



The Hiester Herald

Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

Chartered - May 11, 1937

Instituted - June 17, 1937



Volume XIII, Number 3

<http://home.comcast.net/~gjh.passar/site/>

August 2011

David G. Loose, Secretary
610-898-7898

Robert M. Hillegas, President
717-865-7478

Floyd N. Turner II, Editor
610-929-5840

A Message from the President

Dear Compatriots and Friends,

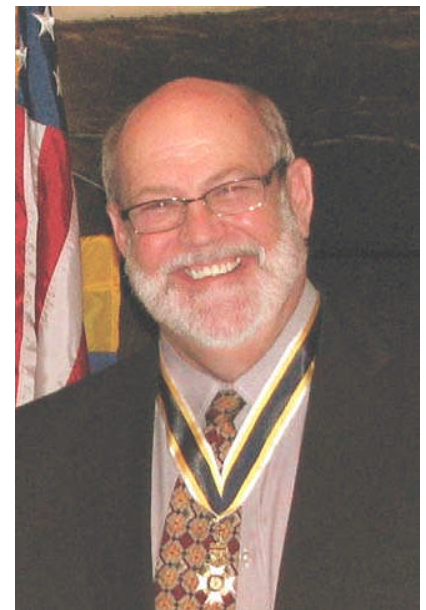
With the parade in Wyomissing on July 4th. brings an end to the parades for the Color Guard for 2011. For those of you who participated either by marching or as a spectator, Thank You. This was a very good year for our Color Guard, some parades were hot and others not as hot. The high point for me was at the Wyomissing parade as my son and grandsons from Texas were visiting and marched in the parade with us, it was also rewarding to see other children participate in our activities.

Our September quarterly meeting will be held at the Heidelberg Country Club with the speaker being Cathy Wegener, this should be enjoyable to all.

As hot as it has been, it's hard to believe we are making plans for our December quarterly meeting.



Sincerely,
Robert Hillegas
President



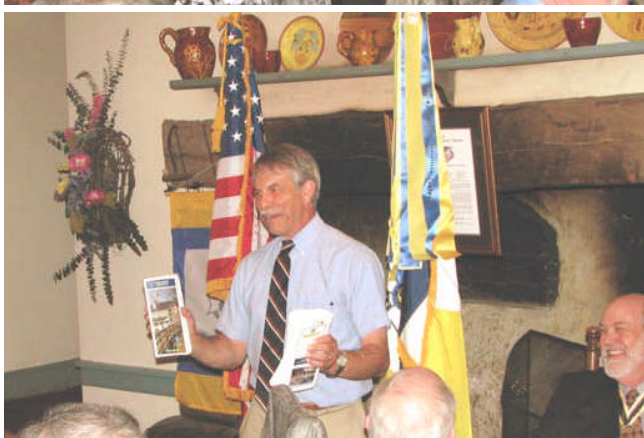
Compatriot Dechant Receives Minuteman Award



At the recent National Congress in Winston-Salem, Compatriot Miles Dechant, outgoing Librarian General, was honored with the Minuteman Award. It is the highest award that can be bestowed by the National Society, and is "presented for active and distinguished service rendered to the SAR at the national level." Recipients of this award must fulfill certain requirements and be nominated to receive it. The NSSAR Minuteman Committee reviews all nominations and selects a maximum of 6 recipients per year.

(Left) President General J. David Sympson, a dual-member of the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter, secures the Minuteman Award neck-ribbon on Compatriot Dechant.

Quarterly Meeting Highlights



The June 9th quarterly meeting was held at one of our favorite venues, the Stouch Tavern in Womelsdorf. Kate Turner (above right), Chaplain of the Conrad Weiser Society, C.A.R. was a guest at our meeting and brought greetings and shared information about the recent activities of the Society as well as information on the current C.A.R. State and National projects. Stephanie Troutman (above left), wife of Chapter Registrar Eric Troutman, was belatedly presented with the SAR Medal of Appreciation for the assistance she provided while her husband was President and for her service as Editor of the Hiester Herald. Two new members were sworn in and presented with their rosettes, David Loose Jr. (above center) and Stephen Stoudt, son of John Stoudt (below, with his mother and Compatriot Troutman). Our speaker for the evening was Jim Lewars (Left), Director of the Landis Valley Museum in Lancaster. Mr. Lewars was for many years the Director at the Daniel Boone Homestead and spoke about Daniel Boone as well as the Landis Valley Museum.

All members are encouraged to report news and submit articles and pictures for the newsletter.

