



# The Connecticut Line

*The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*

## The SAR Works Because of Our Volunteers

At a recent planning session, it was great to be told that we get a lot done for a small organization that is run by only volunteers. We have no paid staff and none of our members get compensated in any way. We do what we do because we want to for the society.

Most of the time we are at meetings discussing how we can do more and we look at each other and say we need more members to volunteer for the functions we have. It is true that we would like to have more members become involved. And we always welcome new or current members becoming involved at any time.

We can't forget the rest of our members who may not have the time or desire to volunteer, but they continue to pay their dues, which supports what we do. But it's the volunteers that make the CTSSAR shine.

By the end of the year, the three branch color guard's will have been involved in almost 70 events. We know that most of the credit goes to Todd, Lee, and Randy Gerlander for keeping everything going. We now have almost 30 color guard members around the state, so the work is spreading out more and more. Two more of our branches are considering starting color guards, which will just add to our abilities. The color guards participate in grave markings, parades, reenactments, but most important of all are the school programs. Teaching children about the American Revolution is one of the best ways we can fulfill our objectives as an organization.



At the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in East Haddam, we only do some of the work. The wonderful members of the Nathan Hale Memorial Chapter, DAR and congregation of St. Stephen's Church keep the building open during the summer months for weekends and holidays. Bud Hall, a church member, mows the lawn all season long, sometimes with the help of his grandson. We recently held a work party, which Stephen Shaw, Russ Wirtalla, Bill Lane, and David Seibert, pictured above, attended to help clear some brush. This helped to keep the cost of our tree project down.

## Dues Can Stay Where They are, If You Help

At the state meeting in September, the suggestion of raising CT dues was considered. Very briefly, but it was discussed. The members present agreed that this was not the time, since Nationals has just raised their dues for us. We have some options to raise or save money which can keep us at our current price of \$18 per year, but we need all of you to help.

### 1. Sign up for the SNET Program.

By signing up, 5% of your long distance bill comes back to the CTSSAR. It is free money. More details are in this newsletter. We do not endorse SNET or SBC in any way.

### 2. Read the newsletter online.

Starting next year, you will only get a printed copy of the newsletter, if you don't have an email address or don't want it via email. Each issue costs about \$.85 to print and mail to each member. It adds up quickly.

### 3. Please, pay your dues on time.

When we have to send out a 2nd notice on Dec. 1st, it just adds to our bills. We've tried to make it as easy as possible over the last few years. We've combined the bills, enclosed a self addressed return envelope, and included the option to pay with a credit card online. For those who do pay quickly or on time, thank you for your help.

## The Connecticut Line October 2002

### Editor

Stephen P. Shaw  
stephen@whoistheoldguy.com

### Contributors

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### Submissions

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stephen@whoistheoldguy.com

### Deadlines

Jan. 1st      Mar. 1st  
Aug. 1st      Oct. 1st

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## Nov. 16th Meeting to be a Planning Session

The planning committee has already started the process of working with Bev Acarro who is a professional planner and grant writer, so we can further the funding and programs of the SAR in all of Connecticut.

This is a very important step for us as an organization to develop a long term plan. Then we can go after the grants to fulfill our projects.

During our last planning session, we ran out of time, so it was decided to summarize what had been discussed already and then have another session. Since Bev was already slated to speak to us at the Nov. 16th meeting, why not have her speak a little and then continue the planning project. This will allow many more of our members to be involved in the process.

## President's Corner

Your Society's September meeting in New London was incredibly productive and included a ceremony honoring Nathan Hale at the school house located in the heart of town. Many thanks to Ralph Thayer and Jack Townsend for their efforts in organizing the ceremony as well as Ted Nelson, Burt Chapman and Stephen Brown for bringing the schoolhouse into such terrific condition. The turnout at the meeting itself was somewhat light given competing events around the state. To that end, I would like to highlight for every member's benefit that these state meetings are not just for the Board of Managers but rather for ALL members to participate in and enjoy. Consequently, all future meetings will be announced as such, State Meetings, and not the exclusionary label that has evolved. Our next meeting will be in the Stamford area on November 16. I hope to see a large turnout especially from those in Fairfield County since the location is in their backyard.



