

Sons of the American Revolution



MTSSAR Gazette

A periodic newsletter of the
Montana Society -
Sons of the American Revolution
March 3, 2020

Editors - Steve Armstrong, Glacier Chapter SAR
Linnea Armstrong - Oro Fino Chapter - DAR



**Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
2020 Annual Meeting** (agenda included in this newsletter)

18 April, 2020, starting at 9 AM

Jorgenson Inn and Suites Trophy Room

1714 11th Avenue, Helena, MT 59601

Hotel Phone #: 406-442-1770

Early Registration Reservation Required for Headcount & Lunch

Montana Society - SAR website and communication

MTSSAR's website is developed and maintained by Liberty Tree Compatriot Don Murphy.

<https://www.mtssar.org>



Don has made the site easy to navigate and it is regularly updated. We are grateful to Don for keeping this crucial piece of information available for us and the public to enjoy.

Regarding communication, it works well for our society to utilize email to send out announcements. If you have an email address, please let us know. It is costly to send out hard copy notices.

Chaplain's Corner, by MTSSAR Chaplain T.C. Richardson

Looking back at the history of our Montana SAR, I am reminded of our Number 1 Compatriot, Cephas Bateman, who was stationed in Washington State, where he joined the Sons of the American Revolution. As an Army Chaplain he served at Fort Assinniboine, near Havre and became the first member of our MTSSAR. Several other dignified individuals joined, and May 15, 1894, state newspapers stated, "By authority of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, a convention is hereby called..." And the MTSSAR was born, under God, with the guidance of a Chaplain.

As a Christian serving in the capacity of Sunday School, Christian School teacher, School Administrator, Missionary, Mission Director, Liberty Tree Chaplain and Montana State Chaplain, I remain, thankful to God.

I continue to encourage each of our chapters to appoint a chaplain to serve as originated by Chaplain Bateman. I have attained information (private phone # and email) of our chapter chaplains and host a quarterly Chaplains Corner communique for all members.

As in the case of recently promoted compatriot, Billy Butts, your Montana State Chaplain will contact any needy SAR members, meet with the families of our hospitalized, sick or deceased and offer encouragement if requested by the chapter.

As requested in my last report to National Chaplain General Rev. David J. Felts, he is now reaching out to our Montana Chaplains by email weekly. To all our chapters, officers and members, the chaplaincy remains open to suggestions, comments, criticism and, by all means, encouragement.

Trustee's Report, by MTSSAR Trustee T.C. Richardson

Leadership -

- On file for any of our membership are reports of the NSSAR Spring Leadership-Trustees Meeting held in Louisville, KY. on February 27-29, 2020, containing reports of committees, Foundation, Museum, Officer Training, Rumbaugh Oration, SAR Education, Social Media etc.
- Newly elected President General Jack Manning is traveling throughout the states and is offering a cruise for members...

Finance -

- Cash assets as of January 2020: NSSAR - 8,670,944, Foundation -9,153,825. All National financial break-downs available to any SAR members upon request
- Membership - Current National membership is over 34,000. Montana continues as one of the leading states adding new members per capita

SAR Organizations/Committees -

- Minuteman Organization
- Center for Advancing American Heritage
- The privately funded King's College Program
- Budget Committee, Ethics Committee, Finance Committee, Genealogy Committee, Handbook Committee, Independent Audit Committee, Investment Committee, Museum Board and Strategic Planning Committee are all options for member to serve
- National Officers elected at the 2019 Congress in California are: PG, John (Jack) Manning, Secretary General, Davis Wright Esq., Treasurer General, C. Bruce Pickette, Chancellor General Peter M. Davenport, Genealogist General Jim L. W. Faulkinbury, Registrar General Douglas T. Collins, Historian General William O. Stone, Librarian General Tony L. Vets, Surgeon General Darryl S. Addington MD and Chaplain General Rev David J. Felts

For the Good of the Order -

- The 2020 National Congress will be in Richmond VA, July 10-16, 2020. 2021 in Seattle WA.
- National suggests NSSAR Officers and Trustees **and State Officers** to fill out Conflict of Interest forms online.

