

**Semi-Annual Reports
of
Virginia Society SAR Officers, Committees,
Resolutions and Other Reports/Documents**



**The 2017 Virginia Society SAR Semi-Annual
Meeting
Newport News, Virginia
September 15 – 16, 2017**



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of Officers, Committees, Resolutions
and
Other Reports/Documents
September 15 – 16, 2017

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President Semi-Annual Report

Dear Compatriots:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our great society as its president this year. I am thrilled with the response that you, my compatriots, have made to this year's *Call to Arms!* Throughout the Commonwealth, our chapters and individual members have been working hard to establish partnerships and build relationships with outside organizations, recruit and retain members, and tell the stories of our Patriot ancestors. I will say more about the status of the individual initiatives during the membership meeting on Saturday, September 16.

There are many people to thank for the great work that has been accomplished in the first half of the year, but, in this report, I will only name the three most important of those many people: Julie, Emily and William Elston. Without their help and patience, I would not be able to do this at all.

Since the report that I filed as First Vice President in advance of our annual meeting in February in Richmond, I have also participated in the following meetings, activities and events:

- January 21 Attended a meeting of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, SAR, in Fredericksburg; served as the guest speaker and installed the chapter's new officers.
- January 23 Represented the SAR at the pre-release screening of the BBC2 documentary "George III – The Genius of the Mad King" at Buckingham Palace in London.
- January 28 Attended a meeting of the Col. James Wood II Chapter, SAR, in Winchester; served as the guest speaker and installed the chapter's new officers.
- February 10-11 Participated in the Executive Committee, Board of Managers and General Membership meetings of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution in Richmond, VA; elected and installed as your 97th President.
- February 12 Led a meeting of the Convention Planning Committee, N.S.C.A.R., in Arlington, VA.

- February 13 Attended the public lecture of the first SAR Visiting Professor at King's College London, Andrew O'Shaughnessy, in the Great Hall on the Strand Campus of King's, London.
- February 14 Visited the Royal Archives and the Royal Library at Windsor Castle with Professor O'Shaughnessy, President General Joe Dooley and Oliver Urquhart Irvine, Royal Librarian and Keeper of the Queen's Archives.
- February 18 Represented the Virginia SAR at the 236th anniversary commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan in South Boston, VA; installed three new officers of the Dan River Chapter.
- February 20 Served as the guest speaker at the annual Washington's Birthday breakfast at Historic Pohick Church in Lorton, VA.
Participated in the SAR unit in the annual Washington's Birthday Parade in Alexandria, VA.
- February 25 Spoke at the commemoration of the 251st anniversary of the Leedstown Resolutions at Stratford Hall, Westmoreland County, VA.
- March 2-4 Attended the SAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY, including meetings of the national Executive Committee and the SAR Foundation Board.
- March 10-11 Attended and brought greetings at the 90th V.S.C.A.R. State Convention, Staunton, Virginia; presented the Virginia SAR's annual support for the C.A.R. and the Silver SAR-C.A.R. Medal of Appreciation to State President Alexandra Slaughter.
- March 24 Attended and brought greetings at the DAR Annual Conference in Roanoke, Virginia; presented the SAR Medal of Appreciation to immediate past State Regent Virginia S. Storage.
- March 27 Participated in a meeting of the 2020 Congress Committee by telephone.
Participated in a NSSAR Executive Committee teleconference.
- March 30 Presided at a teleconference meeting of the Virginia SAR ExCom.
- March 31 Represented the Virginia SAR at the Grand Opening Reception, American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

- April 1 Attended a meeting of the “Light Horse Harry” Lee Society, Woodbridge, VA.
 Attended and spoke at the luncheon celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Lane’s Mill Chapter, N.S.D.A.R., Centreville, VA.
- April 8 Attended the April meeting of the George Washington Chapter and presented the Silver Good Citizenship Medal to Dana Boente, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and acting Deputy Attorney General of the United States.
- April 13 Presented the Virginia SAR wreath at the D.C. SAR commemoration of the birthday of Thomas Jefferson at the Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC.
- April 15 Spoke at the annual Graves Mountain Multi-Chapter Meeting in Syria, VA.
- April 21-23 Attended the N.S.C.A.R. National Convention in Arlington, Virginia, and served as the Senior National Convention Chairman.
- April 29 Gave the keynote address and presented the Virginia SAR wreath at the 259th anniversary celebration of James Monroe’s Birthday at his birthplace in Colonial Beach, VA.
 Presented the Virginia SAR wreath and spoke at a joint Virginia/West Virginia SAR grave marker dedication ceremony for William Broadus at Harpers Ferry, WV.
- May 6 Attended a meeting of the “Light Horse Harry” Lee Society, Woodbridge, VA.
- May 13 Keynote speaker at the gala celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Col. William Grayson Chapter in Gainesville, VA.
- May 21 Spoke at the Rappahannock Chapter plaque dedication ceremony at Menokin, site of the ruins of the home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, Signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- May 27 Spoke and presented the Virginia SAR wreath at the annual South Carolina SAR commemoration of Buford’s Massacre (Battle of Waxhaws) in Lancaster, SC.
 Spoke at the dedication ceremony for a plaque listing the known members of the 3rd Virginia Regiment who fought at the Battle of Waxhaws sponsored by the Friends of the Buford’s Massacre Battlefield, Lancaster, SC.

- May 29 Marched in the SAR unit in the National Memorial Day Parade, Washington, DC.
- June 10 Attended the June chapter meeting of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, Fredericksburg, VA.
- June 14 Attended the Fairfax Resolves Chapter Flag Day flag retirement ceremony at the Great Falls Library, Great Falls, VA.
- June 17 Attended and gave a eulogy at the Memorial Service for President Ed Truslow, Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- June 22 Attended and spoke at the Col. William Grayson Chapter's grave marking ceremony for Capt. James Campbell, Old Methodist Cemetery, Alexandria, VA.
- June 25 Presided at a meeting of the Virginia SAR Executive Committee at the Newport News Marriott at City Center. The meeting was followed by meetings with hotel staff regarding the upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting.
- July 4 Participated in the Independence Day ceremony at George Washington's Mount Vernon; presented a wreath at the tomb of General & Mrs. Washington with Virginia State C.A.R. President Emily Elston.
- July 7-8 Attended the C.A.R Mid-Southern Region Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, where I served as the Senior Regional Registrar.
- July 9-12 Attended the SAR Congress, Knoxville, Tennessee, and participated in meetings of the national Executive Committee and the SAR Foundation Board; elected to serve as Virginia's National Trustee
- July 22 Attended and spoke at the ceremony commemorating the 243rd anniversary of the Fairfax Resolves at the Fairfax County Courthouse.
- July 24 Served in the Color Guard and attended SAR-DAR-C.A.R. Night at the Ballpark at the Richmond Flying Squirrels game in Richmond, VA
- July 29 Attended and brought greetings on behalf of the Virginia SAR at the Virginia C.A.R. First State Workshop in Lorton, Virginia. Over 90 members and seniors were in attendance.

Participated in the dedication of the Virginia SAR and War of 1812 Society plaque honoring the Patriots of both wars buried or memorialized in the Pohick Church Cemetery, Lorton, Virginia.

Served in the Color Guard and attended SAR-DAR-C.A.R. Night at the Ballpark at the Potomac Nationals game in Woodbridge, VA.

July 31 Met with York County, Virginia, official regarding the proposed marker for British dead in Yorktown, VA.

August 11-12 Attended the Atlantic Middle States (AMS) District Meeting, in Gettysburg, PA, and gave the Virginia Society's report. Among other things, Virginia retained the Jersey Devil Award.

August 19 Attended and brought greetings on behalf of the Virginia SAR at the Virginia C.A.R. Second State Workshop in Lexington, Virginia. Approximately 56 members and seniors were in attendance.

August 26 Attended and spoke at a luncheon meeting of the Lt. David Cox Chapter in Galax, Virginia. The meeting was a joint meeting with three DAR chapters and two C.A.R. societies.

August 27 Presented the Rappahannock Chapter with its charter at a meeting of the chapter at the home of President Carl Strock in Hustle, Virginia.

September 2 Attended a meeting of the "Light Horse Harry" Lee Society of the Virginia C.A.R. in Woodbridge, Virginia.

September 9 Attended the September meeting of the George Washington Chapter.

Participated in the President General's wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. The year is but half over, and we still have much to accomplish. To arms, Compatriots! To arms!

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michael J. Elston

Michael J. Elston
President

1st Vice President's Report Semi-Annual Report

Dear Compatriots

It has been a privilege to serve as your 1st Vice President this year and working with VASSAR President Michael Elston.

Since the report that I filed as Second Vice President in January of 2017, I have participated in the following meetings, activities and events:

February 3-1	Leadership Conference, Louisville, KY
16 March	President Madison's Birthday, Montpelier, VA
17-18 March	Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC
27 March	VASSAR 2020 Congress Committee Meeting, Richmond, VA
31 March-1 April	Yorktown Museum Dedication
13 April	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, Monticello, VA
15 April	SAR Multi Chapter Meeting, Graves Mountain, VA
17 April	Grave Marking Event, Charlottesville, VA
21 April	Dogwood Vietnam Memorial Event, Charlottesville, VA
28-29 April,	Blockhouse Event, Duffield, VA
12-13 May	Raid on Martin's Station, Ewing, VA
3 June	Thomas Jefferson Chapter Meeting
9-10 June	Ramseurs Mill, Lincolnton, NC
14 June	Army Birthday Ceremony, Charlottesville, VA
17 June	VASSAR Past President Ed Truslow's Memorial Service, Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg VA
25 June	SAR EXCOM Meeting, Newport News, VA
4 July	DAR Service, Thomas Jefferson's Grave, Charlottesville, VA
6-12 June	SAR National Congress, Knoxville, TJ
29 June	Grave Marking, Pohick Church and EXCOM Meeting, Lorton, VA
8 August	Semi-Annual Planning Meeting, Charlottesville, VA

11-12 August Mid-Atlantic States Meeting, Gettysburg, PA
18 August PBS Vietnam Interview, Ruckersville, VA
21 August Receive Knives for 2020 Congress Meeting, Staunton, VA
22 August Meet with Power Horn Supplier for 2020 Congress,
Winchester, VA
23 August 2020 Congress Planning Meeting, Richmond, VA
26 August Taping, PBS Vietnam Panel

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your First Vice President.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Patrick M. Kelly

Patrick M. Kelly
First Vice President
Virginia SAR

2nd Vice President Semi-Annual Report

Attended the following meetings and events February through September 2017:

February 10-12	VASSAR Annual Meeting, Richmond
February 17-18	Commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan, South Boston
March 09	Richmond Chapter Meeting, Richmond, Installed Officers, Presented Awards
March 27	2020 Congress Planning Meeting, Richmond
March 30	VASSAR Executive Committee Meeting, Teleconference
April 01	Museum of the American Revolution Dedication, Yorktown
June 14	Great Bridge NSDAR Flag Day Ceremony, MacArthur Memorial, Norfolk, Laid VASSAR Wreath
June 14	Museum of the American Revolution, Yorktown, Reception for Exhibit Opening, Yorktown
June 17	Funeral of Immediate Past President Edward Truslow, Williamsburg
June 25	VASSAR Executive Committee Meeting, Newport News
July 07-13	Delegate to NSSAR Annual Congress, Knoxville, Tennessee
July 11	2020 Congress Planning Meeting, Knoxville, Tennessee
July 29	Plaque Dedication, Pohick Episcopal Church, Lorton, VASSAR Executive Committee Meeting, Lorton, SAR Group Event at Potomac Nationals Baseball Game, Woodbridge
August 14	Keynote Speaker for New Citizens Naturalization Ceremony, Hoffman Federal Court House, Norfolk
August 19	SAR Group Event at Norfolk Tides Baseball Game, Norfolk
August 23	2020 Congress Planning Meeting, Richmond
September 09	Commemoration of the Battle of the Capes, Virginia Beach, Laid VASSAR Wreath
September 15	VASSAR Executive Committee Meeting, Newport News
September 15-16	VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, Newport News

September 22 Groundbreaking Ceremony for Visitors Center,
 Great Bridge Battlefield Memorial Park, Chesapeake

September 28-30 NSSAR Leadership Conference, Louisville, Kentucky

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. J. Thomas Whetstone
2nd Vice President
Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution

3rd Vice President's Report
Semi Annual Report

As the Virginia SAR representative, presented the Virginia SAR wreath and delivered remarks at the following events from February through September 2017:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 12 | 241 st Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves, Halifax, NC |
| April 28 | James Monroe's 259 th Birthday Memorial, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA |
| June 3 | 236 th Anniversary of Wayne's Crossing, Leesburg, VA |
| June 17 | Fairfax County 275 th Anniversary & Revolutionary War Plaque Dedication, Fairfax, VA |

As Virginia SAR 3rd Vice President attended the following meetings and events from February through September 2017

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Mar 3-4 | NSSAR Spring Leadership/Trustee Meeting, Louisville, KY |
| June 25 | Virginia SAR EXCOM Meeting, Newport News, VA |
| July 7-13 | NSSAR 127 th Congress, Knoxville, TN |

In other capacities attended thirty-three other SAR events, the Virginia DAR Annual Meeting in Roanoke, VA, and the NSDAR Congress in Washington, DC. Through August 29th traveled 11,811 miles and spent 20 nights away from home serving the Virginia SAR.