- Deadlines for submissions:
 Jan. 20 for February issue
 Apr. 20 for May issue
 July 20 for August issue
 Oct. 20 for November issue

Send submissions **and address changes** to:
 Floyd N. Turner II, 958 Whitner Rd.
 Reading, PA 19605-1051
 610-406-3933
 fnt2@comcast.net

CHECK OUT THESE WEB SITES:

Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter, SAR
<http://home.comcast.net/~gjh.passar/site/>

Berks County Chapter, DAR
<http://www.rootweb.ancestry.com/~paberdar/bdar.htm>

Conrad Weiser Society, CAR
<http://home.comcast.net/~cws.pacar/site/>



Honoring His Patriot Ancestor



Several months before our visit to Salem Belleman’s Church for Allegiance Sunday, Compatriot David Loose made arrangements to obtain a government marker to be placed on the grave of his patriot ancestor, Johann Georg Loos, whose grave was unmarked. About a week before the Allegiance Sunday service, he visited the churchyard, after obtaining permission, and installed the new marker next to Johann’s son, Jacob.

If your patriot ancestor is a veteran and his grave is unmarked, consider requesting a grave marker from the Department of Veterans Affairs. If you can prove service, the marker will be provided at no cost. You will, however, need to make arrangements to have it installed.

Chapter Recognizes Outstanding Cadets

The SAR awards the ROTC Medal to foster the principle of the “citizen-soldier”, exemplified by the Minuteman of Revolutionary War days. This award is presented by a chapter, a State Society, or the National Society to ROTC or JROTC cadets who are selected for having a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing and general excellence. The recipients are selected by the Commanding Officer of the ROTC or JROTC unit, who should be given full latitude in making the decision.

The SAR ROTC Medal is approved by the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force. Each service has notified its ROTC and JROTC units of this approval and has authorized presentation to its cadets or midshipmen.

Each of our five units has fewer than 500 cadets or midshipmen, thus one medal is awarded each year. The ROTC medal is struck on a circular planchet. The obverse shows a Minuteman holding a rifle and standing next to a plow, with the Liberty Bell in the background. It is inscribed with the letters “ROTC”. The reverse is inscribed “Awarded for Leadership, Soldierly Bearing and Excellence to _____.” The medal is suspended from a ribbon of the SAR colors. A ribbon bar in the SAR colors is included and a certificate is awarded as well.

JROTC Chairman Bruce Dietrich presented the following cadets their medals:



Cadet
 Robert Strickler
 Peter Gentile
 Samuel T. Sailer
 Jeremian Rolon

School
 Pine Grove Area High School
 Owen J. Roberts High School
 Wilson High School
 Reading High School



Members Aid in C.A.R. Flag Retirement Ceremony

On May 29th, Compatriot Nevin Miller hosted a Flag Retirement Ceremony conducted by the Conrad Weiser Society, C.A.R. at his Walnut Grove Farm. The Society held a brief meeting and was treated to a long rifle demonstration put on by one of their members, Jennifer Rohrbach.

Compatriot Guardsman Bill Brensinger attended the ceremony to present the Colors. Other dignitaries in attendance were Jacob Hogan, PA C.A.R. State President; Rebecca O'Neill, PA C.A.R. Senior State President; Dale Derr, Director of the Berks County VA Office and Doug Graybill, Commander of the Combined Veterans Council of Berks County. The event was covered by WFMZ-Channel 69 News.



2011-2012 C.A.R. State and National Projects

“Living the American Dream”



When children get sick and their families need a place to stay, they go to a Ronald McDonald house. Well, when active-duty military and veterans get sick and their families need a place to stay, they go to a Fisher House.

The Fisher House Foundation is a public-private, nonprofit partnership that provides aid beyond that of the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. Since our service personnel are stationed far and wide, sometimes they have to travel very far to seek specialized treatment. The Fisher House Foundation provides these service men and women and their families with “all the comforts of home”. This allows service members and their families to remain together, even as treatment is received. And you know what the best part is? **No family pays to stay at a Fisher House.**

There are currently 54 Fisher Houses located on 21 military installations and at 17 VA medical centers with 16 more houses under construction or in design.

This year’s National Project is to raise funds that will then be donated toward building a Fisher House that still demonstrates need in April 2012.

And so, I humbly ask that you join me in “Living the American Dream” this year and supporting Fisher House.

Kate Turner
PA C.A.R. State 1st Vice President



“Let’s Roll with PA C.A.R.”

