

# The Wolberine Minute Man

## Newsletter of the

### Michigan Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

#4 2010

missar.org

Winter



Dear Compatriots:

The fall **MISSAR dues renewals** for 2011 dues have been sent. Chapter presidents have been given "paid" rooster and have been asked to contact those compatriots who have forgotten to renew their payments for 2011 dues. Remember the society is heavily dependant on our dues structure to run the organization. Please forward your dues payment. Each rebilling is an extra cost to the society. Each member should consider the advantages of membership to NSSAR and MISSAR. The discounts alone on the MEMBERSHIP SERVICES (on the national web page, [sar.org](http://sar.org)) will pay for your annual dues with one usage of these services. They include: *car rentals, Amazon (a retailer of general merchandise as well as Books), Office Depot and cell phone use from T-Mobile.* They are at no cost. You must, however, enter from the national page for your purchases, as no SAR member cards are issued. The

NSSAR is making other alliances among them is the Ancestry.com and the History Channel!

The **Fund Raising Committee** of the Society has been working on plans for a raffle. Tickets will be printed as donation of \$5.00 each. Raffle ticket sales will be for the following prizes: First Prize \$1,000.00 (Grand Prize) (1) shopping spree at Cabela's; Second Prize \$300.00 (1); Third Prize \$50.00 (3); Fourth Place \$25.00 (6) (Consolation prizes). There will be a total \$1,600.00 awarded in prizes in ten draws at our April 23, 2011 drawing in Lansing. Ticket sales will be sold during the months of December through April. We have secured booth space at *the Ultimate Fishing Show at Rock Financial Show Place in Novi on January 13-16, 2011 and Outdoorama at Rock Financial Show Place on February 24-27, 2011.* The fund raiser will provide MISSAR the opportunity to sell ourselves -- not just a ticket. Our goal is to take donations for tickets, but just as important, is to sell our organization. People get to know who we are, what we do, and how they can become involved. We want to reach out and have the patrons remember the Sons of the American Revolution. Please volunteer to help with sales of tickets at these two events.

The Michigan Society has been presented a marvelous opportunity. One of our benevolent Compatriots has stepped forward with an offer that has the potential of making up the entire 2011 budget shortfall. He has pledged to donate \$3 for every \$1 we can raise, up to a maximum of \$3,000. This **Matching Fund Campaign** will go a long way toward the Society's 2011 operating budget. This means we could raise \$4,000 quickly. This will greatly help with our budget shortfall. Donation forms are in the mail. Please donate if possible. Remember no donation is too small. As we approach the end of this year we know that many of our Compatriots would like to make charitable donations for income tax deduction purposes. The Michigan Society SAR is fully recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your charitable donation to the MISSAR qualifies as a tax deduction, for 2010 or 2011, for those of you whose income tax situation permits charitable deductions. This is a dual opportunity for you as a tax deductible contribution to the society, but also for the MISSAR to maximize the generosity of a fellow compatriot.

Remember, **Nominations Committees** will be active, asking for candidates for office. The key to our success is participation of chapter members. The next key to our success is the hard work given by the society officers and Board of Managers. This is a team effort. This will be important for the society, as well as your chapter. Please find a way to participate in your chapter and society activities. Be a "party of one". Stand up, be counted. Go to the front of the line. Be ready and prepared to make a difference in the society.

I wish all the Compatriots and their all their families a Merry Christmas and the Happy New Year. May they and their families' be safe and of good health.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Conger

President of MISSAR

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION State Society and Chapter Presidents

### Michigan State Society

Joseph C. Conger  
6432 Mission Ridge Road  
Traverse City, MI. 49686

### West Michigan Chapter

James A. Bergenham  
1438 Marwood Drive SE  
Kentwood, Michigan 48508

### Paul Emery Chapter

Gerald Burkland  
7600 Trumbower Trail  
Millington, Michigan 48746-9040

### Northern Michigan Chapter

Joel Robinson  
6872 Upper Bayshore Drive  
Charlevoix, Michigan 49720-9370

### Oaks Chapter

Bernie W. Wagers  
2850 Ripple Way  
White Lake, Michigan 48383

### River Raisin Chapter

Jerry Reed  
7780 Saint Andrew Drive  
Tecumseh, Michigan 49286-9680

### Detroit Metro Chapter

Stuart Shuster  
815 Madison  
Birmingham, Michigan 48009-5746

### Sauk Trail Chapter

Robert A. Wagel  
53725 O'Keefe Road  
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047

### Huron Valley Chapter

Alan R. Treppa  
15595 Westbrook  
Livonia, MI. 48154

### Perpetual Life Members

Perpetual Life Membership provides a lasting memorial and the payment of chapter, state, and national dues. All are recognized in the Wolverine Minute Man and Annual Directory. Michigan Society memberships are no longer available. Memorial Memberships may be purchased through NSSAR on a qualified deceased descendant.

