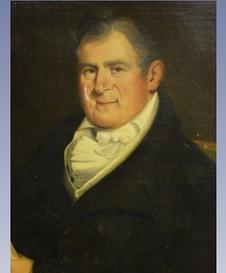




Hiester Herald

GOVERNOR JOSEPH HIESTER CHAPTER
 Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the American Revolution
 Chartered - May 11, 1937 Instituted - June 17, 1937



Volume XIX, Number III

Chapter Website: www.berkssar.com

Fall 2017

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President's Message

Fellow Compatriots,

It's hard to believe the Holiday Season will soon be upon us, and another year is coming to an end.

As we look back this was another great year for our Chapter.

In June we celebrated our 80th anniversary, also in June we attended a Flag Retirement ceremony at Classic Harley-Davidson, our Color Guards attended many parades and events, starting with Memorial Day and will conclude with "Wreaths Across America" in December.

I thoroughly enjoyed being your president this past year, want to thank all those officers and members who helped and assisted me, and wish the best for our new officers.

As I reflect, I remember not too long ago our Chapter had less than 100 members, now we are close to 170 members, we are a growing Chapter and if we all give Eric Troutman our support and backing it won't be too long before we reach 200 members.

Our December meeting should be a good one and hope to see many of you there.

Best wishes to all and have a great rest of the year and a wonderful 2018.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Hillegas

President, Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter, SAR



September Quarterly Meeting Highlights

The Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter Quarterly Meeting was held on September 14th, 2017 at The Inn at Reading in Reading, PA.

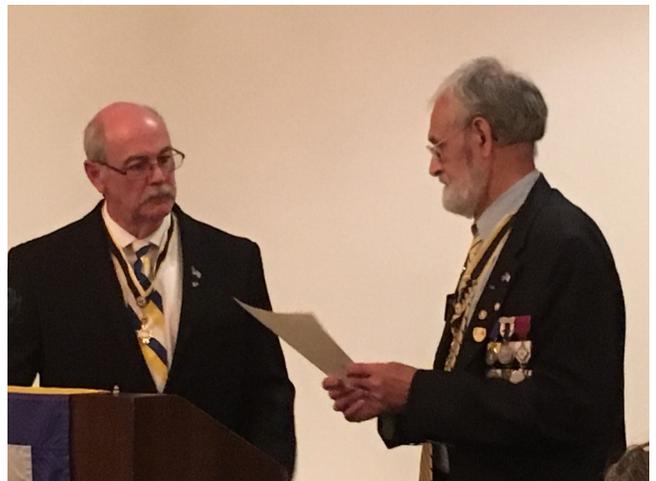


Our guest speaker for the evening was Compatriot James McAteer, National President of The Sons of Spanish American War Veterans, who not only provided attendees with a brief overview of the conflict but also discussed his family ties to this conflict from our country's history. His extensive research encompasses all Pennsylvanians who served in the conflict and is a tremendous resource for those studying this time in our history. Those interested in studying this part of their ancestry, especially those histories with close ties to Pennsylvania, are encouraged to reach out to Compatriot McAteer.

Following the presentation, President Robert M. Hillegas led the business meeting. Compatriot Floyd N. Turner II was recognized and, subsequently, Compatriot Eric Troutman presented a certificate to the Chapter.



The final presentation of the night was that of a new member of the chapter who subsequently received his rosette.



Naturalization Ceremony

Our patriot ancestors represent the first citizens of the United States of America so it was only fitting that our Color Guard was present during the Naturalization Ceremony at the Berks County Court House when a group of men and



(L-R): Charles H. Seibert, Barry L. Kauffman, Willard N. Brensinger Jr., and Floyd N. Turner II.

Conrad Weiser Graveside Service

Our Color Guard honored the memory of a great Pennsylvanian and American Patriot, Conrad Weiser during a graveside service at the Conrad Weiser homestead in Womelsdorf.



(L-R): Charles H. Seibert, David G. Loose Jr., W. Clayton Dawson, Floyd N. Turner II, Willard N. Brensinger Jr., Barry L. Kauffman, Eric H. Troutman, Robert M. Hillegas, Raymond H. Longacre, and Leon E. Adam.