NOTE: A detailed copy of the 2019 National Spring Leadership Report is on file for anyone interested.

Registrar's Update, by MTSSAR Registrar John Robinson

In this year 2020 I have been Montana SAR Registrar for five years. After I got started working I have been at the job six and seven days a week for 3/4 hours a day. A number of new members have been added along with a number of Supplements. After doing applications and supplements plus my own 25 Patriots I have a good knowledge of what is required. That said, there is always more to learn. Plus National making changes to the 70 pages of guide lines and policies manuals that I am required to keep up with.

There has been a few that I could not complete for lack of info required by National. The lack of info can be genealogical or service related.

Up to September 2019, I have worked on 95 applications and supplements so that is about 21 a year. Some can go fast or take weeks or even months to acquire the needed documents. I work on only one at a time as I do not have a 25 x 25 office that I need.

Sep 2019 to Mar 2020 I have worked on only 3 to completion. The reason is lack of interest in Montana and a DNA problem.

PG Joe Dooley got involved in the DNA with me and GG Jim Faulkinbury. GG Jim Faulkinbury nationwide stopped all DNA applications, even some that were at National because of concerns on legal issues for the SAR. The SAR is looking into the legal issues. The DAR does not recommend DNA – they say find another Patriot.

So things have been slow since Sep 2019. Barb Stem has put together four applications but I have heard from only two, and they are at National. Plus a supplemental for our VP Steve Armstrong.

As I was elected as Master of the Masonic Lodge here in Big Timber I have been required to provide Masonic instruction each meeting. This is also time consuming. So I have really need the time off from the SAR.

Going on 81 we see more and more doctors as to age and medical issues.

So after 18 years of applications and supplements the job is getting slower. But I am still working on. For a replacement some day remember that I had 13 years experience before I moved to Montana.

In Montana, I see only about 25% of the interest in the SAR as I have seen in Florida, North Carolina, and New Mexico, where I have been an SAR member. I can talk my head off and there is no real interest.

Also my left eye is now 20/45 with correction lenses. Getting worse every year.

Chapter News

Sourdough Chapter George Washington's Birthday Celebration by John Rice, Sourdough Chapter President

The MTSSAR Sourdough Chapter held a luncheon at Ted's Montana Grill in Bozeman on Saturday, 22 February 2020, to celebrate George Washington's Birthday. Fourteen members and guests attended the luncheon. Guests also included potential new member Mike Merwin from Miles City. Chapter President John Rice conducted a brief chapter meeting in conjunction with the luncheon. Pete Oakander presented the MTSSAR logo, that he had created, and discussed the cost of the logo patches and stickers. Pete suggested that the Sourdough Chapter purchase the patches and stickers and sell them as a Chapter fundraiser. John Rice stated that he would contact the MTSSAR Board of Managers to solicit their support for the design. He also recommended that Pete contact the Chapter members to get an idea of how many items to order. John referred the members to several good articles in the latest **SAR Magazine** including the one on George Washington. He encouraged the chapter members to attend the MTSSAR 18 April 2020 Annual Meeting at Jorgenson's Inn and Suites in Helena and discussed several items on the planned new business agenda. He also discussed plans for the Chapter's black-powder musket demonstration later this spring. John stated that he was very pleased with the number of people, who have expressed interest in joining the SAR; however, he added that many of these individuals quickly lose interest when they discover how much work is involved in documenting their lineage. He said that he felt that the Chapter members need to do more to mentor these potential new members.

Sourdough Chapter special logo fundraiser by John Rice, Sourdough Chapter President

Sourdough Chapter Compatriot Pete Oakander has designed a MTSSAR logo in color that will be used as a fundraiser for Sourdough Chapter. The rationale behind the design is to create more visibility for MTSSAR through its members. If the public sees the patch or the window sticker, they just might ask about it.