Respectively submitted,
Bill Schwetke
3rd Vice President, Virginia SAR

Secretary Semi-Annual Report

Membership growth for 2017 has exceeded the last several years and as of August 31st we had 2,111 total members plus 36 Out-of-State Dual members. Since January 1st, 234 new and 2 memorial members have been registered along with 62 reinstatements and 5 transfers. There have been 6 transfers out and 18 compatriots have passed away. With the rate of growth shown this year, we should meet or exceed 2,200 in society membership by the end of this year. Each chapter is encouraged to follow up with members during the upcoming dues process to minimize drops and possibly get a partial rebate on 2017 state dues paid.

We continue to digitize all new and supplemental members' record copies and regularly send these records to our state registrars for their use. We continue to archive this information and other membership records, in order that Virginia Society compatriots may have local access rather than having to make inquiries from NSSAR.

I applaud all officers and committees who have provided their reports in a timely manner to provide an accurate and complete accounting of Virginia Society goals and accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Rouse

Virginia Society SAR-Balance Sheet
As of June 2017

	Jun 30, 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 - Cash Accounts	
10100 - General Fund	95,142.97
10200 - Flathers May Fund	24,558.34
10300 - Howard Hamilton Fund	175,889.78
10400 - Knight-Patty Fund	441,325.54
10500 - Frantz-Philen Fund	27,165.25
10600 - Brennan Fund	42,244.42
10800 - War Graves Preservation & Maint	11,530.16
10900 - Special Funds	2,177.81
Total 10000 - Cash Accounts	820,034.27
Total Checking/Savings	820,034.27
Accounts Receivable	
11000 - Accounts Receivable	120.40
Total Accounts Receivable	120.40
Other Current Assets	
12000 - Undeposited Funds	50.00
Total Other Current Assets	50.00
Total Current Assets	820,204.67
Fixed Assets	
15000 - Furniture and Equipment	3,488.51
Total Fixed Assets	3,488.51
Other Assets	
19000 - Other Assets	2,108.00
Total Other Assets	2,108.00
TOTAL ASSETS	825,801.18

Virginia Society SAR-Balance Sheet
As of June 2017

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

28000 · Other Current Liability 1,108.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 1,108.00

Total Current Liabilities 1,108.00

Total Liabilities 1,108.00

Equity

31000 · Funds-Perm. Rstrct. Net Assets

31100 · Flathers-May Fund 21,755.92

31200 · Howard Hamilton Fund 153,005.69

31300 · Knight-Patty Fund 326,150.86

31400 · Frantz-Philen Fund 26,666.75

31600 · Brennan Fund 35,160.00

Total 31000 · Funds-Perm. Rstrct. Net Assets 562,739.22

32000 · Funds-Unrestricted Net Assets

32100 · Flathers-May Fund 2,733.42

32200 · Howard Hamilton Fund 23,787.89

32300 · Knight-Patty Fund 60,442.82

32400 · Frantz-Philen Fund 2,342.11

32600 · Brennan Fund 1,086.74

Total 32000 · Funds-Unrestricted Net Assets 90,392.98

33000 · Unrestricted Net Assets 99,668.40

34500 · Funds-Tmp. Restrict - War Graves 17,786.24

Net Income 54,106.34

Total Equity 824,693.18

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 825,801.18

Virginia Society SAR Profit & Loss
January through June 2017

	Jan - Jun 17
Income	
43000 · Contributions	12,796.00
45000 · Investment Income	
45100 · Interest	245.17
45200 · Dividends	6,975.89
45500 · Gain(Loss)-Change in Mkt. Value	16,985.64
Total 45000 · Investment Income	24,206.70
47000 · Program Income	
47100 · Membership Fees	
47140 · VASSAR Dues - Surcharge	10,446.00
47120 · NSSAR Dues	57,580.00
47130 · VASSAR Dues	35,160.00
47150 · Application Fees	1,015.00
Total 47100 · Membership Fees	104,201.00
47200 · Society Meetings	7,255.00
Total 47000 · Program Income	111,456.00
48000 · Other Income	3,285.00
Total Income	151,743.70

Virginia Society SAR Profit & Loss
January through June 2017

Gross Profit	151,743.70
Expense	
60900 · Business Expenses	35.00
65000 · Operations	10,980.91
65100 · Other Expenses	5,867.80
67200 · Program Expense	
67210 · Membership Fees	57,731.00
67220 · Meetings	7,544.19
67230 · Certificates/Medals/Misc Awards	1,703.46
67240 · Cash Awards	10,675.00
67250 · Graves Maintenance	2,350.00
67299 · Miscellaneous Program Expense	750.00
Total 67200 · Program Expense	<u>80,753.65</u>
70000 · Uncatorgorized Expense	0.00
Total Expense	<u>97,637.36</u>
Net Income	<u><u>54,106.34</u></u>

Chancellor of the Virginia Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Post Office Box 4663
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

Telephone: 276.252.1032

Email: emonday@ci.martinsville.va.us

September 5, 2017

RE: Chancellor's Report to the 2017 Semi-Annual Meeting of the Society, at Newport News

Dear Compatriots:

Permit me to deviate from the usually irreverent tone of these reports to discuss a matter which I believe is of significant importance to our Society. At last Spring's National Leadership meeting in Louisville, the National Trustees voted to accept court orders as proof of an applicant's male gender. This decision was innocuously reported in the SAR Magazine, and every effort has been made to keep the decision low-key and "under the radar." The reason this decision was made was to allow transgender applicants to join NASSAR.

Shortly after the Trustee's decision, I was asked by Secretary Rouse to render an opinion on its validity. I determined that the decision violated both the NASSAR and VASSAR Constitutions, because such an alteration of membership criteria required a constitutional amendment. My opinion is attached for your review. There may well be valid reasons to admit transgender applicants, and such a debate would be an appropriate thing for a National Congress to discuss and to vote upon as a constitutional amendment of NASSAR's membership criteria. I frankly cannot think of anything more appropriate for the membership of a fraternal organization, indeed any organization—to decide other than the requirements of membership.

Nevertheless, no such debate has occurred. An attempt was made at the Knoxville National Congress in July, but the President General unilaterally ruled that the decisions of the National Trustees are not subject to review by the membership at a National Congress. That is patently absurd, contrary to the NASSAR Constitution, undemocratic, and—to put this in a context our ancestors would have well understood—tyrannical.

As an aside, it also strikes me as profoundly hypocritical that the National trustees have taken it upon themselves to accept a court order declaring a woman to be

man, yet continue to reject court orders declaring adopted children to be in all respects members of one's family, with full rights of inheritance.

Reflecting my conviction (a) that the National Trustees acted illegally, contrary to their own Constitution, (b) that their action is not binding upon NASSAR, the Virginia Society or any other state, and (c) that the general membership of both the National and Virginia societies have ultimate authority to determine the direction of the respective societies, I will present the following motions for consideration at our Semi-Annual Conference:

- 1. The decision of the National Trustees accepting court orders as proof of an applicant's male gender is declared void, pending a duly adopted amendment of the NASSAR Constitution accepting such court orders as proof. Pending such an amendment, the Virginia Society shall not accept court orders as evidence of an applicant's male gender. Birth certificates showing the applicant's gender at the time of his birth are required. The NASSAR and VASSAR Constitutions currently provide for application by persons born genetically male only.**
- 2. That NASSAR Bylaw 16, Section 3 be amended to read as follows:**

The Board of Trustees shall be the legal custodian of all National Society property, both real and personal. It shall manage the business and the affairs of the Society, ~~and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it at any meeting of the National Society;~~ with the proviso that the Board of Trustees shall not have the power to sell, convey or encumber any real estate which belongs to the National Society, nor shall it incur any liability other than for ordinary current expenses of the Society, unless so ordered by an Annual Congress or by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of the Board of Trustees present and voting. Any other act of the Board of Trustees shall be subject to the review of any Annual Congress, which may by majority vote amend or void any such act of the Board of Trustees.

3. That the first paragraph of Article III of the NASSAR Constitution be amended as follows:

“Any male shall be eligible for membership in the Society being a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant, whether by blood or by legally decreed adoption, of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in loyalty to, and rendered active service in the cause of American Independence [. . .]”

I welcome our Society engaging in this debate. Let us as Virginians be, as we were at the time of the Revolution, a place where freedom of conscience shall inform reasoned discussion and the governance of our affairs, with each of us having a voice in the outcome. The abandonment of these principles by the NASSAR Trustees is lamentable; let us rectify that.

**Respectfully submitted,
Eric Helms Monday
Chancellor**

EHM/kgw

Attachment: Chancellor's Opinion 3.30.17

March 30, 2017

Issued by transmission via electronic mail

**Compatriot Wayne Rouse
Secretary of the Virginia Society**

RE: Chancellor's Opinion: On the validity of NASSAR Trustees decision to accept court orders as proof of male gender of SAR membership applicants

Dear Secretary Rouse:

You have requested my opinion on the recent decision by the NASSAR Board of Trustees regarding acceptance of court orders to establish that an applicant for admission is male.

Section XII of the VASSAR Bylaws state that I "shall render an opinion on such questions of law or involving the Constitution and Bylaws of the Virginia Society or of the National Society, as may be referred to him by any officer of the Virginia Society."

Factual Background:

While I requested minutes and the text of the policy adopted by the NASSAR Trustees, the NASSAR Secretary General has not provided them. Our VASSAR Trustee Wright did not inform the VASSAR Executive Committee, Board of Managers, or General Membership that this issue was pending, nor has he provided any report of the policy's adoption (See NASSAR Handbook Vol. II at 5 for a description of Trustees' duties).

Therefore, this summary has been provided by VASSAR President Elson and Mid-Atlantic President Brennan:

In December 2016 the NASSAR Executive Committee was advised that the Seattle chapter has a biological daughter of an Ohio SAR member who is now a transgender male and who wants to join SAR. The Washington SAR posed this question: "Does SAR have a policy on membership for biological females who are now transgender males?"

On January 23 the report of the legal advisory committee issued, which made no official recommendation, only the personal recommendation of the chairman. Chairman Dick Bryant wrote as follows:

"On the transgender issue, it would be my personal suggestion that we accept whatever sex is appearing on a submitted birth certificate or an Order or Judgment from a Court. That makes us act consistent with our announced principles that we do not discriminate based on race, creed, religion, etc ... and the practical matter with respect to trans genders is that it may only come up once every five years, if that often, so why not merely rely on official state records."

