

THE SENTINEL

The FORT HARRISON CHAPTER of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

DIRECTIVE FROM GEN. WASHINGTON: *The General does not mean to discourage the practice of bathing, whilst the weather is warm enough to continue it; but he expressly forbids any person doing it, at or near the Bridge in Cambridge, where it has been observed and complained of, that many Men, lost to all sense of decency and common modesty, are running about naked upon the Bridge, whilst Passengers, and even Ladies of the first fashion in the neighborhood, are passing over it, as if they meant to glory in their shame.*

- General Orders, August 22, 1775

Welcome back. Compatriots, to our regular monthly meeting schedule following our summer break.

Your Chapter newsletter has a new look. Greg Owen has replaced long-serving Editor, Dr. Kirk Sheap, and invites your suggestions and comments regarding its content and new quick-and-easy-to-read format. Call Greg at 540-383-2064, or email g1881owenu953@yahoo.com with information you wish to submit for the next issue of The Sentinel.

Extracts from the May 16, 2017 Chapter meeting Minutes and other sources:

We note the following Compatriot membership transitions:

Larry Bowers -- a formal Notice of Reinstatement has been received from the VA SAR
Roy Martin, Ft. Harrison Chapter Chaplain -- with his family, soon will be relocating to Texas.
Bill Blessing -- will ably serve as Ft. Harrison Chapter Chaplain upon Roy's departure.

We Remember the following Compatriots who have answered the Last Roll Call:

Edward W. Truslow, Past President of VA SAR; June 1
Col. Thomas Sweeney, USMC (Ret.); most recently of the Florida Naples Chapter; late June/early July
Samuel J. Flook; Fort Harrison Chapter, September 18

Special Recognition and Awards Conferred:

Certificates of Appreciation: to David and Paul Hatmaker, for their effort to hold a public meeting at Court Square on July 4 to read the Declaration of Independence.

Military Service Medals and Certificates: to David and Paul Hatmaker.

Correspondence: A note of thanks was received from VA SAR President Michael Elston for our Chapter's contribution to his Presidential Initiative, "Washington's Friends and Foes," at the Mount Vernon library.

Prior Events (since our last Chapter meeting):

May 29: Our Chapter participated in the DAR Massanutten Chapter's Memorial Day program to honor those from our community who died in military service to our Nation. The ceremony was held at the War Memorial at James Madison University. Chapter representatives presented a wreath at the ceremony, and read a list of names of the fallen, followed by the toll of a bell.

June 3: The Fairfax Resolves Chapter hosted a Commemoration of Wayne's Crossing in Leesburg, VA. All VA SAR Chapters were invited to participate and present a Chapter Wreath.

July 4: Our Chapter's 22nd year to read the Declaration of Independence on the Rockingham County Court House steps. Compatriot Paul Hatmaker volunteered to conduct the reading. The Beaver Creek Long Knives fired a volley to salute the Reading. Local press covered the event and excellent attendance.

July 8-12: The 127th Annual National Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution convened in Knoxville, TN. Please refer to The SAR Magazine (Summer 2017) for an overview of the proceedings. Three essential results of the Congress were, 1) Eligibility for SAR membership has been amended to meet more equitable loyalty standards for our Revolutionary War ancestors, 2) SAR membership now is open to those being male either at birth or by court order [i.e transgender], and 3) Newly-elected SAR President General Larry Guzy has resolved that increasing SAR membership is a major priority—which doubtless we will hear more about in the near future.

July 22: Dr. Kirk Sheap presented our Chapter Wreath at the 243rd anniversary ceremony at the Historic Fairfax Courthouse to honor the Fairfax Resolves.

August 11-12: Dr. Kirk Sheap and wife Norma attended the Atlantic Middle States Conference of NSSAR at Gettysburg PA. The event was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society SAR.

September 9: Hank Almond presented our Chapter Wreath at the Commemoration of the Battle of the Capes at the Admiral de Grasse Statue, Fort Story, Virginia Beach, VA. The Norfolk Chapter VA SAR hosted the event. Hank's son, Compatriot Scott Almond and members of Scott's family also attended the event.

