

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

COMMITTEE REPORT

Filing Date: 10 September 2020

COMMITTEE: America 250 SAR Committee Chairman: Clifford C. Olsen, II

Chairman's Address: 1011 Boonville Rd., Jefferson City, MO 65109 Chairman's Phone No. 573-634-8200

Meeting Dates & Location: 09 September 2020 Zoom Online Meeting

EXPENSES: _____

Attendance at Meetings 09 Sep 2020: C. Olsen, Chmn., MO; A. Byrd, V. Chmn., AZ; T. Bailey, OH; R. Brockway, WV; J. DeLoach, NC; J. Engler, MD; H. Fisk, MO; G. Gift, MO; K. Gregory, CA; D. Hafley, OK; G. Higgins, NC; E. Hoak, MA; M. Kelley, MD; B. Lyles, KS; J. Morock, LA; M. Norris, TN; D. Perkins, CT; S. Powell, NC; L. Raborg, MD; J. Schatzel, KS; B. Schwetke, VA; G. Strunk, NC; E. Sutton, PA; J. Thomas, VA; J. Vermaelen, NY; T. Vets. II, LA; R. Williams, NJ; D. Wood, NH.

GOALS (as approved by the President General):

- 1) Designate individual members liaisons with the following SAR Committees to coordinate celebration of 250th Anniversary
- 2) Developing the History Explorers program into a National template which will be available to all chapters and societies.
- 3) Prepare and submit a 250th Anniversary article for two issues of the SAR Magazine beginning with the Fall 2016 issue. A timeline for 250th Anniversary articles for submission into SAR Magazine is being developed. These events will be expanded to try to work with national committees, State Societies and Local Chapters in developing programs to recognize the events in the locations.
- 4) Develop guidelines for Chapters and Societies to earn recognition, probably thru the use of Streamers and Certificates, for promoting and celebrating 250th Anniversary programs.

REPORT & RECOMENDATIONS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Olsen at about 7:04 pm, CST.

The Pledge of the SAR was given by Brooks Lyles.

Chairman Olsen gave an initial update on what is happening nationally. First, the national Semiquincentennial Commission has renamed itself "America 250" (for ease and understanding) and recommends that other supporting groups do the same.

Tim Walker, SAR member and Vice Chairman of the Commission, reported to Chairman Olsen that they have identified 3 goals: 1) by the end of the year they will have 12 complete programs to present to the public on the 250th Anniversary; 2) all 50 states are encouraged to have their own commission; and 3) they are searching for corporate sponsors to help.

Starting with the Agenda, Howard Fisk reported on 2 major issues:

1. **The 250th Anniversary flag:** there have been delays occasioned by COVID 19, as the staff of the company were furloughed, then felt that the design was not detailed enough. Susan Griffin had also been gone during shutdown but is now working with the company and the design is now acceptable. We had

committed and indeed sold for 50 grommets flags and 25 sleeved flags and with TG Bruce Pickette's assistance the order was doubled, with our commitment to purchase the first 50 grommets and 25 sleeved flags. Ms. Griffin in Merchandizing does not want to put the flags back on the website and take orders until we actually have them available. So, we are waiting for flags.

2. The Concept of honoring **Patriot Sons and Daughters with a Memorial Medallion**: this went to Medals & Awards, after discussions that it did not to be approved there, was referred to the Executive Committee. Revised language was sent with the proposals.

Guy Higgins asked if we were going after a grave marking medallion for Sons and Daughters of Patriots: Yes, and it would be a 3" bronze medallion that could be affixed to an existing grave marker. The reason is that there are very few patriot graves in the West and the idea is to give reasons for celebrations for other members for the next 5 – 10 years (during the time of the 250th). Guy Higgins recommended that we not be tied to bronze markers: he noted that there are many Patriot graves in the Carolinas, and bronze markers would not do well with older tombstones. He recommended considering a marker on a foot stone that could be flush to the ground and inexpensive, and easier to get approved. Howard Fisk stated that this was discussed (meeting with him, Joe Dooley and Cliff Olsen) and the feeling is that it would be fine – that we do not need to be too specific, and that the local Societies can figure it out if we make them available.

David Perkins confirmed that the Executive Committee meeting is on September 22nd.

Mark Norris reported on a proposal for a possible new Public Service award: He reported an example: Harry Burn of Tennessee, who spent his life in public service and whose deciding vote in the Tennessee legislature in 1920 made Tennessee the necessary 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, allowing women the right to vote. He later became PG of the Sons of the American Revolution. He noted that there are a number of people that we could recognize and have a clear example in a former PG. He noted that America began with the Revolution, but much more was what the ideas of the Revolution then led future generations to think and do, and we would do well to acknowledge that.