Chairman Bryant went on to state that his view was not shared by all members of the committee and stating that "the ultimate decision on Policy should come from the Executive Committee which may choose to present the matter to a vote of the Trustees."

At the legal affairs committee meeting, the Chancellor-General was asked whether this change required a constitutional or bylaws amendment and responded that it did not, without elaborating further.

Following a discussion of various issues concerning admission of transgenders, among them (a) public opprobrium if they are not admitted, (b) the possibility of litigation if they are not admitted, and (c) promotion of inclusiveness, acceptance and diversity. In succession the Legal Affairs Committee, National Executive Committee, and National Trustees approved the policy of accepting a court order, in addition to a birth certificate, as proof of an applicant being "male."¹

Analysis:

I. Both the NASSAR and VASSAR Constitutions currently restrict membership to genetic males only; the policy adopted by the NASSAR Trustees requires a constitutional amendment to be effective.

Article IV of the VASSAR Constitution restricts membership to any "man." NASSAR Const., Art III and NASSAR Handbook Vol. III at 1, restrict to "male" applicants. Neither constitution defines either term. In the absence of any definitional provisions, reference is made to the common, dictionary usage of the term in question.

"Man" is commonly defined² as "1. an adult human male. 2. a human being of either sex; a person."

Clearly, the second definition is inapplicable. The Sons of the American Revolution has been since its inception a discriminatory entity, restricting itself to male applicants. This is evident in

¹ Given the varied responses nationally to the issue of transgenderism, it must be noted that in some jurisdictions, court orders declaring a female to now be male may also direct agencies of vital statistics to issue new birth certificates reflecting this legal, if not genetic, change in status. Therefore, it is entirely possible for a genetically female applicant, subsequently transgender, to obtain a birth certificate stating they are male. This opinion does not address such a situation.

² All dictionary references herein are to the current edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

the name itself. Therefore, the issue of man in the sense of “mankind” does not come into consideration, only what is defined to be “male” does.

“Male” is commonly defined as “of or denoting the sex that produces small, typically motile gametes, especially spermatozoa, with which a female may be fertilized or inseminated to produce offspring.” This common definition makes no mention of, nor even alludes, explicitly or implicitly, to transgenderism or to persons who are born female but are subsequently declared male following the application of medical science or judicial decree. Further, while both medical science and the American judiciary have been equally ambitious in exploring new frontiers, there currently exists no medical procedure or court order which enables a person born female to produce sperm and impregnate another female.

I therefore conclude that in the absence of a definitional section in the NASSAR (and VASSAR) Constitution defining “male” as something other than its common and genetic meaning, an amendment of the NASSAR Constitution is necessary to admit applicants not born genetically male.

2. The policy adopted by the NASSAR Trustees is nonbinding upon state societies.

In the absence of a definitional amendment of the NASSAR Constitution, the policy adopted by the NASSAR Trustees is fundamentally void and may be ignored by the various state societies.

The NASSAR Congressional Charter §153504 does state that the Society’s “affairs are managed by Trustees,” this is confirmed NASSAR Bylaw 16 §3, stating the Trustees “manage the business and affairs.” As with “male,” the term “manage” is undefined, but with respect to organized entities it means “be in charge of.”

“Being in charge” nevertheless does not confer dictatorial power and certainly does not confer the authority to alter the governing documents of the orientation itself, the processes for which is established in NASSAR Const. Art. VIII and NASSAR Bylaw 35.

Further, NASSAR Bylaw 2 §2 establishes that the state societies may “regulate their own affairs subject to the national constitution and bylaws.” It says nothing about the respective state societies being subject to regulation by the decisions of the National Trustees.

With respect to the specific issue of applications for membership, NASSAR Bylaw 1 §1 does state that applications for membership are made on a form “prescribed” by Trustees. One could engage in a technical debate as to whether accompanying documents such as court orders are part of the application “form,” or whether such supporting evidence is separate and distinct. Such a debate is, however, moot because NASSAR Handbook Vol. III at 2 states that “individual state societies have the discretion to determine their membership” (subject only to NASSAR confirmation of qualifying *ancestry*; confirmation of gender is not addressed).

Conclusion:

Absent an amendment of the NASSAR constitution, the Virginia Society is under no obligation to accept transgender applicants.³

Whether such an NASSAR amendment would then require the amendment of the VASSAR constitution is not addressed by this Opinion.

Additionally, the Virginia Society may exercise several options with regard to the policy adopted by the NASSAR Trustees: (1) we may acquiesce, accept the policy and accept court orders as evidence of male gender; (2) we may reject the policy and continue with the *status quo*; (3) we may introduce a motion at the 2017 National Congress to declare the NASSAR Trustees policy void—requiring a majority vote of the Congress; or (4) we may initiate an effort to amend the NASSAR (and VASSAR) Constitutions in such manner as we deem advisable.

**I have the honor to remain, Sir,
Yours faithfully,**

Eric Helms Monday
Chancellor of the Virginia Society

³ On a personal note, I find NASSAR’s attempt to impose acceptance of transgender applicants, while continuing to reject adoptions, to be remarkable. To accept one court order stating a female is now a male—despite genetic reality, while refusing to recognize a court order stating someone is now a “son,” presumably because the court order cannot *really* bring the subject “into the family bloodline,” is both logically inconsistent and breathtakingly hypocritical.

Registrar Semi-Annual Report

VASSAR Registrar's report 01 January thru 01 September 2017.

New Member Applications

- Approved by NSSAR: 252
- Currently Pended by NSSAR: 2
- Awaiting NSSAR Review: 29

Supplemental Member Applications

- Approved by NSSAR: 52
- Currently Pended by NSSAR: 0
- Awaiting NSSAR Review: 57

Total 2017 NSSAR Approved Applications: 304

David R. Thomas
VASSAR Registrar

David E. Cook
VASSAR Assistant Registrar

David J. Hazel
VASSAR Assistant Registrar

Laura Hazel
Special Assistant

Chaplain Semi-Annual Report

The following are the activities of the Chaplain since the previous Chaplain's report to the Virginia Society at the February 2017 annual meeting in Richmond, Virginia.

The Chaplain has participated in the Following VASSAR activities:

Saturday, 15 April – Attend Annual meeting of chapters at Grave's Mountain Lodge. Gave Invocation and Benediction. Participated in VASSAR Color Guard.

Saturday, 17 June – Attended and participated in the Funeral Service for Past President, Ed Truslow at Bruton Parish in Williamsburg.

Saturday, 29 July – Attended and participated in the plaque dedication at Pohick Church in Lorton.

Participated in all meetings of the Fort Harrison Chapter. Gave Invocations and Benedictions.

Corresponded with family and Chapter members to express sympathy.

The list of names below represent those Virginia Society Compatriots whose deaths have been reported to me since the 2016 Annual Meeting:

<u>Nat'l</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Death Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
203179	Charles Joseph Albright	12/22/1939	George Mason
167830	Fred Amos Wilson	01/08/2017	Williamsburg
167513	Burness Ferdinand Ansell, Jr.	01/27/2017	Richmond
165156	Jerry Wayne Catron	02/24/2017	Gen. William Campbell
142803	James Jewel Geary	02/25/2017	Fort Harrison
133141	Orran Oakley Hansberger	03/08/2017	Fincastle Resolutions
151244	Boyd Lantz Swisher	03/26/2017	Fort Harrison
155236	William Harry Robison	04/24/2017	Fincastle Resolutions
106167	Robert Smith Dutro	04/30/2017	Williamsburg
171907	Edward Warren Truslow	06/01/2017	Williamsburg
195452	Stephen Pribble Larkin	06/06/2017	Col. William Grayson
152711	Isham Edward Trotter, Jr.	06/11/2017	Richard Henry Lee
168987	Albert William Landeck	06/16/2017	Col. Fielding Lewis
179095	Jack Leon Elston	07/22/2017	George Washington
133853	James Roland Sample	08/08/2017	Thomas Nelson, Jr.

NOTE: If there are names to be added or corrections made to this list, please write them down with Chapter, National, and State Number and give them to the Chaplain and the Secretary.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your VASSAR Chaplain this year.

Respectfully Submitted:

The Reverend Dr. Roy Abbott Martin, Jr.

Historian Semi-Annual Report

The new State Historian has received the documents and records of VASAR held by my distinguished predecessor, Dr. Larry Aaron, together with copies of the databases of scanned VASAR minutes and other records created by Compatriot Aaron, and is reviewing them and scanning new documents as appropriate. I have responded to several inquiries from Compatriots concerning various matters related to the history of VASAR and its chapters; and attended or participated in a number of events as an officer of VASAR, including the Col. William Grayson Chapter's Tenth Anniversary Dinner, and the ceremonies dedicating a plaque at Pohick Church in honor of patriots from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 buried there.

I am available to accept and archive documents related to the functioning of VASSAR as well as awards from the National Society, plus any materials relative to chapters and personnel. Records will eventually find their way to the Virginia Historical Society for preservation, after being inventoried for the State Society.

Respectfully Submitted:
Thomas M. Roth, III

Surgeon's Semi-Annual Report

In the 19 months that I have served as your Surgeon, I have come to greatly appreciate the skill of my predecessor in handling the many problems associated with obtaining the necessary supplies and staff needed to maintain a proper and well equipped facility measuring up to the highest standards of medical care expected by our forces at this time. One major problem has been obtaining the proper ingredients for treatments felt to be the most effective. For instance, leeches from local sources seem to be completely ineffective and when used for bleeding and reducing hemorrhoids lead to nothing more than a clot and a “royal pain in the ass”, much like our former government in London. Now I need to find a use for the leeches I currently have. When trying to compound the medicines I need, I found that even if the ingredients are obtainable, those individuals capable of mixing them properly are in very short supply. However, in this regard I have been very fortunate. From one of our northern states, Massachusetts, I have received the support of a number of individuals, many of whom are female, who would appear to be very versed in this art and who certainly have given a whole new concept to our field units or so-called “flying hospitals”. While some of their own compounds do not appear in my current medical literature and appear a bit strange in their ingredients (eye of newt and fillet of fenny snake for instance) as well in their preparation (requiring a very large metal pot instead of the usual mortar and pestle for mixing), they seem very happy in their work and complaints from our patients now appear to be few and far between especially after I placed them in charge of our “Complaint Department”. In my reading of the current medical literature available to me, I have also noted a very interesting correlation between the smoking of cigars and a decrease in Yellow Fever. Now I need to try and discover why. I am sorry to state, however, that I have not been able to discover any reference to a similar beneficial correlation between the consumption of single malt Scotch and the incidence of that disease but I wonder if my predecessor might be willing to research this. As for the “defective” leeches, there may well be a possibility

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher N. Sheap M.D.
Surgeon, VA SAR

Trustee
Semi-Annual Report

The Trustee's report will be provided at the BOM and General membership meeting.

Respectfully,
/s/ Michael J. Elston

Michael J. Elston
Virginia Society SAR National Trustee

VASSAR Audit Committee
Semi- Annual Report

The Audit Committee's report will be provided at the BOM and General membership meeting

Respectfully

Patrick M. Kelly, Chairman of Audit Committee

Rick Elofson, Treasurer

Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin

C.G. Thomas

Nominating Committee Semi- Annual Report

The members of the Committee have decided to follow last year's, releasing its Reports on the nomination of Virginia Society SAR Officers and the nomination of the National Society SAR Trustee and Alternate Trustee after the Virginia Society SAR Semi-Annual Meeting.

The committee is currently gathering names of potential candidates for the 2018-2019 Virginia Society SAR Officer positions and we will be submitting our list of nominees to the Virginia Society SAR Executive Committee the latter part of this year.

