



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 5

May, 2009



Next Meeting

The next meeting of our chapter will be held on Saturday, May 9, at our usual venue. Our luncheon will feature Dr. Bruce Cole, CEO of the American Revolution Center at Valley Forge. Dr. Cole, a respected academic and art historian, previously served as the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Appointed by President George W. Bush and unanimously confirmed by the Senate in 2001, and again in 2005 for a second term, Dr. Cole is the longest serving Chairman of the NEH. While there he launched key initiatives, including *We the People*, a program designed to encourage the teaching, study and understanding of American history and culture, and the Picturing America project, which uses great American art to teach history and culture in schools and libraries nationwide.

"The founding principles unite us as a nation," says Dr. Cole. "When we express ourselves freely, worship at an institution of our choice or vote, we are acting on the principles of those who struggled and endured at Valley Forge. By developing a living memorial to the American Revolution, we will re-engage Americans in our history and our own responsibilities in perpetuating the freedoms we have been given."

Please join us to hear Dr. Cole's vision of the center and how he plans to relate our First Principles to today's generation of Americans.

Calling All Compatriots! Marching Down Constitution Avenue to Rousing Applause

Your George Washington Chapter will once again hoist the colors and march in the National Memorial Day Parade on May 25th. This activity is building momentum and representatives from several other chapters, state societies and NSSAR will also participate. After several successful years of remembering those who fought and died to preserve our freedom, the parade now fittingly draws over a quarter million spectators and features more than 200 participating units.



G.W. Chapter Members assemble for the Memorial Day Parade, May 2007. [File photo]

Please plan on joining your GW Chapter Compatriots this year for this meaningful event. It's an easy route to march so bring the family.

We will assemble no later than 1:45 p.m. on 7th Street, NW between Madison and Jefferson Drives. If

you're not familiar with this location, it is on the National Mall between the National Air and Space Museum and the National Gallery of Art. You may arrive as early as 12:30 p.m. in order to find good parking. The parade kicks off at 2:00 p.m. and we should be finished no later than 3:30 p.m. — in ample time to return home for a backyard barbeque.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Vern McHargue at 703-313-0671 or vmchargue@verizon.net.

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President's Column

Dear Compatriots:

Your Board of Managers (BOM) has been working to reconcile the membership records of our chapter with those of VASSAR and NSSAR. Bob Carr, Chapter Registrar, and I began this effort over a year ago. Most recently, Bob has devoted a tremendous amount of personal time and effort to this special project. He has been assisted by Paul and Vern, our current and immediate past Treasurer, respectively.

Bob has identified a few (less than a handful) errors relating to last year's dues payments. These errors resulted in some of our members being shown as not having paid their dues last fall when in fact they had done so. We are working to resolve these errors expeditiously and the chapter is assuming responsibility for any additional costs that are attributable to administrative error. Bob has corresponded with the affected individuals and I will call each of them in order to apologize for any related inconvenience.

While these administrative errors are of concern, they are minor as compared to the challenges we have identified in connection with our efforts to reconcile our chapter's records with VASSAR's and NSSAR's. Therefore, as a service to our chapter members, we are committed to completing the reconciliation of these three sets of records this year.

Bob Carr has done an extraordinary job to-date in leading this effort and I ask that you please not "shoot the messenger" if he contacts you in our attempt to finally resolve these issues this year. His efforts to-date have been above and beyond the call of duty!

We have already identified a number of changes to our dues and administrative procedures that we will implement for the dues cycle later this year in order to prevent problems from occurring in the future. In this regard, the BOM approved Bob's request to assume responsibility for this year's dues process.

The BOM is moving forward to implement a custom designed web site later this year. Mike Elston, Chapter Secretary, is the point for this project and the BOM has determined the nature of preliminary content to be included therein. Believe it or not, only 3 of 27 VASSAR chapters have their own web site. When we're done, we'll be number four and we'll have the best site in the state. The site will help us serve and communicate with our members. It will also help us in our efforts to recruit new members and partner with other SAR chapters and patriotic organizations.

Our May meeting on Saturday, May 8 will be our last monthly meeting before the summer break. I ask each compatriot to make a special effort to attend it. In addition, please mark your calendars now for our participation in the National Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25. We will march this year with the NSSAR contingent in order to show SAR unity although we expect that the participation of our chapter will be publicly acknowledged. This will be our chapter's third straight year participating in this prestigious parade.

Patriotically yours,

Dave Walker
Chapter President

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Categories of SAR Membership

For the past several years the BOM has been working to verify the chapter membership roster. As a result of this effort, we have learned over the years that membership is not as simple as one might think. We must determine each compatriot's category of membership so that during the annual billing process each compatriot will receive a bill which accurately reflects his membership status and the dues owed for the upcoming year. To facilitate this process, every known membership category was compiled in what we called Membership - Rules of the Game. This compilation is provided below so that next September, when you receive your dues statement for 2010, you

will have better understanding of the statement format. Please contact any chapter officer if you have questions.

