



*The Ohio
Country*
Bulletin

The Ohio Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fall 2017 Newsletter

www.ohssar.org

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Message from the President



I would like to take a minute to thank all those Compatriots who have worked so hard this year to further our commitments to our patriotic, historical and educational programs. By my count, members of the Ohio Society have participated in more than 220 events thus far in 2017. These events include Flag Certificate presentations, Patriot grave marking ceremonies, naturalization events, Honor Flights and Color Guard activities just to name a few. The Chapter leadership that organizes and executes these events is to be commended and those Compatriots that participate, you are truly heroes.

It's a reality of any volunteer organization that 10% of the members will do 90% of the work and no one is asking or expecting every Compatriot to don a uniform and march in the Color Guard. But 100% of our membership can help out by simply renewing their membership this coming year. It is the membership dues that help the Chapters with putting together all those patriotic, historical and educational programs that are so important.

Before I put together the next Ohio Country Bulletin, we will have been through the process of collecting dues and renewing memberships for 2018. One of our goals for this year is to "Increase our membership and improve the number of annual Compatriot renewals." Our goal at the Chapter-level should be to renew 100% of our active membership and then seek out those that previously discontinued their membership and bring them back. In 2016 we brought 133 new Compatriots into the Ohio Society but our actual number of members only increased by six, from 1,602 on 1 Jan 2016 to 1,608 on 1 Jan 2017. I know we can do better than that. This Newsletter reaches all of our members. If you are reading this and have not renewed your SAR membership for 2018, please contact your Chapter and do so.

As always, if there is anything I or the State-level leadership can do to assist Chapters in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanks again for all that you do.

Donald C. McGraw, Jr.
Ohio Society
State President
2017 - 2018

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Donald C. McGraw, Editor

127th National Society Congress



Ohio Society Members Attend the President General's Banquet at the SAR National Congress in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The National Society Sons of the American Revolution hosted its 127th Annual Congress in Knoxville, Tennessee from Friday, July 7th through Thursday, July 13, 2017 with 331 delegates in attendance. The business sessions, meetings, and functions were held at the Holiday Inn World's Fair and the Knoxville Convention Center.

The Ohio Society was well represented by Ohio Society President Donald C. McGraw (Cincinnati); Past-President & Alternate National Trustee James D. Schaffer (Cincinnati); Past-President Paul M. Wilke (Cincinnati); Past-President William A. "Tony" Robinson (Camp Charlotte); Past-President John H. Franklin (Western Reserve); 1st Vice-President Shawn A. Cox (Arthur St Clair); Secretary Turner Lee Wilkerson (Cincinnati); Registrar & National Trustee Troy Bailey (Northeastern Ohio); Past-

President & Genealogist Tim Ward (Northeastern Ohio); Southwest District Chairman Elwin Spray (Richard Montgomery); Compatriot Michael B. Gunn (Cincinnati); and Compatriot John "Jack" Bredenfoerder (Cincinnati).

The business sessions concluded with the election of General Officers, Trustees, and SAR Foundation Board Members: Larry T. Guzy (GA) was elected President General; Robert B. Fish (WV) Vice President General Central District; Warren M. Alter (AZ) Secretary General; John T. Manning (NH) Treasurer General; Davis Lee Wright, Esq. (DE) Chancellor General; C. Bruce Pickette (AL) Registrar General; John O. Thornhill (NC) Historian General; Douglas T. Collins (KY) Librarian General; Dr. Matthew J. Barlow, Jr. (DE) Surgeon General; Rev. John C. Wakefield (TN) Chaplain General. For the Ohio Society, Compatriot James D. Schaffer was elected to National Trustee

(See State Conference Pg. 6)

NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting



PG Larry Guzy calls the Trustees meeting to order

and are open to SAR members from state societies across the nation. The Trustees meeting was held on the 30th, and was called to order by President General Larry Guzy.

Attending this year from the Ohio Society were: Michael B. Gunn, John H. Bredenfoerder (Ohio Society Treasurer), and James D. Schaffer (Ohio Society National Trustee) of the Cincinnati Chapter; Troy Bailey (Ohio Society Registrar), Steve Hinson (Ohio Society 2nd Vice-President), and Tim Ward (Ohio Society Genealogist and Alternate National Trustee) of the Northeastern Ohio Chapter; Shawn Cox (Ohio Society 1st Vice-President) of the Arthur St. Clair Chapter; Larry Perkins of the Ebenezer Zane Chapter; and William A. Tony Robinson (Ohio Society Director-at-Large) of the Camp Charlotte Chapter.

