



MTSSAR Gazette

A periodic newsletter of the
Montana Society -
Sons of the American Revolution
March 18, 2021

Editor - Steve Armstrong, Glacier Chapter SAR



Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution 2021 Annual Meeting

April 24, 2021, starting at 10:00 AM

Jorgensen's Convention Center

1714 11th Ave, Helena, MT 59601

Annual Meeting details - Compatriots attending in person with spouses, significant others, friends, please contact Guardian Chapter President Keith Kramlick **no later than Monday, April 19, 2021**, so that he has a head count. Keith's email address is [**kramlic@msn.com**](mailto:kramlic@msn.com) MTSSAR needs at least 30-attendees which can be a combination of Compatriots, spouses and friends. Lunch will be at Jorgensen's for a cost of \$15.00 per person. Meeting agenda is the last two pages of this newsletter.

Annual Meeting Election of State Officers, April 24, 2021

MTSSAR seeks Compatriots who are willing to serve in various offices. President Warren Dupuis and Secretary John Rice are leaving their respective positions. Treasurer Rodney Wheeler resigned his position. We are grateful for Warren, John and Rodney serving our Society. John is serving both as Secretary and Treasurer at this time.

Guardian Chapter's Don Reed has agreed to be nominated and serve as President.

Glacier Chapter's Steve Armstrong has agreed to serve one more year as Vice-President.

Liberty Tree's TC Richardson has agreed to serve as Chaplain and Trustee.

Sourdough Chapter's John Robinson has agreed to continue as Registrar.

This leaves the offices of Secretary & Treasurer open. While all offices are important to the successful functioning of our State Society, these two are crucial. Please see page 2.

Secretary John Rice wrote detailed narratives that outline the specific duties of each of the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. What John has provided is really a road map of what needs to be accomplished and how a person in either position goes about performing the Secretary or Treasurer position. At one time in MTSSAR's history, there have been some Compatriots who have held both positions together, the last two were Billy Butts (Glacier Chapter) and Bob Gunderson (Montana Continentals Chapter). John Rice is temporarily fulfilling both positions until the April 24th Annual Meeting.

John stated that the Treasurer position is really not much different than keeping your own check book. Checks are only periodically written, especially with Montana being a smaller Society. The Treasurer duties expand in the Fall when renewal announcements are mailed and renewal checks from members are returned to the Treasurer.

- 1] Treasurer maintains MTSSAR bank account with First Security Bank, a part of Glacier Bank
- 2] Performs annual dues collection in the Fall
- 3] Works with MTSSAR Secretary to submit the annual Reconciliation Report with NSSAR
- 4] Assists the BOM in planning the Annual Meeting and a Fall meeting, should one occur
- 5] Maintains the Treasurer files and an inventory of MTSSAR Treasurer documents

A brief summary of the Secretary's duties are:

- 1] Responds to new member inquiries, forwarding those inquiries to Chapter Presidents
- 2] Responds to new member's Registrar-Approved Applications, and facilitate sending the applications to NSSAR for approval
- 3] Responds to members Supplemental Applications, , and facilitate sending the applications to NSSAR for approval
- 4] Responds to SAR member's transfer requests
- 5] Responds to SAR member's reinstatement requests
- 6] Responds to SAR member's requests for dual membership
- 7] Updates NSSAR and MTSSAR databases by entering new members and removing
- 8] Assists MTSSAR Treasurer with annual dues collection in the Fall
- 9] Assists the BOM in planning the Annual Meeting and a Fall meeting, should one occur

Current Secretary/Treasurer John Rice has indicated that he is willing to mentor candidates who volunteer for these positions.

If there is a MTSSAR Compatriot who is interesting in either of these positions, please send me an email and I will gladly forward John Rice's narrative to you. stevesar1776@gmail.com

If MTSSAR cannot find a Secretary or a Treasurer, it is likely that the State Society may have to fold, something that occurred a 4-5 times during the 20th century.

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.

