



The Connecticut Line

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

State Officers 2018-2019

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CTSSAR Board of Managers Meeting - Saturday Feb 23rd, Griswold Inn



Jon. Trumbull

Our CTSSAR Board of Managers met at the historic Griswold Inn on Saturday February 23rd. Discussions included: The 2019 Budget, which was approved; The Real Property Committee Report, A Sharefile will be set up for access to information pertinent to CTSSAR business; The Annual Reconciliation Report was read, and the results are on the fourth page of this *Connecticut Line* to the left; and a proposal was made for CTSSAR to host a National Congress in 2023. (More in the President's Report). A very interesting proposal was made by Todd Gerlander, and supported by Dave Packard and Dave Perkins. They proposed that the Connecticut Society charter the **Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13** in honor of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., Connecticut's "Rebel" Governor, Captain-General and Commander-In-Chief of the Connecticut militia and Connecticut naval forces during the American Revolution. The Branch is being formed to raise interest and funds for the preservation of the War Office, which the Connecticut Society has owned and maintained since 1891. The War Office is where Gov. Jonathan Trumbull and the Connecticut Council of Safety met during the American Revolution. The branch will be open to all members of the CTSSAR, as a member's secondary branch. State officers will serve as branch officers. All branch dues will go directly to War Office preservation. This could bring in thousands of dollars annually to the War Office and help alleviate the strain on the Manross Fund, distributed to three historic properties. It was estimated that at the least, basic operating costs would be covered.

The Branch will meet annually in Lebanon, Connecticut, during the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull birthday event at the War Office in October. This meeting will consist of an annual tour of the War Office. There are many CTSSAR members who have never visited the War Office, and this will raise awareness of the importance of the War Office during the American Revolution, and our preservation of it today. Members will hear directly from the Property Steward on how their money was being spent and see it with their own eyes. A Branch challenge coin could be created so that members could challenge other members of the CTSSAR, as well as all SAR members nationwide to join. This would raise CTSSAR membership, which in turn would raise funds and interest. These coins could also be sold to the public to help raise funds for War Office preservation.

Annual dues for the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 have yet to be decided, but 2019 charter membership registrations will begin at the annual CTSSAR meeting on April 27, 2019 and will remain open until the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull birthday event on October 6, 2019. 2020 branch dues will appear on the CTSSAR dues notice.





Humphreys President Bill Fenn, Eagle Scout Curtis Brown and Eagle Scout Chairman Tim Wilkins.

General David Humphreys Branch # 1 News

On March 11th the Branch honored Eagle Scout Curtis Brown. He is from Troop 109 in the Naugatuck Council. His winning essay was about Samuel Adams and how he helped organize the Boston Tea Party. Curtis was given a Certificate of Recognition, Patch and a donation from the Humphreys Branch for \$200.00.



On December 10, 2019, Humphreys new Flag Chairman Chris Bandecchi presented Richard Kendall with the Flag Award. Rich is also the incoming Chaplain of the Humphrey's Branch.



On January 10, 2019 Humphreys President Bill Fenn inducted two new members George Esposito and Steven Chapman. Greg Thompson was their sponsor. Both new members gave us a history of their ancestor.

President Cregeau Hosts Nathaniel Philbrick

The well-known author and his wife Melissa came to Greater Hartford recently to see the sites related to Wadsworth's hosting of Washington several times (1775, 1780, 1789) in Hartford as well as the art of GW's one-time aide, John Trumbull. To the right is a photograph Damien and Nat standing at the "Washington Stele" in front of the Wadsworth Atheneum in downtown Hartford. It marks the location of Wadsworth's stately home. President Cregeau coordinated the restoration and relocation of this monument for the museum about five years ago with the help of Jennie Rehnberg, former CTDAR State Regent. There is a second, smaller bronze plaque attached to the stone wall of the museum from about 1910 from Wadsworth Branch #7 also marking the visits of Washington to Wadsworth's home, as this vertical stone stele was from the CTDAR in 1932.