Economics always seems to creep its way into the affairs of non-profit organizations and ours is no different. Expenses tend to go in only one direction and all of us have heard the news of National's response to increased operating costs by raising dues. At the State level, we have an alternative to raising dues in the form of the SNET Community Connections program. Most of you have heard of the program where the CTSSAR receives 5% of a member's long distance bill. Our participation to-date has not been would it could and should be. SNET's pricing is very competitive (7-10 cents per minute depending upon the plan chosen) and since we all need long distance service, it is hard to rationalize why the vast majority of us are not enrolled. We are missing a golden opportunity if we don't take advantage of what is truly "free" money to help in our mission. You can enroll by calling SNET at 800-635-7638 and giving our organization code which is 3585. It's that easy!

An area of special focus this year is helping those branches that need a boost either in the form of new members or developing a leadership core. I know several of our neighboring branches have already taken this to heart and started making plans on how they can work together. There are synergies that can be created. If any of you would like help from the State level in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The annual Massing of the Colors is coming up on November 3 at the Church of Christ Congregational in Newington starting at 2:30. Lastly, I am proud to announce that we received two awards from National: the CAR received recognition for its outstanding newsletter and Stephen Shaw received the Florence Kendall Award for his tremendous number of new members.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dean".

Dean H. Gaugler  
President, CTSSAR

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## Web Site Comments -

God bless you all for the work you are doing to keep us apprised of the past so that we may make our future better. Our forefathers should be hailed as heroes for all they went through during that time in the building of our country. Thank you. L. Alexander

## Dues Notice Notes

By now everyone should have received a dues notice even if your balance is \$0 because you are a life member. Here are some answers to common questions or details about other items.

As detailed in the last newsletter, the National dues have been increased by \$5 to \$25.

Dues must be paid by Dec. 31st, without exception.

The National rules state that to remain an active member, you have to be fully paid at the National and state level. Branch membership is the only part that is optional.

Any new or reinstated member, who is approved after Nov. 1st of the year is considered paid in full for National and CT for the upcoming year.

Life memberships are always the least expensive in the long run. The cost is based on your age and is different for Nationals and CT. The prices are on the web site at: <http://www.ctssar.org/dues> I expect the National prices to change, since they raised regular dues.

As always there are some donation items on the notice.

The Roger Sherman Fund is an endowment which was started a few years ago. The interest from it will fund our many projects in the future.

A new flag pole is needed at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in East Haddam. It will be more cost effective to put up a brand new fiberglass pole than to repaint and repair the existing pole.

New educational displays are needed in our historic buildings to help the students and other visitors get more out of their visit.

## Youth Memberships

I'm still waiting for all the details for the youth memberships from our headquarters. I plan to have a full explanation in the next newsletter.

## Training Weekend

The training weekend of the New England Contingent Color Guard was a big success again. Held at the Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, NH right on the Connecticut River a few weekends ago. The fort is a recreated French and Indian War fort which is open to the public.

It is the annual get together of the color guards to practice their marching, musket firing and safety issues. It's also the time for the members to recap the past season and work out the schedule for the upcoming year. Todd and Lee Gerlander are pictured below during one of the planning sessions.



There were 15 members in attendance, 12 of them being CT members. By the time the cold rainy weekend was done we were all working better in formation.

There is some discussion about having a training day in April for the CT members at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in East Haddam to get the season started on the right foot.

## Upcoming Events

### Massing of the Colors

Nov. 3 - 3pm  
Church of Christ Congregational  
Newington, CT  
Contact: Ben Thomas

### CTSSAR Meeting

Nov. 16 - 10:30am  
Luca's Restaurant  
Greenwich, CT  
Contact: Ben Thomas

### Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Statue Dedication Ceremony

Nov. 17 - 2pm  
Town Hall Green  
Trumbull, CT  
Contact: Todd Gerlander

### Boston Tea Party Reenactment

Dec. 15  
Boston, MA  
Contact: Todd Gerlander

### Washington's Birthday Exhibit

Feb. 14 - 15  
Old State House  
Hartford, CT  
Contact: Todd Gerlander

### CTSSAR Meeting

Feb. 15 - 10am  
Hartford, CT  
Contact: Ben Thomas

### CTSSAR Meeting

Apr. 19 - 10m  
Vernon, CT  
Contact: Ben Thomas

### 4th of July Cookout

Jul. 4 - 1pm  
Nathan Hale Schoolhouse  
East Haddam, CT  
Contact: Ben Thomas

### CTSSAR Meeting

Sep. 20 - 10am  
Torrington, CT  
Contact: Ben Thomas

Continued from page 1 The War Office in Lebanon is opened by Jean McArthur, who is a member of the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Chapter DAR each Saturday during the summer. The remaining days it was opened by the following docents:

John Allen  
Keith Jones  
Bill Lang  
Jim Leatherbee  
Betty & John Long  
Bruce Lyon  
Charles Riegle  
Bob Rivard  
Fred Rivard  
Stephen Shaw  
Russ Wirtalla

And of course, John Champe who keeps the grounds looking great all year long.