President's Report, by MTSSAR President Warren Dupuis

Fellow Compatriots, this has been one of the most memorable years in my life and that is saying something. It was just over a year ago the United States and the rest of the world declared a pandemic emergency. Being stranded in Egypt and attempting to find a way home was just the beginning of the challenges that we would all face together *alone*.

Most of what I had wanted to accomplish, both in my personal life and with the SAR this last year, did not happen. I am sure that you all have had a similar experience. There now appears to be light at the end of the tunnel that does not look like another surge sending us all back into lockdown.

As I look out my window at the sign of spring returning to Montana, it looks as if our long COVID winter will soon become a past event that will, in many cases, forever alter our perceptions of the ability of Federal, State, and Local Governments to protect us and our own responsibility to ensure that, within our own spheres of influence, we take appropriate steps to protect ourselves and others. Some of us have lost loved ones, others have contracted the virus and had to deal with our own mortality issues.

We have changed the way we conduct business, social events, and family gatherings. What has not changed is what the SAR does and the reason it does it. I believe that now, more than ever, the SAR/DAR has as vital role to play in the reeducation of our nation. For over thirty years, I had a hand carved sign above the entry to my house. It bore but one word "FREEDOM." This

word, perhaps better than any other, captured the essence of what I believe to be the greatest attribute of this country. For more than two centuries we have enjoyed individual freedom and liberty that makes this nation stand apart in the world and made the United States the go to destination for those seeking relief from oppressive regimes around the world. It was this sense of freedom that drove the founding fathers' deliberations on issues of independence and the formation of our country and constitutions. Now, as the country and the world begin to emerge from the pandemic lockdown, we have the opportunity to speak about what freedom and independence meant and why our patriots fought, bled, and died for it.

I am pleased that Don Reed has decided to stand for MTSSAR president in April. He knows the message and how to deliver it. As I turn over the reins, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Board of Managers and Officers of the MTSSAR who have managed to keep us up and running during the lockdown. I look forward to seeing you all in person once again and I will see you on the float.

Registrar's Update, by MTSSAR Registrar John Robinson

Since my last report of Oct 2020 I have completed only two applications. The reason is that is all I received. Ongoing health issues with myself and my wife also impact application progress.

Therefore, I am not going to do applications unless someone else does the leg work. I will review and approve.

Applications approved since October 2020:

1] **Charles Thomas Roe**, Big Timber, Sourdough Chapter National # 217934. Barb Stem assisted with a DAR app that was so new it was not even on line for me to see. She used her DAR code to do this.

2] **Patrick Duncan**, Helena. Supplemental At National 20 Nov 2020. Supplementals take about 20 weeks to be approved, so maybe by May 2021.

Other applications:

Dave Beal - Dave's application which is very complicated to meet SAR standards and it will be almost 200 pages. Barb Stem assisted David with the application. There is still a lot of work to bring this app together.

Secretary's Update, by MTSSAR Secretary John Rice

MTSSAR SECRETARY REPORT

March 17, 2021

As of December 31, 2020

Regular Members	85
Dual Members (Montana not primary state)	12
Total Members	97

Since December 31, 2020

Deaths	0
New Members	1
Transferred out	0
Transferred in	1
Reinstated	3

As of October 17, 2020

Regular Members	90
Dual Members	12
Total Members	102
This includes:	
Junior Members	2
Life Members	2

Chapter Membership (Oct 17, 2020)

Liberty Tree	33
Glacier	8
Portage	10
Guardian	20
Sourdough	25
MT Continentals	6
Total	102

John W. Rice
MTSSAR Secretary / Treasurer

Funds

Beginning Balance Total Funds	\$9,544.95
As of 15 October 2020	
Revenue	
Dues	\$3,150.00
Profit from Sale of Coins	\$27.00
Applications/Supplements	\$240.00
Reinstatement Dues	\$180.00
Gifts	\$105.00
Total Revenue	\$3,702.00
Expenses	
Dues to Chapters	\$480.00
Website Expenses	\$251.70
Registrar Expenses	\$194.18
Secretary / Treasurer Expenses	\$100.21
Newsletter Expenses	\$12.40
National Dues	\$2,810.00
Reinstatement Dues	\$105.00
Applications to National	\$175.00
Gifts Given	\$0.00
Medals and Certificates	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00
Checking Account Bank Fees	\$0.00
Safety Deposit Box Bank Fee	\$20.00
Total Expenses	-\$4,148.49
Total Funds Total	\$9,098.46
Minus Funds Allocated for	
Raffle Education Purposes	-\$3,584.25
Minus Funds Held in Escrow	
For the Continentals Chapter	
(They do not have a bank account.)	-\$60.00
General Funds Balance Available	
For MTSSAR General Use	\$5,454.21