William Via: Sowing the Seeds of Liberty

Patriot William Via was a descendant of Amer Viah, a French Huegonot who fled persecution and whose family eventually made their way to the mountains in what is now Greene and Albemarle Counties in Virginia.

William was born near Brown's Cove in Albemarle County in 1761. Although he grew up not too far away from Charlottesville and the land that would become Monticello, the estate of Thomas Jefferson, the Via family lived a very different lifestyle than their affluent neighbors. Few records of the family remain but, like so many of their neighbors, they appear to have been subsistence farmers and likely practiced some type of trade to earn a little bit of money but no records have been found to say one way or the other. Family lore tells of the Via's having fruit orchards but again nobody knows for sure.

Early 1781 was a difficult period for the Revolution in Virginia. The Southern Continental Army had been captured at Charleston, SC in May 1780 and with other battlefield losses it was difficult to recruit new men to serve in the Continental Army. While we'll never know what actually prompted William to enlist, it's ironically possible that the economic devastation caused by the British raids throughout Virginia could have left him and others bitter toward the British and with few options. In any case, in March 1781, William enlisted to serve as a Private in Captain Beverly Roy's company of the 3rd Virginia Regiment of the Virginia Continental Line under the command of Col. Thomas Posey.

By May 1781, the regiment had moved to Cumberland Court House and was under the command of Colonel Christian Febiger with Posey his second-in-command. When Febiger first met the troops he reported that "the men were so literally naked." For the rest of the war, supplying the unit and clothing the soldiers would be an ongoing challenge.

When General Washington moved the army to Yorktown to corner the British there, the order went out for all available men to join the combined French and American armies. Posey and the regiment joined Washington at Yorktown and the General also noted in his report the men's dire need for clothing. Regardless of their attire, the unit participated in the siege and was on-hand to witness the surrender of the British forces. However, there was little time to relax. On October 23, the unit was ordered back to Cumberland Court House to meet with new recruits and get clothing before marching south to reinforce General Nathaniel Greene's army.

Rampant disease and lack of pay led to a near mutiny among the soldiers. The sickness and turmoil delayed the departure of the Virginians until February 1782 when they finally marched out of camp without new uniforms. When the unit finally met with General Greene's army in South Carolina, they were ordered to continue on to Savannah, Georgia to join with General "Mad" Anthony Wayne. They arrived there on April 7, 1782. While keeping the British bottled-up in Savannah the soldiers fought one pitched battle with the Creek Indians, British allies, who attacked the American camp about 3:00 am on June 24, 1782. The Americans were caught by surprise and in great disarray but rallied to defeat the attackers. Three weeks later the British evacuated Savannah and the regiment marched north to join General Greene in South Carolina. William was discharged on November 2, 1782.

Our young patriot married Mary Craig on Dec. 7, 1784 and built a home on top of Pigeon Top Mountain, near White Hall, VA very near to where he grew up. There the couple raised a large family which included a son, Thomas Craig Via who would later serve during the War of 1812. William passed away on 27 June 1836 followed a few years later by Mary. The remains of their simple house, a crumbling stone fireplace, can still be seen by those hearty enough to venture up the mountain and bushwhack through the undergrowth. The family cemetery, marked only with field stones, is less discernible but the determined hunter can still find it on the mountain.

Submitted by Floyd N. Turner II, Past President



A Wealth of Knowledge

Early in the year, I made an appeal for compatriots to submit biographies of their patriot ancestor for inclusion in the Hiester Herald. The response to this request has been fantastic! Previous issues have included biographies submitted by Compatriots Sean M. Teaford and Eric H. Troutman; this issue includes a biography (page 4) written by Compatriot Floyd N. Turner II; future issues will include biographies written by Compatriots Nevin Miller, Gary Coles, and Eric H. Troutman.

My hope in the beginning was to make these patriot biographies a regular part of the Heister Herald and, thanks to the chapter, this hope has become a reality. Of course, there is always room on the schedule for more biographies, articles, and photos. I look forward to reading about your ancestor (and your other submissions) in the near future.

Sean M. Teaford, Newsletter Editor

Speaking of Patriot Ancestors...