September 14: APPROVED by the Board of Managers during its regular meeting, 1) Purchase of Liability Insurance for the Chapter, Members and Officers, and 2) Purchase of a portable sound system for events such as our July 4th ceremony.

September 15-16: The VA SAR Semi-Annual Meeting convened at Newport News VA, and attended by Randy Atkins, Rev. Roy Martin and wife Lisa, along with Dr. Kirk Sheap and wife Norma.

September 19: Our Chapter's regular monthly meeting at Wood Grill Restaurant. Guest Jimmy A. Lawson presented a program entitled, "The Hessian Among Us, and the Mystery of Cedar Cliff Falls."

Upcoming Events:

September 28-29: NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville KY. Dr. Kirk Sheap and wife Norma will attend the events, which included an Oktoberfest celebration.

October 5: Naturalization Ceremonies. One or more volunteers have agreed to represent our Chapter.

October 17: Our Chapter's regular monthly meeting at Wood Grill at 6:00 PM. Best to arrive by 5:30 PM to begin the evening's all-you-can-eat buffet meal. Program: Compatriot Jim Nelson will host our Chapter's annual Law Enforcement Award. Also, Immediate Past President Tom Pettit will introduce the proposed slate of Chapter officers. Nominations are still-open for 1st and 2nd vice-presidents, and will be accepted through November.

October 19: Yorktown (VA) commemoration. Dr. Kirk Sheap and wife Norma, and Roy Martin will attend, and invite all other Compatriots to join them for the events, to include presentation of our Chapter Wreath.

November 2: Naturalization Ceremonies. One or more volunteers have agreed to represent our Chapter.

November 21: Our Chapter's regular monthly meeting at Wood Grill at 6:00 PM. Best to arrive by 5:30 PM to begin the evening's all-you-can-eat buffet meal. Program: Dr. Eric Pyle, JMU, will speak on "Surveying in the 18th Century." This meeting will mark the 30th Anniversary of the Fort Harrison Chapter.

December 7: Naturalization Ceremonies. One or more volunteers have agreed to represent our Chapter.

December 21: Our Chapter's Christmas dinner meeting will be held at Sunnyside Retirement Community's Bethesda Theater. Compatriots will vote to approve the slate of officers previously nominated.

Reminders:

The lasting success of any group is founded upon the active participation of many like-minded individuals for its common causes and goals. Each of us, as members of this Chapter, have special knowledge, skills

and talents that can contribute to ever greater success as we endeavor to preserve our ancestor's noble deeds and ideals.

Whenever a Compatriot attends a scheduled local, statewide, regional or national SAR event, he represents his Chapter well, in that his participation acknowledges our continued vitality and strong sense of purpose.

Remember that the SAR is a non-political organization, and as such, Compatriots shall neither discuss, recommend or endorse any *candidate* for public office, though courteous and meaningful dialogue regarding social, economic, moral and physical welfare are encouraged.

Little-Known Facts About the American Revolution:

The Continental Congress established the *Continental Army* in June 1775 and appropriated the equivalent of \$6,000 for its operation and support.

Soldiers of the Continental Army were called *Continentalers*.

The Continental Congress authorized the Minute Men in 1775 as a special force of militia, though the individual Colonies already had organized such groups. Accordingly, by 1774 the term *Minute Man* was widely known and used in America.

The term *Patriots* was first used in 1775 to designate Americans who supported the revolution, which is estimated to have been 67% to 80% of the total population of 2.5 million.

American *Loyalists* to the King referred often to the Revolution as either *The Insurrection* or *The Civil War*.

A basic Loyalist belief, as expressed by Boston's Congregational Minister Mather Byles was, "...which is better, to be ruled by one tyrant three thousand miles away, or by three thousand tyrants not a mile away?"

Approximately forty thousand Americans fought in seventy *Loyalist Regiments* of the British Army. [Presumably, few of their descendants have become members of the Sons of the American Revolution...]

Source: Flexner, Stuart Berg. *I Hear America Talking*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1976.