Ohio Society Hold Summer Meetings in Zoar, Ohio

On July 28th and 29th, the Ohio Society held its quarterly Executive Committee and Board of Management Meetings in Zoar, Ohio at the Firehouse Grille and Pub. Both meetings were well attended, with members present from all Ohio districts.

The Friday, July 28th activities began with an outstanding buffet dinner, followed by the Executive Committee and Ladies Auxiliary meetings. The agenda of the Executive Committee included informative discussions on the activities of committees tasked with special missions. Saturday, July 29th began with the Board of Management meeting at 8:00AM. Immediately following, our members proceeded to the Fort Laurens Historic Site a few miles away for a Memorial Service at 11:15AM. Then, it was back to the Firehouse Grille and Pub at 12:30PM for another outstanding buffet meal, concluding with the presentation of National Society and Ohio Society awards to chapters, members, and supporters of the SAR. The meetings were moved to Zoar a few years ago to accommodate a larger membership attendance. This year's meetings coincided with the annual Zoar Harvest Festival.



Central District VP General Bob Fish awards Lee Wilkerson & Tim Ward with Liberty Medals

Ohio Society Awards Luncheon

At the National Society's 127th Congress in Knoxville, TN, the Ohio Society, several Chapters and many Ohio Compatriots received awards. The Ohio Society hosted an awards luncheon following the Fort Laurens Memorial Ceremony and July 29th. Central District VP General Bob Fish and Ohio Society President, Don McGraw, made the presentations for these achievements. Recognized were:

National Society Awards

Liberty Medal

Troy Bailey (2 OLC) – Northeastern Ohio
 Ted Minier (1 OLC) – Western Reserve Society
 Franz B. Ott (1 OLC) – Cincinnati
 Timothy E. Ward (4 OLC) – Northeastern Ohio
 Turner Lee Wilkerson, III – Cincinnati

OLC – Oak Leaf Cluster designating a subsequent award

Liberty Bell Americanism Award
Chapter best implementing SAR resolutions and principles

Western Reserve Society
 Cincinnati Chapter



Ohio Society Awards

Admiral William R. Furlong Award for Flag Certificate Presentations
 Chairman Ted Minier

C.A.R. Activities Award
 Chairman Tony Robinson

Sgt. Moses Adams Middle School Brochure Contest Participation
Contestant Placed 2nd at NSSAR
 Chairman Charles Finley

Arthur M. King Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest Participant
 Chairman Lance Beebe

ROTC/JROTC Contest Participant
 Chairman Terry Whetstone

Syracuse Award
State Society with the most New Chapters

Paul M. Niebell, Sr. Award
Best News Publication of 10 or fewer pages

Patriot Biographies Award
 Chairman Michael Gunn

Chapter Awards

Patriot Biographies Award

Cincinnati Chapter
 John Hancock Chapter (1st Award)

Partners in Patriotism Award

Ohio Society
 Western Reserve Society
 Cincinnati Chapter
 Richard Montgomery Chapter
 Marietta Chapter
 Centennial Chapter
 Northeast Ohio Chapter
 Northwest Territories Chapter
 General Henry Knox Chapter
 Camp Charlotte Chapter
 Arthur St. Clair Chapter
 Hocking Valley Chapter

Individual Awards

Robert C. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award

For distinguished service to Scouting

Compatriot Gilbert A. Sanow, II.
 (Firelands Bicentennial)

Certificate of Appreciation for Service on a National-level Committee

John H. Franklin, Jr. – Rumbaugh Orations Committee – Western Reserve Society
 Jack Bredenfoerder – Rumbaugh Orations Committee – Cincinnati
 William "Tony" Robinson – Patriotic Outreach Committee – Camp Charlotte
 Timothy E. Ward – Future Leaders Committee – Northeast Ohio
 James D. Schaffer – Facilities Committee – Cincinnati

Fort Laurens - Ohio's Only Revolutionary War Fort

On July 29th, 2017, the Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution hosted its annual Fort Laurens Memorial Service at the site of this historic Revolutionary War fort in Bolivar, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Members of the SAR, DAR, C.A.R. and other patriotic groups and organizations, migrate to this ceremony each year, and pay homage to the American soldiers who died in its siege in 1779. This year, SAR members came from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania to participate in the ceremony, considered a national event in the National Society SAR organization. Perhaps a brief history lesson will explain why such importance is placed upon this historical site.