Respectfully submitted

Reverdy Wright
Chairman, VASSAR Nominating Committee

Cc: Mark S. Brennan, Sr.
Ernest B. Coggins, Jr.
Joseph W. Dooley
Kenneth E. Wood

Membership & Support Committee Semi-Annual Report

The Chapter Membership & Support Committee's report will be provided at the BOM and General membership meeting

Respectfully,

Dr. J. Thomas Whetstone
Chairman, VASSAR Membership & Support Committee

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
June 30, 2017 COMMITTEE REPORT

Name of Committee: Flathers/May Fund

Name of Chairman: Eric H. Monday

Names of other Trustees: Bill Schwetke, Frederick N. Elofson

Actions Taken During Period:

One-half of the annual income from the investments will be added to the Fund principal and the remaining one-half may be used toward the costs of maintaining and publishing The Virginia Bulletin.

Flathers/May Fund

Summary of Assets for the period ending June 30, 2017

Beginning Balance 12/31/2016	\$24,493.16
Additions – earnings	\$65.18
Additions - Contributions received	\$0.00
Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Ending Balance 06/30/17	<u>\$24,558.34</u>

Holdings:

BB&T CD	\$21,431.38
BB&T Checking	<u>\$3,126.96</u>
Ending Balance 06/30/17	<u>\$24,558.34</u>

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
June 30, 2017 COMMITTEE REPORT

Name of Committee: Frantz-Philen Memorial Fund

Name of Chairman: O. D. Philen, Jr., PhD

Names of other Trustees: Frederick N. Elofson, Eric H. Monday

Actions Taken During Period:

The Frantz-Philen Memorial Fund was established at a Wachovia Bank, now Wells Fargo Bank, September 28, 2007 in the amount of \$25,000 as a CD. The interest is pledged to support funding of \$1,000 a year to the Friends of the Wilderness Road State Park for the spring festival WRSP Martin's Station Raid and other activities.

Additional private support of \$500 or more would be pledged each year as needed to the Friends of the Wilderness Road State Park until CD interest earnings would be sufficient to support the VASSAR per year \$1,000 pledge. Records indicate that VASSAR supported Friends of the Wilderness Road State Park \$500 in 2007 thru 2008 and 2010, \$1,000 in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016 & 2017. A private pledge of \$1,000 supported the Friends of the WRSP in 2012 & 2015.

Summary of Assets for the period ending June 30, 2017

Beginning Balance 12/31/2016	\$28,164.19
Additions – Earnings	\$4.06
Contributions	\$0.00
Disbursements	<u>\$1003.00</u>
Ending Balance 7/31/16	<u>\$27,165.25</u>
Holdings:	
Wells Fargo – Checking	\$469.00
Wells Fargo – Savings	<u>\$26,595.25</u>
Ending Balance 7/31/16	<u>\$27,165.25</u>

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
June 30, 2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: Howard Hamilton Fund

Name of Chairman: Edward W. Truslow

Names of other Trustees: Frederick N. Elofson, Michael J. Elston, R. Wayne Rouse, Eric H. Monday, Patrick M. Kelly, J. Thomas Whetstone III, PhD

Actions Taken During Period:

Through the generosity of Dr. Howard Hamilton, President General of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (1982-1983) the Howard Hamilton Trust Fund was set up for VASSAR. Half of the income from the fund is retained by the fund to further its growth; the other half is given to VASSAR to support its activities.

All Howard Hamilton Fund monies are currently on deposit with Fidelity Funds.

The 2007 (\$3,079.55), 2008 (\$2,361.19) and 2009(\$2,059.90) contributions to VASSAR from the Howard Hamilton Fund were waived by the Executive Committee to help build the fund balance. These amounts are half of the total dividends of 2007 (\$6,159.11), 2008 (\$4,722.37) and 2009(\$4,119.79). The 2010 earnings were \$5,307.26 of which \$2,653.63 was disbursed to VASSAR General Fund; the 2011 earnings were \$4,076.76 of which \$2,023.38 was disbursed to VASSAR General Fund. The 2012 earnings were \$2,235.91 of which \$1,117.97 will be transferred to VASSAR General Fund. The 2013 earnings were \$1,546.34 of which \$773.17 will be transferred to VASSAR General Fund. The 2014 earnings were \$1,998.62 of which \$999.31 will be transferred to VASSAR General Fund. The 2015 earnings were \$3,015.05 of which \$1,507.53 will be transferred to VASSAR General Fund. A transfer of \$4,397.98 to VASSAR General Fund was done in December 2016. The 2016 earnings were \$3,362.12 of which \$1,681.06 will be transferred to VASSAR General Fund.

Howard Hamilton Trust Fund

Summary of Assets for the period ending June 30, 2017

Beginning Balance 12/31/2016	\$173,985.47
Additions – earnings	\$1,116.72
Additions - Contributions received	\$0.00
Disbursements – Transfer to VASSAR General Fund	\$0.00
Change in investment value	\$787.59
Ending Balance 06/30/17	<u>\$175,889.78</u>

Holdings:

Fidelity Cash Reserves (FDRXX)	\$9,574.16
Fidelity Interm Gov't Income (FSTGX)	<u>\$166,315.62</u>
Total Market Value 06/30/17	<u>\$175,389.78</u>

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
September 1, 2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: George Knight/Kenneth C. Patty Memorial Trust Fund

Name of Chairman: Christopher N. "Kirk" Sheap, M.D

Names of other Trustees: Frederick N. Elofson, Michael J. Elston

Actions Taken During Period:

Established in 1974, the Knight/Patty Fund is an important source of annual revenue that is used to support VASSAR programs. The stated purposes of the trust are “patriotic, historical, educational and charitable, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of the men who achieved the independence of the United States of America, especially during the period of the years 1775 to 1783; to inspire their descendants and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research relative to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of individual services of the patriots of that war, as well as the documents, relics and landmarks; [and] to mark the scenes of the American Revolution by appropriate memorials.”

Making a tax deductible contribution in memory of a deceased loved one, compatriot or friend is an excellent way to memorialize the person and helps the Trust to underwrite worthwhile historic projects. By giving to the Trust through the First Virginia Regiment Program, you ensure that worthwhile VASSAR projects will be funded for decades to come.

ASSETS AND INCOME

The Knight/Patty Trust Fund ended the first half of 2017 with total assets of **\$441,325.54**, or nearly \$27,000 more than at the end of 2016. The increase in total assets resulted from a combination of unrealized gains due to appreciation in the value of the fund's assets, a relatively small number of grant payments to date (see below), and new contributions to the fund as a result of President Elston’s fundraising initiative for Washington’s Friends & Foes at Mount Vernon. During the same period, the fund had income from interest and dividends totaling \$5,859.17 \$5,224.29 (an increase of 12.14% over the same period in 2016). For purposes of comparison, the value of the fund at the end of the past eight years was as follows:

2009	\$256,387.95	2013	\$380,219.25
2010	\$283,687.43	2014	\$402,660.24
2011	\$298,462.68	2015	\$385,644.66
2012	\$320,076.35	2016	\$414,453.84

DISBURSEMENTS

The following disbursements were made by the trustees in the first half of 2017:

George Washington Chapter (Fairfax County War Memorial)	\$1,000.00
George Washington Chapter (Pohick Church VA SAR marker)	\$1,650.00
NSSAR (SAR Academic Conference)	\$2,000.00
	=====
Total grants paid January 1-June 30, 2016	\$4,650.00

Additionally, disbursements may be made in the second half of the year for grants that have been approved, including the following:

VA SAR (Lt. Wm. Broadus marker in WV - grant approved in 2016)	\$1,018.38
NJ SAR (Virginia SAR AMS pledge for Save Princeton Battlefield)	\$2,000.00
Culpeper Minute Men (Culpeper Minutemen Monument)	up to \$16,115.00

For comparison purposes, the trust made payments of grants in the following amounts in the past eight years (please note that some payments made in 2012 and 2015 were for requests made and approved in the previous year):

2009	\$3,730.45	2013	\$7,314.85
2010	\$300.00	2014	\$4,700.00
2011	\$5,855.04	2015	\$17,573.64
2012	\$12,358.00	2016	\$27,831.00

PENDING REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

There are two grant proposals pending before, or anticipated by, the trustees. First, the James Monroe Chapter has proposed a grant of \$2,500 to the James Monroe Memorial Foundation to assist with the reconstruction of Monroe’s birthplace in Colonial Beach. Second, the trustees anticipate a proposal to assist in the foundation working to preserve the ruins of Menokin, the home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Additionally, the trustees have approved a matching grant of up to \$20,000 to support President Elston’s fundraising initiative for Washington’s Friends & Foes at Mount Vernon. As of the date of this report, contributions exceeding \$12,000 have been received, and thus the fund will eventually disburse a total of at least \$27,000 (contributions plus the matching grant and the \$3,000 Elston Family matching contribution) for the Mount Vernon initiative.

If you have any questions regarding the Knight/Patty Fund, please contact any of the trustees, all of whom are directly or indirectly elected by you.

Respectfully,

Christopher N. "Kirk" Sheap, M.D., Chairman
Michael J. Elston, Trustee
Frederick N. Elofson, Trustee

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
June 30, 2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: Mark Sheridan Brennan, Jr. Memorial Fund

Name of Chairman: Mark S. Brennan, Sr.

Names of other Trustees: Frederick N. Elofson, Eric H. Monday, Esq.

Actions Taken During Period:

Primarily through the generosity of Mark S. Brennan, Sr. the Mark Sheridan Brennan, Jr Memorial Trust was set up for VASSAR. Each year ninety (90%) percent of the annual income earned from the principal of the trust (net of expenses) is allocated to help fund the Youth Activities and Programs of VASSAR.

There were no distributions during the year.

**Mark Sheridan Brennan, Jr. Memorial Fund
Summary of Assets for the period ending June 30, 2017**

Beginning Balance 12/31/2016	\$39,289.81
Additions – earnings	\$153.61
Additions - Contributions received	\$ 2,801.00
Distributions – Knight Essay	-\$0.00
Ending Balance 06/30/17	<u>\$42,244.42</u>

Holdings:

Mark S. Brennan, Jr. Memorial Trust Fund:

BB&T MM	\$32,419.34
BB&T Bond Fund	<u>\$9,825.08</u>
Total Market Value 06/30/17	<u>\$42,244.42</u>

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: Communications

Name of Chairman: Lance M. Lyngar

Names of other Committee Member: R. Wayne Rouse, Ernest B. Coggins, Jr., Kenneth E. Morris, Bill L. Schwetke, Bob Vogler,

Actions Taken During Period:

- Website was recently updated with several data flashes from VASSAR Secretary which kept the website data accurate.
- Virginia Dispatches has added a tab for flyers advertising future events, and a tab dedicated to Color Guard communications. We also upgraded the site to allow video and audio presentations. Since Annual, 93 separate articles have been posted online, and during this time weekly readership has not fallen below 600 discrete viewers, peaking at over 800 with the reports of Ed Truslow's passing and service.

Paul Walden has stepped forward to be the next editor for the Virginia SAR, and will take over when he has completed his current term as President of the George Washington Chapter later this year. Compatriots are encouraged to consider at some future time becoming our editor as the knowledge gained in this capacity is excellent preparation for other leadership positions in our society.

- Additionally, with the help of Mike Elston, we have spent a lot of time revitalizing and adding content to our Virginia SAR Facebook page.

“Like us on Facebook!” <https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaSAR1776/>.

- Communications team:
 - Lance Lyngar – Chairman-Webmaster
 - William L. Schwetke – VA Dispatch Editor
 - Ernest B. Coggins, Jr. – Photographer
 - Kenneth E. Morris – Asst. Photographer
 - Wayne Rouse – Calendar & Data Base
 - Bob Vogler – unofficial – content writer



THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY
SONS *of the* AMERICAN REVOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution conducted its Semi-Annual Meeting on September 15 and 16, 2017 in Newport News; and

WHEREAS, the Semi-Annual Meeting was held at the Newport News Marriott at City Center; and

WHEREAS, the management and staff of the Marriott City Center rendered exceptional and gracious hospitality to the Society, thus ensuring the success of the Semi-Annual Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the management and staff of the Marriott City Center conducted themselves in an exemplary manner expected of the high standards of Marriott International;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution expresses its sincere gratitude to the management and staff of the Newport News Marriott at City Center.