0609	*Wilbert H. Barret	2429	*Pres. Gerald Ford	2553	*Harry S. Radcliff	2875	*Robert Whittenburger
1209	*Wallace C. Hall	2438	George M. Pennell	2712	John G. Fuller	2891	Edward A. Stokel
1404	*Marion C. Crawmer	2462	Charles E. Dewey	2751	Eugene McKay	2895	William K. Stokel
1422	*Lynn S. Gorden	2517	Robert M. Heydon	2752	Larry L. Blackett	2918	Thomas Monroe
2052	*Gov. G.M. Williams	2520	*George R. Thomas	2754	John M. Tuohy	3020	E. Lou Hoos
2188	*Harold McCracken	2522	James L. Monroe	2774	John S. Kennedy	3072	Earl W. Modert
2303	*John L. Ruby	2523	Clare E. Monroe	2780	Stephen N. Tuohy	3077	Bradley J. Boring
2318	*Linus W. Heydon Sr.	2530	Kenneth E. Reeves	2819	*Donald Richards		*deceased
2425	*Donald J. Pennell	2542	*Clyde L. Wolff	2835	James Richards		

### Memorial Memberships

<b>3201</b>	<i>David James Herold</i>	<i>3/15/1967-5/25/1973</i>	<b>170424</b>	<i>Brian Joseph Denslow</i>	<i>2/15/1959-4/4/2007</i>
<b>171826</b>	<i>Douglas Fountain</i>	<i>8/22/1942-8/15/1990</i>			

### George Washington Fellow

Compatriots donating \$1000.00 or more to the National Society SAR. George Washington Fellow Fund:

\*\*Gerald J. Burkland, Paul Emery Chapter   \*\*E.Lou Hoos, West Michigan Chapter   \*\*Richard A. Steele, Oaks Chapter,  
\*\*Gary Wooden, Paul Emery Chapter

### Michigan Century Club

Compatriots donating \$100.00 or more within a year for a specified program from 1-1-2010 thru 12-15-2010

Charles W. Barr II –Eagle Scout	Eugene H. McKay-Grave Marking	William G. Vette-General Fund
Joseph Conger-General Fund	General Fund	Bernie W. Wagers II-Youth Scholar-
Donald L. Crabtree-Eagle Scout	Donald D. Nutt-C.A.R.	ship Awards
Wayne E. Denniston-General Fund	Douglas J. Rasmussen	Frank W. Ward-Grave Marking
Robert M. Heydon-General Fund	Jerry W. Reed Sr.-General Fund	General Fund
Frank W. Hones-Service to Veterans	Meredith W. Shields-Service to Vet-	
E. Lou Hoos-ROTC/JROTC	erans	
Gordon J. MacNeil-General Fund	Allan R. Treppa-Color Guard	

*(Gifts for SAR Library, Grave Marking (G.M.), Law enforcement, Boy Scouts, Heritage Center, ROTC, Medal & Awards, etc)*

## **Recruiting and Retention Guidelines MISSAR**

### **Our Future Growth**

The growth of the Michigan Sons of the American Revolution depends not only on recruiting new compatriots, but also on retaining current ones. These retention efforts for new compatriots begin once he joins MISSAR. In addition efforts must be made to retain longstanding compatriots and to keep them enthusiastic about the SAR. Below is some information on starting state and chapter level compatriot recruiting and retention efforts.

### **Retention Starts Day One**

Retention efforts must start immediately after the compatriot has been accepted as a new member in MISSAR. Encourage the new compatriots to take part in state and chapter level meetings and established outings such as grave dedications and color guard activities as soon as possible.

### **Welcoming Committee**

Chapters are encouraged to establish a welcoming committee of several chapter members to provide the compatriot and his family with information on MISSAR., show them pictures and artifacts from chapter and state wide events, and answer questions they may have.

### **Induction of New Compatriots**

Present the new compatriot with a certificate of membership and rosette emblazoned with the SAR colors and emblem with their number on the certificate. A new compatriot should be introduced to other chapter members, help make him feel at home and inform him of the dates and times for chapter meetings and activities. Introduce his wife to members and encourage membership in our women's auxiliary component of MISSAR.

### **Car Pooling**

Establish a car pool to bring new (and old) members to meetings. Also, as soon as the first meeting is over, get new members interested in other activities such as the state color guard and other committees of interest to help their knowledge and involvement in MISSAR grow.

### **Questionnaires**

Use a Questionnaire (now under development) to find out the interests of new members. Giving a compatriot responsibilities and assigning him to program committees helps him feel that he is an important part of the chapter. Use the compatriot interest survey form (now under development) to determine what programs compatriots wish to pursue. The survey gives new compatriots the opportunity to list their preferences for possible committee assignments and indicate the areas that they find exciting, challenging and promising. There is also space for compatriots to express their thoughts on how to improve existing programs. Ask

them to also list new programs they think MISSAR should conduct.

### **Membership/Retention Committee**

Establishment of a membership/retention committee is responsible to examine reasons why compatriots become inactive and let their membership lapse. This committee plans programs to conserve MISSAR membership and anticipate and solve problems that may cause membership to become inactive. The VP of MISSAR chairs the position of membership retention chairman and his committee is composed of one retention chairman from each chapter. Each chapter committee consists of two or three compatriots including the chairman. After discovering problems, the committee should work with MISSAR officers to remedy them.

The MISSAR Secretary should provide the MISSAR membership / retention committee with a list of members in danger of being dropped as active compatriots. Chapter retention chairman and committee members contact these compatriots and discuss their reasons for being inactive and urge them to become active again.

### **Keeping Chapter Meetings Interesting and Relevant**

Keep chapter meetings interesting and relevant. If a compatriot asks himself, (Why am I here?) then something is wrong. Start meetings on time and keep discussions, comments, etc., within appropriate limits. The chapter president should refer any nonessential matters to the appropriate committees. Hold meetings on a night convenient to most compatriots. Allow all members to voice their opinions in an orderly way and try to keep meetings open and relevant.

### **MISSAR Chapter Meeting Guidebooks**

MISSAR Chapter Meeting Guidebooks (under development) explains the guidelines for conducting a chapter meeting, and includes articles on conducting interesting meetings. Chapter Presidents should also be familiar with parliamentary procedure.

### **Encourage a Free Exchange of Ideas**

Encourage a free exchange of ideas on chapter programs and business during chapter meetings, but make sure the compatriots remain focused on the issues under discussion. If possible, complete the business portion of chapter meetings within an hour.

