Email patriot biographies to [patriotbios@sar.org](mailto:patriotbios@sar.org).

It was mentioned that all the information for a patriot biography is on your approved application. The committee chair encouraged everyone to write a patriot biography on your patriots. Patriot biographies will be used to attract new prospects for the SAR.

State societies get a flag streamer if they submit patriot biographies. Add these in the Americanism spreadsheet.

**Education Committee.** National History Day in Washington State is Saturday, April 29, 2017 at Evergreen Community College in Auburn. This history event will be added to the Americanism program. We were encouraged to participate in National History Day by having members

## 2017 National Spring Leadership Meeting

volunteer to grade American history essays locally where you live. A link to National History Day for our state is <https://www.nhd.org/affiliate/washington>.

This committee discussed education outreach and Youth Protection Training (YPT). It was mentioned that YPT is not a one size fits all but it covers the basics. The Insurance and Risk National Committee recommends YPT and says it will lower the state society's insurance premium. The committee chairman asked state societies to work on and submit Presenter Information Sheets (PIS) to him. These are like a flyer on what we talk about in schools and a little about ourselves. There is a flag streamer for chapters and state societies that comply. It was mentioned that there are issues with the national module for this program that need to be worked out.

Teaching American Documents. Our own compatriot Craig Rhyne is working on this and connected with this committee by conference call. Craig said they are taking the Hillsdale College curriculum, on our country's founding documents, and modifying it to build an American Documents module for teachers to use. It's a 20 hour class but broken down into one hour classes. *A motion to continue to develop this program PASSED.*

*A motion to recommend a change to the SAR mission statement to add a line to "educate Americans on the knowledge and appreciation for our founding documents" PASSED.* This motion will be sent to another committee for review and approval.

**Americanism Committee.** Seventeen states submitted an Americanism spreadsheet. More are still coming in. Chairman Mark Anthony said if you need more lines for a category, send your spreadsheet to him and he will add more lines and send it back to you. The PG's initiative on a mentoring program is being added. You will be putting in the mentors name for each new member. Chapter's will get credit accordingly.

Americanism spreadsheet, Version 5, is coming out soon. It increases lines for the national poster and brochure contests. A Georgia member mentioned that some Georgia School Boards are requesting YPT for adults coming to schools. A member from the California Society said they having their color guard take the training because sometimes children want their picture taken with them. It was noted that YPT is recommended and not yet required.

Middle School Brochure Contest. The chairman said we can promote this contest without going to schools. Just call or email Middle School teachers and give them a link to this contest. Another person said it's an easy contest to make happen.

Elementary School Poster Contest. The committee reduced the judging criteria to ten areas. Teachers don't always have the right paper for this contest. The chapter or it's chairman for this contest may need to buy the right paper for this contest as teacher's don't always have it.

We were reminded to get our state C.A.R. members to participate in these contests.

**Patriot Outreach Committee.** The SAR Patriotic Outreach Committee focuses on encouraging and recognizing chapters and state-levels societies who participate in organized programs with

## 2017 National Spring Leadership Meeting

other veteran support organization such as the American Legion, Am-Vets, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and other veteran organizations.

The chairman of this committee said we need to make a state and chapter report separate from the Americanism report. Report form is online at <https://www.sar.org/patriotic-outreach-committee>. A compatriot from Alabama Society talked about being a volunteer for Boys State. It was stated that 1.2 million wreaths were laid last year (WAA). I talked about the problem Cascade Centennial Chapter had for two years in a row of not getting wreaths on time.

Boys State is an organization that learns about government. Boys can run for congress or the senate. The boys need sponsors. You can sponsor a Boys State member for \$300. A Chapter can also sponsor a member of Boys State. A link to the Washington Boys State is <http://evergreenboysstate.org/>.

Operation Ancestor Search is a sub-committee which helps wounded soldiers with their genealogy.

**Color Guard Committee.** The committee voted on Color Guardsman of the Year. They presented Von Steuben medals to color guardsmen who met the criteria.

*A Resolution* to make the Tacoma Massing of Colors a national event was discussed. Your state president stood and talked in favor of our resolution. After discussion, the committee amended the resolution to include all Massing of Colors throughout the United States. The amended resolution PASSED.

There was a proposal to recognize compatriots who are involved with honor flights by making honor flights a national event.

There was a proposal for a gold Molly Pitcher medal for presentation after you receive the silver Molly Pitcher medal.

California Color Guard Commander. He said reenacting insurance for his state is \$345/year. They created a color guard policy and procedures manual which lowered insurance cost. He also mentioned that the NRA is offering musket safety and shooting training.

Safety. Safety was discussed including prism covers and flash guard protection. We were reminded that if we go into national parks to shoot, we are required to have these two musket safety features. Musket safety comes from the musket loaders handbook.

Color Guard Magazine. The SAR Color Guard Magazine editor wants to hear from the state color guard commander and not chapter color guard commanders. He gets too many emails from chapters and wants only the state color guard commander to send him articles.

