



# The DCSSAR Capital Chronicle

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Spring-Summer 2008

## CAR's HOST FEBRUARY JOINT LUNCHEON; HONORS WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY New DCSSAR Compatriots Inducted



*The joint CAR-DAR-SAR February luncheon was headlined by a fascinating talk on George Washington's other career as surveyor and map maker by Ed Redmond, Cartographic Reference Specialist in the Library of Congress Geography & Map Division. Another highlight was the induction of seven new DCSSAR members, during which the active support of DCDAR was recognized. L-R above as the new Compatriots' rosettes are being presented (new members marked "\*"): Vice Regent Anne Bailey (DCDAR Descendants of '76 Chapter), wife of Ed\* & Jonathan\* (neither pictured); Col. Andy Johnson, sponsor of Ken Bowyer\*, Ken's wife, Adele, DCDAR State Regent; Thys DeYoung\* & his sponsor, DCSSAR Registrar Larry Miller; Andy Dye\*; DCSSAR 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Cindy Hays (receiving more rosettes from President Paul Hays); Ryan Mackenzie\*; Michael Sauls\*; Ryan Snyder\* & his mother, Maryann Czarnecki, a staff genealogist at NSDAR; Pat Archer-Jacob, Registrar of the Col. John Washington-Katherine Montgomery Chapter, DCDAR, who was instrumental in preparing the application of Col. James Bogle\*; former DCDAR State Regent Marlene Taggart & her husband Don, parents of Christopher\*, Douglas\*, & Phillip Taggart\*.*

## **ELECTION DINNER MARCH 20th**

“Provocative” and “disturbing” were just two adjectives used to describe the presentation of our guest speaker at the election dinner held March 20 at The Monocle on Capitol Hill. David Walker, recently-resigned Comptroller General of the United States, President of the newly-founded Peter G. Peterson Foundation, and President-elect of the Virginia SAR George Washington Chapter, presented a dire forecast of the Nation’s financial condition that left many tossing in their sleep that night.

The election of officers produced no surprises. The three tellers, Compatriots Barry McKown, John Langworthy, and Michael Sauls, reported 109 ballots cast – all but one by mail – resulting in unanimous election of the slate recommended by the Nominating Committee. The complete list of officers can be found on page 5 in the article on the April Awards and Installation Banquet.

The winner of this year’s D.C. Society George S. & Stella M. Knight Historical Essay Contest was warmly received. Kathleen (Katie) Choi read her winning essay entitled “George Washington vs. the Newburgh Conspiracy,” which follows. Katie was presented D.C.’s first prize check of \$500, together with a certificate and handsome medallion.

A junior at the Sidwell Friends School, Katie was accompanied by her proud parents, Hee S. and Soon-Hong Choi, and her teacher, Steven Steinbach, who received a certificate of appreciation for promoting the contest. Thanks are also due to our distinguished panel of judges: Aram Bakshian, J. Frederick Dorman, Glen R. Elsasser, Thomas W. Taylor, and their chairman, Assistant Secretary David Boland Wham.



*Knight Essay State Medal*

### **GEORGE WASHINGTON vs. THE NEWBURGH CONSPIRACY**

*By Kathleen Choi, winner of the DCSSAR 2008 Knight Essay Contest*

“Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have not only grown gray but almost blind in the service of my country.” With these seemingly simple words, General George Washington quelled a plot to carry out a coup d’état in 1783 called the Newburgh Conspiracy. Washington reminded the disgruntled and rebellious officers of the Continental Army that he too had made sacrifices for the nascent nation. Washington brought many of his officers to tears with this emotional appeal, effectively ending the rebellion. Washington’s humbleness and patriotism helped convince his officers not to

challenge the legitimate civilian government. In doing so, Washington upheld the principle of military subordination to the civilian government, thus contributing to the future success of democracy in the United States.

Although the specifics of the Newburgh Conspiracy are not fully known, many historians seem to agree upon the following sequence of events surrounding this incident. After having defeated the British army in 1781 at the Battle of Yorktown, the last major battle of the American War for Independence, the Continental Army camped at the Newburgh area in the state of New York. Since the Battle of Yorktown, the officers of the army did not have many military duties and thus had time to focus on the issue of their pensions. The Continental Congress had promised the officers pensions of half-pay for life in 1781; however, Congress had failed to pass legislation to fund the pensions. Therefore, in December 1782, General Henry Knox drafted a petition describing the many hardships the officers had suffered during the war and saying that officers deserved pensions. Almost all of the officers at Newburgh signed the petition to Congress.