Wadsworth Branch #7 News



State President Damien Cregeau presenting the gavel to incoming Wadsworth Branch President Bruce Donald, with Justin Ankerman, Secretary, Bill Baldwin, Vice President, and Lee Tryon, Treasurer, looking on.

President Cregeau inducted new compatriot Tony Healy into the Society, and installed the new officers of Wadsworth Branch #7. They are: R. Bruce Donald, Branch President; Bill Baldwin, Vice President; Justin Ankerman, Secretary; and Lee Tryon, Treasurer.

There was a break for lunch with an outstanding a la carte menu, and then President Cregeau regaled the attended with a Powerpoint presentation entitled, "Brevet Brigadier General Samuel Blachley Webb of Wethersfield, Aide-de-Camp to General George Washington".

On January 2th, State President and Wadsworth Branch Past President Damien Cregeau presided over a well-attended meeting in the absence of outgoing Branch President Eric Hart at the historic Abigail's Tavern in Simsbury. Secretary Ankerman established that a quorum was established. A summary was given of the last meeting in May 2018, Wethersfield, held at Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield, and the induction of Bill Baldwin as new compatriot.

A discussion of possible future events for 2019 included: a Summer event to mark/commemorate the grave of Sergeant Giffin of Wethersfield, who served in Webb's 9th Regiment; a plaque rededication for Maj. Gen. Marquis de Lafayette's visit to Farmington, marked by CTSSAR and until recently hidden in trees and undergrowth. An initiative of President Cregeau—the possibility of co-hosting of a spy symposium in Litchfield in September.



CTSSAR Secretary (and proposer) Paul Selnau "pins" new compatriot Tony Healy with President Cregeau looking on.

The Connecticut Line - Color Guard News

At the Annual Meeting held on February 16th at J. Timothy's in Plainville, all officers were reelected to their respective posts with Dan Dudley being reappointed as State Color Guard 1st Sgt. by Commander Perkins. Awards were presented as follows: The Bronze Color Guard medal was Harry Clarke of the Hale Branch; the Silver Color Guard medals to Jim Klaneski of Wolcott and Mike Chuckta of Humphreys; Patriot Grave Marking medals went to Jonathan King, the three Gerlanders and Bob Donahue; the Color Guardsman of the Year went to Dave Packard; and the 2018 Participation Certificate to William Baldwin of Wadsworth Branch.



The Connecticut Line in front of J. Timothy's February 16, 2019.



David Perkins awards the Color Guardsman of the Year Award to Dave Packard

Called to Eternal Rest

Thomas M. Francis
Virgil W. Hundley
Richard E. Keeler
David E. Knoffa
Roland R. Miller
Thomas Mulcahy
Rev Halsey Stevens
David M. Wakelee
Howard E. Wayland
Bishop Robert Atwell
John Everett Champe
Broedus Holt Whatley
Lee P. Steele
Richard T. Riley
Michael C. Huebsch

New Members Since Sept. 2018

Joseph L. Hitchery
Russell B. Cumbee
John E. Glover
Gerald H. Miller
William J. Bendix
Henry Joseph Burke
Mark Thomas Keeler
Derrick R. Lambert
Gregory B. Peck
Peter John Tefft
Curtis Christie Wood
George E. Esposito
Steven J. Chapman
Alexander C. Metz
Donald James Duncan
Karl T. H. Crump
Jerry Peter Mahler
Thomas F. Burland
Cameron A. Stotz
Walter Ward Beeman
Richard N. Thompson
Perry Tyler Green
Steven J. Chapman
Trew Martin Sterling
David Carl Warfield
Karl Edward Neumann
John S. Olechnicki
Joseph R. Markowski

Active Membership

554

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Dave Packard
David Perkins
Todd Gerlander

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State President's Report—Damien Mott Cregeau