### **Personal Follow-Up**

Another way to help retain compatriots is personal follow-up. Let a compatriot member know he is missed the first time he fails to attend a chapter meeting or MISSAR sponsored event. Send him a (We missed you at the meeting postcard message). Call him on the telephone or write a personal note at the bottom of the next meeting notice.

Marked decline in meeting attendance and committee involvement among formerly active compatriots is a

sign of lost interest. Although these members may have compelling reasons for reducing the amount of time they give, do not give up on them. Handle such compatriot with tact and consideration. Make missing compatriots feel valued and needed by asking them to take on a task that (only they can do), one which their experience truly counts. Ask them to give just a small amount of their time to one particular chapter project or MISSAR sponsored event. Explain that their contribution is very important. Take time to say thanks. Honor compatriots with a luncheon, ceremony, award or certificate in recognition of their years of involvement and service.

#### **Using Postcards and Announcement Cards**

Use postcards and announcement cards to keep compatriots up-to-date on important information vital to the successful operation of your chapter. Contact your local post office regarding what it would cost your chapter to provide such a service to your compatriots. Sometimes in these modern times web sites have taken the place of a personal note and fall far short of accomplishing the mission.

#### **Examine Current Programs and Activities**

Look at your current programs and activities to evaluate whether your chapter's resources and compatriots are being fully used. Do compatriots express interest in these programs? Are a majority of the compatriots participating? What type of chapter image do these programs project to the community? Are these programs meaningful, sincere and diversified enough to appeal to all compatriot members?

#### **Retrieving Lost Compatriots**

If your chapter has lost good compatriots, develop a campaign to retrieve those compatriots. Organize a number of active members with good telephone personalities located throughout the geographic area your chapter covers. Give each volunteer a list of lapsed members in his area, with details of when they joined, what committees each served on and what each did for MISSAR. Add to the list whatever personal data your records contain. This information serves as a good starting point for conversation. Supply these worker compatriots with up-to-date information about MISSAR including present activities, future plans, a list of the benefits of belonging to such a prestigious organization such as MISSAR.

#### **Recruit Lapsed Compatriots**

Recruit lapsed compatriots just as you would finding new compatriots. Sell the organization to former compatriots. Ask them what they enjoyed most about their participation in the past. Keep questioning on a positive basis. Emphasize the aspects of the organization the member is most likely to miss in allowing his membership to lapse.

Through efforts to retain current members and recruit new ones, we help MISSAR remain strong and growing.

#### **Other Membership Retention Ideas**

Review the programs outlined, take the steps to get organized, implement your program and follow through on it.

Recruiting new members is essential to the continued growth and well-being of your chapter and to MISSAR. Helping a man become a compatriot in MISSAR gives him the opportunity to connect with his roots and improve his own life and his community. MISSAR membership allows him to experience the fraternal bond that compatriots share.

#### **Utilizing MISSAR Website**

Utilize the MISSAR Web site when organizing and implementing successful membership recruitment and membership retention programs in your chapter.

#### **Establish a Chapter Award (Example: River Raisin Service Award)**

A program that encourages new compatriots to become immediately involved in Chapter and state wide activities. Example: award given for three out of five quarterly activities of MISSAR. This could be one chapter meeting, one state meeting and one color guard activity.

*William Vette MISSAR 1st Vice President*

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#### **ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Great Lakes District, NSSAR

October 30, 2010

Vice President General Gerald J. Burkland called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The combined Color Guard, led by Michigan Color Guard Commander William Vette, presented the Colors. Wisconsin Society President Harold Klubertans led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Illinois Society President Fran Herder led the SAR Pledge.

Michigan Chaplain, Bernie Wagers, gave the Invocation.

The Secretary, Compatriot Charles Barr II, declared a quorum was present with all three State Societies represented.

Vice President General Burkland then introduced special guests' followed by the introduction of all in attendance. (List of special guests may be found at the conclusion of the Minutes.

The State President of Illinois, Fran Herder; Wisconsin, Harold Klubertanz; and, Michigan, Joseph Congers, made presentations on their States Societies membership and activities

#### **No Old Business.**

#### **New Business:**

Compatriot Russ Buhr nominated Compatriot Thomas Cochran of Wisconsin SAR as the 2011 Vice President

General for the Great Lakes District. Motion seconded by Compatriot Gordon Binder. Compatriot Cochran was then elected Vice President General by a unanimous vote.

Compatriot Harold Klubertanz, VISSAR President, then distributed invitations to all present to attend the 2011 Great Lakes District Annual Meeting to be held in Madison, WI, on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Edgewater Hotel in downtown Madison. The hotel is located at 666 Wisconsin Ave in the Mansion Hill District.

Compatriot Binder moved that the NSSAR be notified that the Great Lakes District Annual Meeting will be held Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Edgewater Hotel in downtown Madison in an effort to avoid conflicts with other Districts. Seconded by Compatriot Russ Buhr. Motion was temporarily by Vice President General Burkland.

Compatriot Sam Powell, NCSSAR, Chairman of the national fund raising campaign for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage, spoke on the campaign and current needs. He reported that the Library with 30,000 books and other electronic and written information has moved to the new building. The seventeen member staff at the national headquarters is in the process of making the transition from one building to the other.

