

Tidbits from the NSSAR Leadership Conference

March 6-7, 2009

Attendance at meetings during the conference yielded the following tidbits of information as reported by the name in parentheses:

George Washington Endowment Fund – For the period April 1, 2008 through March 1, 2009, Georgia Society had seven GW Fellows, second to the Tennessee Society with 22 GW Fellows. New policy: after 4 years without donating toward a pledged amount, a person will be dropped from membership. (Manning)

National Color Guardsman – Charlie Newcomer, Athens Chapter, was selected as the Color Guardsman of the Year. He will receive the Gold Color Guard Medal at the National Congress. (Manning)

Friends of the Library – On February 28, 2009, Georgia had 32 members of the Friends of the (National) Library (2.12% compared to the number of the GASSAR membership). Tennessee had 81 members (8.9%), Florida had 58 (3.44%), and Kentucky had 35 (4.87%). The Georgia membership was comprised of 27 GASSAR members, 2 chapters (Marquis de Lafayette and Marshes of Glynn), and 3 wives of members. In March 2008, Georgia had 57 members. (Manning)

Americanism & President General Contests – The format, point values, maximum allowable points per category, and other changes were approved for the 2009 reporting period and will be announced before mid-year. Both contests will be reported in the future in a combined score sheet. There will be no duplication of categories between the two reports in the future. (Manning)

Newsletters – (1) The single-page category of newsletters (i.e., one sheet of paper printed front and back will be revised to include newspapers that are printed on four pages of 8.5 X 11-inch paper since these may be printed on the front and back of a single sheet of paper 11 X 17-inch size. This will make about 25 local chapters competing nationally and 25 competing in the larger newsletter size. (2) The judging criteria for choosing newsletters is not generally provided but in the future will be included on the website. In the interim, contact the National Chairman for a list of the judging criteria. (3) The *Independence Broadside* published at Congress will feature Georgia battles at the July 2009 Congress. (Manning) The Dunlap Broadside will also be available for attendees. This document is hard to obtain but has a remarkable story to tell in the classroom about its origin. (Thurmond)

Ladies Auxiliary – For protocol purposes, the Ladies Auxiliary is a part of the SAR. Thus, at wreath presentations, in seating, and in other protocol situations, members of the LA would follow SAR membership and precede other organizations. (Manning)

Trustees Meeting – (1) Rather than borrow any money toward starting construction renovations on the Center for Advancing American Heritage, the decision was made to take existing funds and complete the library section of the building first. (Newcomer) (2) The Nominating Committee did not place any Georgia Society members on the ballot. However, Larry Guzy will run from the floor on July 7th at the National Congress for Treasurer General. (Manning) (3) The fee for new applications will double effective January 1, 2010. However, the application fee will cover the year in which the application is approved as well as the next full year. This will hopefully preventing the bottleneck that has resulted in the past from everyone holding their applications to November 1st to present them to count for that year and the next under the old rule. (Newcomer)

Eagle Scout Committee – Sixteen members of the Eagle Scout Committee met from 9 to 12 on March 6th to grade 36 applications for the Eagle Scout Scholarship Awards. The chosen winners were: 1st place winner Gerrit S. Bakker from Michigan, 2nd place winner Shawn A. Goldsmith from New York, and 3rd place winner Samuel A. Cain, II, from North Carolina. Garrit S. Bakker will receive his first place check this summer at the Youth awards ceremony at the 119th Congress. (Newcomer) The members reconvened at 1 PM made recommendations for the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award. This award is presented to a SAR member that has been a role model in the Boy Scouts of America programs. The award consists of a medal, certificate, and a COA Knot to be worn over the left breast pocket of their uniforms. Two of the nine SAR members approved were from Georgia and will receive their award at the Georgia annual awards ceremony. A maximum of two per state is allowed in any one year. (Newcomer)

Youth Activities Committee – Members met for lunch to discuss the youth awards luncheon and the order of presentation and seating for the youth awards luncheon to be held at the 119th Congress. (Newcomer)

Genealogy Committee – (1) The NSSAR genealogy web pages have been revised to make SAR's policies on genealogy resources clearer. (2) Potential members will find a new type of assistance from SAR in the form of SAR Genealogy Assistants to provide "hands on" help, including collecting documentation and preparing applications. Volunteers to serve as Genealogy Assistants are needed. (3) For details on new genealogy developments go to www.sar.org/committee/genealogy/index.html. (4) DAR record copies using "center check marks" (rather than individual check marks for each proven fact) are not acceptable for SAR documentation purposes. (5) SAR may consider DNA evidence in cases relying on the preponderance of evidence when 36 out of 37 markers on the Y-chromosome match between an applicant and a known solid-line male descendant of a know and approved patriot. Policy will now allow for 36 out of 37 or 65 out of 67 markers. (SAR-TALK)

Review of the Semi-Annual Reports Booklet distributed at the conference yielded some of the following tidbits of information:

Poster Contest – (1) Beginning in 2009, Cub Scouts in the 4th and 5th grades may participate in the Poster Contest. (2) All content on the face of the poster must be hand written.

PG Contest – The winning chapter nationally must participate in at least 70% of activities on the PG score sheet in order to win the outstanding chapter award.

C.A.R. Medals – The awarding of the SAR/C.A.R. Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals should be presented to deserving C.A.R. members, seniors, and SAR members.

DAR Liaison – Current standings on DAR assists on SAR applications are posted on the DAR Liaison Committee web site at www.sar.org/committee/DARliaison/index.html.

Eagle Scout Medals – The National committee is buying chapter winners' medals and the state trophy this year. Each state chairman orders them from national merchandizing along with his state's trophy.

Knight Essay – (1) Stricter adherence to rules about documentation of essays will be enforced. The essay title must appear on the first page of the text. Pages should be numbered as an aide should pages become separated. (2) Ninth graders will continue to be excluded from eligibility.

George Washington Endowment Fund Distribution Committee – The committee will continue to provide a miniature flag set and podium drape for each newly chartered chapter.

Friends of the Library – The National awards for increases in membership are based on percentage increases using individual members only.

Partners in Patriotism Certificate Program – The eligibility dates for this program are June 1, 2008, through May 31, 2009, to receive a chapter certificate in July 2009 at the National Congress. To date, 7 states (IN, IA, MS, MO, OH, VA, and WI) and 37 chapters had sent qualifying information about joint projects with the American Legion or other veteran groups. Send information about joint events to Bob Bowen, 78 Smithfield Way, Fredericksburg, VA 22406.

Public Safety Awards – Report medals given to law, fire, and emergency personnel and to heroes to warrenalter@cox.net for inclusion in the national ceremony at the National Congress.