



FORT HARRISON SENTINEL

Fort Harrison Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution



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Compatriots, how quickly the months have gone by and how active our Chapter has been during these months. On the 14th of February, I presented a Flag Certificate on behalf of our Chapter to the town of Dayton at a meeting of the Town Council. In attendance at that meeting were our Chapter President, Compatriot John Cloud, his wife, Leann, and my wife, Norma. As I have mentioned in the past, please let me know of any business, municipal building or private home which you feel should be recognized by our Chapter for properly displaying the American Flag. In 2010 the Virginia Society again qualified for the Admiral William R. Furlong Award from the National Society in recognition of having had at least 50% of its Chapter present Flag Certificates as well as having had the State Society present one as well. This was the 10th consecutive year that the Virginia Society qualified for this award and it marked the first time that it did so with all 26 chapters participating. In fact, it appears that it is the first time that a State Society qualified for this award with 100% Chapter participation.

On the 25th and 26th of February, the Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society SAR was held in Richmond. Our Chapter was represented by our President, Compatriot John Cloud, our President-elect, Compatriot Hank Almond, and myself. At this meeting the Fort Harrison Chapter was recognized with a certificate for its participation in the Flag Program in 2011 and also received a streamer for Sustained Achievement in its participation in the Revolutionary War Graves Registration Program and another streamer, with four stars, for its participation in the Forgotten Patriots Program. Many thanks to our Registrar, Compatriot Hugh Hutchens, whose efforts made these awards possible. On April 9th, the annual multi-Chapter meeting was held at Graves Mountain Lodge with my wife, Norma, and I in attendance. This is an excellent meeting and photos of it and of the VASSAR Annual Meeting can be found in the most recent edition of the "Virginia Bulletin, the VASSAR magazine, which is to be found at the VASSAR website.

Since the last Newsletter, the Fort Harrison Chapter has participated in the ROTC Awards Ceremony at James Madison University and the JROTC Awards Ceremony at Harrisonburg High School. On April 29th, Compatriot Hank Almond presented our Chapter's ROTC Award at JMU to Cadet Graham M. Prosch while I presented our JROTC Award on May 12th to Cadet 1st Lieutenant Seve Sosa-Hernandez. As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, Compatriot Almond has also done an outstanding job as Chairman of our Eagle Scout Program. At our meeting in March, we did recognize Eagle Scout Christopher Pyle. We also continue to participate in the Naturalization Programs and the third such for this year was on the 16th of May.

Our Chapter meetings have been very fortunate to have had a number of excellent programs this year. I mentioned the programs of the early portion of the year in our last Newsletter. In March, Dan Morgan gave a wonderful program as John Adams. This was followed in April by Sarah Everett, a James Madison University senior who portrayed James Madison and gave a superb presentation. This month, Tim Byrd, a member of the Harrisonburg City Council, gave an excellent and very thoughtful presentation on the "Future of Harrisonburg".

As you know, our next Chapter meeting will be on the 10th of September. I certainly hope you will attend. However, our Chapter will not be dormant during the summer months. Please remember the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence by Compatriot David Hatmaker. I hope to see many of you at noon on July 4th at Courthouse Square in Harrisonburg

and we all owe David our sincere thanks and appreciation for this annual event which we can express by our attendance.

I would also like to remind you of the upcoming 121st Annual Congress of the SAR which will be held in Winston-Salem, NC in early July. If you have never attended one of these, here is a wonderful opportunity. Further information and a registration form can be found in the most recent "SAR Magazine". The Semi-Annual Meeting of VASSAR will be held on the 16th and 17th of September in Fredericksburg. This is also an excellent meeting. Further information on it should be appearing on the VASSAR website in the not too distant future.

In closing, I hope that each of you has a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you as we begin our monthly meetings again in September. Remember that we meet on the morning of the second Saturday of each month from January through May and September through December at Spotswood County Club in Harrisonburg. We meet at 8:30 for breakfast with the meeting itself beginning at 9:00 and lasting about one hour. Remember that the success of our Chapter depends upon the participation of our membership. We cannot continue to be an active, successful Chapter if only a few individuals do all the work. I certainly hope that each of you will participate to the best of your ability. Hope to see you in September.

Kirk Sheap