Compatriot Richard Steele moved that the Great Lakes District endorse all uncontested candidates. Seconded by Compatriot Gordon Binder. Motion carried. They are:

Larry J. Magerkurth	President General
Stephen A. Leishman	Secretary General
Thomas Lawrence	Chancellor General
Lindsey C. Brock	Registrar General
Michael C. Wells	Librarian General
Charles R. Lampman	Historian General
Rev. Dr. James C. Taylor	Chaplain General
Abraham R. Byrd	Surgeon General
J. David Sympson	SAR Foundation
Board (PG)	
Samuel C. Powell	SAR Foundation
Board (non-PG)	

Compatriot Paul Hays, DCSSAR, spoke on his candidacy for Genealogist General. His opponent, Compatriot Larry Cornwell, was the guest speaker following Friday night's banquet.

Compatriots Timothy Bennett and Joe Dooley are the two candidates for Treasurer General. Compatriot Gordon Binder spoke for Compatriot Timothy Bennett and Compatriot Richard Steele spoke for the candidacy of Joe Dooley. Compatriot Jim Say gave a seconding speech for the nomination of Compatriot Joe Dooley.

Vice President General Burkland appointed the three State Presidents to serve as tellers. The first ballot was cast for Treasurer General. MISSAR President Conger reported that the Great Lakes District had voted to endorse Compatriot Joseph Dooley for Treasurer General NSSAR.

Ballots were then cast for Genealogist General. MISSAR State President reported that the Great Lakes District had voted to endorse Compatriot Paul Hays for Genealogist General NSSAR.

Compatriot Bill Vette moved that the ballots be destroyed. Seconded by Compatriot Allan Treppa. Motion carried.

Vice President General Burkland then distributed a proposal for discussion which, if passed, would be sent to Compatriot Joe Harris, Executive NSSAR, President General David Sympson, and the NSSAR Executive Committee.

### **Proposal:**

"That the NSSAR work with NSSAR Districts to plan NSSAR District Meetings as to not conflict with dates of other Districts.

That the NSSAR will co-ordinate these meetings, setting times and dates or "windows of time" that the Districts can work within."

Discussion followed with emphasis on desire for local, rather than national control. The motion was retracted. Compatriot Gordon Binder moved that the Great Lakes District Annual Meeting be held the first weekend of November. Seconded by Compatriot Donald Nutt.

Compatriot Jim Say moved to amend the motion by adding "starting in 2012 and thereafter." Seconded by Compatriot Bill Vette. Motion carried.

The GLD then voted on the amended motion – it was moved that the Great Lakes District Meeting be held the first weekend of November starting in 2012 and thereafter. Motion carried.

Presentation of Awards:

Vice President General Burkland Awards consisted of a letter and Certificate from the VPG. Honored were:

From ILSSAR: Compatriots Joseph Smith, Robert E. Collins, and Joseph C Costello

From WSSAR: Compatriots Bill Plummer and David Dean.

From MISSAR: Compatriots Bernie Wagers and Bill Vette

Also receiving Certificates for work done on this GLD Meeting were: Compatriots Richard Steele and Joseph Conger.

Thank you's were given to Compatriots Tom Fountain, Bill Vette and Tom Pleuss.

PAUSE FOR LUNCH

Vice President General Burkland called the meeting back to order at 12:25 p.m., He made some remarks.

The Colors were then retired.

The Benediction was then given by MISSAR Chaplain Bernie Wagers.

The SAR Recessional was led by MISSAR President Joseph Conger.

The Meeting stood adjourned at 12:30 p.m.,

**SPECIAL GUESTS:**

Genealogist General	Joe Dooley, VASSAR
MISSAR National Trustee	Richard Steele, MISSAR
WISSAR National Trustee	Russell Buhr, WISSAR
ILSSAR National Trustee	Gordon Binder, ILSSAR
MISSAR State President	Joseph Conger, MISSAR
WISSAR State President	Harold Klubertanz, WISSAR
ILSSAR State President	Fran Herden, ILSSAR
TNSSAR State President	Rick Hollis, TNSSAR
Former VPG	Richard Steele, MISSAR
Treasurer General Candidate	Joe Dooley, VASSAR
Genealogist General Candidate	Larry Cornwell, ALSSAR
Genealogist General Candidate	Paul Hays, DCSSAR
CAAH Trustee Candidate	Sam Powell, NCSSAR

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Charles W. Barr II, Secretary*

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### **GOOD NEWS COMPATRIOTS**

**This year the compatriot who sells the winning raffle ticket will receive \$75.00 gift certificate to Cabela's.**

**The more you sell, the better your chances to win!**

The Fund Raising Committee of the Society has been working on plans for this year's raffle. The state gaming commission has given approval in October. Tickets are printed as donation of \$5.00 each.

Raffle ticket sales will be for the following prizes: First Prize \$1,000.00 (Grand Prize) (1) shopping spree at Cabela's; Second Prize \$300.00 (1); Third Prize \$50.00 (3); Fourth Place \$25.00 (6) (Consolation prizes). There will be a total \$1,600.00 awarded in prizes in ten draws at our April 23, 2011 drawing in Lansing. Ticket sales will be sold during the months of December through April and are being mailed the first week of December in time for Christmas gatherings. They make great stocking stuffers!

We have secured booth space at the *Ultimate Fishing Show* at **Rock Financial Show Place** in Novi on January 13-16, 2011 and *Outdoorama* at **Rock Financial Show Place** on February 24-27, 2011 and have opportunities for compatriots to participate.

This year's fund raiser will provide MISSAR the opportunity to sell ourselves -- not just a ticket. Our goal is to take donations for tickets, but just as important, is to sell our organization. Let people know who we are, what we do, and how they can become involved. We want to reach out and have the patrons remember the Sons of the American Revolution. Chapter are welcome to help recruit new members at both shows by contacting your chapter president for open time slots.