Raffle Funds

Beginning Balance Raffle Fund	\$3,584.26
As of 15 October 2020	
Revenue	\$ 0.00
Total Revenue	\$0.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00
Raffle Fund Total	\$3,584.25

Continentals Chapter Funds

Beginning Balance	\$30.00
As of October 15, 2020	
Revenue	
Chapter Dues ((2/12/2021)	\$30.00
Total Revenue	\$30.00
Continental Chapter Funds	
Being Held in Escrow	\$60.00

Signed _____
John W. Rice, Jr., Treasurer

17 March 2021
Date

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

As your Montana State Chaplain, it is an honor to serve the 4th Largest state in the Union with the least population per capita. A fluctuating one million people live on 93,155,800 Acres. That's quite a bit of space between Montanan's, which makes it hard for a single Chaplain to visit everyone. When I consider that Montana SAR is one of 50 states, I have compassion for our National Chaplain General, who must consider all of us. Chaplain General David Felts has taken this challenge on successfully by engaging with the State Chaplains electronically, and sends out a Monday Chaplains Report to anyone who subscribes to his emails. Though not face-to-face as the Bible insists we be before our God, Chaplain General Felts has personalized the office of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, perhaps more than any National Officer preceding him. Here is one of his most recent emails:

Monday Morning Chaplain

Compatriots,

Early in his 2nd Corinthian letter, Paul says that God comforts him so that he may comfort the Corinthians. And then in Chapter 10 Paul talks about his calling and purpose of visiting the Corinthians, his authority he says, is for building up and not for destroying. That is the Mission and Calling of the SAR Chaplains. We are here to serve you, to comfort you in your need and to build you up.

The Chaplains that served during the Revolutionary War had the same Mission and Calling; to comfort the soldiers and to build them up. That is what is different about us. That is why we have such a different country. We encourage the down and brokenhearted, and we build each other up so that we are able to serve each other.

Blessings,

Dave

Rev David J. Felts
Chaplain General
NSSAR

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

Perhaps the shortest (26 minutes) and one of the most important recent sessions of the NSSAR Trustees convened at Westfield Marriott Conference Center in Chantilly, VA., with all the pomp of any congress. Davis Lee Wright, current Secretary General, led the assembly as National PG Manning was not able to attend due to a medical procedure. It was necessary to consider and approve proposed amendments which would allow future Congresses to be held through alternative or electronic means. A quorum of this Special Congress voted unanimously to suspend the current rules in order to adopt the Proposed Amendments to Articles V and VIII of the SAR Constitution.

Rationale: Article V and Bylaw 17 have been interpreted as prohibiting the organization from conducting an Annual Congress by alternate means. This caused the cancellation of the 2020

Congress, and without changes would prevent future Congresses from using electronic means to conduct business. Article VIII allows bylaws' amendments solely at an "Annual Congress" while the constitution provides for the possibility of a virtual Annual Congress. This amendment allowed future amendments either to the constitution or bylaws be adopted at any Congress rather than solely at an Annual Congress. It was noted that the current electronic meetings of the NSSAR Trustees have been profitable in that many more trustees have engaged in the process ascribed by our Constitution and Bylaws, whereas in the past, only those who could physically attend meetings would attend and do business. Caution must be taken, however, that electronic meetings do not become the priority as there is no face-to-face interaction among SSAR attendees. It was agreed that electronic meetings remain a secondary means.

These changes were proposed by the SAR Bylaws Committee and required no further motion from the floor other than discussion and a yes or no vote. All passed unanimously.