Given under my hand this 16th day of the month of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Republic the two hundred and forty-first:

President of the Virginia Society



THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY
SONS *of the* AMERICAN REVOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution conducted its Semi-Annual Meeting on September 15 and 16, 2017 in Newport News; and

WHEREAS, the Semi-Annual Meeting was held in the geographic region of the Commonwealth of Virginia represented by the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter of the Society; and

WHEREAS, the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter served as Host of the Semi Annual Meeting in the style and manner befitting Virginia Gentlemen, thus ensuring the success of the Semi-Annual Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter has rendered great service to Society, and brought Honor to itself by its conduct as an exemplary Host of the Semi-Annual Meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT **RESOLVED**, that the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution expresses its sincere gratitude to the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter.

Given under my hand this 16th day of the month of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Republic the two hundred and forty-first:

President of the Virginia Society

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: *Virginia Revolutionary War Veterans' Graves Care and Maintenance Program*

Name of Chairman: *Bill Schwetke*

Name of Other Committee Members: *Rick Elofson and Erick Monday*

Report:

Forty-two of the seventy-one authorized graveyards participate in the program. Since Annual eleven new cemeteries with 42 graves have become active in the program. Four cemeteries have declared their desire to not participate in the program. \$2520 has been distributed to the newly participating cemeteries, catching them up through FY2017. We entered FY2018 in July and are in the process of preparing checks for each participating cemetery to bring the program up to date before we present the new legislative proposal to the General Assembly in January. Currently we have a balance in the checking account of \$2,667.85, and in the Money Market Account of 11,772.30, with anticipated expenditures of \$2,020 for 404 participating graves. Additional expenses anticipated are an unknown amount for newly participating cemeteries and administrative costs of approximately \$100 for acid-free paper, envelopes, and stamps.

The most important task being worked by the committee is revised authorizing legislation that has been drafted by Chancellor Eric Monday, a committee member. Chancellor Monday presented the proposed legislation to Mr. David Edwards, Director, Community Services Division, Virginia Department of Historic Resources on September 7th. Mr. Edwards oversees our administration of this program. Mr. Edwards will present our proposed legislation to Julie Langdon, Director of DHR for comment.

Forty-nine of the authorized graveyards were visited in this reporting period and in all we found the Revolutionary War Veterans' graves properly cared for, even in those graveyards not participating in this program. Where possible, the veteran's tombstone was photographed and GPS coordinates for each marker recorded.

Efforts to enroll the remaining graveyards in active participation in this program continue. For twelve of the non-participating graveyards we do not have a good address or name of the responsible person. Any help that can be offered would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Schwetke
Administrator

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: REVOLUTIONARY WAR PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Name of Chairman: Myron (Mike) E. Lyman Sr.

Names of other Committee Members:

Bill Collier

Colonel William Grayson Chapter

Actions taken during period: 2017

VASSAR Publication, “Genealogical, Burial, and Service Data For Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in Virginia” was published in October 2016 by Colonial Roots, Genealogy Books and Publishing of 34491 Sunset Drive, Millsboro, DE 19966. It has Library of Congress Control Number 2016955575 and ISBN #978-1-68034-351-9 and is copyrighted by VASSAR with all rights reserved. The undersigned is the editor and compiler of the book.

Status: VASSAR initially purchased 100 copies from the publisher for society use and to sell to members at a discounted price consisting of 50 hardbacks and 50 softbacks. Running low in February, 50 more copies were purchased consisting of 30 softbacks and 20 hardbacks. As of September 4th, 45 hardbacks and 56 softbacks have been sold leaving a current inventory of 24 softbacks and 25 hardbacks. The undersigned holds the inventory. Copies will be available for purchase at the registration desk at the semi-annual meeting. Softback books for SAR members are \$35.00 each and \$45.00 for hardback copies. Non SAR purchasers add \$5.00 each. If ordering by mail from me, make checks out to VASSAR including a mailing cost of \$4.00 each. The address is VASSAR Publications Chairman, 21 Summers Lane, Whitestone, VA 22578. Currently 130 more patriot burials have been identified and will be furnished with each book sold.

Recommendations:

- a. With more research and with site visits the written content about each veteran can be expanded and improved and additional burials undoubtedly will be identified. These new finds and up-dates should be reported on graves registry forms to NSSAR and the state graves chairman, with the plan for a second edition to be published in a few years

- b. VASSAR should consider providing copies of this book to selected libraries and chapters should consider furnishing copies to other local libraries in their area
- c. Advertising that this book has been published should be made
- d. Chapters should refer to this book before conducting grave marking ceremonies in their chapter area.

Action by the Executive Committee:

Hardcopies of the book should be sent to the nine research libraries in Virginia. They are:

- (1) College of William and Mary**
- (2) George Mason University**
- (3) University of Mary Washington**
- (4) University of Virginia**
- (5) Virginia Military Institute**
- (6) Library of Virginia**
- (7) George Washington University**
- (8) Virginia Commonwealth University**
- (9) Virginia Tech**

Respectfully submitted

Myron (Mike) E. Lyman, Sr.
Chairman

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of State Committee: The SAR/C.A.R. (Children of the American Revolution)
Liaison Committee

Name of Committee Chairman: Lawrence E. McKinley

Actions Taken During Period: Mid-year Report of VASSAR, September 15th, 2017

This Committee is made of one person and given that activities are limited to those deemed critical as outlined in the VASSAR handbook:

Function:

- Establish contact with the appropriate senior C.A.R. officers including the Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution (V.S.C.A.R.) senior State President and State Board Members. Reason for this contact are:
 - Ensuring important State meetings of both V.S.C.A.R. and VASSAR are attended, represented and participated in as well as valuable information transferred to support both organizations' objectives commitment.

Actions:

- Maintained a communications link with the V.S.C.A.R. **Senior State President Mrs. Donna Sayre** as well as **V.S.C.A.R. President Ms. Emily Elston, Light Horse Harry Lee Society , Woodbridge, VA.** Two workshops were organized and conducted by VSCAR to provide direction and contest information on the National and State projects to the VSCAR and 32 Local C.A.R. Societies.. Personally was unable to attend either workshop but understand they were well attended. One workshop, Pohick Church, Lorton, VA (site of the State Project) was held July 29th. **The National Theme is "Browsing History" and the National Project is : "James Monroe On Line". This involves raising funds for the creation of James Monroe on line (JMO) in partnership with James Monroe's Highland and the University of William and Mary. JMO will be a free and open on line portal to access images and transcriptions of the archival collections of our Nation's fifth President James Monroe.**
- **The state Theme is "History Awakens". The State Project is to raise monies to replace the late 1890s steps on the south west side of the Pohick Church (The mother church of Northern Virginia). Pohick church is the colonial parish of George Washington and George Mason. The steps to be replaced lead to one of the main entrances used in colonial times. This entrance is one that George Mason and his family likely used. The second portion of the project is the installation of the plaque recognizing DAR as the organization responsible for raising the money to have the Vestry House built in 1932. A match has been arranged through Historic Pohick Church Foundation, therefore the total funds to be raised is approximately one-half of the nearly \$27,000 required.**
- This chairman was asked by the Senior State President, Mrs. Donna Sayre, to be the leadership chairman for not only the Children but for the Seniors. This C.A.R. Officer will

conduct brief leadership workshops for the Children demonstrating how efficient teamwork is.

Function:

- Encourage Virginia Society Chapter support of C.A.R. Societies. Additionally, the SAR President General Larry Guzy, as well as Michael Elston, State President of Virginia is encouraging all States and Virginia in particular to involve the C.A.R. in all our activities. Example, at the first State Workshop at Pohick Church, the George Washington Chapter and Virginia State Color Guard involved the State C.A.R. Officers and Local Society as participants at a SAR grave marking.
 - This support is more than once a year contribution. These C.A.R. Societies need leadership, ideas, understanding of their programs and support for their activities from our men. Money helps but it shouldn't end there. There is a commercial that says having money is great but applying your time and volunteering your time to develop a youth is "priceless".

Actions:

- I am aware of several chapters who sponsor and work with their C.A.R. organizations and I encourage the communication of these activities in presidential reports and meetings where we share best practices.
 - Example: Again, The Fairfax Resolves Chapter each year sponsors the Col. William Grayson Society and others (such as Providence, Lt. Horse Harry Lee, etc.) as they become the focal point in the community of Great Falls for the proper disposal of worn and used American Flags. The SAR supplies a new U.S. Flag for the Great Falls Library and supervise the children as they dispose of the old ones from the community and renew the Library's Flag. The Children get a lot of press, they learn a very patriotic function and they are becoming a focal point in the community for a necessary activity.
 - Example: Activities in the Southwest where SAR's are 50% of the C.A.R. Leadership and the Shenandoah Valley, Ft. Harrison Chapter sponsorship of their respective C.A.R. Societies are commendable as well as memorable for those in the C.A.R.

Function:

- Encourage recruiting male C.A.R. members to become active/contributing SAR members when they become 18 years of age.
 - I believe we are concentrating in the chapters on recruiting all male members of the family into the SAR, but we are falling short in specific activities to get the junior members involved in. They can be color guard, one to lead the Pledge to Our Flag or singing the Star Spangled Banner, escorting members to their seats, help place wreaths of other people once they place their wreaths at historical observations, etc.

Function:

- Recommending the awarding of the C.A.R.-SAR Medal of Appreciation or Good Citizenship Medals to C.A.R. members and senior advisors as appropriate.

Action:

- These last two functions will be conducted as a by-product of my National Office with the C.A.R. as Honorary Senior National VP. Recommendations for awards to SARs who work with C.A.R. organizations is a method of stimulating continued efforts. I intend to do that.
- Activity of encouraging male members to join SAR is an ongoing adventure.
- Stimulating involvement in the SAR student scholarship contests was conducted all across the country. Most C.A.R.s unaware of contests and were very interested in becoming involved.

Function:

- Recommending the participation of local C.A.R. Societies in Northern Virginia to participate in U.S. Immigration Service District Office granting citizenship to the children of brand new citizens---welcoming the children by the children.

Action:

- These last two functions will be conducted as a by-product of my involvement in the VASSAR and Chapter color Guard. The ceremony takes place usually in July at Sully Plantation near Dulles Airport in Chantilly. I intend to do that.
- Activity of teaching children of new citizens, games played in the Revolutionary War time period before and after the ceremony.

Function:

- Support the C.A.R. committee chairman at State Conference with contest judging, reporting and planning to display Society winners not only at State but at National.
- Qualified Virginia for the C.A.R. Activity Streamer for 2016-2017 at Annual Congress, Knoxville, TN.

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: Eagle Scout Programs (ES) COMMITTEE

Name of Chairman: Lance M. Lyngar Culpeper Minutemen Chapter

Names of other Committee Members:

Stephen A. Atkinson Richmond Chapter

Spurgeon C. Keith, Jr. Fincastle Resolutions Chapter

White M. Wallenborn, MD Thomas Jefferson Chapter

Actions taken during period: (01 Jan to 01 Sep 2017)

Committee Activities: The chairman answered numerous requests from individuals and chapters regarding Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition, Certificates of Recognition and other scouting related items.

2016 VASSAR Eagle Scout Competition winner were awarded at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Richmond Virginia.

- 1st Place** Robert J.T. Maloney sponsored by *Fairfax Resolves Chapter,*
- 2nd Place** Robert C. Redman III sponsored by *Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter,*
- 3rd Place** William Cather sponsored by *Col Fielding Lewis Chapter,*

2017 VASSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition deadline is December 31 2017. The winners will be presented their award at the Annual Meeting in Richmond Virginia, February 2018.

As a member of the Virginia delegation to the Spring Leadership and 127th National Congress attended the NASAR Eagle Scout committee meetings.