It was both a first time visit but also a homecoming for me to make my return to Louisville for my first visits to the Spring Leadership conference as well as our NSSAR headquarters and museum. I taught history and coached crew at a prep school in Louisville between 2000 and 2002. I last visited Louisville back in 2014 for a historical conference. The good news is that a nice city has gotten better upon each visit. For example, the eastern part of downtown is now filled with fine stores and restaurants. Bourbon distilleries are sprouting up all over the city. My first visit to NSSAR was fun and successful. My key role as you know was to present on CTSSAR's behalf a seven-minute PPT presentation on why we should host an upcoming National Congress. About 30 Compatriots listened as I gave what several Compatriots called an excellent, polished presentation. Once I learned that Florida had given their sales pitch this year for the third year in a row, I secretly hoped for them over us for 2023; any other outcome would be rather embarrassing for Florida, especially given the sheer size of their membership. It was no surprise, then, when it was announced that Florida beat us for hosting in 2023. I broke the news to Florida's presenter and impending new state president; he was delighted. Whether we eventually win to host in 2024 or 2025, we will have extra time to raise funds and prepare our properties for the hoards of visitors. One possible huge advantage for the extra time is the completion of the future national museum of the U.S. Coast Guard in downtown New London, which Dave Packard has of course pointed out will greatly impact interest in our Hale Schoolhouse across the street. Speaking of museums, I was impressed with my first visit to NSSAR's new headquarters and museum on Main Street as part of "museum row," at it is next door to the Frazier Museum and across the street from the Louisville Slugger Museum. Mike Scroggins (operations director and Compatriot) was our tour guide for a group of us first-timers. In addition to the large library you see pictured online there is a small room with impressive Rev. War-era items. We were treated to seeing where all of our Compatriot applications are stored safely in a vault, and saw the new PG's office that is completely covered in beautiful wood paneling. I met the current PG Warren Alter twice, and he presented me with his challenge coin depicting General Washington praying at Valley Forge. I also congratulated former PG Tom Lawrence on his 70th birthday. You will recall he visited us in 2016 and I hosted him overnight at both our Wethersfield and Norwich homes. His very positive impression of our three properties as well as Fort Griswold will become more important in the upcoming Congressional planning committee meetings in 2020 and beyond. I attended several meetings in addition to the all-day Trustees meeting on Saturday. These included the Knight Essay, Americanism and Officer Training meetings. I found the Knight Essay meeting particularly interesting and contributed my "boots on the ground" type of report. The national committee of the Knight Essay Contest usually has semi-finalists from 27 societies. You'll be surprised to learn we have a Spain and France society, and the French delegate and I met and exchanged contact information. I was quite pleased to meet so many Compatriots for the first time and accomplished one of my several goals in handing out each of my 30 or so CTSSAR President business cards. It was good to establish new connections with other Compatriot leaders, especially with NJSSAR's state president as we discussed the challenges of deteriorating and unmarked headstones in Elizabeth, NJ that locate the burial sites of officers and agents of Brigadier General Elias Dayton's spy ring. Even Gen. Dayton's fancy plot has neither a U.S. flag nor a NSSAR marker, and that will change soon. The other pieces of good news included Dave Perkins' successful efforts to combine funds for our five service academies to better ensure that NSSAR's eagle statue award is funded properly and continues at our USAF Academy in Colorado Springs. Other good news included a nice \$300 donation from our OFPA-CT to this service academy awards fund by Trustee Ken Roach. The other piece of good news was that the Treasurer General and the GWEF (George Washington Endowment Fund) approved providing \$2000 of the \$2500 that Ethan Stewart and I asked for in a letter application earlier this winter. Alternate Trustee Dave Perkins presented to the GWEF in order to improve the chances of CTSSAR receiving the money it desired. Considering that NSSAR typically awards about half what Compatriots ask for, this is a huge success. Finally, I will note that Davis Wright, the Treasurer General, is about 45, making him two years younger than I, and the youngest Compatriot at our Spring Leadership conference. If you have any questions or wish to know more, please contact me by phone or email.