Chapter News

Sourdough Chapter

by Matt Henningsen, Sourdough Chapter President

The Sourdough Chapter is pleased to announce new MTSSAR member Charles (Chip) Roe. Please help welcome Chip who hails from Big Timber. The Sourdough Chapter meet on February 20th, via Zoom. Like most Montana chapters, Sourdough has always struggled with winter meetings due to winter weather challenges. Covid has brought even tougher challenges. It is encouraging to see members embrace these new technologies, like Zoom, to help keep us together. A special thanks to Steve Armstrong for graciously hosting Sourdough's February meeting on Zoom.

Glacier Chapter

by Steve Armstrong, Glacier Chapter President

Glacier Chapter is pleased to report that it hosted a very successful outdoor Wreaths Across America celebration at the Montana Veteran's Home Cemetery in Columbia Falls, MT, in December 2020. There was a surprisingly great turnout of community members and veterans, with plenty of children in attendance.

Children were "volunteered" to place the memorial wreaths in honor of all branches of the military and POWs/MIAs.

Glacier Chapter President Steve Armstrong provided a brief speech on this cold and blustery day, relaying to the audience the sacrifices of our Revolutionary War ancestors as they were challenged by the winter conditions at various forts, particularly those where Gen. George Washington was present.

We placed over 600 wreaths on veteran graves this year. Our 2021 fundraising has gotten off to a great start, having received 830 wreath donations thus far, our best yet in the nine years since I have coordinated this program.

Glacier Chapter once again participated in flag placement at the Montana Veteran's Home Cemetery honoring Veteran's Day.

There are two strong prospects for membership in MTSSAR, who we hope will be approved to join Glacier Chapter this year. Another NSSAR member is in the process of transferring his membership to Glacier Chapter, which should be completed in the next few weeks.

Guardian Chapter **by Keith Kramlick, Guardian Chapter President**

Guardian Chapter participated in the Wreaths Across America in December 2020, and the food distribution to the homeless veterans in February 2021, that was a joint effort among various organizations: Fort Harrison, Salvation Army, Oro Fino Chapter - MSDAR and Guardian Chapter - MTSSAR and numerous volunteers. All the credits are listed at the end of the video.

This is the link to the video on the food box distribution <https://vimeo.com/517622472?fbclid=IwAR2u1S4aT-eyTp6q6HbKzVgPnHpRLC96zPbho7zdpivFeNm9kq0sJojC6Cg> The event was also reported on the local news.

The Joining Community Forces (JCF) program received a \$10,000 grant from the Bob Woodruff Foundation to pay for food to distribute to at least 100 veterans and their families.

Guardian Chapter events are posted with pictures on our chapter page on the state website.

Liberty Tree Chapter **by Don Murphy, Liberty Tree Chapter President**

Let's just put it this way, 2020 was a challenging year for everyone. We are all willing to see it in the rear-view mirror and looking forward to what 2021 will bring. Even with the challenges that faced the nation, and our state in the past year, the Liberty Tree Chapter somehow was able at the start of 2020 to have a few events to reflect our heritage.

On February 20th Chapter Historian Francis Weigand was able to give a program on the Historic Flags of the American Revolution at an elementary school. The program was attended by over 300 students and associated staff.

February 22nd brought what is becoming the annual George Washington Birthday Dinner for the chapter. Tate Jones, the Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History, presented a program entitled "Making Washington". The presentation provided insight into the path that

Washington took from childhood through retirement. The dinner was attended by 23 attendees, which made the dinner a very joyous meeting for everyone.

On March 6th, Chapter members brought some light to four veterans at a senior living center in Missoula. Veteran Citations were given to those Veterans who served during the Korea and Vietnam Wars as well as those that served during peacetime.

A week later on March 13th, chapter members were out again to another senior living center where they were able to award Veteran Citations to 19 veterans. Those receiving citations served in the WWII, Korea, Vietnam Wars, and those that served during peacetime.

On June 1st, the mannequin dressed in a Continental Army Uniform was officially placed in a plexiglas case at the Fort Missoula Military Museum. Due to the generous donation from chapter member Warren Little, adults and children alike will be able to see how a soldier of the Continental Army was dressed, along with the weapons that he might have carried during the war.