Pete and Sourdough Chapter propose that the logo will be created as an embroidered patch for a baseball cap or a jacket. The patch would be about 3.5 inches in width and 2 inches in height. It would be able to be heat sealed on a hat or jacket, or sown on. Cost of the patch = \$10.

Pete and Sourdough Chapter will also create a waterproof vinyl sticker of a size of 6 inches by 4 inches that could be placed on a car window, house window, etc. Cost of the sticker = \$5.

Sourdough Chapter would like to know about how many of each would be purchased at the April 18, 2020, Annual Meeting.

Mail order: Mail orders can be sent to Sourdough President John Rice in Bozeman. **Add \$3.00 for postage, handling and packaging to your order.** Please send your **check payable to Sourdough Chapter** to John at this address:

John Rice
Sourdough Chapter President
181 Milky Way Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718



Glacier Chapter **by Steve Armstrong, Glacier Chapter President**

Glacier Chapter had a very successful Wreaths Across America celebration on December 14, 2019, at the Montana Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls. Our keynote speaker was state Sen. Mark Blasdel of Somers, who is a staunch supporter for veterans in the Montana Legislature.

We raised a record 670 wreaths this year and are hopeful that we will achieve the over 900 wreaths needed to honor all of the veterans interred at the Montana Veteran's Home Cemetery. We had community support from throughout the Flathead Valley, with a few wreath donations of 40-60 at a time, to many, many donations of one wreath.

The goal of our Wreaths Across America celebration is both educational and patriotic. It is educational in that community members learn of the many sacrifices veterans have made throughout American history. It is also patriotic for this very reason. We had well over 200 community members in attendance at our ceremony and dozens who came out in the cold weather to place wreaths after our indoor ceremony.

Glacier Chapter also participated in flag placement ceremonies at the Montana Veteran's Home Cemetery, including Veteran's Day 2019.



Glacier Chapter President Steve Armstrong as Master of Ceremonies for the annual Wreaths Across America celebration



Coast Guard and WW II Veteran Gina Becker places a ceremonial wreath honoring the Coast Guard during the indoor ceremony.

Special Gift to Glacier Chapter by Steve Armstrong, Glacier Chapter President

A Glacier Chapter Compatriot (I think at this point he wants to remain anonymous) sent me several rolls of Bicentennial coins: quarters, half dollars and dollars. His request is that these coins be kept for the future celebration of the 300th anniversary of American Independence in 2076. How can we go about honoring this Compatriot's gift and request? For those who may not remember, commemorative coins were minted for the 1976 Bicentennial. The coins had the special dates 1776-1976 imbedded on them. It is my hope that our Compatriot's generosity and wish can be honored.

Guardian Chapter by Keith Kramlick, Guardian Chapter President

On November 11, 2019 four members participated in the East Helena Veterans Day parade.



L to R: Keith Kramlick, Don Reed, Warren Dupuis, Doug Fraser

On December 9, 2019 four members presented the colors at the Wreaths Across America ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda. President, Keith Kramlick, presented the ceremonial wreath along with BG Jeff Ireland. MTSSAR President, Warren Dupuis, brought greetings from MTSSAR.



On December 14, 2019 two members attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony held at Fort Harrison in Helena and helped place nearly 800 wreaths along with the POW/MIA organization, Oro Fino Chapter DAR and other members of the community.

On January 8, 2020 chapter treasurer, Pat Duncan and chapter president, Keith Kramlick painted the room at the Willis Cruse House that the chapter is sponsoring.

Guardian Chapter held its most recent meeting on February 19, 2020, at the American Legion on Custer Avenue in Helena.



Liberty Tree Chapter

by Don Murphy, Liberty Tree Chapter President
(courtesy of Liberty Tree's link on the MTSSAR website)

The year 2019 proved to be an interesting year for the chapter with the number of new chapter members that were inducted, and the events it was involved in. Regular chapter meetings that are held each month, except for July and August, always had a contingent of members present. The meetings were filled with lively discussions about upcoming events or, what was going on with the SAR.