On page 22 of the latest issue of the PA Minuteman, there is a familiar name and face. As you can read below, Compatriot Eric Troutman was recently recognized following the confirmation of his 75th supplemental application. Congratulations Compatriot!



ERIC TROUTMAN GETS HIS 75TH ANCESTOR SUPPLEMENTAL Gettysburg, PA,

At the Atlantic Middle States Association meeting held August 12, 2017, Eric Troutman of Bernville, PA received his 75th Supplemental SAR certificate from Genealogist General John Sinks.

Eric has been able to prove 76 Revolutionary War ancestors directly related to him. Eric has recently submitted another ancestor application, if approved will bring his total to 77.

Eric has been with the Sons of the American Revolution since 2003. He is the past president of the Governor Joseph Hiester chapter and the State president in 2014.

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee has submitted the following recommendations for officers of the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter in 2018:

President	Sean M. Teaford
Vice President	Raymond H. Longacre
Secretary	David T. Shultz
Treasurer	David G. Loose, Jr.
Genealogist/Registrar	Eric H. Troutman
Chaplain	Miles K. Dechant
Surgeon	Dr. Thomas A. Stewart
Chancellor	Thomas D. Leidy, Esq.

Compatriots interested in increasing their participation in the chapter are encouraged to reach out to the incoming officers and are welcomed to attend Executive Committee meetings held throughout the year.



Maintaining Our Growth, Ensuring Our Future

Over the last few years our chapter has experienced a tremendous amount of growth thanks largely to the exceptional work of Compatriot Eric Troutman. Our membership total now places us as the second largest in the Commonwealth and we should all be both proud and grateful for this accomplishment. If we all contribute to this effort we can surely keep the momentum and ensure a constant increase in the size of our chapter.

However, this is only half of the equation when we look to secure our future. The other part of this is a topic that few like to mention but it has to be discussed... finances. We must look to help in whatever way we can for both upcoming meetings such as the George Washington Luncheon in February but also for the long term planning and security of the chapter.

There will be more about this in a future edition of the Hiester Herald but, for now, I encourage you to assist in sponsoring our upcoming luncheon and to give some thought as to if you are able to offer additional financial support. Thank you.



Veteran's Committee Report - Summer 2017:



During the past couple of months, I noticed that our Veterans Multi Corps Survey Forms were not being process for the Certificate of Patriotism. Looking into it, I was informed that Chairman of the VRC, Colonel Chuck Sweeney had passed away, and that all the Survey Forms and Certificates were stored away and locked in his computers. I didn't know that he had taken this program under his wings, so he could make sure that all Veterans would be recognize for their Military Service in a timely matter. He put his heart and soul and money into this program to keep it going. I for one will sorely miss him.



Just recently, I received email from the new VRC Chairman Major Walt Timoschik, informing me that because they can't unlock the old computers, so this program has to be built back up from scratch.

But as of November 6th, VRC Committee has informed me that the SAR Veterans Recognition Committee has received the blank Certificates from National and is able to finally get back at work.

Veterans Services Corps Totals as of October 2017 is still the same as it was back in May, since no Certificates of Patriotism have been issued.

WII -402 There was a total of 1,021 Compatriots in this Corps.

Korea -188

Vietnam -501

SW Asia/Persian Gulf-105

Special Operations-44

Military Service-343

For all six Veterans Corps, 2,123 Compatriots have been issued Certificates of Patriotism.

Compatriots Jeffrey K. Beil and Floyd N. Turner II Military Survey Forms have been resubmitted as of November 6th for their NSSAR Certificates of Patriotism for Military Service.

In closing, I wanted everyone to know this will be my last Veterans Report, as I have now stepped down. It is time to let the new guard come in.

When I was appointed to this Chair, my goal was to bring awareness to our Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve Families along with our Veterans. I hope I have accomplished this.

*Charles H. Seibert
Chairman, Veterans Affairs*



Color Guard Report:



First, I would like to take the time to thank all our Color Guardsmen for their time and commitment for this year and past years. Here are the names of our active Color Guardsmen, Floyd Turner II, Eric Troutman, Ray Longacre, Robert Hillegas, Willard “Bill” Brensinger Jr., David Loose Jr., Barry Kauffman, Leon Adam, Nevin “Skip” Miller, William ‘Bill’ Heart-er and Clay Dawson of the Harris Ferry Chapter.

