



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter



*George Washington*

Visit us online at [www.gwsar.org](http://www.gwsar.org)

Volume 21, Issue 2

February, 2020

## January in The George Washington Chapter



Left--Immediate Past VASSAR President Pat Kelley, former VASSAR President and former Vice President General of Atlantic Middle States District Mark Brennan, and Thomas Jefferson Chapter President Jim O'Kelley joined us to seek our assistance in helping to run the 2020 National Congress. Chapter Vice President Tom Roth (R) presented them with replicas of the Houdon bust as thanks for their time and efforts as speakers. Mark Brennan is Chair of the 2020 Congress Organizing Committee. Jim O'Kelley is Volunteers Coordinator for the 2020 Congress.



Joseph Thomas Johnson (center) was inducted as a new member of the SAR at our January Meeting. Joe is shown here with his father, GWC member Bill Johnson, and his mother Katherine. When not studying Joe rows as a member of the Harvard Heavyweight Crew.



Left-- George Washington Chapter President Jay Henn gave remarks.



Right--George Washington Chapter Vice President Tom Roth speaking at the meeting.

(Con't on Page 3)

# President's Corner



## *Compatriots:*

Many thanks to all who attended our January Chapter meeting at the delightful Mount Vernon Inn. We were joined by Mr. Mark Brennan, a former Virginia Society

SAR (VASSAR) President and Mid-Atlantic States Vice President General, who is now serving as the Chair of the Planning Committee for the 2020 SAR Congress, to be held in Richmond in mid-July. Mark, along with Past VASSAR President Pat Kelly and Thomas Jefferson Chapter President Jim O'Kelley, briefed our attendees on the plans for Congress – including tours of the Yorktown Battlefield and the new Museum of the American Revolution at Yorktown.

We were also treated to presentations by Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) National President Mackie Storage and Virginia State C.A.R. 1st Vice President Alexandra Salley regarding their respective 2019-2020 projects. The National Project is supporting restoration efforts at Ferry Farm, George Washington's boyhood home; the State project is supporting the restoration of the bell at St. John's Church in Richmond – site of Patrick Henry's famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech. Special thanks to our generous Chapter members who contributed to both worthy projects on the spot! If you wish to add your support, it's not too late – please contact Chapter Treasurer Richard Rankin for directions on how to contribute to one or both of these projects.

February is shaping up as a huge month! We'll kick-off with the VASSAR Annual Meeting at the Omni Hotel in Richmond on February 7-8. In addition to the business meetings and workshops (including one to be conducted by our own Jamie Callender on the Patriot Record System), 1st Vice President Bill

Schwetke of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter will be sworn in as the 2020-2021 VASSAR President. Given that the Annual Meeting spans the second Saturday of the month, we will be holding our February Chapter meeting in Richmond at the Omni on the morning of Saturday, February 8th.

There is no let-up after that. February 17th will bring two major events: a morning wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution in Alexandria, followed in the afternoon by the George Washington Birthday Parade through Old Town. Make plans to join your Chapter and other VASSAR Compatriots for these two wonderful commemorations.

And that's not all! Virginia History Day is upon us, and as always provides an excellent opportunity for the SAR to support the education of our elementary and high school students in all aspects of history. Please consider donating your time to judging student history projects at both the individual high school and State levels. You will find more information on how to participate in History Day – and in fact more information on all of our upcoming events – elsewhere in this issue of the Chapter newsletter. If you don't find what you need, just send me an email or call and I will do my best to point you in the right direction.

As always, thanks for your support, and see you at our February events!

*Thank you,*

*Jay Henn*

*President*

*George Washington Chapter*



# January in The GW Chapter (con't)



*Above Left--Ms. Alexandra Salley is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by GW President Jay Henn. Alexandra is the daughter of GW Chapter member Russell Salley, and a member of the "Light Horse Harry" Lee Society. She represented Ms. Madeline Herring, VSCAR President, and talked about this year's VSCAR State Project, the restoration of the bell at St. John's Church in Richmond--"The Roar of the Revolution."*

*Above Right--Mike Elston, Virginia CAR Senior State President and GW member introduces Mackie Storage, President of the National Society Children of the American Revolution, as she joined us to bring greetings on behalf of the NSCAR and to request our support for the special project of her tenure--supporting restoration efforts at Ferry Farm, George Washington's boyhood home.*

