War effort was so important to Washington, that he called him “the first of the patriots” and when Washington became desperate for want of men and food supplies, he knew he could always turn to “Brother Jonathan.” Governor Trumbull met over 500 times with his “Council of Safety” to coordinate Connecticut’s war efforts. Among all of the great patriots of the Revolutionary War, Governor Trumbull stands out among the finest. Please support the color guard and consider attending events they will participate in.

This is a historic year for those who study and love Connecticut’s rich and honored history. This year Nutmeggers celebrate the 375th anniversary of Connecticut as well as his Excellency, Jonathan Trumbull’s 300th birthday. Governor Rell began the official year-long celebration at the Connecticut State Library on February 17th. “This year-long tribute will allow us to honor those who came before us and helped shape this state that we love,” the Governor said. “From century to century, those who have called Connecticut home have a special place in this celebration. This year is about them and it is about us – the people of Connecticut. I am deeply proud of the people who have made Connecticut industrious, inventive and enduring.” As you will read later in this newsletter, Todd Gerlander and the Connecticut Line will be involved in many of the events celebrating these historic and important anniversaries. Please visit: ww.ct375.com as it is updated to learn more about planned events. Jonathan Trumbull is the only man to have served as governor before, during and after the Revolutionary War. What else makes him so important? Governor Trumbull’s ability to mobilize provisions for the war effort was so important to Washington, that he called him “the first of the patriots” and when Washington became desperate for want of men and food supplies, he knew he could always turn to “Brother Jonathan.” Governor Trumbull met over 500 times with his “Council of Safety” to coordinate Connecticut’s war efforts. Among all of the great patriots of the Revolutionary War, Governor Trumbull stands out among the finest. Please support the color guard and consider attending events they will participate in.

Connecticut Celebrates Historic Anniversaries

Work Continues At The War Office

Compatriots, please remember that as a state society we are unique among all State SAR societies in that we own historic revolutionary war properties. This is an important part of how we identify ourselves both locally and nationally. Our historic museums celebrate Connecticut heroes of the Revolution like Hale and Trumbull. Please consider making a donation to the War Office Campaign. You can do so quite easily online via the “Online Store” Section of the ctssar.org website. Click on “War Office” and scroll down to “War Office Campaign” and charge it to your credit card. Please keep an eye out for Stephen Shaw’s emails requesting work party help too. Governor Trumbull would certainly be humbled to see the work that is being done to preserve the War Office. Remember, your friends and family can also make a donation via the same link or contact Stephen directly.
Wadsworth Branch Celebrates 100th

The Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch #7 celebrated its one-hundredth anniversary in January with a gala celebration at the Hartford Club in downtown Hartford. Founded in January 1910, the branch is named after Connecticut’s famous officer of logistics who helped Gen. Nathaniel Greene supply the Continental Army. The evening began with several wreath-laying ceremonies for Col. Wadsworth. Compatriot Russ Wirtalla brought three evergreen wreaths, with the first laid at Wadsworth’s gravesite. Wadsworth President, Damien Cregeau laid the wreath and mentioned that Col. Wadsworth was one of the last persons to be buried in Hartford’s Ancient Burying Ground. A second wreath was laid at his home site, for the last 150 years the site of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, and is marked with a large vertical stone and bronze plaque dedicated by the CTDAR. The plaque describes how his home was the site of several visits by General Washington, including a conference between Washington and French General Comte de Rochambeau. A third wreath was laid at his home site, for the last 150 years the site of the Wadsworth Stable. Compatriot Bob Wolff remembers seeing the stables on the location of the current Travelers Plaza before the stables were removed to Lebanon.

The formal cocktail and dinner party featured over fifty guests, including ten Wadsworth Branch members and their wives, several DAR Chapter Regents and their spouses. CTDAR State Regent, Jennie Rehnberg and her family, as well as the Senior and Junior State Presidents of the C.S.C.A.R., three CTSSAR prospective and several other guests. Compatriot Cregeau spoke on the life of Col. Wadsworth - passing around a portrait of Wadsworth that is in the museum’s collection - and the history of the branch, noting that the Hartford Club’s location allowed them to see the Wadsworth sites from the dining room window, and that it was possible that the branch may have been founded at the Hartford Club.

