

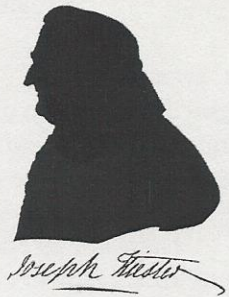


# The Hiester Herald

## Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

Chartered - May 11, 1937

Instituted - June 17, 1937



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May 2006

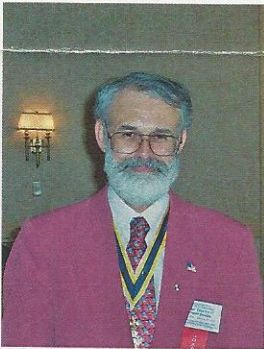
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### A Message from the President



Greetings Fellow Compatriots!

The 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting and Board of Management Spring Meeting of PASSAR was hosted by the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter Sons of the American Revolution on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. What a weekend! Our own Compatriot Miles K. Dechant exchanged the PASSAR President's gavel for the PASSAR Treasurer's spreadsheet! We were honored with the presence of Roland G. Downing, President General National Society Sons of the American Revolution. President Downing explained the National's initiative to strengthen the management structure at National so that more effective educational outreach programs can be realized. He lamented the fact that due to current educational mandates reading and math scores have improved at the cost of history lessons. Our children are missing lessons in their rich heritage, lessons that can instill and reinforce pride in the United States and our ideals. His message is one that we need to embrace. Our hat's off to Compatriot Dechant and his wife Betty for all of the advanced planning that ensured our Compatriots from across the state a successful meeting. Thanks also to all of you who worked along with Compatriot Dechant to that end. The weekend was not all meetings. Captain Floyd Turner commanded the PASSAR color guard throughout the weekend. Chaplain Darryl Jeffries delivered a stirring message at the Memorial Service held in Trinity Lutheran Church in Reading. After the service the congregation, led by the color guard, gathered on the cemetery at the grave of Dr. Bodo Otto where Compatriot Bruce Dietrich presented a brief biography of Dr. Otto. President General Downing and PASSAR President Dechant placed a wreath at Dr. Otto's grave. Needless to say, it was a very impressive ceremony. Thanks again to my fellow Compatriots. I am proud to say that I serve as your president.

*Continued on page 2*

The Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter is very proud of Miles K. Dechant. At the 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting of PASSAR, Compatriot Dechant performed his last duties as PASSAR President. Fortunately for the Society he will continue to serve as the PASSAR Treasurer. More about the Annual Membership Meeting is inside.



***"If you would persuade, you must appeal to interest rather than intellect." – Benjamin Franklin***

## Presidents Message

*Cont. from page 1*

Did you see the photo of Compatriot Nevin Miller in the Reading Eagle on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>? The photo accompanied an article detailing the Memorial Service and the purpose of the SAR.

There are up coming activities that you won't want to miss. Darius Puff, a Leni-Lenape descendant, will be the featured speaker at the June 8<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting at the Inn at Moselem. Mr. Puff, a former police chief in Boyertown, comes in authentic Leni-Lenape garb. It promises to be a very enjoyable evening. If you haven't ever attended a quarterly meeting, why not make the effort to make this one your first?

Allegiance Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. at St. John's Reformed Church in Sinking Spring. There is parking available across the street from the church as well as behind the church. The Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter SAR will join with the Berks County Chapter DAR and the Conrad Weiser Chapter CAR in a grave dedication service on the old cemetery at the church after the church service. This is an event that will showcase our organizations. Allegiance Sunday defines the ideals of the SAR, DAR, and the CAR. We need to be visible in order to remain viable. Let's see if we can't fill a few pews at St. Johns. (By the way, I've heard that those who attend are invited to the Troutman home for a picnic lunch.)

The Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter needs to educate children and adults about our nation's history, we need to boldly profess our love for this country. We can accomplish this goal with your help. Please don't be a "certificate" member. Join us at our meetings and learn what you can do to promote our cause. Where would our country be if our ancestors had the "sit back and let others do it" attitude? Think about it and I'll see you June 8<sup>th</sup>.