**During the meeting we "passed the hat" (tri-cornered, of course!) and collected donations to support these worthy projects. If you were not in attendance and would still like to make a donation to these worthy causes, it is not too late. Please send your check, made payable to "George Washington Chapter, VASSAR" to Treasurer Richard Rankin, 1207 Lincoln Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046.**

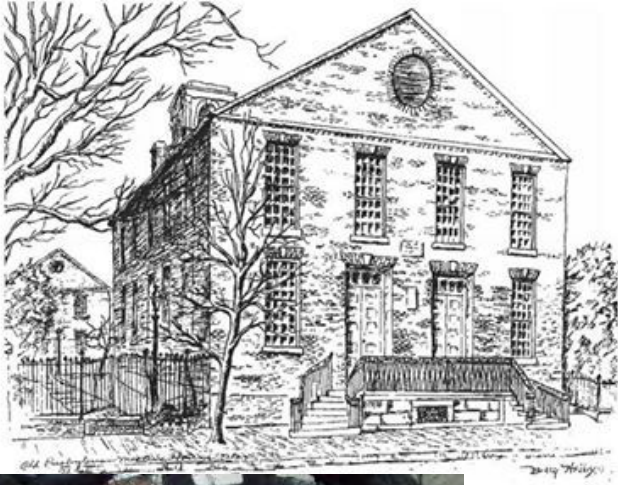
***Thank you!***



*From Clockwise Above Left--Flag Chairman Paul Walden presents Jamie Callender with a Flag Certificate; Chapter Treasurer Richard Rankin thanked Fatima Garzon Sanchez, Catering Manager, Mt. Vernon Inn, for the great work she and her team did in putting on our lunch; President Jay Henn presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Craig Batten; Former GWC President Dick Kusserow and his wife Becky enjoyed the lunch.*

***(Con't. on Page 5)***

# GW Chapter Wreath Laying



Each year, our northern Virginia SAR Chapters join with local DAR Chapters and the Children of the American Revolution to lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution, located in the burial ground behind the Old Presbyterian Meeting House at 323 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA. This year's ceremony will be held on Monday, February 17th beginning at 11:00 am. Please join us for this event, which immediately precedes the George Washington Birthday Parade (see information elsewhere in this issue).



*George Washington*

President	Jay M. Henn: 703-447-0820
Vice President	Thomas Roth, III: 703-739-8811
Treasurer	Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805
Secretary	Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001
Registrar	Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 255 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings are held at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (June, July & August excepted) at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia.

## **Immediate Past President:**

Dave Thomas: 703-583-8791

**Ride Share:** Members in need of a ride to a chapter meeting or a chapter sponsored event may contact the Amenities Committee Chairman, Don Reynolds, at (703) 765-4947.

This newsletter is edited by **Pete Farley**. Inputs from chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to [nyyno7@cox.net](mailto:nyyno7@cox.net) or call 703-585-3163.



# January in The GW Chapter (con't)



George Washington Chapter members receiving Certificates of Appreciation from GW President Jay Henn are from left-- Paul Walden, Don Reynolds, Tom Roth, Richard Rankin, Ernie Coggins, Dave Thomas and President Jay Henn.



Right--Scott Wagoner (left) and Paul Wagoner (right). Scott's sons Ryan and Steven in middle.



Top photo--John Brigden and Jack Coulter share a joke. Bottom Photo--Registrar Richard Sherman introduces new member Joe Johnson.