As soon as the officers delivering the petition arrived in Philadelphia, the planning of the Newburgh Conspiracy began. The nationalists in Congress, believers in a strong and centralized government, took advantage of the officers' grievance to further their agenda in Congress. A certain piece of nationalistic legislation would provide funding for the officers' pensions as well as other national projects. Therefore, a group of nationalists collaborated with the officers to plan the Newburgh Conspiracy, a mutually beneficial plot. The nationalists told the officers to spread rumors of the possibility of a military coup due to the discontent over the issue of pensions. The nationalists believed that this rumor would force Congress to passing the legislation to appease the officers, thereby also furthering the nationalists' cause.

After the rumors had failed to bring about legislative progress in Congress for several weeks, the nationalists initiated the next step of the Newburgh Conspiracy. On March 10, 1783, a group of officers circulated an anonymous document, called the Newburgh Address, encouraging officers to rebel to force Congress to redress their grievances. The Newburgh Address told the officers to refuse to disband if the war ended, or to "retire to some yet unsettled country" and "mock when [the civilians'] fear cometh on" if the war continued. Many officers publicly supported the Newburgh Address.

When Washington heard about the Newburgh Address, he was alarmed but responded with moderation. Washington deemed the Newburgh Address "irregular" and "disorderly" in his General Orders on March 11 and called for an officers' meeting on March 15 to formally discuss the officers' grievances. Just before noon on March 15, Washington joined the officers' meeting. In an atmosphere of "unmistakable hostility," Washington began to recite his prepared speech. Washington tried to convince the officers not to "sully the glory [they had] hitherto maintained" by participating in the seditious acts advocated by the Newburgh Address. As he finished his speech, Washington knew that he had failed to change the officers' minds. In desperation, Washington started to read a letter he had received from Congress as proof of its support for the army. After having difficulty reading the letter, Washington removed a pair of spectacles from his pocket. The crowd of officers

was astonished. The officers had never seen Washington with spectacles. At that moment, Washington uttered those simple words filled with emotion. In one statement, Washington conveyed the sacrifices they had all had to make during the arduous war yet also expressed the need for continued loyalty to the country. His words “touched the hearts of every man in the hall,” ending all thoughts of coup in the minds of the officers.

One of Washington’s greatest services to the United States was his role in quelling the Newburgh Conspiracy. Washington always committed himself to the principle of supremacy of the civilian government over the military. For example, even as one of the most influential leaders at that time, Washington always requested and never demanded supplies from Congress. His dedication to this principle helped Washington contain the upheaval. Washington’s action effectively set the precedent of military subordination to the civilian government. The failure of the Newburgh Conspiracy, therefore, led to a precedent vital to the survival of the fledgling democracy. Had the military successfully rebelled against the civilian government in 1783, the possibility of military interference would have forever “[lurk] in the background, corroding legitimate political activity.” Therefore, the Newburgh Conspiracy was a crucial moment in American history in which the future success of democracy in the United States was determined.

The significance of the Newburgh Conspiracy remains evident today. It reinforced the democratic principles of the United States that any military interference in politics would seriously jeopardize the fabric of democracy. Many nations throughout history have struggled to sustain their democratic governments because of coups or military interference in politics. However, by crushing the Newburgh Conspiracy, Washington cemented the principle of military subordination to the civilian government in the United States. In consequence, Washington placed the United States on the path towards the sustainable democratic government it is today.

## **118<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS BANQUET**

The D.C. Society gathered April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Ft. McNair Officers’ Club to commemorate the anniversary of “the shot heard ‘round the world” at Lexington, to install its new officers, and to recognize the outstanding efforts of dozens of Compatriots during the preceding year. Black Tie and Medals were the order of the evening!

The installing official, Past President General Stewart Boone McCarty, did double duty, also serving as the evening’s speaker. Col. McCarty described the multiple contributions to the American cause of Kazimierz Pułaski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

We were honored by the presence of Mariusz Brymora, Counselor and Chief of the Culture, Press & Public Relations Office of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

The officers and members of the Board of Management installed April 17<sup>th</sup> are:

Paul M. Hays, President  
Gerson Nordlinger III, Senior Vice President  
David G. Tilley, Second Vice President  
Robert D. Warren, Third Vice President  
Robert D. Pollock, Secretary  
David B. Wham, Assistant Secretary  
Carroll J. Collins, Treasurer  
Wm. Edward Senn, Assistant Treasurer  
Wm. Lawrence Miller, Registrar  
Richard E. Patten, Assistant Registrar  
Daniel B. Wanke, Editor  
Rev. Charles H. Nalls, Chaplain