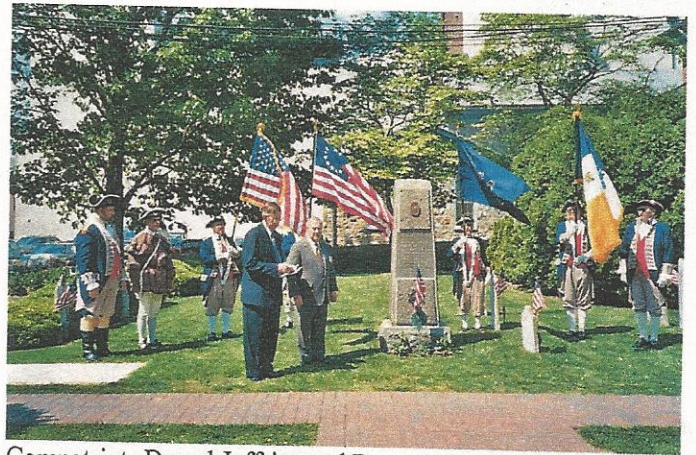
*Eric H. Troutman*



Color Guard before the memorial service at Trinity Lutheran Church on May 6, 2006



Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter members at the May 5, 2006 evening dinner. L to R: Darryl Jeffries, William Seidel, Dr. Philip Garrett, Ph.D., Bruce Dietrich, Nevin Miller, Miles Dechant, Floyd Turner, Martin Peicker, Eric Troutman, Dr. Thomas Shultz, MD.



Compatriots Darryl Jeffries and Bruce Dietrich along with the Color Guard at the Dr. Bodo Otto Memorial at Trinity Lutheran Church.



President General Roland Downing and PASSAR President Miles Dechant place a wreath for Dr. Bodo Otto.

*"I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it."*

- Thomas Jefferson

## UPCOMING EVENTS



*"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."*

-Benjamin Franklin

### Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter Events

- May 25 – GJH Executive Committee Meeting  
7:00 PM at 252 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Bernville
- May 29 – Wernersville Memorial Day Parade  
10:00 AM
- May 29 – Bernville Memorial Day Parade  
2:00 PM
- June 8 – GJH Flag Day Dinner and Qtly Meeting  
6:00 PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs
- June 11 – Allegiance Sunday Service  
10:30 AM at St. John's Reformed Church,  
Sinking Spring
- June 11 – Wreath Laying Ceremony  
Following Allegiance Sunday Service  
At St. John's Reformed Church
- July 4 – Wyomissing July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade  
10:00 AM
- Aug. 24 – GJH Executive Committee Meeting  
7:00 PM at 252 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Bernville
- Sept. 14 – GJH Quarterly Meeting  
6:00 PM at Stouch Tavern, Womelsdorf
- Nov. 16 – GJH Executive Committee Meeting  
7:00 PM at 252 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Bernville
- Nov. 18 – Reading Holiday Parade  
9:00 AM
- Dec. 14 – GJH Annual Meeting  
6:00 PM at the Berkshire Country Club

### PASSAR Events

- Aug. 4 & 5 – Summer Board of Management  
Meeting. Host - Centre County Chapter
- Nov. 3 & 4 – Fall Board of Management  
Meeting. Host – Harris Ferry Chapter

### NSSAR Events

- July 8-12 – 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress  
Dallas, TX
- Sept. 29 & 30 – Fall Leadership Meeting  
Louisville, KY

## Other Events of Interest

- May 21 – Annual Lehigh County Declaration of  
Independence Celebration. 10:30 AM at  
Zion Reformed UCC Church, Allentown.  
Sponsored by the Valley Forge Chapter,  
PASSAR
- June 10 – DAR Flag Day Luncheon  
12:00 PM at Sheraton Hotel, Wyomissing
- June 14 – Flag Day Celebration and Disposal  
Ceremony. 7:00 PM at Heidelberg  
Heritage Society, Wernersville.
- July 8 – At 12:00 PM a recreation of the reading  
of the Declaration of Independence will be  
held at the Berks County Historical Society  
by the descendents of Henry Vanderslice,  
Sheriff of Berks County from 1774 to  
1776, who read the Declaration to Berks  
County citizens at 12:00 PM on July 8,  
1776.



If you know of any upcoming events that may be  
of interest to other Chapter members, please  
forward them to the Editor for inclusion in the  
August edition of the Hiester Herald.