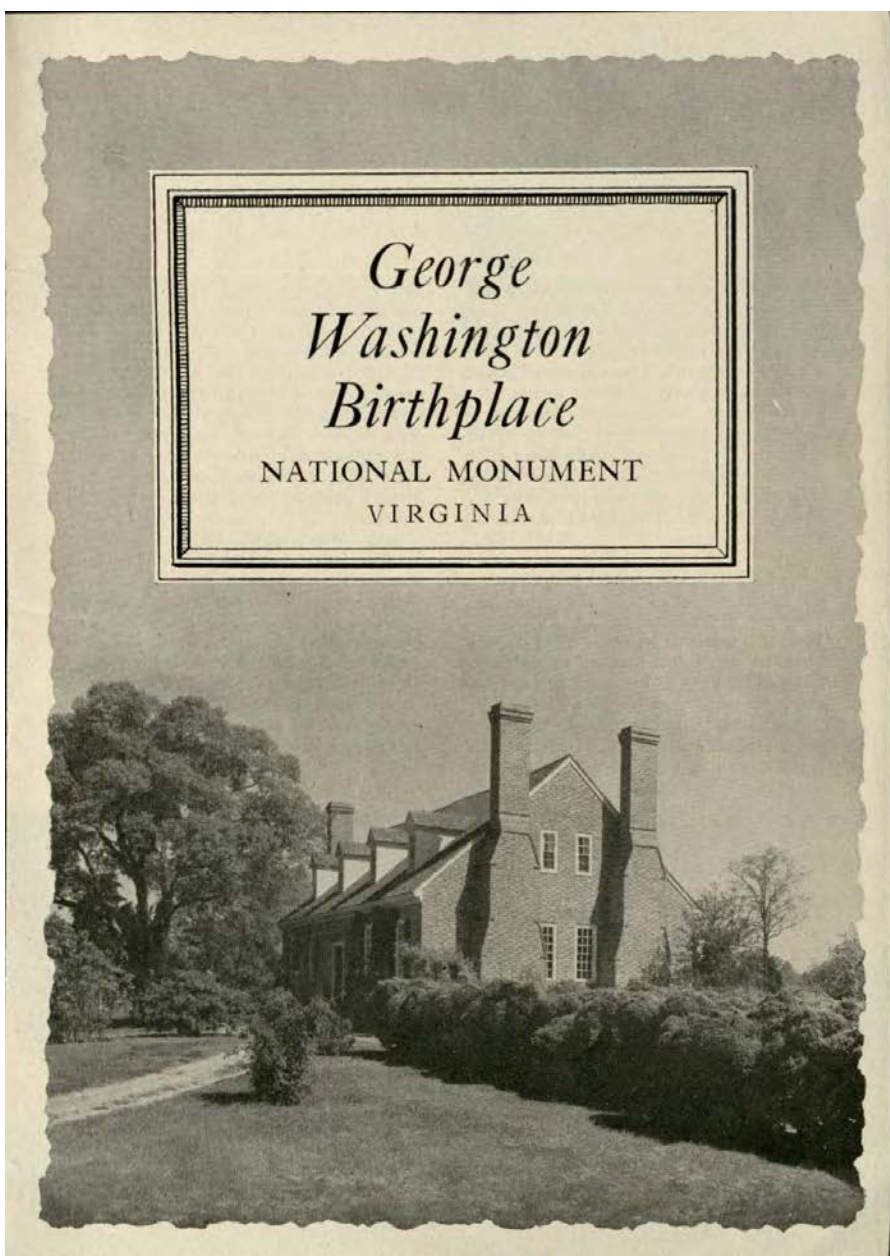
Chaplain Don Reynolds closes the meeting with prayer.



Our now next to newest member, and Mt. Vernon resident fifer, Don Francisco introduced his wife Grace to the Chapter.

# George Washington Birthday Parade

Please join your George Washington Chapter Compatriots and SAR members from throughout northern Virginia in Alexandria on Monday, February 17th for the annual George Washington Birthday Parade. The Alexandria parade, which winds through a one-mile route along the historic streets of Old Town, is the oldest and largest parade celebrating the birth of George Washington. Our SAR marching unit will be accompanied by the VASSAR Color Guard and the Frederick Town Fife and Drum Corps, an award-winning junior unit from Frederick, MD. To make this year's event even more memorable, RADM Robert Shumaker, SAR member and Past President of the George Mason Chapter, has been selected to serve as this year's Grand Marshal. Let's honor Bob with a large turnout! Participants should plan to be at our staging area by noon; the parade steps off at 1:00 pm sharp. Details regarding parking restrictions, our assembly point, the parade route, and appropriate SAR attire will be made available as we get closer to February 17th. *Also, please note that first-time participants are eligible for the Jack Evans Chapter Medal.*



*"First in War . . .  
First in Peace . . .  
and First in the  
Hearts of His  
Countrymen"*

*--Light Horse Harry Lee*



POHICK EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SERVICE AND BREAKFAST  
IN HONOUR OF  
**GEORGE WASHINGTON**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2020

*Sponsored by the Pohick Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew*

*For Tickets see: Pohick Church Office or SAR Member Doug Smith (703-867-2629)*

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*Breakfast will feature a talk by GWSAR member Hank Foresman*

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8:30 AM Morning Prayer (1662)