J. Phillip London, Assistant Chaplain  
Artie R. Esworthy III, Historian  
Andrew T. Schaeffer, Librarian  
David W. White, Information Technology Officer  
Board of Management, Class of 2011  
Frederick J. Allen  
Andrew C. Dye  
Frederick C. Humphreys  
Edward A. Padelford, DC Trustee, '11  
Scott C. Shewmaker, NSSAR Trustee  
Andrew M. Johnson, Alternate NSSAR Trustee

Carried forward were thirteen former Presidents of the Society who serve as *ex officio* voting members of the BOM, along with two DCSSAR Trustees and six members previously elected to staggered three-year terms on the Board of Management:

Timothy R. Bennett, Past President  
Gareth H. Bond, DC Trustee '10  
David G. Boring, BOM '10  
Neal J. Burnham, BOM '10  
J. Griffin Crump, Past President  
Peter A. Dixon, Past President  
J. Frederick Dorman III, Past President  
C. Thomas Etter, Past President  
Lowell V. Hammer, Past President  
C. Owen Johnson, Past President  
Stephen A. Leishman, BOM '10

Stewart Boone McCarty, Past President  
Michael A. Monroe, BOM '09  
J. Dewey O'Brien, Past President  
James Ira Pace, Past President  
R. Scott Purvis, Past President  
Ronald L. Schaeffer, Past President  
Paul D. Snodgrass, BOM '09  
Frank MacD. Spindler, Past President  
Scott W. Stucky, BOM '09  
R. Duane Tackitt, DC Trustee '09

Ralph Anthony Wells and his wife, Joan, attended to mark a special event, the next day being Ralph's fiftieth anniversary as a member of the D. C. Society. President Hays presented him with a certificate and lapel pin commemorating the occasion.

The culmination of the evening was the presentation of well-earned awards to the following Compatriots and supporters of the Society:

**NSSAR Patriot Medal:** Col. William Wesley Roberts, USAF (Ret.)

**NSSAR State Medal of Distinguished Service:** William Lawrence Miller

**NSSAR War Service Medal:** Lt. Cmdr. Douglas M. Taggart, USN (Ret.), Col. Phillip E. Taggart, USMCR, & Col. Scott W. Stucky, USAF (Ret.)

**NSSAR Military Service Medal:** Carroll J. Collins, Frederick C. Humphreys, & Capt. Christopher S. Taggart, USNR

**DCSSAR Patriotic Service Medal:** Gareth H. Bond (OLC), Carroll J. Collins, & Paul M. Hays

**DCSSAR Patriotic Service Crystal:** William Lawrence Miller

**DCSSAR Patriotic Service Certificate:** David G. Boring & Robert E. Reyes

**NSSAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal:** Robert Warren (OLC), Gerson Nordlinger III, Eric Hargan, Richard Patten, Clayton Shimeld, Rev. John Stonesifer, David Wham

**DCSSAR Distinguished Service Certificate:** Jon Aldridge, Frederick Allen, Aram Bakshian, Alan Dana, J. Frederick Dorman, Glen Elsasser, Blake Funston, David Tilley, Daniel Wanke & Frederick Humphreys

**NSSAR/CAR Bronze Medal of Appreciation:** Rachel Alarid (OLC), Paul Snodgrass (OLC), Florence Snodgrass (OLC) & Sharla Warren (OLC)

**NSSAR DAR Medal of Appreciation:** E. Adele Davenport Bowyer

**NSSAR Martha Washington Medal:** Cindy Shelton Hays

## MEMBERSHIP ZOOMS

Our numbers keep growing. Having begun 2008 with 271 members, since then your Board of Management has approved 40 new member applications and three reinstatements. We know of a dozen more applications in preparation.

In the list below you will find 14 descendants of Quartermaster Sgt. Robert Dowdle, Sr. They are a nephew and thirteen cousins of DCSSAR President Paul Hays. The four descendants of Pvt. John Britton are the brother, son, and grandsons of our Registrar, Larry Miller; Kirk Andrew Esherick is the son of Compatriot George Esherick; Andrew Lewis Johnson is the nephew of Compatriot Andy Johnson; and the five descendants of Sgt. Nathan Norton are the son, father, brother and two cousins of Ki Trelaine, Regent of the Col. John Washington-Katherine Montgomery Chapter, DC DAR.