Completed Ceremonies for the year:

- The Annual Memorial Day Service at Veterans Grove, City Park, Reading, PA.
- Birdsboro American Legion/VFW Memorial Day Service, Birdsboro Cemetery.
- Bernville Memorial Day Parade
- Birdsboro American Legion & Boy Scout Troop 595, Flag Retirement Ceremony.
- Allegiance Sunday, Tulpehocken Trinity United Church of Christ, Millardsville, Lebanon County, PA.
- Flag Retirement Ceremony, hosted by CAR and Classic Harley Davidson for a fundraising event for Wreaths Across America.
- Wyomissing July 4th parade at Wyomissing, PA.
- Berks History Center, Reading of the Declaration of Independence to the citizens of Reading on July 8, 1776 by the descendants of Sheriff Henry Vanderslice.
- Berks County Court House, Naturalization Ceremonies.
- Conrad Weiser graveside service at his Homestead.

Ceremonies coming up.

- 11 November, Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Grove, Reading’s City Park. Starting at 11:00AM, please arrive by 10:30AM. Right after this, we will travel to Charles Evans Cemetery to lay a wreath at Governor Joseph Hiester’s grave.
- 16 December, Wreath Across America Ceremony, at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA. This event will start at 12:00PM, please arrive by 11:00AM.

As always, we are looking for new faces to join us. You don’t need to attend all the events; a couple here and a couple there would really help us. All we need is a couple of hours of your time during these events to help keeping our Color Guard ACTIVE!!!

Charles H. Seibert, Color Guard Captain
 627 Green Meadow Drive, Douglassville, PA. 1951
 Email: cvseibert@gmail.com Phone 610-385-7370



Genealogist / Registrar Report:

The Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter Sons of the of the American Revolution
 Genealogist/Registrar Report
 Hiester Herald
 November 13, 2017



The chapter has 168 members and 45 prospective members.

New Members Approved:

- Andrew H. Bailey
- Owen M. Bailey
- Jacob P. Dougherty
- Hunter W. Magdy
- Stephen D. Brock

Ancestors

- Henry Huls, Sr.
- Henry Huls, Sr.
- John Willaimson
- John Williamson
- Richard Thralls

Supplementals Approved:

- John Edward Lauman
- R. Glenn Weyer
- R. Glenn Weyer
- R. Glenn Weyer

- Christopher Zimmerman
- Johannes Apple Barndt
- Johannes Gerhart
- Andrew Hyers/Heyser/Heisser
- Conrad Price
- Solomon Chalfant
- Nathaniel Dunham
- Robert Ferrell

- Willard N. Brensinger, Jr.
- David C. Brock
- David C. Brock
- David C. Brock

Applications at National Headquarters:

New Member Applications

- Donald F. Kent
- Trevor N. Parkes

Supplemental Applications

- Eric H. Troutman



Membership Report: Leave A Legacy



It's that time of the year... the mailbox is filled with solicitations trying to pry donations from us. Some causes are very worthy, others not so.

The thought came to me "Do we, as a Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, have a way to leave a Legacy for future generations."

There are many ways for all of us to assure the future of our chapter: Life Insurance with Gov. Joseph Hiester as beneficiary, Life Estates, you retain the right of property for life. Trusts, Gift Annuities, and remembering Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter when writing your will. Your name would become part of the patriotism we have inherited from our courageous patriots.

While our chapter has grown in numbers it is not reflected in attendance at meetings. Why? Many members are disabled or out of Pennsylvania. They joined here mostly because their Patriots were from Berks County. Others because of family ties to members of the chapter. I do not expect members to fly in for quarterly meetings. However, there are ways for members who are unable to physically contribute... consider, as mentioned above, a legacy. Members can also participate by helping to fund our scholarship, color guard funds, and general needs of the chapter. A pound of \$20.00 bills or any part thereof would be well used to promote patriotism in our Berks County area.