9:15 AM Breakfast

**Tickets: \$10 per person**

**\$25 per family group – Children under 12 free**

11:00 AM Tours of Church

Pohick Episcopal Church

9301 Richmond Highway

(Intersection of US Route 1 & Telegraph Road)

Lorton, Virginia

(703) 339-6572

# Upcoming Events

**February 7-9, 2020–Friday-Sunday: 130th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society (VASSAR)**

Omni Hotel  
100 S 12th Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**February 8, 2020–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting-TBD**

VASSAR General Meeting Room  
Omni Hotel  
100 S 12th Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**February 11 and/or 12–Tuesday or Wednesday: Virginia History Day Colgan High School, Prince William Co.,**

*Judges desired for student history projects as able between 7:30 am–1:30 pm on each day*  
Contact Julie Elston [jelston@comcast.net](mailto:jelston@comcast.net)

**February 17, 2020–Monday: Pohick Episcopal Church Service and Breakfast Morning Prayer (1662 Prayer Book) 8:30 AM / Breakfast 9:15 AM**

**Tours of Church 11:00 AM**  
9301 Richmond Highway (intersection of US Route 1 and Telegraph Road)  
Lorton, Virginia

**February 17, 2020–Monday: Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution 11:00 am**

Old Presbyterian Meeting House  
321 S. Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

**February 17, 2020–Monday: George Washington Birthday Parade-1:00 pm**

Details: TBD  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
**(Jack Evans Chapter Medal)**

**February 22, 2020–Saturday: 244th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge-10:00 am-4:00 pm**

Moore's Creek Battlefield  
200 Moore's Creek Drive  
Currie, NC 28435



**February 25, 2020–Tuesday: City of Alex., Fire Dept.–SAR Public Service Awards Presentation-8:30 am**

Fire Department Headquarters,  
900 Second Street,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

*The presentation includes a Life Saving Award, two Bronze Good Citizenship Medals and, one Certificate of Appreciation.*

**February 29, 2020 –Saturday: Virginia History Day District 5–8:00 am to 3:00 pm (some judging ends at app. 1 pm)**

Mount Vernon High School  
8515 Old Mount Vernon Rd,  
Alexandria, VA 22309

**March 14, 2020–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting-11:30 am**

Speaker: Charles Haberlein  
*Finding and Exploring the Sunken Aircraft Carrier Yorktown*

Belle Haven Country Club  
6023 Fort Hunt Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

**March 14-15, 2020–Saturday-Sunday: 239th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse**

**Wreath Laying – TBD**

Nathanael Green Monument Guilford Courthouse National Military Park  
2332 New Garden Road  
Greensboro, North Carolina 27410

**March 16, 2020–Monday: 269th Birthday of James Madison, Wreath Laying Ceremony-1:30 p.m.**

Madison Family Cemetery Montpelier  
11350 Constitution Highway Montpelier Station, Virginia 22957

**April 4, 2020–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting-11:30 am**

Speaker: Matthew R. Costello, Ph.D. Asst. Dir., David M. Rubenstein National Center for White House History, White House Historian, The White House Historical Association *"The Property of the Nation: George Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, and the Memory of the First President"*

Belle Haven Country Club  
6023 Fort Hunt Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

# February Chapter Meeting

With few exceptions, our Chapter meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month (except for the summer break of June, July and August). This year, the second Saturday of February (February 8th) falls during the 2020 Virginia Society SAR (VASSAR) Annual Meeting, which is being held at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, VA on Friday, February 7th and Saturday, February 8th. Accordingly, as in past years when there was a similar calendar overlap, our February Chapter Meeting will be held at the Omni in Richmond on Saturday, February 8th from 10:00 am-10:45 am, immediately following the VASSAR General Membership Meeting. We will provide you with the specific room once the final VASSAR Meeting agenda is announced. We will return to the Belle Haven Country Club for our March Chapter meeting on Saturday, March 14th.

## Help Promote the Study of History

National History Day is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Maryland that operates an annual contest for students in grades 6-12 to promote the study and appreciation of history among students. The National Contest is the final stage of a series of contests at local and state/affiliate levels. Students begin their journey by presenting their projects in classrooms, schools, and districts around the world. Top entries are invited to the state/affiliate level contests. The top two entries in every category at the state/affiliate level are then invited to the National Contest, which is being held this year from June 14-18 at the University of Maryland in College Park.

As Chapter members, we have two opportunities this year to support this worthwhile effort and to further the SAR's

objective of educating our youth about the Constitution and those who developed the American ideals and traditions.