Stop and think. **Do YOU have relatives who might be interested in our activities:** a father, sons, uncles, nephews, cousins? NSSAR's application fee is halved for each application after the first, when submitted as a package tracing the same line! If you have relatives who are interested, write or call the office (202/638-6444, [dcssar@verizon.net](mailto:dcssar@verizon.net)). And don't forget the ladies – we will be glad to pass along names to the DAR. Be sure to read the short article following this by Alabama SAR Trustee Larry Cornwell, the likely winner of this year's NSSAR membership recruitment award.

Registrar Larry Miller and our New Member Helper Committee, headed by Assistant Registrar Dick Patten, stand ready to give assistance to any prospective members who need help with their applications.

These applications have been approved by the BOM since March:

**Mark Edwards Allen**, 56, Miami, FL; 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Lt. Samuel Allen, Sr., Massachusetts Continental Line.

**James Arthur Bach**, 32, Washington, DC; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Capt. & Conductor of Teams Charles Townley, Wagon Master General's Dept., New Jersey.

**Richard Edward Backlund**, 46, Hyattsville, MD; 6<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Capt. Thomas Loftin, North Carolina Militia; reinstatement, dual member with the Empire State (NY) SSAR.

**Carl Beavers Bedell**, 29, Silver Spring, MD; 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Pvt. David Bedell, 4<sup>th</sup> Continental Light Dragoons, Pennsylvania Line.

**Daniel Martin Bell**, 37, Fredericksburg, VA; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of John Cronise, who signed the oath as an Associator in Frederick County, Maryland.

**Lane Douglas Brooks**, 60, Springfield, VA; 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Lt. George Linam, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sparta Regiment, South Carolina Militia.

**Col. James Logan Brown, USA (Ret.)**, 79, Austin, TX; 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Robert Dowdle, Sr., Quartermaster Sergeant in a South Carolina Militia “troop of horse.”

**William Boone Campbell**, 37, Washington, DC; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Capt. George Prince, Shenandoah County, Virginia Militia.

**Donald Robert DePriest**, 23, Washington, DC; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Caleb Wallace, Deputy to the Virginia General Assembly and a Kentucky District Judge.

**Samuel Thomas Dugdale**, 31, Phoenix, AZ; 6<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Nathan Norton, a Private & Sergeant, Connecticut & Vermont Militias.

**Bernard DeLaney Ellis**, 41, Washington, DC; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Col. Timothy Ellis, New Hampshire Militia.

**Kirk Andrew Esherick**, 46, Silver Spring, MD; 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson of George Esher, a drummer boy at the Battle of Germantown.

**Benjamin Russell Grove**, 20, Washington, DC; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Pvt. Odediah Mellott, Ranger, Bedford County, Pennsylvania Militia.

**William Clarence Hays III, MD**, 53, Mountain Brook, AL; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Sgt. Robert Dowdle.

**Ronald George Horner**, 42, Somerset, PA; 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Cpl. 8<sup>th</sup> Class Solomon Horner, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania Militia (also of Capt. Peter Ankeny, Bedford/PA Militia; PFC John Killian Lichtenberger, York/PA Militia; P8C Adam Flick, Cumberland/PA Militia; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of P2C John Horner Sr., Cumberland/PA Militia); reinstatement.

**Andrew Lewis Johnson**, 47, Minneapolis, MN; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Pvt. John Annis, Massachusetts.

**Timothy White Johnson**, 21, Washington, DC; 6<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Pvt. John Melugin, North Carolina Line.

**Christopher Dhu Larsen**, 44, Washington, DC; 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Judah Bagg, a Private at the Battle of Lexington and later Corporal.

**Hays O’Neal Livingston**, 27, New Albany, MS; 6<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Sgt. Robert Dowdle; his uncle,

**Joseph Hays Livingston**, 51, New Albany, MS; Joe’s brother,

**Stephen Price Livingston**, 59, New Albany, MS; and Steve’s other son,

**Stephen Price Livingston, Jr.**, 29, New Albany, MS.

**“Capt.” South Trimble Lynn**, 80, Darnestown, MD; 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandson of Capt. David Lynn II, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Maryland Regulars and an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati; “Capt.” Lynn’s two sons,

**South Trimble Lynn, Jr.**, 47, Kensington, MD; and

**Sprigg Singleton Lynn**, 43, Potomac, MD.

**Liam Silverthorne Miller**, 3, Hollywood, FL; 6<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Pvt. John Britton, New Jersey Continental Troops; his twin brother,