We welcome the inclusion of all Chapter members, but volunteers for each show need to know time slots will be assigned on a first come first serve bases and limited time slots are available. Each chapter has a ticket chairperson leader to coordinate all volunteers for ticket sales.

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If each member sold ten (10) tickets it would exceed our annual budget by about 2 to 3 fold! This is a team effort. This will be important for the society, as well as, your chapter.

Our secondary goal is to involve small Businesses/Corporations/ Chapters in our donation sponsorship. As of this writing we have over Eleven Chapters/corporate and small business sponsors. Members can seek a small Business/Corporation/chapter sponsorship. This will help off set costs of the raffle.

Don't miss out. Participate through sales at the venue, corporate sponsorship or be the super sales person you are by selling tickets from December through April!

All participating compatriots will be recognized on our Presidents List.

*Bill Vette, Fundraising Chairman*

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### **SAR Membership Dues Paid With A New Membership Application**

Currently the cost to join the Sons of the American Revolution through the Michigan Society is \$165.00. The cost breakdown is:

\$105.00 Application/processing fees

\$ 60.00 Membership dues

The application and processing fees are straightforward but questions usually arise regarding the time period covered by this first payment of membership dues. It is commonly supposed that this first payment of dues should cover a full twelve months, but this is not the case. The membership dues payment included with the membership application applies only to the calendar year in which the applicant's new member application is accepted and SAR membership is granted.

However, what about the new member who's application is accepted in the later portion of the year? Can't his payment of membership dues count for more than just a few months? The answer, unfortunately, is no. SAR National Headquarters in Louisville, Ky., explains that there has to be a cutoff date when one year's dues end and another dues year begins. Typically this is by calendar year but for new applicants this cannot be the case without an elaborate dues payment system (such as when our vehicle license plates are due each year in the month of our birth). It is a great deal less costly to our Society to have every member's dues payable by the calendar year.

There is one ray of sunshine in this matter. There is a "rollover" period, sort of like a grace period, for all new Compatriots whose membership approval date occurs during November and December. For these new members their first payment of membership dues will cover the remaining days in the current calendar year plus all of the following year. In other words, for a membership approval date of 1 November 2010 the dues payment will cover the period 1 November 2010 – 31 December 2011. On the other hand, for a membership approval date of 31 October 2010, or earlier in the year, the applicant must again pay annual membership dues prior to the end of 2010 in order to continue active status in 2011.

– By Acting State Treasurer Donald Nutt





## BURKLAND'S CORNER

BY  
GERALD BURKLAND  
NSSAR VICE PRESIDENT  
GENERAL,  
GREAT LAKES  
DISTRICT

From the Great Lakes District Vice President General's Desk, I would like wish you all the best of Holidays, and hope you will think of our soldiers and persons protecting us today and do not forget those that have passed on.

### THE GRAVESTONE AND UNIFORM

"Sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction"

I have had a personal experience in finding the gravesite and service records of one of my Patriot ancestors from RI, William Lewis. This story will start back ten +years ago to an era in my life when I was discovering my family and past ancestors.

About 1998 I became aware of my G+Grandfather, William Lewis of RI. As time and research moved along, I found my Lewis line back to John Lewis the immigrant that came from the British Isles, possibly Wales, with 3 brothers in or about 1690. I found that in that line my G+ grandfather William Lewis was b. 1763 in Richmond, Washington, Rhode Island and was the right age for being a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

This started more intense research and Records have shown that he and family had moved to Ohio about 1803 and were in Gallia Co., Ohio. More information surfaced after a 2001 trip to Columbus Ohio's State Archives, I discovered he died on 02 Nov 1853 and was buried in the Lewis/Norman Cemetery in Racoon Twp, Gallia Co. Ohio.

My daughter had moved from Michigan to North Carolina in 1999. I found that part of the route I chose to drive from Michigan to North Carolina. to visit her, took me south of Columbus, OH traveking on US 35 E. toward West Virginia.

From the research in the Ohio Archives, I found I was driving within 3 miles of the probable location of this cemetery while making the 800 mile trip to visit my daughter. It is near Ohio US 35, and located in the 35 mile section called the "Welsh Scenic Byway". In the winter of early 2002 I made a side trip from one of those trips to find this cemetery in the Ohio "Welsh Hills". After three hours of searching marked and unmarked roads, trails, unmarked cemeteries and asking,

with out any results, I was ready to drive on. By chance as I was leaving, I noticed what looked to be an old stone foundation on a knob of one of the many, many hills. I pulled onto the private property and asked the apparent owners of the property what the stones were and if they knew about the Lewis/Norman Cemetery. They did not know about the name, but told me that I was seeing an old cemetery, and what I thought was a "foundation" of a old building was instead a hand cut stone wall around the entire cemetery. I had indeed found the Lewis/Norman Cemetery. The family then apologized to me, and said that they had young family members who had recently vandalized the burying ground. The stones of the wall being about 18" wide, 12" thick and 48" long, with many askew, with grave stones broken and tipped over; one being that of a "Lewis Family" Union Civil War Soldier killed in action.

The area was overgrown with trees and under growth, but I was able to locate my G+Grandfather William Lewis's broken stone along with his wife, my G+grandmother Eleanor Straight-Lewis's stone. Unfortunately, there was nothing in the cemetery to show that he was in the Revolutionary war.

I have stopped there many times in the past 8 years since that trip, and have worked to find his Revolutionary War service records without any positive results.

### "A RECENT HAPPENING"

On 17, April 2010, MISSAR member and NSSAR Minuteman, Larry Blackett donated two complete uniforms to the MISSAR Color Guard. The uniforms took me aback as they were Red Coats with blue lapels; I had to make sure they were not "British". Research showed that certain units in the American Army and by Musicians, drummers, Fife's & Bugler's wore them. The uniforms were somewhat different, one plain the other more ornate.