Membership

Rules of the Game

The purpose of this document is to compile in one place all the written/unwritten rules governing the membership in SAR and the payment of National (NSSAR), Virginia (VASSAR) and Chapter dues.

General Membership

1. All active members on the rolls as of October 31 are subject to dues for the next calendar year.

2. Any dues received after the NSSAR deadline will require the completion of a reinstatement form (Form 0918) by the delinquent member.

3. New members approved on or after Nov 1 through Dec 31 are not subject to dues for the following calendar year.

4. First year VASSAR dues are waived for all new members.

Life Membership

1. Currently, there is only one level of Life Membership – NSSAR. VASSAR discontinued selling Life Memberships in 1994.

2. All Life Members who did not purchase a VASSAR Life Membership before 1994 are required to pay **both** VASSAR and Chapter dues. The *Virginia Society Official Handbook*, Volume 2: Bylaws, Section IV – Fees, Dues, Donations, page 3, reads, “Any member who paid the Virginia Society life membership dues prior to 1994 has discharged his obligation for Virginia Society dues so long as he shall live, and the Virginia Society assumes the obligation of his National Society dues so long as he shall live, other sections of these bylaws not withstanding.”

3. If VASSAR dues are not paid by January 1, of membership year, NSSAR will drop Life Members and require a reinstatement fee of \$25.00.

Reinstatement can occur up to 10 years after being dropped.

4. NSSAR Life Memberships may be purchased on-line at SAR.org. Cost is on a sliding scale based on age.

5. Other State Life Memberships are not transferable to VASSAR.

Dual Membership

1. Members may hold dual memberships in both State Societies and Chapters in the state in which he has state membership.

2. Members holding dual state memberships are required to pay state and chapter dues to each state.

3. Members holding dual memberships in more than one chapter in a single state are required to pay NSSAR, state and chapter dues through their home chapter and only chapter dues in any other chapter.

Reinstatement of Membership

1. Former members may reinstate directly into the state society of their choice subject to acceptance by the state society.

2. The cost of reinstatement is set by the state society and will include payment of all dues for the year reinstated unless it is after October 31. In that case, the dues will be for the ensuing year. VASSAR has no reinstatement fee.

3. Reinstatement instructions and forms are available at SAR.org under the “Members” tab.

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IN MEMORIAM

KENNETH PAUL BAKER

Members of the George Washington Chapter mourn the passing of Compatriot Kenneth Paul Baker on Thursday, April 16, 2009, at INOVA Fairfax Hospital. Ken, a resident of Burke, Virginia, was the beloved husband of Judith Baker; loving father of Melanie Peter (Rob), Brian Baker (Kate) and Amy Baker (Beth Blevins). Ken is also survived by a grandson Ean; and a great-granddaughter Kyleigh. A visitation was held on Sunday, April 19, at the Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Rd., Fairfax,

Virginia. Interment will follow at a later date in Lakeland, Florida. Donations may be made in Ken's honor to the Alabama Athletics-Football Program, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 355487.

If you would like to send a note to his family, the home address is 10349 Steamboat Landing Lane, Burke, VA 22015.

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Registrars Report

New Members

The Chapter continues to grow as we receive more new applicants. Currently there are ten new applicants in process. Some are awaiting additional material which will be obtained from the DAR Library. We have three members that are approved and are awaiting induction when they can attend a meeting. Two applicants are awaiting NSSAR approval.

Supplementals

Two supplementals are at NSSAR for approval. There continues to be a supplemental backlog. Nine have been returned by the applicant after their review. Seven are still in draft form and need applicant review. Priority of submission continues to be given to new membership applications.

Please submit only one supplemental application at a time. Make sure that copies of all documentation is included with the application, this includes a record copy of your initial application to SAR, if applicable.

Application Notes

Compatriots with names of potential new members should provide the candidates name to me or one of the chapter officers. I have available a new member information packet that includes a letter of introduction as well as documents explaining application procedures and the benefits of being a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. I will have available several packets at the May meeting if you would like one. Over the summer break you can e-mail me names at capt7cs@aol.com or call me at 703-780-3066 or 703-407-4496

Our March Meeting

Compatriots who attended our March meeting could easily have believed they had been transformed to a high school history classroom when Mr. Michael Cecere stepped to the podium. Dressed in the garb of a colonial militiaman, Mr. Cecere held the attention of all with his enthusiastic presentation. Drawing on the writings of early Virginia patriots such as George Washington, George Mason, Henry Lee and Lund Washington, he vividly described the early origins of Virginia's resistance to England's ever increasing exercise of control over the colonies.



Vice President McHargue presents the coveted bust of General Washington to Michael Cecere.

We are indeed fortunate to have a teacher with Mr. Cecere's enthusiasm and passion for history working in our local schools and colleges.

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Strengthening the Bonds of Fellowship

It has been observed that the chapter newsletter could be used to advantage in strengthening the bonds which join our members. If you know of an announcement or a newsworthy item pertaining to a chapter member, please relay that information to a chapter officer or to the editor of this newsletter.

Names and contact information is provided at the end of this newsletter.

