



FORT HARRISON SENTINEL

Fort Harrison Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. 15, No. 2

May-June 2015

I sincerely apologize for the delay in getting this Newsletter written. After 38 years of medical practice, I have finally decided to retire. Just imagine the hoops a physician in solo practice has to go through to retire. The insurance companies and the government (state and Federal) don't make it easy at all.

Since my last Newsletter, we have lost another Compatriot. Compatriot Michael M. "Mike" Doyle of Mount Sidney passed on the 26th of February. We will truly miss him.

At our Chapter meeting in May we did add a new Compatriot with the induction of Randy Atkins into our Chapter. Randy has already volunteered to help Past President Hank Almond with our Eagle Scout Recognition Awards Program. Speaking of this program, Hank has already personally presented or mailed two Certificates and six more are in the process of being prepared.

On the 18th of April, our Chapter was the Host Chapter for the Graves Mountain Multi-Chapter Meeting held at the Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Madison County, Virginia. Representing our Chapter were President Tom Pettit, who served as presiding officer, and his wife, Daille; our Chapter Chaplain, Compatriot Roy Martin who is also VASSAR Chaplain and myself and my wife, Norma. There was a superb program given by John A. Nagy, scholar in residence at St. Francis University in Pennsylvania, on espionage in the Revolutionary War.

Our Chapter remains active thanks to a small number of Compatriots. We have participated in four Naturalization Ceremonies so far this year and plan to be represented at the upcoming Ceremonies scheduled for June 25th, July 23rd, August 13th, September 15th and October 29th. These will be held at the Federal District Court in Harrisonburg with the exception of the one on September 15th which will be held at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. If you have not attended such a Ceremony, it is definitely something you should consider doing. It is indeed a very special event for the participants, their families and all others who witness it. Each person who receives their citizenship has spent many hours of study in preparation for something many born in the country simply take for granted. We have also presented our annual JROTC and ROTC Awards. Chapter President Tom Pettit presented our Certificate and Medal to Luke J. Coupland at the ROTC Ceremony held at James Madison University on April 29th. Past Chapter President Hank Almond did the same at the JROTC Ceremony held at Harrisonburg High School on May 8th. He presented our Certificate and Medal to c/Captain Soma Barzanji. Unfortunately there were a number of other events, including VASSAR Presidential Initiative Ceremony in Fredericksburg, where we were unable to participate simply due to not having a Compatriot able to attend. I certainly hope that more of our Chapter's compatriots will be willing to represent us at such future events.

In March, COL Roy McCutcheon, USA (R), along with several Cadets from the Harrisonburg High School JROTC Program, gave a superb presentation on that program. In April and May we had very interesting programs presented as well. In April, Past Chapter President Barkley Rosser spoke about his distant relative, Major General Thomas Lafayette ("Tex") Rosser, CSA, the last commanding officer of the Laurel Brigade. He spoke on General Rosser's life and of the Laurel Brigade's exploits during the War Between the States. In May, Compatriot Peyton Yancey spoke on "Little Known Facts about George Washington". It was a very informative presentation of tidbits of history concerning our native Virginian and First

President of the United States that are not well known. This fall promises to have programs just as informative.

Upcoming events include NSSAR's 125th Annual Congress to be held in Louisville, KY from June 27th through July 1st. Further details can be found on the NSSAR website. On July 4th Compatriot David Hatmaker will again read the Declaration of Independence at noon from the steps of the Rockingham County Court House. I certainly hope that you will attend and support this event. This year marks the 20th consecutive year David has done this. Our Chapter and our community owe him a lot of thanks for this wonderful effort and we owe him our continued support. Again, if you can, show your support by attending with your friends and family. On August 7th-9th "The Atlantic Middle States Association" meeting will be held at the Marriott Bridgewater in Bridgewater, NJ. Information on this meeting can be found on the NSSAR website. Norma and I have attended these for the past four years and found them to be very informative and plan to attend this one. Here you will have an opportunity to meet those who are contending for future NSSAR offices. It also will give you a chance to meet Compatriots from other states and to see what they are doing to increase Chapter participation and activity. On the 18th and 19th of September, the Semi-Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Roanoke. This is the first time in recent memory that this meeting has been held in southwest Virginia and I hope that some of you will consider attending and representing our Chapter.

Now for the "big news". **Our Chapter will not be meeting at Sunnyside Presbyterian Home for our fall meetings. The date, location and time of our Chapter meetings have been changed. We will be meeting at Pano's Restaurant on the third Tuesday of the month with the meeting beginning at 6 PM.** We will order dinner from the menu and the actual business portion and program will begin at about 6:30-6:45. This change is to see if we can achieve a greater attendance and, with that, greater participation of our Chapter Compatriots in the various activities of our Chapter. Those of us who have been active for years are aging and the participation of other Compatriots is truly vital for the survival of our Chapter. Please consider becoming an active and not just passive member. Have a great summer. I hope to see you both at the 4th of July ceremony and at our September meeting.

Kirk Sheap