**Branding.** National has approved calling ourselves Washington SAR and deleting the word "Society. "

## 2017 National Spring Leadership Meeting

They are working on a Style Guide. The style guide will address SAR fonts, colors, and style to represent us continually. Using a style guide makes sure we are all telling the same story. A style guide may also be used by outside media to tell our story.

The minuteman statue in front of headquarters will be our official logo but the committee accepts variants of this minuteman statue. They are also looking at vector art because it doesn't lose resolution as you increase or decrease size whereas pixel art loses resolution.

**Internet Technology (IT) Committee.** The chairman said they are moving Patriot Graves and Patriot Biographies to a new server. The latest module added to the system is "donations" which will track each member's donations to the SAR. They will be meeting with programmers next week to make more website changes. He encouraged State President's to pass down officer emails to the chapter level. The committee chair also said the national society plans to rebid the information technology contract currently held by Blackstone Media.

State and Chapter Webpages. State and chapter webmasters need to fill out the Robert B. Vance Award form and submit it to the committee chair. Deadline for submittal is April 1 annually. Your state president has this form and will send it out.

Computer Browsers. The national operations manager said he gets emails from compatriots who can't open pdf files on the national webpage. The problem is with the browser you are using. Our contract programmers use different browsers like google chrome and fire fox which effects files that are downloaded from the national webpage. He suggested, if you have problems opening a file on the national webpage, change browsers. Try using google chrome, fire fox, internet explorer, or Microsoft edge. The problem being some browsers won't let you go to adobe pdf documents. They want you to different software to open these files.

The Genealogy Committee chairman mentioned his committee approved three changes. 1) Each new applicant will have to sign an affidavit statement that says they meet Article III of the NSSAR Constitution (found in NSSAR Handbook Volume I) and more, 2) the application is being changed to have the Genealogist General signature for genealogy approval whereas it use to be a staff genealogist signature. The staff genealogist will initial where the Genealogist General signs, and 3) children of the applicant will no longer be listed on the application to protect their vital information.

The genealogy committee are also reformatting the electronic application such that it will be searchable in a new (not ready yet) Genealogical Research System (GRS) similar to the DAR GRS system. The have appointed a sub-committee to look at what a GRS should contain.

This committee is working to make the reconciliation report easier. Bob Cohen will replace chairman Bill Marrs in July.

**Trustee Meeting.** Pacific District Vice President General (VPG) report is on share file. A copy has been obtained and will be distributed to board members.

## 2017 National Spring Leadership Meeting

*A motion to use \$55,000 thousand dollars to reduce the debt on our headquarters building PASSED.*

*A motion to require transgender prospects to provide a birth certificate or a Court Order that identifies their gender as 'male' PASSED. Three doctors and one past President General rose to speak in favor of the motion. The past President General noted he discussed this with three past DAR National Regents and they approved transgender prospect applications, male to female, in the same way. Another person rose and said there is more than one of our state societies that have asked for a resolution on this issue.*

Youth Awards. The Youth Awards chairman said 22.5 thousand dollars have been donated so far for youth awards. This was one of our president general's initiatives.

Construction at Headquarters. The national operations director said, the sewer line problem has been resolved. The LED lighting in the library has been fixed. The security system at headquarters has been updated.

National Congress committee chair said, if you want to get on a Hotel waiting list, where the 2018 Tennessee Congress is happening, to Paul Callaan at [lcmrsc@aol.com](mailto:lcmrsc@aol.com). He will help you find a room.

*A motion to take \$2,500 from the SAR Foundation and use it for carpeting of the headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> floor PASSED. They are using carpet squares so if section of carpet gets stained, they just replace a carpet square and not the whole carpet.*

Youth contest "awards" is being raised. Check the national webpage for subject changes. This is in part because the national investment funds have increased earnings for the upturn in the stock market.

The submitted application for Washington SAR compatriot Lee Thomasson, for the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout award, was approved. This award will be presented to him at our Annual Membership Meeting in Olympia.

Medals. The Medals and Awards committee chair said his committee approved a new medal called a Life Saving medal. It can be presented to a person who performs lifesaving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to save a life. The medals and awards committee also changed the order of the top SAR state medals. The State Patriot Medal will now be the highest medal and State Distinguished Service Medal will be the next lower medal. (Some members will need to change the order of the medals they wear)

Mentoring. The National Membership Committee approved a new mentoring program. It will be on the national webpage for chapters to use.

## 2017 National Spring Leadership Meeting

**Council of State President's.** Alabama Society State President said his society conducted a survey of their membership. It had 60 questions. A member not feeling inclusive was a major feedback. Members felt they were not being informed of everything from what's going on at national down to the chapter level. More than 50 percent of their members had not tried to recruit anyone. A little less than 50 percent of members responded. They used surveymonkey.com. The results will be sent to sharefile for all state presidents to access.

Miscellaneous. Our State Eagle Scout essay placed 5th nationally.

Douglas H. Nelson  
President, Washington SAR  
Sons of the American Revolution