### High-School Level

Colgan High School in Prince William County is looking for judges to assist in reviewing student projects on Tuesday, February 11th and Wednesday, February 12th from 7:30 am – 1:30 pm. No prior experience is required - all you need to do is listen and ask questions about each student presentation. This year's theme is "Breaking Barriers." You can participate one day or both days; for all day or just for a couple of hours. If interested, please contact Julie Elston (last year's VASSAR Teacher of the Year) at [jelston@comcast.net](mailto:jelston@comcast.net).

### District Level

The District 5 State Level judging will occur on Saturday, February 29th at Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria. You may sign-up using the registration system provided by National History Day; simply go to the Virginia History Day District 5 Portal at [www.va-vadc4.nhd.org](http://www.va-vadc4.nhd.org) and begin with "Create an Account" on the right side of the screen. Or, you may print out the Judges form found elsewhere in this issue, fill it out, scan it, and return it to [virginiahistoryjudgedistrict5@gmail.com](mailto:virginiahistoryjudgedistrict5@gmail.com). Again, you do not need to be a history expert, and complimentary meals are provided!

*If you have any questions about the District 5 judging, please contact Denise McHugh at the email address above, or on 410-300-9867.*

**See Registration Form on Page 12**



# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Virginia Society will host the **130th Congress of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution**. The Congress will be held **Friday (check in) through Thursday (check out), 10-16 July 2020 at the Richmond Marriott, 500 E Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.**

There is an **urgent need for volunteers**. The Congress website is: [2020sarcongress.org/](http://2020sarcongress.org/). There is a "Volunteer Tab" on the home page of the website. Should you be interested in volunteering, you may contact **Ernie Coggins** at [coggins.sar@gmail.com](mailto:coggins.sar@gmail.com) or the Chairman of the Volunteers Subcommittee, **Jim O'Kelley** at [okelly910@comcast.com](mailto:okelly910@comcast.com).

**A simplified Congress schedule is as follows:**

*Friday, 10 July:* Check in and registration

*Saturday, 11 July:* Two tours are scheduled, one tour to three plantations--*Berkeley, Westover, and Shirley* and a second tour to the **American Revolution Museum at Yorktown** with a tour of the **Yorktown Battlefield**.

*Saturday evening, 11 July:* Host Reception, Library of Virginia

*Sunday, 12 July:* **Color Guard Breakfast** at the Marriott

**Memorial Service**, Monument Heights Baptist Church

**First Lady's Tea**, at church

**Rumbaugh Orations Contest** at the hotel

*Monday through Wednesday, 13 – 15 July:* **General Sessions of the Congress**

*Monday, 13 July:* **Youth Awards Luncheon**

*Monday evening, 13 July:* **Recognitions**

*Tuesday, 14 July:* **Mid-Atlantic District Breakfast**

**Lady's Luncheon** at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

**Election of 2020-21 General Officers**

**President General's Banquet**

*Wednesday, 15 July:* Tours and Patriot Grave marking ceremony –

**Virginia State Capitol and Saint John's Historic Church** (site of Patrick Henry's

"*Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death*" speech

**Patriot Grave marking ceremony at Shockoe Hill Cemetery**

*Wednesday evening, 15 July:* **Installation Banquet**

*Thursday, 16 July:* Check out and return home

*The last Congress held in Virginia was in 2007, so this is an opportunity close to home. Also, the hotel is just a four-minute walk from the Library of Virginia; this would be an excellent time to research your Virginia Patriot ancestors.*

# VIRGINIA HISTORY DAY Regional Competition: District 5

## JUDGES REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution / Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Best Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Years Participating \_\_\_\_\_

**Date: Saturday, February 29, 2020 8:00am--3:00pm**

**Mount Vernon High School, (8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria, VA 22309)**

**Area in which you would like to volunteer (choose 3 in order of preference):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Historical Paper<br>(Must review prior to 2/29/20)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Historical Paper<br>(Must review prior to 2/29/20)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Individual Documentary                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual Documentary  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Group Documentary  | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Group Documentary   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Individual Performance                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual Performance  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Group Performance  | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Group Performance   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Individual Exhibit                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual Exhibit  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Group Exhibit  | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Group Exhibit   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Individual Website<br>(Must review prior to 2/29/20)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual Website<br>(Must review websites prior to 2/29/20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Group Website<br>(Must review prior to 2/29/20)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Group Website<br>(Must review websites prior to 2/29/20)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Individual Website<br>(Must review prior to 2/29/20) | <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Group Website<br>(Must review prior to 2/29/20)           |

If you would like to participate, please scan and e-mail this form to:  
[virginiahistoryjudgedistrict5@gmail.com](mailto:virginiahistoryjudgedistrict5@gmail.com).

