



# MTSSAR Gazette

A periodic newsletter of the  
Montana Society -  
Sons of the American Revolution  
November 18, 2020  
Editor - Steve Armstrong, Glacier Chapter SAR



**Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution**  
**2021 Annual Meeting**  
**April 24, 2021, starting at 9 AM**  
**Helena location to be determined**  
**Board of Managers is also prepared to have a ZOOM**  
**virtual meeting pending COVID issues at that time**

## 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.

## Annual Meeting Election of State Officers, April 24, 2021

MTSSAR is seeking Compatriots who are willing to serve in various capacities. Both President Warren Dupuis and Secretary John Rice are leaving their respective positions. We are grateful for Warren's and John's service to our Society.

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 Rodney Wheeler has agreed to serve as Treasurer.

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

**This leaves the office of Secretary open.** While all offices are important to the successful functioning of our State Society, the Secretary's position is crucial. We would appreciate a Compatriot who will step forward to serve as Secretary. Please think about this over the next several weeks and in 2021, let one of our MTSSAR's officers know if you are willing to serve.

## Semi-Annual Meeting via ZOOM, October 17, 2020

Seventeen MTSSAR Compatriots participated in the Semi-Annual Meeting on October 17, 2020, via ZOOM. Much was discussed and accomplished. **Minutes and full reports of this meeting are available on the MTSSAR website.**

---

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

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 appreciate you allowing me to serve with you these years, 2020 being a watermark in many ways, COVID notwithstanding.

Working with National Chaplain General Rev. David J. Felts has been a blessing. Like many of our National Leaders "Brother Dave" listens to Montana and acts on our suggestions.

I continue to encourage each of our chapters to appoint a chaplain to serve as originated by our first Montana Chaplain Bateman. I believe contacting the clergy in your chapter area to be a good recruiting tool.

As we age as an organization, leaves begin to fall from our tree. Let us pray, then encourage those younger than us to attend and join our worthy, patriot cause. God asked Abraham to use what was in his hand for service to others in His case. Hold fast, patriots, until another takes your place.

---

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

### Leadership -

- On file at our members request are reports for the NSSAR Leadership-Trustees Meeting containing reports of committees, Foundation, Museum, Officer Training, Rumbaugh Oration, SAR Education, Social Media etc. All 2020 NSSAR leaders remained in place through the COVID threat

### Finance -

- Cash assets as of August 31, 2020 NSSAR - \$1,066,998.00, Investments: \$2,511,598.00. Foundation - Cash assets \$90, 595.00, Investments \$8,977,604.00. All National financial break-downs available to any SAR members upon request
- Membership - Current National membership is over 34,000.

### 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
- In-place National Officers 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 scheduled in Richmond VA. For 2020 was cancelled due to COVID threats. All deposits and funding made by NSSAR for this congress was refunded as were member reservations. Trust we can meet July 10-15, 2021 at Seattle (Renton) WA for our 131st National Congress
  - NSSAR Officers and Trustees who are **standing in place until the Seattle Congress** will be elected there. Applications for new officers are on file at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)
-

## **President's Report, by MTSSAR President Warren Dupuis**

As President, I participated in the following activities throughout the community:

1. Several planned activities were cancelled due to COVID-19 and the associated "lockdown" including; the Welcome Home for Vietnam Veterans (March 30), East Helena Memorial Day Parade (May 25), Chapter Meetings, etc.
2. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, I attended the the Veteran's Memorial in Ennis, MT. I gave coins to the Organizer and Master of Ceremonies of the event.
3. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, I participated in the Dillon Labor Day parade where the DAR and SAR had two floats. During the parade I had a chance to talk with Senator Daines and Congressman Gianforte. Congressman Gianforte took a selfie with SAR members, along with the float and posted it on his Facebook page. I gave a coin to Don Reed for his work in developing the SAR "camp" float.
4. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, I participate in a DAR Marker ceremony at the Pioneer Cabin in Helena. I gave a coin to Ellen Baumler, an interpretative historian for the Montana Historical Society.
5. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, I attended a meeting of the Liberty Tree Chapter and presented a coin to Dite Little for his efforts in driving the DAR USS Montana float to Dillon so that it could be in the Labor Day parade.
6. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, members of the Guardian Chapter, along with members of the Oro Fino Chapter of the DAR, participated in Constitution Day activities at the State Capitol. I served as a member of the Color Guard. I gave a coin to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for her work in getting civics classed into the lower grades.
7. On September 30<sup>th</sup>, I provided greetings to the MSSDAR during their fall meeting.

---

## **Registrar's Update, by MTSSAR Registrar John Robinson**

Sixteen men worked on completing their applications during this period of time. Six of the applicants did not complete their applications due to simply not returning inquiries, not providing correct documentation or simply giving up. John's full report is on the MTSSAR website.

Six new members had their applications approved. One supplemental was approved.