## I Love a Parade

The Color Guard is still seeking volunteers to walk or ride in the upcoming parades. Particularly energetic volunteers could help pass out candy to the children along the route. Since we will be participating in two parades on Memorial Day, those with EMT training could prove quite valuable. Although the Color Guard is marching in both parades, it is not a package deal for the rest of the members. If you prefer, you may participate in just one of the parades.

After each parade there will be a memorial service. It would be very nice to have a good showing from the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter at these services.

I can assure you that parades are even more fun when viewed from the inside out. Any one interested can contact Floyd Turner at 610-929-5840 or [floydt2@comcast.net](mailto:floydt2@comcast.net) for the details.

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## GJH Flag Day and SAR 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

The chapter will celebrate Flag Day and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SAR Congressional Charter at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting being held at The Inn at Moselem Springs. All SAR members, prospective members, spouses, DAR members and CAR members are invited to attend. We are honored to have as our guest speaker Mr. Darius Puff, a Native American, who will present information on the "Leni Lenape Indians in Colonial Days".

The meeting registration form is enclosed. Please plan on attending for an evening of camaraderie and gregarious fellowship.

## DAR Flag Day Luncheon

On June 10<sup>th</sup> the Berks County Chapter, DAR will be hosting their annual Flag Day Luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel, Wyomissing. The speaker will be Pastor Samuel Scales, a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge and two other campaigns during World War II.

A registration form is enclosed. Please plan to attend and show our support for the Berks County Chapter, DAR.

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## Allegiance Sunday Service and Memorial Ceremony

GJH will be observing Allegiance Sunday on June 11, 2006 at St. John's Reformed Church in Sinking Spring at 10:30 AM. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend the service.

Immediately following the service the Berks County Chapter, DAR and Conrad Weiser Society, CAR will join GJH in a memorial ceremony and wreath laying to honor the Revolutionary War Patriots buried in the church cemetery.

After the wreath laying, participants are invited to President Troutman's house (252 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Bernville, PA) for a casual picnic. As a courtesy, please let President Troutman know if you are able to attend the service and picnic.

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*"We ought not to look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dear-bought experience."*  
- George Washington



## Message from the Editor



All members are invited and encouraged to submit their suggestions and recommendations for the newsletter. Articles and photographs may also be submitted as well as opinions in the form of a Letter to the Editor.

Notification of any patriotic or interesting events occurring in the area would be appreciated as would special announcements that you would like to share with the membership.

If you get tired of reading what I have to say, you have the opportunity to influence the contents of this newsletter.

There is always a disclaimer so...

The editor retains the right to reject or edit any submissions that, in his opinion, are or may be objectionable.

Submissions can be mailed to Floyd Turner, 958 Whitner Rd., Reading, PA 19605 or e-mailed to [floydt2@comcast.net](mailto:floydt2@comcast.net).

### FREE FOOD AND MAPS!!!

On occasion, at churches throughout the county, food and gifts are available free of charge. The fare generally consists of some type of shredded or ground barbequed meat, various mayonnaise saturated salads, processed meats unique to the Berks County area, bags of heavily-salted snacks and a nice selection of sugar infused treats. Quite frequently, in addition to the food, a local Servant-of-the-People will be on hand to dispense patriotic and informative literature as well as handy maps of the state.

There is only one requirement to attend these functions and partake of the food. You must be willing to hand deliver an Eagle Scout Certificate to a very deserving Scout.

Contact Compatriot Nevin Miller at 610-926-4253 or [sarnevin@comcast.net](mailto:sarnevin@comcast.net) to learn more.

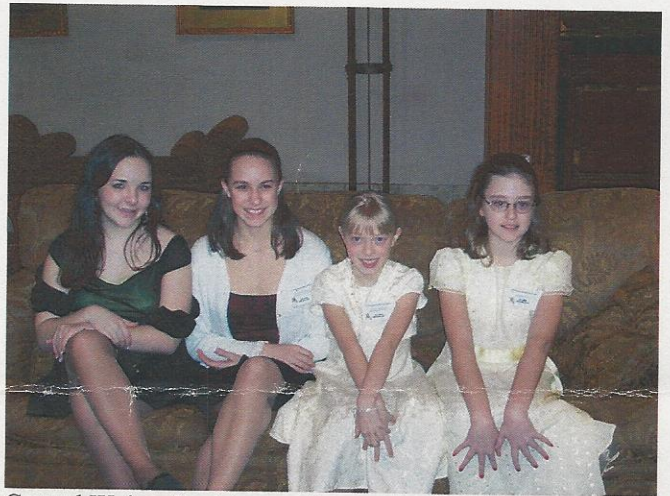
## Conrad Weiser Society, CAR Needs Our Help

The Conrad Weiser Society, Children of the American Revolution is trying very hard to recruit new members. The Society is initiating plans to make it more fun and educational for its members.