On September 11th, 2001, the United States found itself under attack. Two planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. One plane was flown into the Pentagon. Another flight was intended to attack some landmark in our capitol of Washington D.C. It was only through the acts of heroism on the part of the passengers onboard United flight 93 that further destruction was averted. That flight crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after a group of passengers stormed the cockpit and prevented the plane from reaching its intended target.



It is our project this year for PA C.A.R. to raise funds to donate towards the construction of the Flight 93 National Memorial. The memorial will honor the passengers of Flight 93, who stopped the terrorists from reaching their intended destination. A temporary memorial to the 40 victims was established soon after the crash, with a permanent memorial slated to be constructed and completed by 2011.

Join us in our efforts to raise the funds needed for this permanent memorial.

Kyle Popielarski
PA C.A.R. State 2nd Vice President

To contribute to either of the above C.A.R. projects, please make checks payable to: Conrad Weiser Society
And mail to: Conrad Weiser Society, c/o Floyd Turner, Sr. Treasurer, 958 Whitner Rd, Reading, PA 19605
Please note which project you are supporting.

If you have any questions, contact Floyd Turner at fnt2@comcast.net or 610-406-3933.

Color Guard Activities

The Memorial Day weekend was a very busy time for the Color Guard. We joined with members of the Conrad Weiser Society, C.A.R. and Berks County Chapter, DAR to march in the Wyomissing Hills parade, Oley Parade and Bernville Parade.

On Independence Day, we once again joined with our C.A.R. and DAR friends to march in the Wyomissing July 4th Parade and we were very glad to have President Hillegas' son and grandchildren join with us on the march!!



DAR Flag Day Luncheon



The Berks County Chapter, DAR held their Flag Day Luncheon on June 11th at the Yellow House Hotel. Several compatriots attended this years event to support the DAR and to hear the featured speaker. Pictured above, Chapter 1st Vice Regent Wendy Kershner with guest speaker, Brig. General John Gronski of the PA Army National Guard. BG Gronski spoke about his time leading a brigade in Iraq and the quality of the young men and women protecting our country.

Memorial Day Ceremony



On Memorial Day, Chapter President Hillegas, along with Betty Dechant of the Berks County Chapter, DAR and Kate Turner of the Conrad Weiser Society, C.A.R., participated the annual Memorial Day Wreath-Laying Ceremony held in City Park, Reading conducted by the Combined Veterans Council of Berks County. President Hillegas placed a SAR wreath to honor those men and women that sacrificed their lives in the service of our country.

Eagle Scout Committee Report

Unfortunately our scholarship winner of the 2010 Eagle Award, Mitchell Jeffrey Gettis, was not able to attend our June dinner meeting when we traditionally recognize our recipient. His certificate and funds were forwarded to him by mail.

The accompanying picture shows William Allen Parkes receiving his certificate from me at his May 29, 2011 Court of Honor. William assures us he will be participating in our scholarship program for the upcoming year.

Through July 31, 2011, we are scheduled to attend thirty-eight Courts of Honor while eighteen other scouts whose ceremonies we were unable to attend, were sent their material by mail. We have already been asked to attend four ceremonies in August.

Hopefully a recent "letter to the editor" of the Reading Eagle caught your attention. If so, the message bears repeating even to us as members of the SAR. In these uncertain times, it is not only important but our obligation to remind the general population to show proper respect for our Flag. Below is that letter and the Flag Code of Conduct:



"To The Editor:

No Respect For the Flag

On May 28th I watched the annual Memorial day Parade as it passed through Wyomissing. There were many flags passing by, even one huge flag carried by dozens of people.

But I observed none of the observers salute let alone remove hats and stand attention as the red, white and blue reminder passed by.

What has happened to our patriotism? Do we put more emphasis on the candy tossed out to the crowd and with the cries of delight as it is retrieved by the children?

Of course, the wearing of hats by the menfolk is a long-forgotten thing, but rendering the salute of the hand over the heart is still the proper way to honor our country's flag

As the poem by Henry Holcomb Bennett said: "Hats off! The flag is passing by!"



Conduct During Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of Flag.

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

*Robert W. Murray
Eagle Scout Chairman*



Genealogist Report

New Members and Supplementals

There were no new members approved during the past quarter but there are 2 applications pending at National. In addition, there are 8 Supplemental applications at National and 1 more in the mail.

We have 12 prospective members that are gathering material for their applications.

We currently have 88 members and 2 dual members. At this time we have 12 members living out of state and 16 members living outside of Berks and Lebanon counties.

*Eric H. Troutman
Genealogist/Registrar*

Allegiance Sunday Ceremony



The Chapter's annual Allegiance Sunday service was held on June 26th at the Salem Belleman's Church in Mohrsville. We were fortunate to be able to join the congregation for worship in the "old church" which was built in 1815 and is still maintained in its 19th century condition.