OR Send to:

Denise McHugh  
District 5 Virginia History Day Competition  
7719 Suffolk Way  
Hanover, Maryland 21076

If you prefer not to complete this form, on-line registration is available at [va-vadc4.nhd.org](http://va-vadc4.nhd.org) (you may need to highlight and copy the address into your web browser)

**Questions? Email Denise at address above or call 410-300-9867 (mobile) / 301-314-9893 (work)**



# THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY WANTS YOU ! TO:

**ATTEND \* ENJOY \* PARTICIPATE  
& VOLUNTEER FOR THE**

**2020 NSSAR CONGRESS  
RICHMOND, VA**

**FRIDAY 10 JULY THROUGH THURSDAY 16 JULY 2020**



**SEE WEBSITE: [2020SARCONGRESS.ORG](http://2020SARCONGRESS.ORG)**

**NATIONAL MEETINGS, BANQUETS, AWARDS, EVENTS  
LOCAL TOURS OF YORKTOWN, JAMES RIVER PLANTATIONS,  
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (PATRICK HENRY'S SPEECH)  
SHOCKOE CEMETERY (CREDIT TOWARDS GRAVE MARKING MEDAL)  
AND STATE CAPITOL**

**VIRGINIA SOCIETY  
2020 CONGRESS  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

# **RAFFLE**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VASSAR**

LET US HELP YOU KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY  
TWO POWDER HORNS FOR RAFFLE

**TICKETS \$15.00 EACH**

LET US HELP YOU CUT THROUGH RED TAPE  
TWO HAND MADE KNIVES:  
YORKTOWN AND JAMESTOWN DESIGNS

**TICKETS \$25.00 EACH**

POWDER HORN TICKET@**\$15.00** EACH

NUMBER OF TICKETS\_\_\_\_\_

YORKTOWN KNIFE TICKET@**25.00** EACH

NUMBER OF TICKETS\_\_\_\_\_

JAMESTOWN KNIFE TICKET@**25.00** EACH

NUMBER OF TICKETS\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VASSAR**

**MAIL TO:**

**PAT KELLY**

**2228 WILLIAMSBURG ROAD**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22901**

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## **Oral History Opportunity**

Roughly a dozen past Chapter Presidents are still active in the George Washington Chapter. If you would be interested in reaching out to these individuals and capturing the memories and highlights (or lowlights!) of Chapter leadership, please contact Jay Henn at [jaymhenn@gmail.com](mailto:jaymhenn@gmail.com)

# Members Only Section of GWSAR.ORG

## It's There For You!



In case you have never established a Members Only linkage, or you have forgotten your username & password, I am here to remind you of how you do it and what you'll find there when you visit this part of the George Washington Chapter's website.

Go to our chapter website and click on the Members Only Login link (far right side) at the top of the Home page on the Chapter's website and then use either your website account (username and password) or social media account to gain access. For those that either don't have an account or have forgotten their username and/or password, I can help you with that if you send me an email at:

[WEBMASTER@GWSAR.ORG](mailto:WEBMASTER@GWSAR.ORG)

I will need to verify you are who you say you are so include your full name, email and phone number you provided for your GW Chapter membership and your State and/or National SAR numbers, if you know them. With this information, I can verify your account and then provide you with your password so you can gain access.

There is also another sign on option if you have a social media account (Google / Twitter / LinkedIn / Instagram / Amazon / Microsoft / Yahoo). The website will use your social media account to verify who you are thus providing easy and seamless access. I use a Google Chrome browser and am thus always logged into my Google account, so I use the "Login With Google" button and I get right in without having to remember another username and password. Use whichever option you are most comfortable with.

After gaining access to the Members Only site, you have access to the following information:

- Membership Directory – the latest and historical versions dating back to 2013
- References - SAR Brochure / Application Form / Grave Markings Research Material
- Reports – Americanism / Committee
- GWSAR Business – Approved Budgets / Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

**This is your section of the website and it can host anything you think is important to share exclusively with the members of this Chapter. If you have some ideas, please share them.**

*Jamie Callender, Webmaster*