- 1] Ralph Kuney of Helena National # 215113 Approved 8 May 2020 Barb Stem assisted
- 2] Timothy Coney of Helena National # 215112 Approved 8 May 2020 Barb Stem assisted
- 3] Marvin Hunt of Helena National # 216627 Approved 21 Aug 2020 Barb Stem assisted

- 4] Nathan Hunt of Dillon National # 216628 Approved 21 Aug 2020 Barb Stem assisted
- 5] Stacey Henry of Helena National # 216626 Approved 21 Aug 2020 Barb Stem assisted
- 6] James Gustafson of Helena National # 216961 Approved 18 Sep 2020 Barb Stem assisted
- 7] Steve Armstrong Supplemental Approved 13 Aug 2020

• Joe Geldrich of Missoula. The applicant is a DNA situation. As I have no experience with DNA, PG Joe Dooley helped me. I sent entire package to him and he forwarded to GG Jim Faulkinbury. When he reviewed he shut down all DNA at National SAR, including some already at National on 6 Nov 2019. Then on 14 Sep 2020 the SAR sent out new DNA rules. The only link allowed is the first GEN, or biological parent. Sadly, Joe Geldrich cannot meet this requirement.

All applicants are responsible for supplying all documents for their application. I do not have weeks, months or years to do the research. Barb Stem of Butte Silver Bow Chapter DAR has been very capable help. As she has a very excellent knowledge of application preparation: both DAR and SAR.

One problem is where the blood line changes to the maternal side. That marriage must be proven. This can be a real problem and I write a number of proof arguments on these situations.

Every name, date and location must have an approved document to show same or it cannot be put on application. Attention to detail is everything. Plus understanding the 70 plus or minus pages of the SAR pages for the preparation of applications.

---

### **Vice-President's Update, by MTSSAR V-P Steve Armstrong**

The Vice-President's role is one of providing assistance as requested by MTSSAR officers and the Board of Managers.

There was plenty of email correspondence among many members of MTSSAR, particularly MTSSAR Secretary John Rice, Chaplain TC Richardson, Treasurer Rodney Wheeler, Registrar John Robinson, MTSSAR President Warren Dupuis, Liberty Tree Chapter President Don Murphy and Guardian Chapter President Keith Kramlick and his wife Gale of Oro Fino Chapter – DAR.

While not an official duty of the V-P, I create two newsletters per year that are sent to MTSSAR membership. I also send numerous batch emails to membership concerning appropriate information about our state society, specific Chapter accomplishments and individual Compatriot accomplishments.

I am open to continuing in my role as Vice-President should the need arise during our April 2021 Annual Meeting, whether by ZOOM or in person.

A special word of appreciation is in order for our MTSSAR Secretary John Rice, who has announced that he will leave this position in April 2021. John is incredibly organized and really branched out in the Secretary's role following the foundation created by Francis Weigand and Bob Gunderson. As John has stated, the Secretary's role is demanding. MTSSAR must find someone in our membership who would be eager and willing to assume this position.

---

### **Secretary's Update, by MTSSAR Secretary John Rice**

#### As of December 31, 2019

Regular Members	87
Dual Members (Montana not primary state)	9
Total Members	96

#### Since December 31, 2019

Deaths	0
New Members	6
Transferred out	1
Transferred in	1
Reinstated	1

#### As of October 17, 2020

Regular Members	94
Dual Members	11
Total Members	105
This includes:	
Junior Members	2
Life Members	2

#### Chapter Membership (Oct 17, 2020)

Liberty Tree	33
Glacier	8
Portage	11
Guardian	21
Sourdough	26
MT Continentals	6
Total	105

---

## **Chapter News**

### **Sourdough Chapter by John Rice, Sourdough Chapter President**

In April 2020 the Sourdough Chapter had 25 members. Since then it has added no new Montana members. However, there is a list of ten potential new Sourdough Chapter candidates, two of which have indicated that they hope to get their applications done soon. Two Wyoming SAR Society Big Horn Basin Chapter members, Keith Francik and Walter Hartung, have joined the Sourdough Chapter as dual members. Sourdough Chapter member Timo Platt has moved to Arizona for business reasons. The chapter now has 26 members.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic no Sourdough Chapter meetings have been held since April 2020. Pete Oakander built the wooden model of the USS Montana Submarine for the joint MTSSAR / MSDAR float and helped integrate the model into the float. Sourdough members Pete Oakander, John Rice, John Robinson, and Rodney Wheeler participated in the Big Timber Rodeo Parade with this float. Pete also participate with the float in the Dillon Parade. John Rice has been serving with Montana Society of the Daughters of the Revolution member Janice Hand as event coordinator for the USS Montana Submarine float.

Sourdough Chapter Vice President Rodney Wheeler, Secretary Pete Oakander, and Treasurer Bill Jones have agreed to run for re-election for the 2020-2021 year.