Fort Laurens was the first and only fort of the Revolutionary War established



Fort Laurens Museum

within the limits of what is now Ohio, and was built on the banks of the Tuscarawas River, now near the town of Bolivar, Ohio, in December of 1778 by General Lachlan McIntosh. The fort was intended to serve as a defense against attacks by the British and Native American Indians on settlers in the Ohio Country, and was to be a staging point in support of a planned attack on the British at Fort Detroit.

The Fort was named in honor of Henry Laurens, President of the Continental Congress.

Conditions during the winter were harsh, and General McIntosh removed all but 150 soldiers from the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment and



the 13th Virginia Regiment to Fort Pitt, present day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Beginning February 22nd, 1779 and continuing until mid-March of that year, a small number of British soldiers of the 8th Regiment of Foot commanded by Captain Henry Bird, and a few hundred allied Native American warriors, laid siege to the fort after ambushing a group of defenseless American soldiers who were foraging outside of the compound. Amongst the British forces was the infamous Simon Girty.

During the nearly month-long struggle, the American soldiers were starved and frozen, being forced to eat roots and grass growing within the fort's walls. Some resorted to boiling their own moccasins, making a broth for consumption.

The British forces were also suffering the harsh con-

ditions of that winter, and abandoned their siege on March 20th, 1779. Three days after the siege was lifted, American reinforcements arrived from Fort Pitt. A force of over 100 American soldiers remained at Fort Laurens until August 2, 1779, when it was determined it was no longer of value as a staging point in attacking the British at Fort Detroit, and was abandoned. In total, more than 20 American soldiers died at Fort Laurens.

Today, the Ohio Historical Connection, formerly the Ohio Historical Society, operates a museum at the site of Fort Laurens, under the management of the Zoar Community Association. On site is the Tomb of the Unknown Patriot of the American Revolution, which contains the remains of one of the American soldiers killed here, and discovered during archaeological excavations at the site. This brave soldier

was laid to rest with full military honors by the Ohio National Guard in 1976. The remains of other soldiers who were killed during this struggle are interred in a crypt inside of the museum.

The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. While nothing remains of the fort's walls today, the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation is actively engaged in fundraising efforts to reconstruct the



The OHSSAR Color Guard Advances

fort, log by log.

The Ohio Society of the Sons of the American Revolution returns each year to conduct its memorial service in late July.

For more information on the work of the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation, visit their website at www.friendsoffortlaurens.org.



*Jeff Wait and Bob Hill of the Hocking Valley Chapter
Stand guard at the memorial*



Welcome New Members

Western Reserve Society

Ronald M. Brough
 Robert J. Buskirk
 Gregory M. Griffin
 David W. Hawkins
 Gabriel C. Hutchins
 Joshua G. Hutchins
 Michael A. Hutchins
 Michael C. Hutchins
 Brian J. Lamb
 Gary V. Lewis
 Peter F. Mayer
 Chad A. Thomas
 Christopher J. Tomshack, II
 Zachary L. Tomshack
 John Truchon
 Joseph T. Weills

Cincinnati

Norman E. Bissell
 Joseph R. Blank
 James H. Dent
 David W. Drake
 John A. Ferguson
 Gregory S. Foster
 Andrew C. Hess
 Andrew T. Hess
 Ethan D. Hess
 John M. Holcomb
 Brian E. Pace
 Jon K. Schlosser
 Andrew P. Smith
 Cameron A. Taylor

Benjamin Franklin

John M. Boggs
 Richard L. Carnell
 Craig A. Cataline
 Andrew W. DeLong
 Austin M. Force
 Edward P. Hancock, Jr.
 Robert L. Mercer
 John S. Meyer
 Patrick S. Nolan
 Joseph P. Ratajczak
 Braden L. Roby
 Joshua J. Varble
 Lawrence Webber

Samuel Huntington

Preston O. Gleim

Centennial

Richard E. Frey

Arthur St. Clair

Michael S. Graves

John Hancock

Benjamin H. DeJulia
 William L. Evans
 Michael L. Fought

Richard Montgomery

Robert J. Beatty
 Jesse J. Berry

Anthony D. Burge
 Lawrence D. Burge
 Michael John Burge
 Michael Joseph Burge
 Nathaniel E. Burge
 Owen D. Burge
 Ronald L. Burge
 Michael E. Menning
 Connor M. Rouse
 Timothy A. Rouse
 Andrew J. Smith
 Bradley C. Vath
 Brandon C. Vath
 Timothy H. Vath