The plain uniform was given to our MISSAR Bugler, Allen Peisner and the other is still in my closet being worn on occasion by Kraig DeNike, MISSAR Color guard member.

In Nov 2010 as I was doing more research on William Lewis, using the now completed Revolutionary War records from "Footnote", I found William Lewis listed. His name appeared in the Rhode Island Revolutionary War service records of 1781. Knowing that all men in Rhode Island between 16 and 60 were conscripted into the Rhode Island militia, I was sure he had served and found he was, in all probable fact, with the "Pawtuxet Rangers". This is a militia unit that served to protect the seaports in Rhode Island from British invasions from 1777 to 1783.

In an Internet search on the "Pawtuxet Rangers" I found that they are still one of a few recommissioned

units in the US that, through the Rhode Island National Guard, do parades, and Patriotic ceremonies much like our NSSAR Color guard does.

As I looked at the uniforms of the Pawtucket Rangers I was in "awe"; The uniform in my closet is the same one worn today by the "Pawtuxet Rangers, R.I.M." (Rhode Island Militia)!

P. S.

Hopefully, after 230 years having passed since Patriot William Lewis's service to help form and shape this country, I will be able to place a VA marker in 2011 with full Military Honors, at his grave, in that forgotten Stone ringed Cemetery, in the Beautiful Welsh Hills of Southeastern. Ohio.

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### 2011 ANNUAL DUES

The SAR annual dues notices were mailed to all Compatriots in the Michigan Society SAR on September 1. As of December 1 Acting Treasurer Donald Nutt reports that 73% of our member have renewed their membership for calendar year 2011. This means 82 Compatriots have yet to pay their annual dues. If you have not yet sent payment, please do so as soon as possible so the Michigan Society may receive your payment *before the end of December*. The National Society's bylaws require each State Society to submit a list on January 1 of Compatriots who have not paid their annual dues. These Compatriots are promptly removed from the active rolls of the SAR.

For those Compatriots who have been dropped from the rolls in previous years for non-payment of dues, they frequently ask what they have to do to become a member in good standing again. It is very easy – simply pay the current year dues amount and you will be reinstated to full membership and active status. It is **not** required that you pay back dues for missed years, and there is no reinstatement fee. It couldn't be easier!

The 2011 SAR annual dues amount is \$60. This breaks down to \$30 for National Society, \$22 for Michigan Society, and \$8 for your Chapter. Dues payments may be made by check or money order payable to "MISSAR" and should be mailed to Compatriot Bill Vette, Financial Assistant to the MISSAR Secretary, 11389 Oakwood Dr., Jerome, MI 49249-9804

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### Northern Michigan Chapter Report

On October 2, 2010 Northern Michigan Chapter hosted the MISSAR Board of Managers meeting at the Elks Club in Traverse City. Following that meeting, the Northern Michigan Chapter conducted their chapter meeting.

Compatriot Joe Conger announced that the meeting notice posted in the Traverse City Record Eagle had resulted in a request for a new member application. SAR bookmarks have now been distributed to libraries in Traverse City, Manistee, Peninsula Township, Suttons Bay, Frankfort, Interlochen, and Roscommon. A copy of the Chapter officer list was given to each member pre-

sent and is published on the States website at missar.org.

Compatriot Conger moved that the Northern Michigan Chapter purchase a large brick for Veterans Memorial Park with the wording **Northern Michigan Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution**. The Chapter also decided to pay \$50.00 dues, which allows Compatriots to participate in the Memorial Day Celebration sponsored by the Grand Traverse Veteran's Coalition. It was announced that the MISSAR BOM has approved Compatriot Roy McFarland as State Historian. Consequently, according to the MISSAR State Constitution, he must resign his state trustee position. The Chapter is looking for a replacement.

Compatriot Conger reported on the MISSAR fundraising activities planned for the rest of this year and into the first part of 2011. Chapter members are encouraged to help in anyway they can.

The next Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday February 12, 2011 at Ruby Tuesday's in Traverse City. Submitted by Charles Barr II condensed by B. Wagers

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### Oaks Chapter News

Since our last note the Oaks Chapter has had two membership meetings and a Board of Governors Meeting.

At the end of September just before the move of SAR National Headquarters four new Oaks Member's applications were approved. John Crissman, Lon Fair, Herb Peters, and Gary Peters. Earlier in December the genealogy was approved for Supplemental applications of Henry Fair and Bob Koller. At our December meeting new member Richard Haskell was sworn in to our Society. Dick is a direct descendent of Nathaniel Haskell of Beverly Massachusetts one of many Haskell who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Our October Membership meeting was held on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2010. Our speaker was Compatriot Kermit Beverly who served aboard the Destroyer USS Blue in the Pacific during WWII. The *Blue* was one of the ships which escorted the *Missouri* into Tokyo Bay 29 August for the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender at Yokosuka Naval Base. You may remember the water-color paintings that Kermit did during his naval service that were featured in the Wolverine Minuteman several years ago. Kermit gave a fascinating recount of his experience which touched about very major Naval Campaign in WWI both in the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Our December Membership meeting was held on December 9th 2010. Our Speakers were Tom Berlucchi and Col. Dave Jamroz of Historic Fort Wayne Coalition the group that is dedicated to preserving the history of Michigan men and women who served their country between 1845 and 1973. Tom is Chairman and one of the two founders of the coalition Coalition's preservation activities and Col. David Jamroz, is a retired West Point grad. and coauthor of the book "Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne". Tom and Dave presented a history of Fort Wayne and the ongoing preservation and restoration efforts. They also gave a brief history of the previous two forts in Detroit Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit or Fort





Kermit Beverly discusses his experiences as a sailor during WWII using watercolor paintings that he painted himself. He made his presentation during the October 14, 2010 meeting of the Oaks Chapter

New Compatriot, Richard Haskell, being sworn-in by the Vice-President General, Gerald Burkland during the December 9, 2010 Oaks Chapter meeting.