**Roen Silverthorne Miller**; and their father,

**William Scott Miller**, 41.

**Darden Hays North, MD**, 52, Jackson, MS; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Sgt. Robert Dowdle; his son,

**William Darden North**, 22, Jackson, MS.

**David Paul Norton**, 57, Sedona, AZ, 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Sgt. Nathan Norton; his first cousin,

**Douglas Paul Norton**, 46, Scottsdale, AZ; David’s father,

**James Scarff Norton**, 84, Scottsdale, AZ; and Doug’s son,

**Taylor Frederick Norton**, 22, Alameda, CA.

**David William Overby, Jr.**, 28, Winchester, VA; 6<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Sgt. Robert Dowdle; his brother,

**Rushton Harbour Overby**, 27, Starkville, MS.

**Robert Randolph Redding**, 24, Vacaville, CA; 6<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Sgt. Robert Dowdle; his brother,

**Thomas Ryan Redding**, 22, Vacaville, CA.

**Jack Vincent Smalley**, 59, Chantilly, VA; 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Pvt. David Smalley, New Jersey Militia.

**James Claude Stokes, Jr.**, 58, Sulligent, AL; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Sgt. Robert Dowdle.

**Thomas Freeman Sweeney**, 24, Colonial Heights, VA; 6<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Sgt. Robert Dowdle.

**John-Dean Lowry Vosburgh**, 61, Tempe, AZ; 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Pvt. John Britton, New Jersey Continental Troops.

**John Wesley Wilham**, 34, Washington, DC; 5<sup>th</sup> great grandson of Pvt. John Dick, South Carolina Militia; transfer/reinstatement from the FLSSAR.

Other prospective members with applications in progress at press time include Duncan Arthur, Dale Allen Ashdown, Robert Craycraft, Bevin Creel, Richard A. Crown, Daniel Dechert, Fletcher Doud Gill, Christopher Hunton, Scott McGee, Timothy James Norton, Bradford Clayton Shue, and Cdr. Wesley S. Smith.

## **CRACKING THE CODE ON RAPIDLY GROWING THE SAR MEMBERSHIP ROLLS**

*Guest article by Larry P. Cornwell, [LaCornwell@aol.com](mailto:LaCornwell@aol.com), Trustee, Alabama Society  
Member, Genealogy Committee and Membership Committee*

Things I've learned after eight years of helping prospective members apply for SAR membership:

1. By far the vast majority of American males do not live near a SAR chapter.
2. Most prospective members have never heard of the SAR.
3. Many SAR chapters are not equipped with at least one member who has the tools or training necessary to help prospective members efficiently complete their applications.

A few years ago, the National Society attempted a recruitment campaign by asking members to send names and addresses of their male kin to Headquarters. Headquarters would then farm out these addresses to volunteers like me to pair these prospective members with a nearby chapter. The chapter would then contact these "prospects." The campaign was not successful. Why? Re-read the first paragraph for the answers.

Perhaps those of us in the SAR who actively recruit and qualify new members would meet with greater success by finding prospective members wherever they are in the world, and then offering to prepare their applications for them at no charge (they pay only the normal application fees and dues). How do we find them?

1. Ask all your chapter members to let you sponsor their kin into the SAR, no matter where they live, and then offer to prepare the applications; all you will need is a photocopy of a birth certificate or two. Ask your members if they are also willing to

pay the application fees and first year dues. I prepared the applications for 30 new members that way in 2007.

2. When you are connecting with distant cousins while you are conducting your own ancestry research, ask them if they are interested in joining the SAR, and mention that you will prepare their applications for them. It makes no difference if they are near an established SAR chapter; they can transfer their membership from your chapter to theirs easily after they join.
3. You have an almost limitless supply of new members living in your local area. See my article on "Cracking the Code on Recruiting New Members, Researching Their Ancestry, and Submitting Their Applications" by going to [www.alsar.org](http://www.alsar.org), scrolling down to the lower right corner of the home page, and click where it says "Click here." I've submitted 35 applications, plus 14 Youth Registrant applications, so far this year (middle of May) by following my own guidelines,.

If asked, the sponsor can help in the easy administrative process of changing memberships from one state society to another or from one chapter to another. With almost everyone now having e-mail, it's easy and cheap to stay in touch with our out-lying members. One or more of these "certificate members," planted in a fertile area, may even become active and go on to do great things for the Society.