*Sleep well in the land of the free!
Nevin C. Miller,
Membership Chairman*

Eagle Scout Committee Report



While there has been sparse activity as of late, this year (to date), six different members of the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter have participated in 16 certificate presentations.

As I have mentioned previously, there have been quite a few events where we were the only organization to attend personally instead of only sending congratulations to the Eagle Scout. We should take pride in this personal connection that we have fostered.

Additionally, while there have been several requests for essay contest information, no submission have been received as of October 20th. The deadline for entry is December 1st, 2017.

Thank you to all who are participating in this successful endeavor. Of course, please contact me at (610) 926-2664 or bkauff1043@aol.com if you would like to volunteer your services.



*Barry L. Kauffman
Eagle Scout Committee Chairman*

DUES REMINDER

If you still owe your 2018 Membership Dues, its not to late. Payments can still be made on the PASSAR website, or by mailing a check to the State Treasurer. However, there is now a late /reinstatement fee of \$10 applied to accounts in arrears as of December 31, 2017. Membership Dues needed to be received by the PASSAR Treasurer on or before the December 31st deadline to avoid the reinstatement form & \$10 fee. Please forward any address, phone number, or email changes to the Chapter Secretary.

If you have not received your Dues Notice, please contact the Chapter Treasurer David Loose Jr. Members can tear the coupon off the bottom of the Dues Notice and return with payment to:

PASSAR Treasurer, Donald E. Mengle
135 West Blade Drive
PA. Furnace, PA 16865-9500

Or, preferably, remit the payment online through the PASSAR website which can be accessed at <https://members.passar.org> or through the link on the Chapter website: www.berkssar.com.

Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter Annual Meeting



Robert M. Hillegas, President
Requests the pleasure of your company at the
December Annual Meeting of the
Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter
Thursday, the Seventh of December
at 6:00 PM
at The Berkshire Country Club
1637 Bernville Road, Reading, PA 19601

Program: An encore performance of popular songs
by the Martin Sisters

R.S.V.P. form below

Annual Dinner - December 07, 2017

Please reply by December 01, 2017

Name & Chapter / Org.: _____.

Address: _____.

Phone & Email: _____.

Name(s) of Guest(s): _____.

Dinner Menu: *Mixed Green House Salad with Ranch Dressing or Balsamic Vinaigrette, Assorted Rolls & Butter, Chef's Choice Starch and Vegetable, New York Style Cheesecake with Raspberry Sauce. Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf, and Assorted Hot Tea. Please contact David G. Loose Jr. with any special dietary requests.*

• Seared Chicken Breast Francaise with Lemon Parsley Butter Sauce # _____ X \$48 = \$ _____

• Horseradish Crusted Flat Iron Steak with Roasted Garlic and Bourbon Demi-Glace # _____ X \$54 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter
Mail To: David G. Loose Jr., 37 Sagebrook Drive, Reading, PA 19606



**Winter Board of Management Meeting
February 2 & 3, 2018
Hosted by the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter
The Inn at Reading**



Friday, February 2nd

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM:

Registration

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM:

Dinner: Choice of Grilled Chicken Bruschetta, Sliced Roast Beef, Pot Roast Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, or Vegetarian Lasagna. Served with *Mixed Green House Salad with House Dressing, Assorted Rolls & Butter, Chef's Choice Starch and Vegetable, and Dessert.*

Saturday, February 3rd

8:00 AM to 9:00 AM:

Registration

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM:

BOM - Continental Breakfast

Juices, Fruits, Breakfast Breads & muffins, Coffee & Tea

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM:

Ladies Program - Continental Breakfast

Juices, Fruits, Breakfast Breads & muffins, Coffee & Tea

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM:

Luncheon and Program - Lunch Buffet

Luncheon Speaker: Bruce E. Mowday, author and award-winning Newspaper reporter will talk about *Reporting The Revolutionary War: Before It Was History, It Was News* to which he contributed an essay on the battles of Brandywine and Germantown.

Ladies Program: Matthew Dodd presents songs and stories of the Red, White, and Blue.