The year was filled with events, which included the following:

In April, the Chapter finalized the Revolutionary War display at the Fort Missoula Museum, which included a full-sized mannequin completely dressed in a Revolutionary Uniform. Two members of the Chapter donated the uniform and mannequin. The Chapter provided other replica Revolutionary articles on display.

In May, the Chapter had their first large presentation of Veteran Recognition Citations to 29 Veterans at a Senior Living Center in Missoula.

The July 4th encampment at the Fort Missoula Military Museum proved to be very successful. Everything from the early morning raising of the American flag to Colonial games being played, poster sized reader boards, and the interactive display of what a Continental Soldier had to carry with them were all on display.

The first weekend of August the Chapter participated in the 107th Annual Creamery Picnic in Stevensville. The Chapter was able to use the Montana State SAR/DAR 125th Anniversary float and had four members, in uniform, riding the float. The reception of the crowd was overwhelming as the float made its way down the route.

October brought the annual fall picnic for the chapter, which was attended by many of the chapter members and their guests.

November was a busy month. At the Chapter meeting, it was decided that due to the increase in the number of Veterans being recognized in different facilities, the Chapter needed to have a Veterans Committee to oversee the pursuit of the Veterans in the area. All the Veterans of the chapter volunteered to be on the committee. Veteran's Day took the chapter to the Springs Senior Living center where 39 Veterans were honored in front of a crowd of approximately 200 people. This large of presentation, made the Chapter members look at the presentations themselves and how they are to be presented.

Members of the Veterans Committee attended the University of Montana ROTC Awards Ceremony where they presented the Montana State Sons of the American Revolution ROTC Silver Medal Award. To finish 2019 the Chapter awarded 15 Veterans citations at the Grizzly Peak Senior living center. To date, including the 15 Veterans recognized on January 9, 2020, at the Auberge Senior living center, the chapter has recognized and awarded citations to 107 Veterans.

In conclusion, the Liberty Tree Chapter is trying to stay busy without trying to burn out the members. With that said, the Chapters members know they must stay the course in order to find the older Veterans who are quickly disappearing.

Editor's Note: Liberty Tree Chapter has several pictures of their activities from their link on the MTSSAR website. This newsletter cannot use all of them, but will include a couple to honor their activities.

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Liberty Tree Chapter celebrated George Washington's Birthday by having a dinner in his honor with chapter members and their guests. The celebration was the second time the young chapter has honored the life of Washington.

Liberty Tree awarded Veteran's Certificates to 15 veterans at the Missoula Senior Living Center. Those receiving the recognition were a combination of WW II, Korea and Vietnam Wars, and those who served in peace time.



Vice-President General - Intermountain District by Larry Mylnechuk

VPG - Intermountain District Larry Mylnechuk attended Liberty Tree Chapter's special commemoration of George Washington's Birthday at the Missoula Country Club.

Larry has also been active giving his presentation on "The Traitors: Aaron Burr and General James Wilkinson, US Army." Larry also has a dynamic presentation on William Clark.

Below is a picture of Larry and Mrs. Mylnechuk holding Washington's birthday cake.



Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution 2020 Annual Meeting - April 18, 2020, starting at 9 AM

The annual meeting agenda is the last two pages of this newsletter. **There is only one officer vacancy to be chosen at this year's meeting, that is the office of Vice-President.** MTSSAR V-P Steve Armstrong is stepping down from this position, although he will continue to remain a member of the BOM, edit the newsletter and assist in other ways that he can.

The Vice-President's role is simply one of providing assistance as necessary to other officers. The V-P may be called to assist with the agenda for the annual meeting or guide prospective members on how to complete their SAR membership application. As per the By-Laws, "The Montana SAR Vice-President shall exercise the duties of the president in the absence of the president including other duties as assigned by the president or the Board of Managers as described in Addendum # 1 of these bylaws."

It's been a delight to hold this office and have contact with some truly remarkable Compatriots.