The July 4th Celebration at Fort Missoula was tempered by the pandemic, but five chapter members still set up camp and exhibits of the colonial period at the Fort. Numbers were down, but those that attended were able to glean different aspects of life during that period.

Lastly, as of now, Liberty Tree Chapter has 33 members which includes 5 dual members, with 70 the average age of membership, with the youngest at 37 and 90 the oldest.

In 2021 Liberty Tree Chapter will celebrate its' fifth anniversary and hopefully by summer we will be able to stay the course, find more veterans to honor and provide more educational events.

Remember,

The Sons of the American Revolution was instituted to perpetuate the memory of the men who, in the Continental Army, Navy, Militia and civil services of the colonies and of the Continental Congress by their acts or counsel, achieved the Independence of this great Nation.



Liberty Tree Chapter members and guests from as far north as Ronan and as far south as Hamilton gathered at the Missoula Country Club to wish our Founding Father a happy 289th birthday, on February 22, 2021. Chapter Historian Francis Weigand entertained the attendees with three videos he had created over the past year — "The Greatness of Washington", "Concord Hymn" and "LTC's 2020 Independence Day Observance".

FLOATS

If you have an interest in securing one of these floats for an event in your location, here's the procedure:

Encampment Float: designed and owned by Don Reed. You must contact Don about the procedure for having this float for your parade or other event dreed@tractorandequipment.com

USS Montana Float, the procedure is a little more complicated. The trailer for the float is in Dillon with Bob Gunderson. You will have to arrange to have the trailer and float picked up and returned to Bob.

Contact Pete Oakander for further instructions on using this float poakander@msn.com

Guardian Chapter Compatriot Don Reed's Encampment Float



Pictured with the Encampment Float are Keith Kramlisk, Don Reed, Warren Dupuis, Rodney Wheeler.

Sourdough Chapter Compatriot Pete Oakander's USS Montana Float Trailer courtesy of Montana Continentals President Bob Gunderson



AGENDA

**Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
(MTSSAR) 2021 Annual Meeting
24 April, 2021 at 10:00 AM
Jorgenson's Inn & Suites
1714 11th Ave., Helena, MT 59601
Hotel Phone: 406-442-1770**



1. Call to Order – President Warren Dupuis
2. Invocation – Chaplain T. C. Richardson
3. Pledge of Allegiance to USA Flag - All

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

4. National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) Pledge – All

“We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.”

5. Introduction of Guests - Hosts
6. Introduction of Prospective New Members – Hosts and prospective new members
7. Reports
 - a. President – Warren Dupuis
 - b. Vice President – Steve Armstrong
 - c. Registrar - John Robinson
 - d. Secretary / Treasurer – John Rice
 - e. Webmaster – Don Murphy
 - f. Trustee / Chaplain – T.C. Richardson
 - g. Historian – Dan Elliott
 - h. Chapter Reports
 - (1) Glacier Chapter – Steve Armstrong
 - (2) Guardian – Keith Kramlick
 - (3). Liberty Tree Chapter – Don Murphy
 - (4) Montana Continentals Chapter – Bob Gunderson
 - (5). Portage Chapter – Walt Walker
 - (6) Sourdough Chapter – Matt Henningsen
 - j. State Regent Montana Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) – Leigh Haislip-Spenser
8. Upcoming Events

- a. NSSAR National Congress in 2021 – Larry Mylnechuk
 - b. 2021 MTSSAR Fall Meeting – TBD – Warren Dupuis
- 9. Old Business
 - a.. TBD
- 10. New Business
 - a. Announcent of New Members and New Patriot Awards – John Robinson
 - b. SAR and MTSSAR Awards – Warren Dupuis
 - c. Slate of New Officers – Warren Dupuis
 - d. Election of New Officers – Warren Dupuis
 - e. Planning for MTSSAR 2021 Fall – TBD
- 11. Motion to Adjourn
- 12. SAR Recessional – All

“Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men.’

- 13. Benediction – T.C. Richardson