

The Connecticut Line

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Our Color Guardsman of the Year



If you don't recognize this man's face on the left, then you've never been to one of our events.

Todd Gerlander does an incredible amount of work as the New England Contingent Color Guard Commander and the Commander of Putnam's Regiment.

So far this year, the contingent has been involved with 52 events throughout New England. The events break down to 11 school presentations, 9 parades, 8 grave markings or statue dedications,

6 Rev War battle/event dedications and the rest don't fall into simple categories. And the year isn't over yet.

The most important fact to note is that the contingent has reached an estimated 1650 school children through these events. Educating the public above all has been one of the main goals of the contingent as it is one of the main objectives of our society as a whole. Whenever

Continued on page 3

Slow Improvements at Headquarters

Primary membership applications are still having to wait about three months before they are reviewed for acceptance. Supplemental applications are currently on hold given the backlog of primary apps. We are hoping for additional staff to be added to handle the workload. Cross your fingers!

We have almost forty primary apps waiting at nationals, which is a record. Over fifteen of them were sent during the last couple of weeks to beat the fee increase. We currently have 626 members and keep growing. We have been on the upswing for a number of years now due to increased interest due to our increased activity around the state with our color guard and branches.

At the last national trustees meeting, the genealogy

Continued on page 4

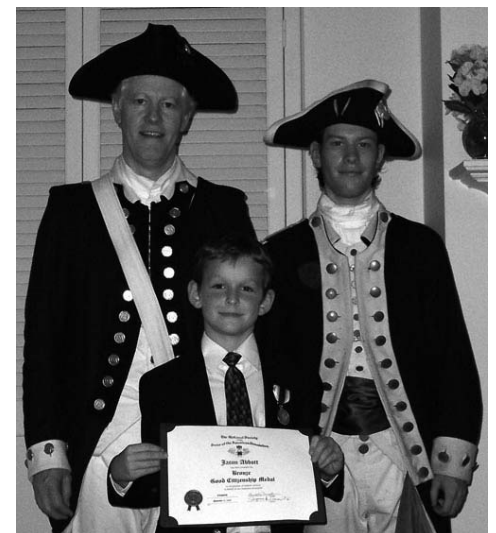
Patriotic Youth

Last Memorial Day the parade in Torrington was cancelled due to the rain. The reason given was that the rain causes too much damage to the instruments of the bands.

Jason Abbott a 7 year old boy did not agree. He felt that the parade should go on. He felt that the soldiers have been out in all kinds of weather, so he should too.

So Jason in his little league uniform marched the entire parade route with his father and little brother following in the car behind him.

At the September CTSSAR meeting in Torrington, Jason was presented with the Bronze Good Citizenship Award. There was hardly a dry eye in the room.



Bob Rivard, Jason, and Fred Rivard

The Connecticut Line October 2003

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Submissions

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Deadlines

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

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.

So far with just over 40 members participating, we've been handed almost \$500. The more members that participate the better for us and our programs.

Signing up is easy. Just call SBC/SNET at 1-800-635-7638, or sign up on the web at <http://www04.sbc.com/content/0,,163,00.html>. Our organization code is # 3585.

If you know of other phone companies that have similar programs, contact Stephen Shaw at stephen@whoistheoldguy.com or 860-916-1804.

President's Corner

My son Ian and I recently visited the State Capitol Building in Hartford. Those of you that haven't been there might be interested to learn that, among other historic items of interest, there are some items that Revolutionary War enthusiasts might like to see. There is a camp bed that belonged to the Marquis de Lafayette. Israel Putnam's original gravestone is displayed there because over the years some people were removing pieces of it to keep as souvenirs and others were defacing it. There is a replica of the Liberty Bell, and also a statue of Nathan Hale with our State hero's famous last words inscribed on its granite base. I also recommend that you visit the Museum of Connecticut History in the State Library/Museum/Supreme Court building across the street. There you can see Connecticut's original charter that was given to the colony by King Charles II in 1662, and a regimental flag of the 2nd Continental Light Dragoons.



Despite the fact that the National Society SAR has deemed it necessary to increase dues last year, and fees this year, our State Registrar believes that CTSSAR's membership is now at an all-time high. And, we have just recently flooded National Headquarters with even more primary membership applications. Together we can all help to increase our membership. Are there any members of your family that are eligible? Please remember that we are now accepting Junior Membership applications from males under 18 years of age. Also, at our September meeting the Board of Managers voted that CTSSAR should not charge dues to members under the age of 25. Talk about SAR to your friends. Proudly wear a SAR hat or tee-shirt. Display a SAR decal or license plate frame on your car. Tell people what this patriotic organization does and let them know that we have members who are willing to help them discover if they too are eligible to join us.

CTSSAR had an informative and productive meeting in September. Let's keep the ball rolling so that we can attain our goals as efficiently as possible. I am asking all of our committees to provide written reports at each of our State Meetings beginning with our next State Meeting in November. This is very important. We need our committees to make steady progress and to keep all of us informed of that progress regularly. I feel that we cannot effectively move forward by only compiling annual reports. I would also like to remind the Awards Committee and each Branch to think about ordering awards and certificates soon so they don't run into problems when the National Merchandise Dept. gets busy during the spring awards season.

Kenneth A. Buckbee
President - CTSSAR

Renewal Notice

By now everyone should have received a renewal 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.

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

Please make an effort to pay the bill before Dec 1st. It will save us money by not sending out a 2nd notice.

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>.

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.

We are starting to raise funds now for all the planned improvements and activities for Nathan Hale's 250th birthday that will be June 6, 2005. He is our state hero and we own the two schoolhouses.

The Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) continues to move ahead as we near the 225th anniversary. He have already financed one marker and many more are needed to mark the whole route through Connecticut.

Continued from page 1

there is a choice between an event in front of the public versus a branch or state meeting, the public always wins. As they say "preaching to the choir".

This has been a typical year. Todd has been the commander since the contingent started in 1999 and has maintained a busy schedule. I have a hard time naming any events that he hasn't been a part of.

It goes without saying that we here in Connecticut applaud his efforts, but he's not likely to get much recognition at the national level. The point system that has been setup at the national level gives much more credit for "preaching to the choir" then for educating the public.

50 points can be earned for going to a National Congress to be in front of compatriots who already know about the Revolutionary War, but zero points are given for making a school presentation. A whopping 15 points can be earned for being at a national trustees meeting, but being in a parade in front of hundreds if not thousands of people is only worth 10 points. Even being at a state meeting is worth 10 points, when a grave marking ceremony is worth a lousy 5 points.

Why on Earth its more valued to our national leaders to be eye candy for our follow compatriots then to be fulfilling our objectives the way that Todd and our contingent do is beyond my understanding.

The full point structure can be read at www.sar.org/colors/cgtrophy.htm. If you feel that any of this needs to be changed, you can reach the National Color Guard Committee Chairman Edgar Grover at edgrover@juno.com.

I'm sure that the national committee had their reasons when this was setup, but I don't understand what they may be based on what our objectives are.

I can't finish this page without recognizing Todd's father Lee and his brother Randy who are out at every event.

Please keep in mind that our color guard members are all volunteers who take a lot of time off from work and their lives to help educate the public. We are always looking for more members to help us with our goals. Being in the color guard is actually quite easy. It's up to you and your time. Any level of support is appreciated.

Reduced Dues for Younger Members

At the CTSSAR meeting in September, the board of managers approved to waive annual CT dues for members who are 25 years old and under. This only effects 17 current members at \$18 per.

Since most of these members are students who's father or grandfather has forwarded their membership application for them, it was felt that it would lesson the financial burden.

We expect that more fathers and sons will be active members together at our various events around the state.

Continued from page 1 committee made some changes which will help with the application process. Apps that have been declined in the past due to the genealogist general's stronger rules can be appealed directly to the genealogy committee. We have a few that will be appealed to get them approved.

Transcriptions of vital records and census records from the Internet can now be used as a reference. For example, the Latter Day Saints has the 1880 Federal Census transcribed and online at www.familysearch.org. This free transcription can be used without having to make a copy of the actual census image.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society at www.newenglandancestors.org has many of the vital records of Massachusetts up to 1850 on their online database. These transcriptions of the original books have been deemed as being accurate enough to be acceptable as well.

The committee also reaffirmed that older SAR and DAR applications are still acceptable as proof of the line and that additional supporting material is appreciated but not necessarily required.

Samuel Huntington's Grave

The mausoleum for Governor Samuel Huntington and his wife is in the process of being rebuilt and repaired. The years have taken a toll on the brick structure with help from a large tree that has been removed.

Our color guards were there to mark the beginning of the project and will be there when it's done. The Coast Guard and the Norwich City Police will take turns to guard the grave while the project goes on. The remains are being stored at a local funeral home temporarily.

Flag Awards

There are still some branches that need to make a flag award presentation before the end of the year. We won the national furlong award last year because of the work of our branches and we can do it again.

If your branch hasn't made a presentation yet or you have and haven't told Dick Anderson, then please contact him at 203-469-1544 or rea1812@yahoo.com

www.ctsarr.org



TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
~ Connecticut's Valley Forge Luncheon ~

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2003

In Honor of the 225th Anniversary of the Winter Encampment of the Continental Army at Camp Reading 1778 - 1779 "Connecticut's Valley Forge", Putnam Memorial State Park, Redding, CT.

Being that November marks the 225th Anniversary of the arrival of the Continental Army into winter quarters at Camp Reading (1778-1779), Compatriot Carlton Kline will give a brief history of the winter encampment. The Society will then take a tour of Putnam Memorial State Park, placing a wreath at the monument in remembrance of the brave American Patriots who wintered there during the American Revolution. Color Guardsmen please wear your uniforms.

Stony Hill Inn
46 Stony Hill Road, US Route 6
Bethel, CT 06801

10:00 AM – CTSSAR Board of Managers Meeting (All members welcome)

12:00 PM – SOCIAL (Cash Bar available)

12:30 PM – CTSSAR Luncheon (Members and their wives are encouraged to attend)

Menu

Choice of fruit cup or soup

Garden Salad

Choice of 3 entrees: Chicken Marsala, Yankee Pot Roast, or Broiled Boston Scrod

Potato or Rice, Vegetable & Dinner rolls

Dessert

Coffee or tea

\$25.00 Per Person

Luncheon reservations must be received by November 7th

Name: _____ Entree _____

_____ Entree _____

Number in your party _____

Amount Enclosed _____

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CTSSAR

DIRECTIONS TO STONEY HILL INN

From Manhattan

West Side Highway northbound (Joe DiMaggio Highway) which becomes the Henry Hudson Parkway. In Westchester County the highway becomes the Saw Mill River Parkway. Follow the Saw Mill River Parkway to I-684 north (Brewster). Connect to I-84 east (Danbury). Once entering Connecticut take Exit 8 (Route 6 east/Bethel). At the end of the ramp go straight, the hotel is located 1.5 miles on the left.

From Hartford/Waterbury

I-84 west to Exit 9 (Route 25 Brookfield). At the end of the ramp take a left. At the first light take a right onto Route 6 west. The hotel is located 2 miles on the right.