As noted in the last newsletter, the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in New London has undergone quite a change and that includes the

volunteers. Until recently only a few of our members were involved, but that has turned around as well for the better. During the summer season the following members opened the school:

Stephen Brown  
Burt Chapman  
Bob Rivard  
Fred Rivard  
Stephen Shaw  
Ralph Thayer  
Jack Townsend  
And the members of the Five Rivers Consortium have lent a hand.

These few dozen members have helped to keep our historic properties opened for thousands of visitors during the summer of 2002.

It's not hard work and it can be very rewarding. If you want to volunteer for the upcoming season, contact our Real Property Steward, Ted Nelson at 860-444-6771 or [ted@tjnelsonhomes.com](mailto:ted@tjnelsonhomes.com)

## SNET's Free Money

The CTSSAR is participating in the SNET Community Connections program. Now, when you sign up with SNET for all your long-distance calling - or confirm that you're already using SNET All Distance, the Connecticut SAR will get 5% of your monthly long distance bill.

I'd rather see members sign up for this, which doesn't cost them anything extra, instead of having to raise dues to add to our income.

Signing up is easy. Just call SNET at 1-800-635-7638, or sign up on the web at [www.snet.com/community](http://www.snet.com/community). Our organization code is # 3585.

[www.ctssar.org](http://www.ctssar.org)



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Connecticut Society of the  
Sons of the American Revolution  
PO Box 411  
East Haddam CT 06423-0411

CTSSAR MEETING  
Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am  
Luca's Restaurant  
35 Church St  
Greenwich, CT  
203-869-4403

Join us in Greenwich. All members are welcome and encouraged at CTSSAR meetings. Putnam Cottage is just one of many places of interest in the area.

Cash bar available. Lunch menu: salad, bread, entree selection; beef, fish, chicken or pasta (can be selected at lunch time), desert and coffee or tea. \$30 per person.

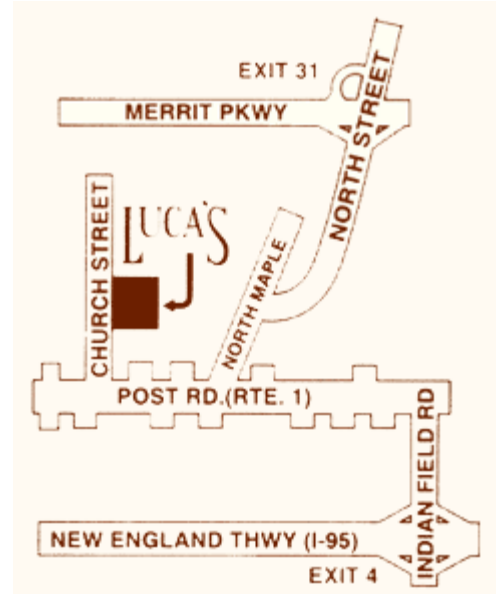
**From I-95 - Exit 4, From CT:** Right at top of ramp.

**From NY:** Left at top of ramp; go over RR bridge to light at end of Indian Field Road; Left at light onto Post Road. (E. Putnam Ave./ Rte. 1) At 7th traffic light, make a right onto Church Street. (at corner of First United Methodist Church). Luca's is the third building on the right.

**From Merrit Parkway. Exit 31:** North Street.

**From CT:** Make a right off ramp.

**From NY:** Make a left off ramp. Follow North Street, approximately 3 miles to end, make a left onto North Maple Avenue, to light, bare right onto Post Road. Go to 3rd light, make a right onto Church Street. (at corner of First United Methodist Church), Luca's is 3rd building on the right.



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number in your party \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Jeffrey Hessler  
11 Bonny Ln  
Clinton, CT 06413