Patriotically,
Damien M. Cregeau

Calendar: **Annual State Meeting: Apr 27, 2019**
Sept BOM & Nov All Member: TBD

See the expanded version online:
<https://www.connecticutsar.org/newsletter/>

Connecticut SAR - Challenge Coins

Coins are \$10 plus shipping, for more information about the coins, please contact Ethan Stewart at sarethan@optonline.net

2018 – Governor Jonathan Trumbull War Office

2019 – Invasion of New Haven – July 5, 1779



STYLE A



2019 – General David Humphreys Branch No.1

2019 Captain Nathan Hale



This will be a limited series of challenge coins created, with one or more each year leading up to the 250th anniversary of the United States of America in 2026.

We Want You as a Property Docent!



Please consider volunteering this summer at 1 of our 3 museum properties. The hours are Noon to 4pm on Friday to Sunday at the War Office in Lebanon and the East Haddam Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, or 11am to 4pm Wednesday to Sunday at the New London Nathan Hale Schoolhouse.

For more information please contact Real Property Steward Dave Packard at 860-334-2858 or view the docent calendar on our website at <https://www.connecticutsar.org/volunteer/>

Don't throw away this envelope until you locate your 2019 membership card inside!

Flag Award Certificates presented as part of the Admiral William R. Furlong Memorial Award

<u>STATE SOCIETY</u>	<u>CERTIFICATE RECIPIENT</u>	<u>DATE PRESENTED</u>
Connecticut	United Community & Family Services - Norwich, CT	November 9, 2018
<u>BRANCH</u>	<u>CERTIFICATE RECIPIENT</u>	<u>DATE PRESENTED</u>
Gen. David Humphreys	Richard Kendall – Stratford, CT	December 10, 2019
Gen. Israel Putnam		none reported
Roger Sherman	Norwalk Public Library - Norwalk, CT	December 2, 2018
	American Legion Post 12 - Norwalk, CT	December 2, 2018
Capt. Nathan Hale	Tom Callinan - Norwich, CT	September 29, 2018
Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth		none reported
Rev. Ebenezer Baldwin	Kenneth A. Boughton - Newtown, CT	December 22, 2018
Gov. Oliver Wolcott, Sr.	Keystone Place at Newbury Brook - Torrington, CT	November 29, 2018
Capt. Matthew Mead		none reported

Will your branch be participating in 2019 by making a flag award presentation?



Connecticut Line Color Guard Calendar for 2019
Approved at Feb 16 Annual Color Guard Meeting

- Friday April 12, 2019 – CTDAR State Conference Honor Guard, Red Loin, Cromwell, CT, 6pm,
- Monday April 15, 2019 - NSSAR Patriot's Day Parade, 244th Anniversary (April 19, 1775), Concord, MA.
- Saturday April 27, 2019 - CTSSAR Patriot's Day Lunch/Annual Meeting, J. Timothy's Tavern, Plainville, CT.
- Monday May 27, 2019 – Memorial Day Parades in Litchfield and Naugatuck
- Friday June 7, 2019 - Schooldays at the Schoolhouse, Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, East Haddam, CT.
- Monday June 17, 2019 - 244th Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill (June 17, 1775), Charlestown, MA.
- Thursday July 4, 2019 - NSSAR Let Freedom Ring - Independence Day Ceremonies & Bell Ringing, Litchfield, CT.
- Saturday July 13, 2019 – Invasion of New Haven Encampment, Wooster Park, East Haven, CT.
- Sunday Sept 1, 2019 - NSSAR Battle of Groton Heights (September 6, 1781), 238th Anniversary Commemoration, Fort Griswold & Col. Ledyard Cemetery, Groton, CT
- Sat/Sun Sept 7/8, 2019 – 300th Birthday Town of Litchfield, CT
- Sunday October 6, 2019 - Gov. Trumbull 309th Birthday/War Office & Grave Marking, Lebanon, CT.
- Saturday November 2019 - CTSSAR Connecticut's "Valley Forge" Meeting/Luncheon TBD?.
- December 2019 - Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, War Office, Lebanon, CT.
- Saturday Dec 14, 2019 - NSSAR Wreaths Across America: All Wars Memorial, Bantam, CT. (Wolcott's Brigade Detachment), (N); additional events in Milford and Lebanon.