Sourdough Chapter held a ZOOM meeting on November 14, 2020. During that meeting, Matt Henningsen was elected Sourdough Chapter President.

---

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

Glacier Chapter member Steve Armstrong is now in his eighth year of coordinating the Wreaths Across America program at the Montana Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls, MT.

Glacier Chapter participated in flag placement ceremonies at the Montana Veteran's Home Cemetery, which included Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup> and Veteran's Day.

Compatriot Mark Burns donated several rolls of 1976 bicentennial coins to MTSSAR. These coins are now in the possession of MTSSAR in a safety deposit box in Helena.

Glacier Chapter welcomed new member Peter Ford, a Bigfork resident who transferred from a California chapter. Larry Mylnechuk came to Bigfork on August 19, 2020, to officially welcome Peter to the Montana Society. Peter's wife Lynda, myself and my wife Linnea, were also in attendance.



There have been at least four individuals who have expressed interest in completing their applications for SAR membership. I have corresponded with each and have offered to assist them in any way that I can short of completing their application for them. I have yet to hear of a progress report from any of these gentlemen.

---

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

Guardian Chapter participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at East Helena. Chapter Vice-President Don Reed walked with his riderless horse with boots reversed in the stirrups honoring our fallen soldiers.

Chapter Vice-President Don Reed, built the chapter American Revolution Camp float at his own expense. Members of the chapter and other SAR members rode the float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Big Timber. The float, with chapter and other SAR members participated in the Dillon Labor Day parade. The chapter float with chapter and other SAR members participated in the Patriots day motorcade from Ennis to Helena.

Members of the chapter provided support for the Orofino Chapter of DAR Marker Dedication for Pioneer Cabin in Helena on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Chapter president Keith Kramlick brought greetings from the Guardian Chapter.

The chapter was going to assist the Orofino Chapter of DAR in the Military Stand Down scheduled for August, but it was cancelled due to Covid.

The chapter presented the colors at the Constitution Day ceremony at the capitol September 17<sup>th</sup>. Vice-President Don Reed performed a skit “are we a monarchy or a republic” at the ceremony.

We are again going to participate in Wreaths Across America this December.

The chapter has added 5 new members this year and has 7 individuals expressing interest in joining.

---

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

Due to the Covid Pandemic the only thing that the Liberty Tree Chapter has been able to do is participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Encampment at Fort Missoula Museums and hold a meeting in September. Everything else that the members were scheduled to do has been postponed.

---



## Vice-President General - Intermountain District by Larry Mylnechuk

I have been working with SAR Officers in the region to see if we can put together a four-state meeting next spring to coordinate more projects in this district. I have also been doing some research on early MTSSAR pioneers who helped establish this state. I would like to eventually see if we can mark their graves and identify their descendants who are still here! Finally, I am trying to contact our legislators and some from other states to help build better legislative contacts for SAR! There may be an opportunity to build up our “image” with folks in the Congress. But it requires us to be more proactive. Will try to keep these efforts updated!

---

### Guardian Chapter Compatriot Don Reed’s Encampment Float



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

**The Tent:** This is a historically correct wedge tent, in use from the French and Indian War, American Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War, and American Civil War. Canvas wedge tents were the most popular tent design in America from 1755 through the 1860s. This 7’X7’X7’ tent would have provided shelter for three enlisted rank soldiers.

**Flag’s:** On display we had both a Betsy Ross pattern garrison flag and guidon both consisting of the Valley Forge Heritage series. Valley Forge. PA. The Betsy Ross flag is an early design of the flag of the United States, named for early American upholsterer and flag maker Betsy Ross.

**Camp Chores:** We had on display a two man saw which was in common usage in 17<sup>th</sup> century thru 19<sup>th</sup> Century America. For cooking chores we displayed an Iron tripod suspending the ever popular cast iron Dutch oven. Speaking of which, the patent for the cast iron Dutch oven was obtained in 1707 by Welshman, James Thomas.

For chopping kindling, we displayed a period correct, forged headed tomahawk. To accommodate our Dragoons and Dispatch riders, we displayed an antique English saddle equipped with Bear Hide covered pommel holsters, period correct saddle bags, saber and the afore mentioned Guidon Flag.

**Our center piece:** The wonderful replica of an English six pounder Cannon, provided by Bob Gunderson.

---

### **Sourdough Chapter Compatriot Pete Oakander's USS Montana Float**



Pictured with the USS Montana float is Pete Oakander

Pete Oakander built a scale model replica of the USS Montana submarine. The trailer is from Bob Gunderson. The tea set at the front of the trailer is donated by the Montana Society - Daughters of the American Revolution.

---

These floats appeared in two parades this year. The Encampment Float also made an appearance in float caravan from Ennis to Helena. Here's hoping that both floats will make appearances during 2021 and beyond!