Lafayette

Douglas A. Cassens
 Brent M. Durken
 Shaun M. Durken
 Timothy A. Gilbert
 Mark J. Ludwig, II
 Jeffrey L. Mahaffey
 Paul H. McCormick
 Andrew V. Prostor
 Richard J. Staats
 Norman C. Umberger
 Eric S. Weigle
 James K. Weigle
 Marc K. Williams

George Rogers Clark

John S.O. Maingi

t George Ewing

John P. Davis, III
 Jerry E. Lavergne

Northeastern Ohio

Paul T. Bailey
 Owen S. Cole
 Gary G. Herroon
 Michael O. Shadle

Firelands Bicentennial

Billy R. Pollard
 Mathew S. Schweitzer
 Seton A. Schweitzer
 Terrance H. Vacha

Northwest Territory

Isaac W. Latta
 Peter A. Latta
 Douglas P. Vogelsong

General Henry Knox

Larry L. Layton
 Jon M. Schmid
 Michael Stalnaker
Camp Charlotte
 Kenton C. Dresbach

Hocking Valley

James D. Ferguson
 Richard D. Godfrey
 Fred D. Hardman
 Jeffery G. Hardman
 Joshua B. Hardman
 Kelly W. Hardman
 Tristan J. Hardman
 Eric M. Pawlowski

Mahoning Valley

Adam S. Davis
 Jonathan M. Davis
 Phillip R. Dudeck

At-Large

David W. Winks

John Franklin receives Minuteman Award



At the 127th Annual Congress Compatriot John H. Franklin Jr. of the Ohio Society SAR received the organization's prestigious Minuteman Award.

Franklin, who joined the SAR in 1994, is a resident of Hudson, Ohio, and is a member of the Western Reserve Society of Cleveland

The SAR Minuteman Award is the highest award presented to a member by the SAR, and is presented for distinguished service rendered to the organization on the national level. Compatriot Franklin joins three other Ohio Society Minuteman Awardees, Larry Perkins, Paul Wilke and Tim Ward.

Paul Wilke receives Gold Color Guard Medal



At the 127th Annual Congress Compatriot Paul Wilke of North Bend, Ohio was awarded the Gold Color Guard Medal as he is appointed the SAR Color Guardsman of the Year.

Each year there is no more than one SAR Color Guardsman of the Year throughout the Nation. To be considered for SAR Color Guardsman of the Year, a Color Guardsman must have completed three years of service at the National level. For the year following his election, the Color Guardsman of the Year will carry the National SAR flag at all National events.

Wilke became a member of the Ohio Society's Cincinnati Chapter in 1998 and shortly thereafter joined the Color Guard. He has been the Color Guard Commander of the Cincinnati Chapter since 2009.

In Memoriam

Be Thou at Peace

Cincinnati

Thomas G. Clark
 July 16, 2017

Centennial

Charles O. Hensley
 July 20, 2017

Ebenezer Zane

George E. Livingston
 July 1, 2017

Camp Charlotte

Jasper M. Hedges
 August 28, 2017

Hocking Valley

Earl R. Stalnaker
 February 23, 2017

At-Large

David R. Binnig
 September 5, 2017



Ohio Oration Entry Wins 2nd Place at National



NSSAR Oration Co-Chairmen Jack Bredenfoerder & John Franklin with Ohio Entrant Isaiah Paik

Congratulations to Isaiah Paik, a student at University School, for his wonderful oration at the NSSAR Congress in Knoxville, TN. where he won second place. Oration Co-Chairmen Jack Bredenfoerder and John Franklin, with Isaiah Paik. Isaiah received an Oration Medal, a certificate and a check for \$3,000.

Mahoning Valley Recruits at the Canfield Fair



Jim Alexander, Chaplain Mahoning Valley Chapter

The Canfield Fair, for the second year in a row, was a great experience for the Mahoning Valley Chapter. Recruiting efforts brought 15 possible new or inactive members to the Chapter, with SAR membership flyers distributed to those who visited the Chapter's booth. A basket raffle raised over \$100. This was the first joint activity with the Mahoning Valley Chapter SAR and the Mahoning Chapter DAR. Future participation with the sister organization is enthusiastically anticipated.