Time for a war story: In April, I had one prospective member contact me from another state who had been discouraged by the local chapter for numerous reasons. He was told he had to find all his own documentation, and he was advised that the application process was "long and slow, even with perfect documentation, six to twelve months." In thirty days, I had submitted not only his application, but also applications for his son, two grandsons, and nephew. I expect approval for all four in three months. Because he has a very large extended family, he's now interested in starting a SAR chapter in his ancestral county in my state. I've already submitted four distant cousins' applications, and, with the help of my out-of-state contact, I am working on many more. My goal is to have this chapter chartered by February 2009.

Let's do what is necessary to grow our national membership. I'm convinced that the SAR could become as large as our sister organization, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), if we would be willing to encourage our chapters to break out of their molds of recruiting only locally. Since the National Society and State Society benefits from their additional dues, what difference does it make where they live? Once they become members, they may want to start a new chapter, and with our help, they can.

## **RUMBAUGH ORATION CONTEST REACTIVATED**

After hearing a presentation by Ikechukwu Umez-Eronini (“Ike,” pronounced E-Kay) at its May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the DCSSAR Board of Management voted to sponsor him as our representative in the finals of the 2008 NSSAR Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest. Ike won the local \$1,000 first prize, and a trip for himself and a chaperon to the NSSAR Congress in Sacramento in July.

Ike is a sophomore at D.C.’s McKinley Tech High School, and is being coached by his Social Studies teacher, Gideon Sanders. In addition to Mr. Sanders, Ike had the moral support at the Board presentation of both his mother and grandmother. Ike’s prepared text follows.

This will be the first year since 2004 that D.C. is represented in the national contest. Kudos and great thanks are due to all involved, especially Second Vice President David G. Tilley, for his work over the past year to jump-start this neglected program.



### **DRIVING LESSONS**

*By Ikechukwu Umez-Eronini, winner of the DCSSAR 2008 Rumbaugh Oration Contest*

The other day, my mother was teaching me how to drive. We were driving around my neighborhood, headed for the home-stretch, when the car in front of me suddenly screeched to halt. Naturally I braked to avoid ramming into him, but the car behind rear-ended me. As we exchanged information I noticed for the first time the slogan on my license plate: “No Taxation Without Representation.” It had always been there, but until that day I had never considered its meaning.

In 1750, a preacher named Jared Mayhew coined the phrase “No Taxation Without Representation.” The British Parliament had controlled colonial trade and taxed imports and exports since 1660. By the mid-seventeen hundreds, American colonists were increasingly feeling deprived of a historic right.

Britain’s 1689 Bill of Rights forbade the imposition of taxes without the consent of Parliament. Since the colonists had no representation in Parliament they complained the taxes violated the traditional rights of Englishmen. The British responded that the

colonists had “virtual representation,” a concept based on the belief that men without a vote were “virtually represented” by Members of Parliament who had been elected by “similar” voters. Lacking in this theory is one simple fact, the fact that we as human beings have different ideas and beliefs whether our situations are “similar” or not.

At the Boston Tea Party the colonists vehemently rejected the tax on tea imports, arguing that these laws didn’t apply to them because they lacked representation. When Britain cracked down on the protests, the colonists formed militias and ousted the royal governors. The colonists’ complaint was never over the amount of taxation, but on the process by which taxes were imposed, with no representation of those being taxed. Patrick Henry would later argue that Americans possessed all the rights of Englishmen, that the principle of no taxation without representation was an essential part of the British Constitution, and that Virginia alone enjoyed the right to tax Virginians. He said “the liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them.”

In February 1775, Britain passed the Conciliatory Resolution, which ended taxation for any colony that provided satisfactorily for its own defense and government. This attempt to bribe the colonists with the promise of no taxes in exchange for services failed, as ordinary men took up their guns and fought. They fought for the principle that if a man was to be taxed, his voice should be represented among the taxers. The American Revolution was fought to establish a truly representative democracy, free from the tyranny of a ruler an ocean away. In the country that grew from the Revolution because of the sacrifices of our Founding Fathers, there remains a territory and people still fighting for democratic rights.

Rousseau wrote of social contracts. In any democratic society, he said, there are two requirements of citizenship: participation, and contributing to the government. In such a society people contribute by following laws, being good citizens and paying taxes. In this society people participate by voting for leaders to set policy. The one consistent cause of the failure of democratic societies is the people’s loss of their right to participate. The right isn’t lost overnight, but is gradually eroded over time. It is never one isolated incident which causes the loss, but as Martin Luther King Jr. said “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

The motto on the license plate reminded me that in the capital of the United States the right of democratic participation is abridged. Citizens of Washington, D.C., are denied a voice in this country. The residents of Washington carry the same tax burden as fellow Americans, but are treated as second-class citizens. How are we second class citizens? Through a lack of true Congressional representation. Just as Parliament attempted to bribe the colonists, Washingtonians today are frankly being pimped for their money in order to receive services but no democracy. Residents of DC lack the ability to voice their opinions because their representative lacks the right to vote. So though they vote in general elections, their vote is merely ceremonial, mimicking the true democratic process other Americans enjoy. The residents of DC are denied representation and instead have to settle for “virtual representation,” the same predicament faced by American colonists two and a half centuries ago.