Accommodations: The Inn at Reading, 1040 North Park Road, Reading, Pennsylvania 19610

Room Rate: \$89.00 plus tax for single or double occupancy. Guests are to make their reservations directly with The Inn at Reading at 610-372-7811. Please be sure to mention you are with The Sons of the American Revolution group room block when making reservations. Reservations need to be made by January 03, 2017. **Check out time is 3:00 PM.**

Winter BOM Meeting - February 2 & 3, 2018

Please reply by January 20, 2018

Name & Chapter / Org.: _____

Address: _____

Phone & Email: _____

Name(s) of Guest(s): _____



Hotel & Conference Center

Registration Fee (Compatriots Only): _____ @ \$15.00 \$ _____

Friday Dinner: _____ @ \$25.00 \$ _____

Select: Chicken: _____ Beef: _____ Vegetarian: _____ \$ _____

Saturday Ladies Program: _____ @ \$10.00 \$ _____

Saturday Luncheon: _____ @ \$20.00 \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter
Mail To: David G. Loose Jr., 37 Sagebrook Drive, Reading, PA 19606

Upcoming Events

- December 7th - Quarterly Meeting,**
 6:00pm at The Berkshire Country Club
 Reading, PA
Program: The Martin Sisters Band
Registration form on Page 10.
- December 16th - Wreaths Across America, 12:00PM,**
 Indiantown Gap National Cemetery
- February 2nd & 3rd, 2018 - Winter BOM**
 The Inn at Reading
Lunch Program: Author Bruce Mowday
Ladies Program: Musician Matthew Dodd
Registration form on Page 11.
- February 12th - Executive Committee Meeting,**
 6:30pm at the Wyomissing Public Library
 (enter from Franklin Street).
- February 17th - George Washington Birthday Luncheon**
 11:00am at The Berkshire Country Club
 Reading, PA
Program: Author Jeffrey E. Finegan
- March 18th - Quarterly Meeting,**
 6:00pm at The Inn at Reading
 Reading, PA
Program: Author Gene Pisasale
- April 14th - Executive Committee Meeting,**
 6:30pm at the Wyomissing Public Library
 (enter from Franklin Street).
- June 14th - Quarterly Meeting,**
 6:00pm at The Inn at Reading
 Reading, PA
Program: Musician Matthew Dodd
- August 13th - Executive Committee Meeting,**
 6:30pm at the Wyomissing Public Library
 (enter from Franklin Street).
- September 13th - Quarterly Meeting,**
 6:00pm at The Inn at Reading
 Reading, PA
Program: Colonial Currency
- November 12th - Executive Committee Meeting,**
 6:30pm at the Wyomissing Public Library
 (enter from Franklin Street).
- December 6th - Annual Meeting,**
 6:00pm at The Berkshire Country Club
 Reading, PA
Program: TBD

2017 Officers and Committee Chairmen

Office - Name

- President - Robert M. Hillegas
 Vice President - Sean M. Teaford
 Secretary - David T. Shultz
 Treasurer - David G. Loose Jr.
 Genealogist / Registrar - Eric H. Troutman
 Chaplain - Dr. David C. Brock
 Surgeon - Dr. Thomas A. Stewart
 Chancellor - Thomas D. Leidy, Esq.

Presidential Appointments - Name

- Aide-to-the President - Vacant
 Newsletter Editor - Sean M. Teaford
 Color Guard Captain - Charles H. Seibert

Committee - Name

- Eagle Scouts - Barry L. Kauffman
 Knight Essay - Vacant
 JROTC - David G. Loose Jr.
 Graves - Eric H. Troutman
 Veteran Affairs - Charles H. Seibert
 Public Relations - Floyd N. Turner II
 Finance - Miles Dechant
 CAR / DAR Relations - Floyd N. Turner II
 Membership - Nevin C. Miller
 Americanism - Robert M. Hillegas
 Flag - Robert M. Hillegas
 Awards - Floyd N. Turner II

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

Deadlines for Submissions:

- Jan. 20 for Winter issue
 Apr. 20 for Spring issue
 July 20 for Summer issue
 Oct. 20 for Fall issue

Send submissions and address changes to:

Sean M. Teaford
 420 Swamp Road
 Morgantown, PA 19543
 484-686-5824
 seanmt4d@yahoo.com