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Looking Forward

May

- 5 Raid on Martin's Station - Ewing, VA - 1:00 pm - Contact Thomas Coker, Martin's Station Chapter President, at trc@mounet.com for details.
- 9 GW Chapter Meeting - Guest speaker will be Dr. Bruce Cole, CEO American Revolution Center at Valley Forge.
- 25 National Memorial Day Parade - this is a great event for the GW Chapter.
- 29-30 Tribute to Pioneers and Pathfinders - Siege at the Blockhouse - Natural Tunnel State Park - Scott County, VA - 29th - 6 pm - continues on the 30th at 9:00 am.

July

- 4 Independence Day Celebration at Mount Vernon. In addition to a wreath-laying ceremony, festivities include patriotic music and re-enactments by the First Virginia Regiment.

September

- 12 The next meeting of our chapter.

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A Few Days in the Life of President Washington

On April 7, 1791, after a brief visit to his Mount Vernon home, President Washington began a tour of our southern states. The journey had an inauspicious beginning, as recorded on that date in the General's diary:

Recommenced my journey with Horses apparently much refreshed and in good spirits. In attempting to cross the ferry at Colchester with four horses hitched to the Chariot by the neglect of the person who stood before them, one of the leaders got

overboard when the boat was in swimming water and 50 yards from the shore - with much difficulty he escaped drowning before he could be disengaged. His struggling frightened the others in such a manner that one after another and in quick succession they all got overboard harnessed and fastened as they were and with the utmost difficulty they were saved and the Carriage escaped being dragged after them, as the whole of it happened in swimming water and at a distance from the shore. Providentially - indeed miraculously - by the exertions of people who went off in Boats and jumped in to the river as soon as the Batteau was forced into wading water - no damage was sustained by the horses, carriage or harness. Proceeding to Dumfries where I dined, after which I visited and drank Tea with my Niece and Mrs. Thos. Lee.

Quickly recovering from this stumbling start, Washington's tour of the South was a great success. He visited many of the region's principal cities, including Richmond and Petersburg in Virginia; Greenville (which he called a "trifling place"), Newbern, Wilmington, Charlotte ("a very trifling place"), and Salem in North Carolina; Charleston and Columbia, in South Carolina; and Savanna, Waynesborough, and Augusta in Georgia. Volume VI of *The Diaries of George Washington*, edited by Jackson and Twohig, provide a very interesting account of that long tour. A few extracts of the diary are paraphrased below:

May 2d. Met by the recorder of the City [Charleston, SC], Genl. Pinckney & Edward Rutledge Esqr, in a 12 oared barge rowed by 12 American Captains of Ships, most elegantly dressed [in light blue silk jackets, and round black hats decorated with blue ribbons on which were impressed the arms of SC]. There were a great number of other Boats with Gentlemen and ladies in them; and two Boats with Music. . . . As we approached [Charleston] a salute with Artillery commenced, . . . at the wharf I was met by the Governor, the Lt. Governor, the Intendt. of the City; the two Senators of the State, . . .

May 3d. Was visited about 2 o'clock, by a great

number of the most respectable ladies of Charleston - the first honor of the kind I had ever experienced and it was flattering as it was singular.

May 13th. [At Savanna] dined with Members of the Cincinnati at a public dinner . . . and in the evening went to a dancing Assembly at which there was about 100 well dressed & handsome Ladies. [The illumination of the city was elaborately done. One alderman's house displayed "no less than three hundred lights, arranged in a beautiful symmetry, with fifteen lights contained in the form of a W in front . . . and in the river the ship *Thomas Wilson* with a great number of lanterns . . . made a fine appearance."]

May 17th. [In Augusta] Went to an assembly in the evening at the Academy; at which there were between 60 & 70 well dressed ladies.

After 66 days of travel, Washington returned to Mount Vernon on June 12.

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 200 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.

Present officers are:

President: Dave Walker 703-619-9751
Vice President: Vern McHargue 703-313-0671
Secretary: Mike Elston 03-680-0866
Treasurer: Paul Briggs 703-768-6910
Registrar: Bob Carr 703-780-3066

This monthly newsletter is edited by Don Kraft, who depends heavily on inputs from chapter officers and committee chairmen. Inputs from others are always welcome. Please send your inputs and comments to kraftdon@att.net or call 703-451-6132.

May 9, 2009

Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

_____ Please use this form to make a reservation for the chapter's lunch at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia. The lunch cost is \$35.00 per person. Check in and social time begin at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon. Feel free to invite your wife and friends as your guests. ***RSVP no later than May 4th.***

Walk-ins will be accommodated if possible, but note that to cover the Club's charge for serving those without a timely reservation a walk-in price of \$37.00 is required.

Name: _____

A check for _____ persons in the amount of \$ _____ payable to **G. W. Chapter SAR** is enclosed.

Mail this reservation form with your check to:

F. Paul Briggs, Treasurer
7213 Regent Drive
Alexandria, VA 22307

You may also phone (703) 768-6910 and leave a message or e-mail gnpbriggs@cox.net.

It is important to provide advance notice of attendance to be sure you get a seat.

Valet parking is available.