The Virginia Society had 4 submissions for the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award each year to date I have had no submissions for this year.

The Virginia Society Eagle Scout Recognition Program is available to award or provide Certificates of Recognition to all Virginia Eagle Scouts, either annually or upon specific request, and usually in advance of an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Requests for certificates should be directed to the VASSAR Eagle Scout Chairman at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Court of Honor ceremony.

The Virginia Society Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition is open to all Eagle Scouts who are currently registered in an active unit and have not reached their 19th birthday during the year of application. (The application year is the calendar year, 01 January to 31 December.) Eagle Scout Scholarship Program offers applicants opportunities to win awards at all three levels: Chapter, State, and National. To participate in the Eagle Scout Scholarship Program in Virginia, eligible Eagle Scouts must be sponsored by one of the Virginia Society Chapters, unless sponsored by the Virginia Society, in the event no regional chapter representation exists.

College plans do not have to be completed in order to receive the cash scholarship. Three cash scholarship awards are given: As the National First Place Winner - \$10,000; Runner-up - \$6,000; 2nd Runner-up - \$4,000. You may apply more than one year if you meet the age requirements but no more than \$10,000 total may be granted to any one Eagle Scout at the national level.

The Virginia Society (VASSAR) offers three cash scholarship awards: First Place - \$1,000; Runner-up - \$500; 2nd Runner-up - \$300. You may apply more than one year if you meet the age requirements and have not won the national level. Additional prizes and recognitions may be awarded at the Chapter level.

Entrants need complete only one application - the one for the Chapter competition. The application of the Chapter winner is forwarded to be used in the State and National competitions as appropriate.

The application consists of three parts:

- 1) Eagle Scout Scholarship Application Form**
- 2) Four Generation Ancestor Chart**
- 3) 500 word Patriotic Themed Essay**

The competition is conducted in three phases, local (Chapter), State (Society), and National. The competition is usually entered through the Chapter level. In some cases, the competition may be entered at the State level. You may not enter at the National level.

Please see website for details: <http://scouts.virginia-sar.org/eagle-scout.htm>

Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award

The Virginia Society can now submit 4 Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award Annually. If you believe you may have someone at your chapter that qualifies please contact me and I will forward you the application or see the following website for details <http://www.sar.org/sites/default/files/reb-volunteer-award-app.pdf>

The Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award is for scouters of the Sons of the American Revolution. It is an honor due to members of the SAR who act as role models and provide dedicated service to the young men in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award acknowledges the service of the recipient to Scouting and is awarded by the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution. The BSA has agreed to recognize the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award by including it among similar awards that are recognized by its Community Organization Award

The SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Program Endowment

The Sons of the American Revolution, recognizing the common bonds of purpose and principles shared by the SAR and the BSA, seeks out for special recognition the young men who attain the Eagle Scout rank and offers generous rewards for Eagle Scouts nationwide. The three top national winners, chosen from state scholarship entries, receive awards of \$10,000, \$6000, and \$4000.

The NSSAR Eagle Scout Committee is working to increase its endowment to a level which will make the program self-sustaining and will insure the continuation of the generous awards program we have sponsored for over thirty years. We ask you help us reach our goal. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated

If you wish to contribute to Eagle Scout Scholarship Program Endowment please see the following website for details <http://www.sar.org/sites/default/files/eagle-scholarship-fund-brochure.pdf>

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: Knight Essay Contest Committee

Name of Chairman: Richard Morey Sherman, George Washington Chapter

Names of other Committee Members:

Darrin Schmidt Fairfax Resolves Chapter

Matthew Jones George Washington Chapter

Joseph Mertan George Mason Chapter

Reporting Period: February to September 2017

At the Annual Meeting in February, Mitchell Woods, representing the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter, was announced as the winner. He represented us well at the National Congress, but was not among the finalists.

It is now time to begin planning for next year's contest. With the national prize now \$5000 for first place, there has been a noticeable increase in interest in participating among high school students. Judging will occur around the third week in January, 2018, with the winner announced at the VASSAR Annual Meeting at the Omni Hotel in Richmond in February. The Virginia Society achieved an unprecedented "four-peat" with back-to-back national contest winners in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014; but we have not done so well recently. I encourage every chapter to do your best to find good candidates and get back in the winner's circle in 2018. Participating VASSAR chapters are to be commended for their continued support of this contest and our youth programs in general.

Please make a concerted effort again this year to recruit high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors in your schools, churches and neighborhoods to write an essay for this year's contest. This contest is a great way to recognize some of the outstanding youth in your area as well as an excellent way to obtain good publicity for the SAR in your local community.

Basic information about the contest, including rules and entry form, can be found on the recently revamped SAR website at <https://www.sar.org/education/youth-contests-awards/george-s-stella-m-knight-essay-contest>. Please email the name of the compatriot in your chapter responsible for youth contests.

The key deadlines for the Virginia contest are as follows:

No later than December 31, 2017: essays submitted to chapter chairmen.

January 15, 2018: chapters complete judging of submitted essays.

Friday, January 19, 2018: all winning essays must be submitted to state chair via email in pdf format.

The winning contestant at the state level will receive a \$1000 cash prize, the oration medal and a certificate. The second-place contestant will receive a \$500 cash prize, and the third-place contestant will receive a \$300 cash prize. The top prize at the national level has been increased to \$5000 plus \$500 toward travel expenses to attend the Congress; \$2500 for second place, and \$1000 for third.

Another way to participate is by serving as a judge for the state or national competition. If any of your chapter members are interested in serving as judges, please ask them to call me.

I look forward to working with you to promote the VASSAR Knight Essay Contest over the next two years and make this year's VASSAR competition a great success. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 301-654-6319 or at rmsalp@gmail.com.

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations Committee

Darrin M. Schmidt, State Chairman

Committee Members: Larry McKinley, Bill Broadus.

Five Virginia Chapters participated in the contest at the State level: Colonel William Grayson, Fairfax Resolves, George Mason, George Washington, and Richmond. A Thank You to all of the oration chapter chairmen (Thad Hartman, Larry McKinley, Michael Keays, Rick Sherman, and Dennis Peterson) and their chapters for sponsoring a contestant this year. This contest would not be possible without their efforts. Additionally, this committee recognizes and appreciates the challenge faced by the judges at the local and state levels to pick a person to advance.

At the State Level, the following awards were presented:

- **First Place** – Kelly Shepperson (sponsored by the George Mason Chapter) received \$1,000, Orations Medal and First Place Certificate
- **Second Place** – Samuel Barge (sponsored by the George Washington Chapter) received \$500 and Second Place Certificate
- **Third Place** – Elizabeth “Ellie” M. Cooke (sponsored by the Colonel William Grayson Chapter) received \$300 and Third Place Certificate

SAR Congress 2017 (Knoxville, TN)

Miss Kelly Shepperson went on to represent Virginia at the National Congress in Knoxville, TN. Miss Shepperson represented Virginia well, but was edged out from advancing to the finals by the stellar contestants from other states. Kelly will continue her high school career at Bishop O'Connell in the fall.

Next Year!

Next year will be another exciting year. All Compatriots and Guests should plan to attend the State Orations Contest at the VASSAR Annual Meeting in February 2017. Any chapters that would like more information on how to participate in the contest can contact me via email at dschmidt.sar@gmail.com. Participation benefits the student, the chapter, and the SAR. Non-participation is a missed opportunity.

In addition, the Orations Contest will be held on Sunday evening before the SAR National Congress in Houston, TX (yes, it is still on!). Compatriots and guests are encouraged to attend and support our candidate.

A Special Note for VASSAR Compatriots:

The Rumbaugh Orations endowment fund continues to grow, with a great amount of support from Virginia. While the award amounts are slowly moving up, they are a long way from the levels that will make SAR competitive with other national contests. Currently, the program disperses \$14,000 annually where competitive levels are closer to \$30,000. The National Orations Committee is seeking to rectify this disparity with an enhanced endowment.

The Warren Medal has been hugely successful, raising awareness of the contest and nearly \$70,000 since its inception. However, this is a mere fraction of the national committee's goal. The national committee is now seeking corporate donations to augment the fundraising efforts and has developed a corporate sponsorship packet. This packet summarizes the purpose and importance of the oration contest, highlights talking points for SAR emissaries, and provides companies an opportunity to make a difference in our nation's youth.

If you are interested in being an emissary to corporations for this effort, or know a company that would be interested in supporting this cause, please contact Larry McKinley (703-450-6041 / dustoff@verizon.net) for more information.

As always, your support for the Warren Medal and the program are appreciated.



Joseph Warren, a Boston doctor, was the orator selected to commemorate the anniversary of the Boston Massacre. Because the orator would be heckled by unforgiving British officers and sympathizers, Warren bravely presented his speech with a steady and firm voice. Warren's stirring oratory skill recruited more patriots and moved others to support the Revolution.

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: Battle of Great Bridge Observance

Name of Chairman: Maury A. Weeks Norfolk Chapter

Email: mauryweeks@verizon.net Telephone: (757) 925-4447

Names of other Committee Members:

William L. Schwetke Culpeper Minutemen Chapter

Christopher Melhuish Norfolk Chapter

Kenneth Hawkins Norfolk Chapter

*Donna Crisp Great Bridge Chapter N.S.D.A.R.

Reporting Period: February-September 2017

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING REPORTING PERIOD:

A meeting was held on August 30 to begin preparations for the 6th Annual NSSAR Battle of Great Bridge Observance to be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017. In attendance were Kenneth Hawkins (President, Norfolk chapter SAR), Donna Crisp (Regent, Great Bridge chapter, DAR) and Lin Olsen of Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways History Foundation.

Our next anticipated meeting will include the Mayor of Chesapeake. Date TBD.

It should be noted that parking may be impacted due to construction in the area.

This year the entire commemoration will take place on Saturday, December 2, 2017 only. (There will be no Friday evening reception as in the past.)

The three major activities:

- 4) **The formal NSSAR Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge will start at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 02, 2017, in Great Bridge Battlefield Park, Chesapeake, VA.** Dr. Phil Hamilton of Christopher Newport University, will speak on the history of the Battle of Great Bridge and Its Pivotal Importance. The ceremony will include the 64th annual wreath laying led by Great Bridge Chapter N.S.D.A.R. The formal ceremonies will conclude by noon.

Those chapters wishing to participate in the laying of wreaths and wish to have their chapter and representative recognized in the program brochure must

provide that information to me at drklhwkins@gmail.com NLT 24 October, 2017.

2. Norfolk Chapter SAR will host a luncheon immediately after the ceremony at Vino's Italian Restaurant (located just across the bridge on Battlefield Boulevard – same location as last year). Food and drink will be “Dutch treat.” We are planning on at least 50 attending. There will be no speaker but it will be a time of good fellowship.

3. SAR color guard members and uniformed compatriots may march in the City of Chesapeake's Christmas Parade. This starts at 6:00 p.m. and is still under discussion at this point. Because it is at the end of a very full day, only 6 attended last year.

Additional Information:

On Saturday afternoon, all compatriots are encouraged to visit the colorful re-enactment of the battle and the re-enactor encampment on Saturday afternoon. Docents will be available for tours of Great Bridge Battlefield Park and the reenactment site all day Saturday and Sunday. Participants may also visit the Norfolk Chapter information/recruitment booth at the reenactment site.

As in the past, Great Bridge Presbyterian Church has offered its sanctuary for our formal ceremony in case of inclement weather. The weather in December is unpredictable, but our ceremony will proceed regardless of the weather.

Please bring your wreaths. To improve the flow and dignity of formal ceremony, only two wreaths will be carried to the DAR marker in Great Bridge Battlefield Park, one each by the senior representative of the SAR and the senior representative of the DAR. However, every attending SAR and DAR chapter or state society will be encouraged to set its wreath around the DAR monument prior to the start of the ceremony. Each organization will be recognized for laying its wreath, during the ceremony and in the program.