MISSAR President, Joe Conger, presents United States Congressman, Gary Peters, his membership certificate following his swearing-in ceremony. His father, Herb Peters, has also just taken the SAR oath.. Former Oaks Chapter President, and MISSAR color guard member, Rod Wilson, looks on



Tom Fountain and Tom Pleuss of the Huron Valley Chapter, take a break from their registration duties during the Great Lakes District

MISSAR President, Joe Conger, presents a gift from the MIS-SAR to the National Society to be displayed in the new Center for the Advancement of America's Heritage. Genealogists General, Joe Dooley, accepts the gift on behalf of the SAR while acting color Guard Commander, Bill Vette looks on.



Doctor Robert Sprague displays his membership certificate following his swearing-in ceremony. He is pictured with his wife, MIS-SAR President Joe Conger, Vice-President General, Gerald Burkland, and members of the Color Guard.

Détroit was the fort established by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac in 1701. The fort was taken over by the British in 1760 and remained in use until 1796 when it was replaced by Fort Lernoult which was constructed a few hundred yards to the south of the original fortification in 1779. It was built by Captain Richard Lernoult, the commander of the British Army at Fort Detroit and us in use from 1779 until 1826. It was renamed **Fort Detroit** by Secretary of War Henry Dearborn in 1805. The fort was surrendered back to the British by William Hull in 1812, and again reclaimed by the Americans in 1813. The Americans renamed it Fort Shelby in 1813, but references to "Fort Detroit" relating to the War of 1812 are to this fort, not to the earlier Fort Detroit, which had been abandoned by the British in 1779 in favor of Fort Lernoult. It was given to the city of Detroit in 1826 and demolished in 1827. At the October Oaks General Membership meeting a proposal was made to adopt a flag of the 2nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry. If you remember at the General Membership meeting in April of 2010 the Oaks Chapter presented a check for \$1000.00 to the State of Michigan adopt a flag program. This is an ongoing program to restore the 160 Civil War battle flags that were on display at the Capitol Rotunda. Those flags now reside at the new Historical Museum. Please help us with this project; any amount will be greatly appreciated. The Oaks Chapter has 501 (C3) status so your contribution will be tax deductible on your federal return. If our treasurer receives your donation before December 31, 2010 it will count toward your 2010 return. Make your check payable to Oaks Chapter MISSAR and mail it to Dennis Van Wormer, 3013 Oakwood Drive, Port Huron, MI 48060. Gary Grout, is our Adopt a Flag Chairman.

Oaks hold its membership meeting and the second Thursday of every "even" month. The Board of Governors meets on the second Thursday of every odd month except in July. Our Next Membership meeting will be held on Thursday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 6:30 PM at Brandy's of Bloomfield 1727 South Telegraph Road in Bloomfield Hills Road (between Square lake & Orchard Lake Roads). The Board of Governors meets at the Walled lake Church of Christ, 1403 N. Pontiac Trail in Walled Lake.

*Submitted by Laurie Herman Oaks Chapter Secretary*

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#### FROM THE EDITOR

I trust everyone had a great fall. It seems hard to believe that winter is here, but one only needs to look out the window at the snow to know it's true! Personally one of the things I like about our great State is the change of seasons.

The Great Lakes District meeting was a success. Richard Steele did an excellent job organizing it and the Huron Valley Chapter members were excellent host. I must admit that I had a hard time adjusting to VPG General Gerald Burkland in a suit, instead of his Color Guard attire.

Oaks Chapter was greatly honored to have United States Congressman, Gary Peters and his father Herb, become members at the October 14, 2010 membership meeting. Congressman Peters is the Congressional Representative from the ninth District, which is the area mostly served by the Oaks Chapter.

It is with mixed feeling that I announce my resignation as editor of the WMM. When I accepted this job four years ago I really didn't know what to expect. Then -President Burkland asked me if I could do it and I answered I thought so, but I warned him that I had never done a quarterly newsletter before. I can't say that anymore! I have found the experience interesting, rewarding, and challenging.

As most of my fellow compatriots who read this column, or know me personally, are aware, my wife and I have spent the last six years raising our special needs grandson. He graduated from high school in June and is no longer living with us. We now truly have an "empty nest". We also purchased a new camper last spring. "Empty nest" and "new camper" equates to doing some traveling in the future.

Time has also become a problem especially since I have reactivated my company, Southeast Michigan Modelers. I will be producing my 31<sup>st</sup> Model Car and Toy Fair on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 after a five-year suspension waiting out the economic slowdown. I am also still buying, fixing up, and selling used cars. In fact, I don't think I have ever been busier in my life! I had to give up something, and I decided that it was time to let go of the WMM. I still plan on doing some grave re-dedications when I can.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you safe"

"Later"

Bernie



**THE WOLVERINE  
MINUTEMAN  
ALBUM**



**CONTAINING PHOTOS  
OF MISSAR ACTIVITIES  
FROM  
September 15, 2010-December 15, 2010**



**Photos taken during the Great Lakes District meeting held October 29 and 30, 2010.**





**Photos taken during the Great Lakes District meeting held October 29 and 30, 2010.**



Compatriot Rod Wilson, Congressman Gary Peters, Herb Peters, MISSAR President Joe Conger, and Gary Grout during the induction ceremony.