Once again I say, “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” and there is no doubt injustice abounds in this lack of true representation. The Declaration of Independence eloquently expounds man’s right to stand against undemocratic policies. John Quincy Adams said “Power always thinks it has a great soul and vast views beyond the comprehension of the weak; and that it is doing God's service when it is violating all his laws.” It disserves our Founding Fathers to call this country a representative democracy. Until every man and woman in this nation is granted a voice, our Grand Experiment is a failure. Watching the license plate scrape along the pavement that day as the car was towed away, the sparks bespoke the fire surrounding the present debate over what constitutes true democracy. I submit that our Founding Fathers settled the issue long ago. “No taxation without representation!”

## **SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18 MEMBERSHIP & BOARD MEETINGS**

President Hays called the membership meeting to order at 3:32 P.M., following the annual luncheon commemorating the birth of George Washington. Twenty five members were present, a quorum. A motion to approve the minutes of the February 2007 Meeting was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Warren reported that the DCSSAR was solvent and currently had a balance of \$3,233.13 in the checking account and that there will be a transfer of \$8,000 into the account which will provide sufficient funds to support operations through the rest of the current fiscal year. The report was accepted as presented.

President Hays reported that Mr. Bond, who was to make the Trustees’ report, had been called to Tennessee because of a death in the family and was not able to make the presentation as intended.

Mr. Bennett reported that the SAR Foundation had been raising money for several years to build a new Library and Museum, to be known as the Center for Advancing America’s Heritage, on vacant property the National Society had purchased across the street from the current headquarters. He reported that last year they had received an offer involving a swap of the current property for an office building that had formerly housed the headquarters of the Kentucky Opera Company in the section of Louisville known as “the museum district”. Investigation of that offer had revealed substantial problems with the proposed property, but another offer had been received involving a vacant warehouse structure in the same vicinity as the first, which appears to meet the needs of the Society more economically. Mr. Bennett reported that he will be attending the national leadership meeting in Louisville on February 20, where there will be a presentation and vote on the latter proposal. He also explained that approval requires a three-quarters majority vote of

the National Board of Trustees. Mr. Bennett informed the members that the facility will cost \$2.5 million with the building costing \$1.5 million and the land \$1 million. The existing headquarters has been appraised, and three parties have expressed an interest in purchasing it.

A motion was offered that the DCSSAR request our National Trustee to support the new purchase plan. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Colonel Johnson presented the report of the Nominating Committee, recommending a slate of candidates for 2008-2009 D.C. Society offices [*listed on p. 5 in article on A & I Banquet—ed.*]. The President called for further nominations from the floor, of which there were none. Colonel McCarty moved that the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded and passed. President Hays noted that in accordance with the procedure set forth in the DCSSAR Constitution, the approved recommendations would be put in ballot form and mailed to all members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

The President called the Board of Management meeting to order at 3:46 P.M., following the general membership meeting. Fourteen members of the Board were present, a quorum. A motion to approve the minutes of the last three meetings of the Board was made, seconded, and accepted by unanimous vote.

The Registrar reported that as of this date, there were no New Member applications pending. All applications submitted since the last report had been processed and approved by National Headquarters.

President Hays announced two vacancies in the Board of Management. The first was created by the resignation of Rick Hannah in the Class of 2009, and the second in the Class of 2008, caused by the relocation of Eric Hargan to Chicago. President Hays presented the following two Compatriots to fill the two vacancies: Colonel Scott Wallace Stucky, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces to fill the vacancy in the Class of '09, and Frederick Chandler Humphreys, a Benjamin Franklin Fellow, to fill the remaining two months in the Class of '08. A motion to elect Colonel Stucky and Mr. Humphreys to fill the two vacancies was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dixon, of behalf of the Awards Committee, presented the recommendations for awards to be presented at the annual Awards and Installation Banquet on April 17<sup>th</sup>, and on behalf of the Committee moved its acceptance [*listed on p. 5 in article on A & I Banquet—ed.*].