The committee will send invitations and further information in the very near future. The combined NSSAR/VASSAR color guard, re-enactor demonstrations, and music will make for another grand occasion.

Medals. A SAR medal commemorating the Battle of Great Bridge will be available to all compatriots attending.

Hotel Reservations:

The Founders Inn and Spa will host our group. The hotel address is 5641 Indian River Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23464. **Please be sure to book prior to 11/1 to receive the special group rate of \$84.00 (std. colonial queen) or \$94.00 (std. colonial double) per room per night + tax.**

Please call the hotel toll-free at 1-800-926-4466 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution Group Rate.

**If You Would Like To Book Your Room Via The Internet
Please Use This Link:**

<http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=2027507&hotelID=73524>

The Group code is: 568162

If you have any trouble booking your room, please contact Elle Sandin in the sales office at the Hyatt Place via her direct line: (757) 366-5723.

Visit the hotel website www.foundersinn.com for hotel info (directions, amenities, dining, room details, etc.) or call the hotel's main number at 757-366-5700 for a hotel brochure.

Please book at the Founders Inn and Spa as soon as you can. This is most important so you don't lose the great rate we received.

The committee anticipates another occasion of good fellowship, patriotism, and education at Great Bridge on December 2nd, 2017. Please join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Hawkins, Chairman
VASSAR Battle of Great Bridge Observance Committee
(757) 763-8361 drklhawkins@gmail.com

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: Yorktown Day Observance

Name of Chairman: Kenneth E. Wood, Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter

Email: kennethwood2@cox.net Telephone: 804-642-4642

Names of Other Committee Members: Robert N. Dillion, Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter.

Reporting Period: 1 January 2017 through 31 August 2017 (Prior reporting period was 1 September 2016 through 31 December 2016.)

Actions Taken During Period:

Attended June 5th meeting of the Yorktown Day Association.

- 9:15 a.m. – Time set for Wreath Laying Ceremony at grave of Thomas Nelson, Jr. at Grace Episcopal Church Cemetery.
- 10:30 a.m. – Yorktown Day Parade will begin at Main Street, Yorktown. Sponsored by the National Park Service.
- 11:15 a.m. – Patriotic Exercises and Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Monument to Alliance and Victory, Yorktown. Sponsored by the Yorktown Day Association.

Dinner at the American Revolution Museum, Yorktown, October 18th at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$55.00 per person, reservations due by September 30th.

Reception at the Custom House, Yorktown, October 19th from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$35:00 per person, reservations due by September 30th.

Mailing of invitations for the Yorktown Day events was completed as of August 17th.

Grace Episcopal Church has been reserved for Wreath Laying Ceremony in case of inclement weather.

Arranged for three members of the York Town Fifes and Drum Corps to provide music for the grave marking ceremony at the Grace Episcopal Church.

Confirmed and identified honorary VASSAR flag bearer, Thomas Nelson, Jr., for the 2017 Patriotic Exercises. Identified the platform representative, VASSAR President Michael J. Elston, for the 2017 Patriotic Exercises.

Planned Committee Action:

Attend all Yorktown Day Association Meetings.

Mail invitations for Yorktown Day 2018 and prepare for wreath laying at Grace Episcopal Church on Thursday, October 19, 2018, at 9:15 a.m.

Thanks to all who helped for their assistance.

Respectfully,

Kenneth E. Wood, Chairman

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: History Day Support

Name of Chairman: R. Bruce Meyer, Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter

Email: Esr-sar@charter.net,

Phone: 757-328-7102 (cell) 757-238-9050 (home)

Names of other Committee Chairman:

Steve McGuffin Williamsburg Chapter

Dan Swain, Williamsburg Chapter

John Priest, Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter

Mackey Tilman Thomas Jefferson Chapter

Reporting Period: 1 January through 2 September 2017.

Action taken during reporting period:

March 2017 District Contest throughout Virginia:

Students were selected in the district contest, held through the month of March statewide. VASSAR chapters were encouraged to volunteer at the district closest to them. As of August 31st, 2017 the following has been reported from the VASSAR chapter who participated in district event:

1. The Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter Compatriots Bruce Meyer and John Priest Volunteered as Judges for the District 6 competition help March 25th, 2017 at St. Patrick Catholic School. The Thomas Nelson Jr. chapter presented eight students with certificates of recognition in each group who advanced to the State contest.

2. No Chapter reported activity or support for the district history day in there area. April 22nd, 2017 Virginia History Day state contest in Richmond.

The Virginia Historical Society in addition to becoming the permanent home for History day in Virginia sponsored three special awards. The VHS set a new standard for the event. They deserve our thanks and patronage.

1. Williamsburg Chapter, Don Swain and Steve McGuffin. Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter, Bruce Meyer served as judges for the VASSAR award. The SAR prize monies and Certificate where presented at the end of the contest by Compatriot Bruce Meyer during VA History day awards ceremony.

2. Thomas Jefferson Chapter provided financial support to pay the National History Day registration fee for the three team members from William Monroe Middle School.

Senior division: No entries relating to the American Revolution.

Junior Division, 8 entries qualified for the VASSAR award, the winners:

Annabelle Critze, Ananda Daniel and Alanna Newcomb, were awarded a Bronze Good Citizenship medal and \$ 50.00 each. For “The Spies That Saved America”, in the Junior Group Exhibit. From William Monroe Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. Stephanie Hammer, shammer@greencountyschools.com

Junior division Honorable mention:

Outstanding Citizenship Certificate, pin and a \$20. Cash prize was awarded to Emily Peedin also of Monroe Middle School for “Hercules Mulligan: Immigrant, Tailor, Patriot and Spy.”

Principal: Katie Brunelle

William Monroe Middle School

Email: kbrunelle@greencountyschools.com

May 2017, in a break from the past, previously the schools trophy was presented during the semiannual meeting in September. Often the administrator did not show and the trophy is delivered by a local chapter later. This year we present the trophy to students and the school administration.

The VASSAR History Day Trophy was presented to Principal Brunelle of William Monroe Middle school on May 25th, 2017 during the schools field day event. Compatriots Bruce Meyer and Mackey Tilman, President, Thomas Jefferson Chapter presenting.

Virginia History Day is a most worthwhile place for continued VASSAR support. It offers an excellent means for encouraging teaching and learning about the American Revolution. I hope in March of 2018 Chapter presidents will support History Day events at the district level.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Bruce Meyer

President, Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter

Chairman, VASSAR 2016 History Day Support Committee

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES COMMITTEE

Name of Chairman: Myron (Mike) E. Lyman Sr.

Names of other Committee Chairman: Thadeus L.Hartman, Colonel William Grayson Chapter; Dennis Fritts, Fincastle Resolutions Chapter

Actions taken during period: 2017

Committee Activities: The chairman has processed all grave registration forms received during the reporting period and has corresponded with numerous chapters regarding grave markings and grave registrations

Grave Marking Ceremonies: Requests for reimbursement for the cost of a grave marker by a chapter must show evidence that a ceremony was conducted and to provide a copy of the marker invoice to the chairman NLT the end of the year. To obtain the VASSAR Sustained Achievement Award ribbon or star for grave marking, a chapter must conduct a ceremony four years in a row after receiving the last award.

Graves Registrations: Chapters to receive a ribbon or star in February 2018 at the annual meeting need to submit ten registrations counted as one point for a new submission and one half point for an update. Registrations submitted in previous years are counted until ten points are achieved. Lt David Cox and Thomas Jefferson need only one half point; Dan River needs two points; Martin Station 2.5; Fairfax Resolves 3; James Monroe 3.5; Colonel Fielding Lewis 4.5; George Washington 5 which they have exceeded so far as they have been most active of all chapters; Colonel William Grayson 6.5 which they have done; Williamsburg and Thomas Jefferson need 7 each; Norfolk and Col George Waller 7.5; Rockbridge Volunteers 8; Richard Henry Lee and Col James Wood 8.5; New River Valley, Fincastle Resolutions and George Mason 9; Culpeper Minute Men and Over Mountain Men 9.5; and all other chapter 10 each

Before SAR members or chapters prepare the graves registration form they should first see if the grave has already been registered with NSSAR. The site to visit is the Patriot Look-up at <http://patriot.sar.org> Some SAR members do not realize that the grave to be registered does not have to be for a relative, or be located in Virginia. **For Virginia burials consult the new VASSAR burial book to see if a registration has already been submitted (See Publications Chairman's report).** Each chapter needs at least one copy of the burial book for grave markings and registrations.

NEW NSSAR PATRIOT GRAVES REPORT FORM: The new NSSAR Grave Report Form is found at <https://www.sar.org/node/1878> To assist NSSAR in up-dating the national data base, chapters must use this form and submit data directly to them by e-mail following the instructions on the form. The Virginia Registry form is no longer used. **For Virginia burials, please list all the information about the patriot found in the VASSAR burial book to include the sources of service and burial listed in Appendices C and D of the book** To receive VASSAR registry credit, copy the undersigned's email melyman@va.metrocast.net to the e-mail submitted to NSSAR. Please fill in all the data asked for on the form. If you do not know all the data please make an effort to obtain it. Incomplete forms are not desired.

SUGGESTION: Before submitting a graves registration form or conducting a grave marking the chapter graves chairman should visit the below site to see if an approved NSDAR application on the patriot has been submitted. If so, note the information that the NSDAR has on the person .Please give credit to the NSDAR if you use the information
http://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search/?Tab_ID=5&Tab_ID_Sub=2&Action

NSSAR GRAVE MARKING MEDAL: SAR members who have participated in at least fifteen grave markings ceremonies since March 15, 2011 other than a member of the color guard are eligible for this award. The form which shows the categories of participation is available on the NSSAR website. Contact the undersigned if needed for the requirements and instructions for filling out the form. At least eight of the 15 ceremonies must involve an SAR individual grave marker unveiling and only five patriots can be from one SAR plaque or monument. After completion, making sure all blanks are filled in, forward the form to the VASSAR president for signing and forwarding to the NSSAR Patriot Grave Marking Chairman. Upon receipt of the approved form, VASSAR may order the NSSAR National Grave Marking Medal and Certificate. VASSAR is responsible for the preparation of the certificate and the scheduling of the medal presentation.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Lyman, Chairman

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: *Color Guard*

Name of Chairman: *Bill Schwetke*

Name of Other Committee Members: *Paul Chase, Peter Davenport, C. Dennis Fritts, Larry McKinley, Christopher Melhuish, and Darrin Schmidt*

Period February 12, 2017 through September 15, 2017:

Since the Annual Meeting last February, the VASSAR Color Guard has supported fifty-two National, State and local events in the Commonwealth and in adjacent and nearby states, with three more planned but not completed by the date of this report. Unfortunately, not all requests for support could be honored, but supported events during the period included the following:

1. 236th Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan – South Boston, VA – 18 Feb 2017
2. Revolutionary War Tomb of the Unknown Wreath Ceremony – Alexandria, VA – 20 Feb 2017
3. Washington's Birthday Parade – Alexandria, VA – 20 Feb 2017
4. Washington's Birthday Commemoration – Culpeper Masonic Cemetery VA – 22 Feb 2017
5. 251st Anniversary of the Leedstown Resolves – Warsaw, VA – 25 Feb 2017
6. NSSAR Spring Leadership – Louisville, KY – 3-4 Mar 2017
7. 236th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Court House – Greensboro, NC – 18 Mar 2017
8. Grand Opening of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown – Yorktown, VA – 1 Apr 2017
9. SAR Day/Night at the Ball Park – Richmond County, VA – 7 Apr 2017
10. SAR Day/Night at the Ball Park – Northumberland County, VA – 8 Apr 2017
11. 241st Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves – Halifax, NC – 12 Apr 2017
12. Thomas Jefferson's 274th Birthday – Washington, DC – 13 Apr 2017
13. Graves' Mountain Multi-Chapter Meeting – Syria, VA – 15 Apr 2017
14. Greer Grave Marking – Charlottesville, VA – 17 Apr 2017
15. DC SAR Annual Banquet and Officer Installation – 25 Apr 2017
16. James Monroe's 259th Birthday – Colonial Beach, VA - 29 Apr 2017
17. William Broadus Tombstone Dedication – Harper's Ferry, WV – 29 Apr 2017
18. Tribute to Patriots and Pathfinders – Duffield, VA – 29 Apr 2017
19. 300th Anniversary of Hebron Lutheran Church – Madison, VA – 20 Apr 2017
20. Compatriot Richard Covey Burial – Arlington National Cemetery, VA – 5 May 2017
21. Children's Naturalization Ceremony – Chantilly, VA – 9 May 2017