NSSAR Congress (From Pg. 2)

and Compatriot Tim Ward was elected to Alternate National Trustee.



President General Larry Guzy

In addition to three sessions of business meetings, activities included Committee and Trustee meetings, the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations Contest judging; a Memorial Service; a Youth Awards luncheon; a Member Awards & Recognitions evening; the President General's Banquet; and the Installation Banquet. Optional events offered included a tour of the historic site at Oakridge National Laboratories.

The Texas Society will host the 128th Annual Congress in Houston, Texas.



GE Foundation Supports Fundraising



As a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, each dollar that a GE Employee or Retiree chooses to donate to the society's projects is eligible for consideration to receive a matching, dollar-for-dollar grant from the GE Foundation.

The GE Foundation created the concept of a corporate matching gift program in 1954 to support employees in their personal philanthropy/charitable giving by providing a 1:1 match. Since then, many companies have started similar programs. Today, the GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program continues to serve as an important element of the Foundation's portfolio, with gifts matched in 2016 totaling more than \$38.1 million.

So, if you are a compatriot that is currently a GE retiree or still a productive GE employee—remember to make the GE Foundation a partner with you in your gifts to the Sons of the American Revolution. Your gift to the society can be registered with GE Foundation on their website:

<http://www.gesustainability.com/enabling-progress/ge-foundation/matching-gifts/>



Maumee Bay Resort & Conference Center

Fall 2017

Board of Management Meeting

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 27-28 OCTOBER 2017

VENUES
<p style="text-align: center;">Maumee Bay Lodge 1400 State Park Rd, Oregon, OH 43616 Reservations – 1 (800) 282-7275 Exit 199 from I-75 N Exit 81 from I-90 W</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution Northwest District Lucas County, Ohio</p>

ITINERARY / SCHEDULE
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Friday October 27th</u> 5:00-6:00 PM: Social Hour ICE BREAKER LOUNGE 6:00-7:00 PM: Dinner WATER'S EDGE RESTAURANT <i>(Selected From the Menu)</i> 7:00-8:00 PM: Executive Committee Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM: OHSSAR Ladies Auxiliary Meeting</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Saturday October 28th</u> 9:00-11:45 AM: Board of Management Meeting</p>

MAUMEE BAY LODGE & CONFERENCE CENTER

Rooms at the Maumee Bay Lodge are available at a cost of \$128.00 per night. Make reservations by calling the lodge at 1 (800) 282-7275 and requesting reservations under the Sons of the American Revolution room block. However, make payment to the Ohio Society Treasurer to avoid unnecessary taxes. This is a group rate for the OHSSAR.

**A BLOCK OF ROOMS HAS BEEN RESERVED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 28TH
 CALL BEFORE THEN TO GET THIS RATE.**

Detach ↓	OHIO SOCIETY SAR FALL MEETING REGISTRATION	Enclose With Payment ↓
Name(s): _____ Society/Chapter _____		
Address: _____		
Phone (Optional): _____ Email (Optional): _____		

~ RESERVATION SUMMARY ~
NUMBER OF ROOMS _____ @ \$128.00 = \$ _____
TOTAL ROOM + MEALS = \$ _____

PAYMENT
 MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
TREASURER, OHSSAR
 AND MAIL TO:
JOHN H. BREDFENFOERDER
 8751 HAVERHILL LANE
 CINCINNATI, OH 45236

REGISTRATION DEADLINE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2017

Dates to Remember

October 27 - 28, 2017: OHSSAR Fall Meeting, Maumee Bay State Park, Toledo OH

November 3 - 4, 2017: NSSAR Central District Meeting, Parkersburg, WV

November 11, 2017: Veterans Day Ceremonies

December 167, 2017: Wreaths Across America

February 2-3, 2018: OHSSAR Winter Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio

May 4-6, 2018: OHSSAR 129th Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio

More Ways to Stay Informed

Here are even more ways on the internet to connect with SAR activities, news,

NATIONAL SOCIETY

www.sar.org

www.facebook.com/groups/sonsoftheamericanrevolution/

CENTRAL DISTRICT

www.cdsar.org

OHIO SOCIETY

www.ohssar.org

www.ohssardispatch.wordpress.com

NEW! www.facebook.com/ohssar

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