Mr. Collins, on behalf of the Advancement Committee moved adoption of the following resolution:

**Resolved**, that pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the Society's Constitution, the one-time fee for Life Membership in the D. C. Society shall be twenty times the then-current annual rate set by the Board of Management for regular D. C. Society dues;

**Provided**, that the fee shall be reduced for members who have attained the age of 51 at the time of their application for Life Membership, by an amount equal to half the then-current annual rate of D. C. Society dues times the number of years over age 50; **Provided further**, that the one-time fee for members who have attained the age of 70 at the time of their application shall be ten times the then-current annual rate of D. C. Society dues; **Provided further**, that for applicants who have been members of the National Society for at least ten years, the one-time fee at age 90 be \$100 and at age 100, \$0.00; and, **Provided further**, that Life Membership in the D. C. Society shall be available only to members who have obtained Life Membership in the National Society.

The motion was passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 P.M.

## **HANDBOOK UPDATED AND SHIPPED**

The DCSSAR Handbook and Roster has been completely updated, and the package of revisions was mailed to all Compatriots in January. The new loose-leaf format adopted two years ago allows more frequent and economical revisions. Annual supplements are planned to replace the sections containing the roster and awards.

If you haven't received yours, please contact the DCSSAR office at (202) 638-6444 or [dcssar@verizon.net](mailto:dcssar@verizon.net).



Save the Date



**Fourth of July!**



**10 AM – Gerry Ceremony at Congressional Cemetery**

**Noon – Luncheon at Channel Inn**

## COMPATRIOTS' BIRTHDAYS, SCHEDULED EVENTS and OBSERVANCES

<b>June</b>		13	Stewart Boone McCarty, Jr.
1	Mark Anthony O'Neill, Jr.	14	Edward Bernard Finch
3	Eric David Hargan	14	David Franklin Smith
3	Stephen A. Leishman	16	Gary Lane Morgan
3	James Dewey O'Brien	16	Lee Roberts Pennington
4	Alan Charles Dana	19	Timothy Vance Blair
4	William Travis Irelan	20	William K. Dabaghi
4	Derrill DuPuis Mackin	20	James Scott Sledge
6	George Emery Biles II	21	Brenton Lane Horner
11	Everett Marshall Pywell	21	Jonathan Wesley Wilham
<b>14</b>	<b>Flag Day</b>	23	Laverne Patrick Hubert II
<b>15</b>	<b>Father's Day</b>	25	John Frederick Dorman
15	Bert Beverly Beach	28	Paul James Leon
17	William Wesley Roberts	28	Craig Andrew Pirtle
18	Benjamin R. Grove	29	Archie Moulton Andrews
19	Timothy Read Bennett	29	William Henry Mobley III
20	Ralph Anthony Wells	30	Wayne Norris Cox
22	Jonathan Hart Bailey	31	James Grant Hellmuth
23	John Thornton Collier	<b>August</b>	
24	George Thompson Esherick	3	Ryan Edward Mackenzie
25	Jon Scott Aldridge	5	Charles Douglas Ogren
25	Phillip Walter Criswell	7	Michael Andrew Monroe
26	Gregory Spoor Weart	7	Gerald Wesley Scott
28	Douglas Charles Speeckaert	8	Robert Marion Puryear
29	James Roy Wachob	<b>8-9</b>	<b>AMS Conference, Princeton, NJ</b>
30	Barrett L. McKown	9	Joel Patrick Hinzman
<b>July</b>		14	Lon Edgar Musslewhite
2	William John Dale, Jr.	15	Andrew Davis London
<b>4</b>	<b>Independence Day</b>	16	Daniel Bruce Wanke
<b>4</b>	<b>Elbridge Gerry Commemoration</b>	17	David Graham Boring
4	John Pierce Gould	18	Kenneth Charles Bowyer
4	Gregory Lewis Hutchison	18	Charles Owen Johnson
4	James Gorham Oglesby	19	John H. Evans IV
4	Charles Paul Warr	19	Andrew Martin Johnson
<b>5-9</b>	<b>NSSAR Congress, Sacramento, CA</b>	20	John Alan Langworthy
7	Floyd Edward Bennett	20	Charles Hart Nalls
8	Scott Carlton Shewmaker	22	Robert Darrell Pollock
9	Michael Ray Allen	23	Garland Truett Adams
9	Edgar Allen Poe	26	Dillin Barrett Olshonsky
9	Ford Evans Young III	27	Norman Ralph Peters
13	William Spencer Johnson IV	28	Roy Folger Allan



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