There was general discussion: Richard Brockway while not opposing wondered if it is the purview of our Committee (yes, since we are to come up with ideas); Jim Engler wondered how it differed from the Good Citizenship award (different group of honorees) and per suggestion of Roger Williams, a subcommittee was formed consisting of Mark Norris, Guy Higgins, Howard Fisk, Ed Hoak, and Jay DeLoach to come up with some specifics to take to the Public Service & Heroism Committee. Mike Kelley, on Medals & Awards Committee, noted that the initial outlay to duplicate and create a new medal would be about \$5,000.

Roger Williams reported on the potential for a SAR Lecture Series: he is in publishing, and one of his authors is James Kirby Martin, a Texas history professor and one of the most knowledgeable scholars on the American Revolution. With both of their contacts and those of Joe Dooley (both Joe and Roger deal with academics frequently), they propose to enlist a group of scholars to create a SAR Lecture Series on the War for Independence, that would be presented under the framework of an Initiative from both the Education Committee and the America 250th Committee. Roger Williams will need help to develop this. There was general discussion on how long these were to be, with range generally felt to be 20 minutes – more like Ted Talks - with longer lectures possible for target audiences. Podcasts and other approaches would be possible. It was moved and seconded (Fisk, Byrd) to approve the concept. Passed.

Roger Williams next reported on (modern day) Committees of Correspondence: this came from the realization of leadership that we need to develop a means to find out what the other states are doing for their 250th and if they had assigned a 250th Anniversary chairman for their state. He sent out an e-mail to all 50 State Presidents, and got a small response back. So, will begin a campaign to recruit the State Corresponding Secretaries. The email is America250SAR@sar.org. It was recommended by Guy

Higgins that he send to the President, Vice President and State Secretaries of each state (evidently there is a list) to improve the likelihood of a response. The consensus was that the national Committee members should not be the State chairperson, so that there would be two people working on it. Jim Engler recommended it be taken to the Council of State Presidents, as well.

Members reported ‘dead end’ email results (George Strunk nationally; Richard Brockway in WV) and Roger Williams was going to work on getting it through.

Darrell Hefley is using several sources and putting out a ‘This day in History, 250 Years Ago’ for the Revolutionary War for each day. Roger Williams noted that there is a 2 volume book set “The American Revolution Day by Day” which should help. Howard Fisk recommended that we follow on facebook Chairman Olsen’s 250YearsofLiberty and 250Years Amerca’s Founding pages, and then ‘like’ and ‘share’ to increase exposure.

David Perkins reported on the proposal for a SAR 250th web page: there are 2 ways to go: 1) we can use the National website and work off of the page for the Committee, but to get IT support would entail requesting approval from the Executive Committee then generating a work order and keeping track of billable hours, etc. Or 2) he volunteered the CTSSAR website to host it and he would be responsible and then be able to manage and coordinate all the subordinate state and activity sites. Questions were raised if it would be available for the public or SAR members; Jim Engler felt there would be ways to do both. There would be nothing proprietary. David Perkins stated they would start with SAR and then broaden it later. The consensus is to accept Compatriot Perkin’s and the CTSSAR Society’s generous offer; moved and seconded (David Perkins; Roger Williams), passed.

David Perkins next reported on the (beautiful) 250th Anniversary pins: they are designed and ready to be made, are 1 ¼ inches in diameter (pictured). The CTSSAR committed to front the money for the first 1000 order. Cost will vary depending on number ordered but the low price will encourage everyone to wear them, and be nice giveaways. Jay DeLoach requested he send out fliers detailing how to order, and Mr. Perkins stated it will be on the CTSSAR website.



250th Anniversary 1776-2026 Lapel Pin

The NSSAR America 250th SAR Committee has authorized the sale of this pin with the support of the Connecticut Society of the SAR. Pins can be purchased in sets of 10 starting at 20 pins for \$42.00 which includes shipping and insurance using flat rate priority boxes.

Pin Order	Total Price	Unit Price
20	\$42.00	\$2.10
30	\$60.00	\$2.00
40	\$74.00	\$1.85
50	\$90.00	\$1.80
70	\$119.00	\$1.70
100	\$167.00	\$1.67
200	\$310.00	\$1.55
500	\$750.00	\$1.50

For additional information on purchasing these pins, please contact David J. Perkins at DPerkins8@att.net

Brooks Lyles closed with the SAR Recessional at 8:24 p.m. CST

Respectfully submitted,

Abraham R. Byrd III, M.D.