Greetings From C.S.C.A.R.

Greetings S.A.R.! What an exciting year we have had already! Various society events were held all over the state to learn more about the things such as Henry Hudson, Apollo 11, and the Morris Island Lighthouse that our National Society encourages us to study this year. There were also many Valentines for the Veterans and other fun activities. Our “pure” fun State Meeting was held at My 3 Sons in Norwalk where older members were paired with younger to go play games and to know each other. It’s important that our very young members think of C.A.R. as a fun, friendly place to be so that they will want to continue on with the organization and later become a SAR or DAR member. For those of you who did not attend our 84th State Conference held in Ridgefield, I hope that you will consider attending the 85th with or without a prospective member as I believe all of you would enjoy seeing and hearing the children do their speeches and reports. Besides the speeches and reports were fun things for the younger members to do led by Chris Rehnberg who set up "Camp C.A.R." in a tent in the back of the room. The new member and senior boards were also sworn in and I am very proud to announce to you that our senior board is comprised of 25% SAR members which is a huge jump from the 4% that we have had for the past few years. Please know that each and every one of you is welcome at our events and we would enjoy the opportunity to do more with you!

I would like to sign off using the words of C.A.R. founder Harriett Lothrop: “Good citizens cannot be made suddenly. They must grow...”

Teri Fischer
DAR & C.A.R. Liaison Officer’s Report

Compatriots! First, I will report on the DAR Liaison activity. I am happy to report that since February of 2009, we have received 51 referrals from Connecticut DAR members (46 for the Connecticut Society SAR)! Of these, 22 have been approved for membership and one is currently at national awaiting approval. One of the stated goals of the program was to further the interactions between our two organizations to increase cooperation and ultimately to grow membership. I sent out many invites to CTDAR officers to attend the Wadsworth Branch 100th anniversary celebration and the response was great. I hope this is the first of many such interactions. I know the branch compatriots appreciated their attendance. We have one DAR member who will be recognized for referring 8 of her male relatives at one of the state conferences (tbd). Now, I’d like to report on the C.S.C.A.R. activities. What an amazing organization that is! I attended my first meeting in Old Saybrook with my family immediately following the Wreaths Across American ceremony at the Middletown State Veterans Cemetery and was hooked. Recently, along with several CTSSAR members, attended the C.S.C.A.R. state conference in Ridgefield. Seeing those children recite the Americans Creed and the C.A.R. Creed gave me a sense of real hope for our youth. My own daughters are members of the Gen. David Humphreys Society based out of Shelton and led by Sr. Society President Pete Laskos and his son Nick. Pete’s daughter Monica is also a member and serves as a state officer. Working with Barbara Wells, Regent of the Sarah Riggs Humphreys - Mary Silliman Chapter, and whose own children are members of the Humphreys Society; we collaborated to secure a Society C.A.R. flag, flag pole kit and flag pole case. Through the generosity of the CTSSAR General David Humphreys Branch No. 1, funds for a flag and flag pole case were authorized and purchased through a distributor of the Annin company. Barbara’s chapter also approved funds for the purchase of the pole kit. The Humphreys Society children will produce some kind of skit for both the branch and chapter and receive the flag officially in the near future. This is the kind of collaboration that this Editor would love to hear more about in other branches. Please let me know what your branches are doing with the DAR now or in the future and especially activities involving a local C.A.R. Society.