22. Raid at Martin's Station – Ewing, VA – 13 May 2017
23. 10th Anniversary of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter – Gainesville, VA – 13 May 2017
24. Menokin Plaque Dedication – Warsaw, VA – 21 May 2017
25. Children's Naturalization Ceremony – Washington, DC – 23 May 2017
26. 237th Anniversary of Buford's Defeat – Lancaster, SC – 27 May 2017
27. Memorial Day Parade – Washington, DC – 29 May 2017
28. Memorial Day Ceremony – Culpeper National Cemetery, VA – 29 May 2017
29. Memorial Day Ceremony – Montross, VA – 29 May 2017
30. Memorial Day Ceremony – Berryville, VA – 29 May 2017
31. 236th Anniversary of Wayne's Crossing – Leesburg, VA – 3 Jun 2017
32. Shockoe Hill Cemetery Grave Marking – Richmond, VA – 4 Jun 2017
33. Culpeper Minutemen Memorial Ceremony – Culpeper, VA – 10 Jun 2017
34. 237th Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill – Lincolnton, NC – 10 Jun 2017
35. Memorial Service for Past President Ed Truslow – Colonial Williamsburg, VA – 17 Jun 2017
36. 275th Anniversary of Fairfax County - Revolutionary War Plaque Dedication – Fairfax, VA – 17 Jun 2017
37. Campbell Grave Marking – Alexandria, VA – 22 Jun 2017
38. 236th Anniversary of the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary – Williamsburg, VA – 26 Jun 2017
39. Dove Grave Marking – Gretna, VA – 1 Jul 2017
40. March to Washington's Tomb – Mount Vernon, VA – 4 Jul 2017
41. Declaration of Independence Ceremony – Culpeper, VA – 4 Jul 2017
42. Independence Day Parade – Culpeper, VA – 4 Jul 2017
43. NSSAR 127th Congress – Knoxville, TN – 7-13 Jul 2017
44. DAR Daniel Morgan Marker Dedication – Winchester, VA – 7 Jul 2017
45. 243rd Anniversary of the Fairfax Resolves – Fairfax, VA – 22 Jul 2017
46. Patriot Pride Day – Middletown, VA – 22 Jul 2017
47. SAR Day/Night at the Ball Park – Richmond, VA – 24 Jul 2017
48. Pohick Church Plaque Dedication – Lorton, VA – 29 Jul 2017
49. SAR Day/Night at the Ball Park – Woodbridge, VA – 29 Jul 2017
50. Tunnel to the Towers Home Dedication – Sumerduck, VA – 1 Aug 2017
51. Atlantic Middle States Association Conference – Gettysburg, VA – 11-13 Aug 2017
52. SAR Day/Night at the Ball Park – Norfolk, VA – 19 Aug 2017

Events scheduled for support before Semi-Annual:

1. President General's Wreath Presentation at the Tomb of the Unknown – Arlington National Cemetery, VA – 9 Sep 2017
2. 236th Anniversary of the Battle of the Capes – Virginia Beach, VA – 9 Sep 2017
3. National Day of Service and Remembrance – Culpeper, VA – 11 Sep 2017

State of the Guard:

The Color Guard Roster currently contains the names of 59 active Color Guardsmen, 52 of whom have participated in Color Guard events since Annual in February. Additional volunteers are always welcome; no experience needed! We hope that the Color Guard Workshop at Semi-Annual will bring several more active color guardsmen online.

The Regional Commands (Northern Virginia, Western Virginia, and Tidewater) under the capable leadership of Larry McKinley, Dennis Fritts, and Chris Melhuish continue to extend our ability to support multiple events throughout the state. Paul Chase has filled the new position of Color Guard Adjutant and he has proven that both himself and the position of adjutant are very valuable.

Please include the Virginia SAR Color Guard in the early planning of your next event; we will do our best to support your plans to make your event what you want it to be.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Schwetke
Commander, Virginia SAR Color Guard

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: Flag

Name of Chairman: *Christopher N. ("Kirk") Sheap M.D*

Name of Other Committee Members: *Robert L. ("Bob") Bowen*

Period 2017

As of September 1st fifteen of our Chapters have presented Flag Certificates, or will do so in the next several days and three others have indicated that they will present Certificates before the end of the calendar year. My sincere thanks go to the following Chapters for their participation or planned participation: Colonel George Waller; Colonel James Wood II; Colonel William Grayson; Culpeper Minutemen; Dan River; Fairfax Resolves; Fincastle Resolutions; Fort Harrison; George Mason; George Washington; James Monroe; New River Valley; Norfolk; Richard Henry Lee; Richmond; Thomas Jefferson; Thomas Nelson, Jr.; and Williamsburg. However, though we, on a Chapter basis, have qualified for the William R. Furlong Award, we still require a presentation by VA SAR in order to be presented this award in 2018 at the annual Congress in Houston and we need the participation of the remaining nine Chapters to again be recognized for 100% Chapter participation. This year, the number of Certificates presented by a Chapter will be recognized in its Americanism Report but, unlike last year, publication of such presentations in any SAR media will not. I was in error when I previously stated that such presentations this year would gain credit in your report and for this I sincerely apologize. Coverage by local media, however, will gain credit and will also favorably project your image in your community and thereby be a means of recruitment. I would also like to sincerely thank Compatriot Robert E. Halpern of the Richmond Chapter for his question concerning the presentation of certificates for the proper collection and destruction ("retirement") of old, tattered American Flags which has led to a proposal for such a certificate to be brought before the Flag Committee of NSSAR at the Leadership Conference in Louisville later this month. It met with the approval of several members of that Committee at an informal meeting during the Annual Congress in Knoxville. I will report on the further progress of this proposal at a later time.

Respectfully Submitted

Christopher N. Sheap M.D., Chairman
Robert L. Bowen

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: Partners in Patriotism & Veterans Affairs:

Name of Chairman: George Corbett

Reporting Period: January through September 2017.

Purpose: As you read the Veterans Affairs Chapter reports below, you will gain an understanding and appreciation of the great amount of time, effort, resources, and outreach that Virginia Compatriots are giving to **America's War Fighters**. Each chapter program has a unique approach and focus assisting the veterans in their area—and this is proper! Each chapter has a different set of abilities, resources, and skills to support the vets in their area. Conversely, vets have differing needs that SAR chapters can help meet. Chapter leaders are fulfilling their duties by matching their chapters' support capabilities with the needs of local vets to develop successful programs. The VASSAR leadership team sends a huge and sincere **"Thank You"** to each chapter and its leaders.

If your chapter has not yet appointed a Veterans Affairs Committee and Chairman, we encourage you do so soon and **"get into the fight"** supporting those have fought for us and our families. No matter the size of your chapter or the amount of support you can contribute, all efforts are encouraged. The needs of America's veterans far exceed all we can give. May God bless our veterans and our efforts to assist each one.

Actions Taken During the period:

The following chapter reports have been included in this VASSAR report in the order they were received.

James Monroe Chapter

We teamed with our local American Legion Post 117, to provide personal hygiene articles (Vet's Kits) to McGuire V.A. Hospital and a local organization providing PDST care to veterans. We have raised funds to provide 50 kits monthly (\$250.00) to these medical organizations. Several churches, businesses and individuals have make contributions supporting our program.

Chapter Colonial Color Guard performed in 12 Memorial Day Events, Little League Season Opening Ceremonies, parades, highway markers unveilings, American Revolution War plaque presentations and teamed with War of 1812 units such the reenactment of President James Monroe's inauguration.

Gave two Light Horsemen educational presentations in uniform.

Colonel George Waller Chapter

Compatriots W.C. Fowlkes (Ret. LTC, USA) and Dave King (Ret. LTC, US) attended the Flag Day Ceremony at the Veteran's Care Facility in Salem, VA on June 14.

Compatriot Fowlkes is taking a leadership role in a history project to conduct video interviews of WWII veterans in the Martinsville & Henry County area. This is a joint project of the M-HC Historical Society, the city of Martinsville, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

New River Valley Chapter

The chapter presented a wreath at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day, 29 May, 2017. The marble bench that was given by the VASSAR to the cemetery was also dedicated that day with members from Fincastle Resolutions Chapter, the New River Valley Chapter and past state president Reverdy Wright taking part.

The chapter presented a wreath at the Giles County Revolutionary War Memorial in Pearisburg, VA on 04 July, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

George Corbett
Chairman
VASSAR Veterans Affairs Committee

VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT

Name of Committee: Public Service and Heroism

Name of Chairman: William C. Collier, Col. William Grayson Chapter
(wcol72@aol.com)

Committee Members:

Paul K. Bowen	Overmountain Men Chapter
Harvey J. Hague	Thomas Jefferson Chapter
William Schwetke	Culpeper Minutemen Chapter
Tom Whetstone	Norfolk Chapter

Reporting Period: January 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017.

This committee is responsible for promoting the recognition of outstanding individuals who serve their communities in a civic capacity. This is accomplished by individual Chapters. Annually at the end of the calendar year, the VASSAR Public Service and Heroism Committee selects one winner in each of the following categories: The Law Enforcement Program; The Fire-Safety Program; The Emergency Medical Program; and The Heroism Medal Program.

Each Chapter is encouraged to recognize outstanding individuals in each of these areas and present them with the appropriate Certificate and Medal. Chapters should then report their award recipients directly to NSSAR following the NSSAR process outlined at the following web address: http://www.sar.org/NSSAR-Forms/Webform/Public_Service_Heroism_Report . Reports to NSSAR that are made before June 1 will be included in the Public Service Awards Booklet at the NSSAR Congress for that year. The NSSAR handbook outlines the award criteria.

When the chapter reports their Public Service and or Hero award recipient to NSSAR, they should copy the Public Service and Heroism Committee Chair (email address is listed above) for VASSAR records.

The VASSAR Committee has received to date 14 Public Service and Heroism Commendations: 8 Law Enforcement (Colonel William Grayson Chapter, George Washington Chapter, and James Monroe Chapter); 4 Fire

Safety (Colonel William Grayson Chapter, George Washington Chapter, and James Monroe Chapter); 2 Emergency Medical Service (Colonel William Grayson Chapter and George Washington Chapter); and no Hero Commendations.

**Reported Chapter Public Service and Heroism Activity
January 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017**

Chapter	Law Enforcement	Fire Safety	EMS	Hero
Clinch Mountain Militia				
Col. Fielding Lewis				
Col. George Waller				
Col. James Wood II				
Col. William Grayson	2	1	1	
Culpeper Minute Men				
Dan River				
Fairfax Resolves				
Fincastle Resolutions				
Fort Harrison				
Gen. Daniel Morgan				
Gen. William Campbell				
George Mason				
George Washington	5	1	1	
James Monroe	1	2		
Lt. David Cox				
Martin's Station				
New River Valley				
Norfolk				
Overmountain Men				
Rappahannock				
Richard Henry Lee				
Richmond				
Rockbridge Volunteers				
Thomas Jefferson				
Thomas Nelson, Jr.				
Williamsburg				
	8	4	2	0

On December 31, 2017, submissions to the VASSAR Service and Heroism Committee will close. The individual winners and their Chapters will be recognized at the VASSAR Annual Meeting in February.

Anyone interested in serving on the VASSAR Service and Heroism Committee please contact the Committee Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

William C. Collier, Public Service and Hero Committee Chairman