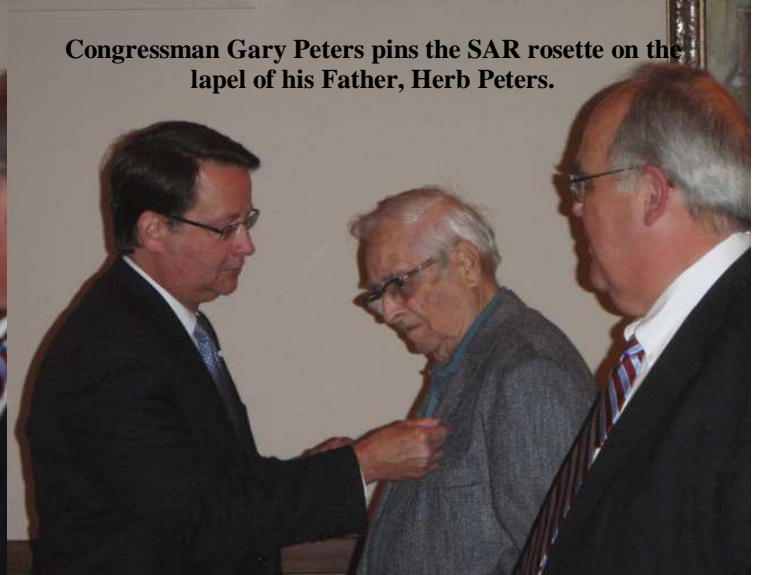
MISSAR President Joe Conger, Congressman Gary Peters, Herb Peters, and John Crissman during the SAR induction ceremony



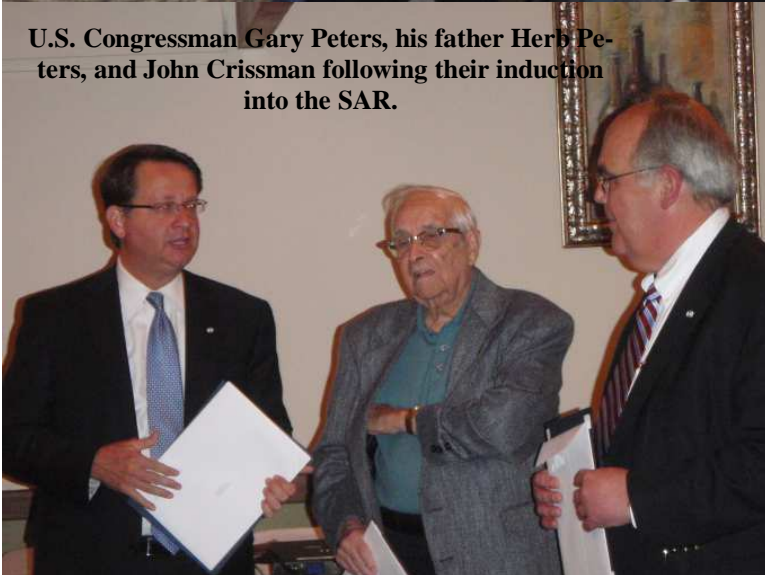
Rod Wilson pins the SAR rosette on the lapel of Congressman Gary Peters.



Congressman Gary Peters pins the SAR rosette on the lapel of his Father, Herb Peters.



U.S. Congressman Gary Peters, his father Herb Peters, and John Crissman following their induction into the SAR.



Gary Grout pins the SAR rosette on new Compatriot John Crissman's lapel during the Oaks Chapter October 14, 2010 membership meeting.







**MISSAR Registrar, Laurie Herman, pins the SAR Rosette on new Compatriot, Richard Haskins.**



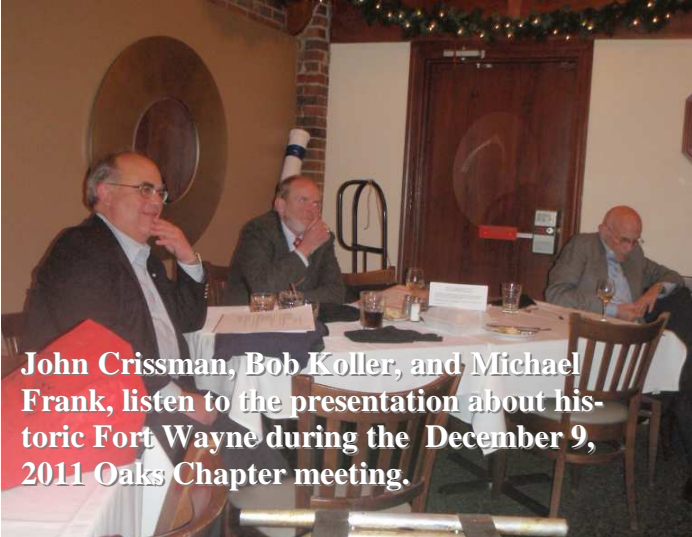
**Laurie Herman, Tom Coddington, and guest Tom Berlucchi, at Oaks Chapter December 9, meeting**



**VPG Gerald Burkland swears in new Compatriot, Richard Haskins, while the MISSAR Registrar, Laurie Herman looks on.**



**Col. David Jamroz, author of a book on Historic Fort Wayne, speaks to the Oaks Chapter during the December 9th meeting.**



**John Crissman, Bob Koller, and Michael Frank, listen to the presentation about historic Fort Wayne during the December 9, 2011 Oaks Chapter meeting.**



**Richard Haskins, Tom Coddington, and Tom Berlucchi, co-founder of the Historic Fort Wayne coalition.**