News From The Front

Compatriots, Let me first report on the Color Guard’s Annual Meeting that I mentioned in the last newsletter. Twenty-three Color Guardsmen were in attendance, and we set another very busy calendar. At our annual election of officers, Russell Wirtalla was re-elected as Lieutenant-Colonel, Michael Juhasz was re-elected Major, and Captain Bruce Cunard will serve as Aide-de-Camp. I was again elected Colonel, now going into my sixteenth year commanding either a Branch, State, or District SAR Living History/Color Guard Unit, I look forward to another very active campaign in 2010. The following Connecticut Line awards were also presented for 2009. Alarm Riders of the Year - Bob Lasprogato and Dan Dudley. Detachment of the Year - Hale Branch. Detachment Participation of the Year - Putnam Branch. Detachment Captain of the Year - Captain Bruce Cunard. Camp-Followers of the Year - Bonnie Burke and Pamela Hall. As you read this, the Connecticut Line is mustering for the upcoming parades and ceremonies commemorating Patriot’s Day, April 19, 1775. Once again we will represent the Connecticut SAR at the Liberty Pole Parade and Caption in Bedford, MA., Ceremonies and Parade at Meriam’s Corner in Concord, MA., Ceremonies and Parade at the Paul Revere Capture Site in Lincoln, MA., and finally the two Patriot’s Day Parades in Concord and Lexington, MA. April is always one of the busiest months. 2010 being the 300th Birthday of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., a lot of our activities will be focused in Lebanon, and at the War Office. 2010 also marks the 375th Anniversary of the State of Connecticut, and some of our events will tie in with that also. As of today, this is what we are looking at: On May 29th, the Lebanon Memorial Day Parade; June 19th, the 234th Anniversary of Connecticut’s “Declaration of Independence”; September 11th, “From Puritan to Patriot. Connecticut’s Military from it’s Puritan Foundation to the American Revolution”; October 2nd and 3rd, Time-Line Encampment on the Lebanon Green; October 12th, CTSSAR Statewide Ceremonies marking the 300th Birthday of Governor Trumbull; and on October 24th, the Annual Massing of the Colors in Lebanon. CTSSAR Color Guard membership now stands at 64, and I would like to encourage members to take an ACTIVE roll in our State Organization. By doing so, you help to ensure that the history and ideals of the American Revolution continue today, tomorrow, and for future generations. Put your faith in God and keep your powder dry.

Todd L. Gerlander, Commander
The Connecticut Line

“...the times that tried men’s souls are over-and the greatest and completest revolution the world ever knew, gloriously and happily accomplished” - Thomas Paine
This will be my last communication with you as your President. As I reflect on the past two years, I am grateful for the hard work and the dedication of the many Compatriots who helped me carry on the great work of our Society. I can not list all of those who have given both time and treasure, as the list would be too long. I’m sure I would miss someone. Let me simply say “thank you” to those who provided selfless service.

As we prepare for the Jonathan Trumbull 300 ceremonies in Lebanon, work continues at the War Office. Our Nathan Hale School Houses are poised for another great year especially as the work on the New London green nears completion. Please consider volunteering to help the Property Committee with the restoration work on the War Office as well as serving as a Docent. Special thanks to Compatriot Stephen Shaw for all he does with our historic properties.

The Connecticut Line will have another active year and play a prominent role in the Jonathan Trumbull 300 ceremonies. I hope you will join me in thanking them for their service teaching us about the American Revolutionary Soldier. They are truly a living museum.

Several new initiatives were begun over the past two years. Our SAR/DAR Liaison effort has paid tremendous dividends. The new members who have joined through this effort will strengthen our Society and create a bright future. The program itself has already fostered a greater bond between the SAR and DAR here in Connecticut. Also, the leadership roles several Compatriots have taken in the Connecticut Society, Children of the American Revolution renews our relationship with the patriotic youth of our state. On a personal level, participation has been very rewarding. My special thanks to Compatriot Chris Nichols for accepting the role of C.A.R. Liaison Officer.

Additionally, our newsletter was dark from August 2008 to August 2009. Last summer, Compatriot Nichols volunteered to pick up the torch. Under his management, our reenergized newsletter is magnificent and I appreciate his tireless efforts. Our State Society Annual Meeting will be April 17. This will be a very important meeting as we will be voting for the 2010 slate of officers and consider an Amendment to the Connecticut Society By-laws. We will also present our Eagle Scout Award. I encourage all Compatriots to attend. Your active participation will serve to make us stronger.

I remain your Obedient Servant,

Kenneth Duane Roach
President, CTSSAR