After the regular church service, the Color Guard moved out to the churchyard to conduct a special ceremony honoring the Revolutionary War Patriots buried there and to dedicate the newly installed grave marker for patriot Johann Georg Loos.

Compatriots David Loose and Eric Troutman (above right), both descendants of Johann, placed a wreath by the new marker. Also on hand for the occasion was Compatriot David Loose Jr. and his son (middle right) and over a dozen other Loos descendants.

Assisting the Color Guard during the ceremony were Kate Turner (near right) of the Conrad Weiser Society, C.A.R. who read a portion of the Declaration of Independence and John Lugovich (far right) of the Marsh Creek Society, C.A.R. who played Taps at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Editorial

Every now and again I get asked..."Why join...what benefits do I get for my money?" This question, or words to that effect, usually comes from a prospective member but, occasionally, it may come from a new compatriot. Admittedly, there are many ways to answer this question. For those who may hear it also, I submit this as a potential response:

The SAR is a prestigious fraternity whose patriot ancestors served, struggled and sacrificed to create the United States of America. Your dues help the SAR preserve and protect our precious heritage. Your generous donations allow the SAR to maintain a premier genealogical library and Revolutionary War museum. Your volunteer efforts enable the SAR to honor outstanding citizens in our community through programs such as the Eagle Scout Scholarship, ROTC/JROTC Award and EMS, Law Enforcement, & Fire Safety Awards. Your love and knowledge of history enable us to educate and mentor youth through programs such as the Knight Essay Contest, Americanism Poster Contest and our affiliation with the Children of the American Revolution.

Your money and your efforts are an investment in the preservation of American history and heritage. So...what do you get? You get to proudly declare that you are aiding in the protection and preservation of American history and heritage as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.....priceless.

Floyd Turner, Editor

UPCOMING EVENTS

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”
 -Benjamin Franklin

Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter Events

Aug. 11—Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM at 803 Evergreen Dr., Wyomissing

Sep. 8—Quarterly Meeting, 6:00 PM at the Heidelberg Country Club, Bernville

Nov. 10—Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM at 803 Evergreen Dr., Wyomissing

Nov. 11—Wreath Laying Ceremony, 11:00 AM in Veterans Grove, City Park, Reading

Dec. 1—Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM at the Berkshire Country Club

Dec. 10—Wreaths Across America, 12:00 Noon in the PA Veterans Memorial at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

Dec. 17—DAR Christmas Breakfast, 9:00 AM at the Berkshire Country Club

PASSAR Events

Nov. 4 & 5, 2011—Quarterly Meeting
 Hosted by: Frontier Patriots Chapter

Feb. 3 & 4, 2012—Quarterly Meeting
 Hosted by: Continental Congress Chapter

May 4 & 5, 2012—Annual Meeting
 Hosted by: Valley Forge Chapter

Any Compatriot that wishes to attend a PASSAR meeting should contact the Chapter President at least a month before the event. He will ensure that you receive the registration form before the deadline for submittal.

NEW PASSAR WEB SITE

The Pennsylvania Society has moved their website!!

The new address is:

www.passar.org

Please update your “favorites” list!!!

Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the Chapter will be held on September 8th at the Heidelberg Country Club, 1 Clubhouse Dr, Bernville. Cocktails will be served starting at 6:00 PM. The meeting will convene at 6:30 PM. Our speaker for the evening will be Cathy Wegener of the Berks County Heritage Center whose topic will be the renovations to the Gruber Wagon Works.

Please join us for an evening of patriotic camaraderie!!

Veterans Day Ceremony

The Combined Veterans Council of Berks County will conduct their annual Veterans Day ceremony in the Veterans Grove area of City Park in Reading on November 11th at 11:00 AM. A representative from the Chapter will place a wreath during the ceremony and members of the Color Guard will participate in a massing of the Colors. All members and their families are encouraged to attend to honor our veterans.

DAR Christmas Breakfast

The Berks County Chapter, DAR will hold their annual Christmas Breakfast on December 17th at the Berkshire Country Club. Members and their guests will be invited to attend. More information will be in the next issue of the Hiester Herald.

Wreaths Across America

The Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held on December 10th in the Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery near Annville, PA. The ceremony will begin at 12 noon.

The members of the Conrad Weiser Society, C.A.R. are once again supporting this effort by seeking patriotic donors willing to sponsor wreaths to be placed on veterans graves. Wreaths can be sponsored for \$15. More information and a sponsorship form are included with this newsletter.