We should encourage and support the CAR especially since one of the missions of SAR, as emphasized by President General Downing, is educating America's youth about their heritage.

Encouraging our children and grandchildren to join the CAR can also benefit the SAR and DAR. It is a way to sow a crop that they can harvest in the future.

More information on the CAR is available at [www.nscar.org](http://www.nscar.org). If you are interested in membership for your children or grandchildren or if you are willing to make a donation to the society you can contact President Eric Troutman or Floyd Turner for applications and information.



Conrad Weiser Society members at the 2005 PA State Conference. L to R: Rebecca Mamola, Elizabeth Snedeker, Jennifer Rohrbach and Kathryn Turner

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*"Well done is better than well said."*

- Benjamin Franklin

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*"The boisterous sea of liberty is never without a wave."*

- Thomas Jefferson

## Where are all the Patriots?

Our good friend, District Deputy Jim Willis, is spearheading the PASSAR effort to locate and document the cemeteries and graves of our Patriot ancestors. This is a huge and vital undertaking. Within GJH, President Troutman has taken the reigns to ensure that we do our part in this effort.

Much assistance is needed if we are going to accomplish our portion of this mission in a timely and efficient manner. President Troutman has us off to a good start. Thanks to his ties with the Berks County Genealogical Society, he has been able to recover a great deal of information that was thought lost. The information details the graves of over 400 Patriots. But there are hundreds more to do and who knows how many more we can find if we just look.

If all of us would do a few cemeteries around our communities we could inundate Compatriot Willis with information. What a wonderful problem that would be.

At one time or another we have all wished that someone had documented the location of a particular grave. The information we gather will help others find their ancestor and preserve the memory of our local Patriots for posterity.

If you can help, please contact President Troutman at 610-488-7855 or [etroutman@juno.com](mailto:etroutman@juno.com) so he can coordinate our efforts.

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## Easing into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Modern communications technology offers us many advantages our Founding Fathers were lacking. It would be very helpful and cost efficient to use e-mail to send our newsletter to those compatriots that are receptive to the idea. It would help lower the costs of printing and postage. At the same time it would allow the newsletter to contain more information.

In order to gauge the feasibility and receptiveness of the membership, feedback to the Editor on this subject would be appreciated. Phone: 610-929-5840 or E-mail: [floydt2@comcast.net](mailto:floydt2@comcast.net).

## GJH Honors Outstanding JROTC Members

Compatriot Bruce Dietrich, Chairman of the ROTC Committee, reports that the following JROTC students have been selected to receive the Bronze ROTC Medal and certificate for 2006.

Brittany Arbegast, Pine Grove School District  
Robert Foxx, Pottstown School District  
Garrett Stackhouse, Reading School District  
Ashton Stewart, Boyertown School District

SAR awards the ROTC Medal to foster the principle of the "citizen" soldier. Recipients are selected by their Commanding Officer for their leadership, military bearing and general excellence.

Congratulations to the winners. With fine young people such as these to help lead America into the future, we are all winners.

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*"If rascals knew the advantage of virtue, they would become honest men out of rascality"*

- Benjamin Franklin

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## Just Wondering?

Why do we park on a driveway and drive on a parkway?

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## Your Submission Could Be Here

(Of course, it could be on another page as well. But, you get the idea.)

*"Courage and perseverance have a magical talisman, before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish into air."*

-John Quincy Adams



May 5, 2006 Evening Reception (L to R) President General Roland Downing, Norma Downing, Betty Dechant, PASSAR President Miles Dechant

### **President General Downing attends PASSAR meetings**

The Board of Management Spring Meeting and 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting, hosted by the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter, was honored by the attendance of President General Roland Downing and his wife, Norma. The President General spoke at the Board of Management Meeting and the Annual Membership Meeting about the importance of the Center for Advancing America's Heritage and encouraged all members to contribute to the fund to ensure its success. At the Saturday evening banquet he installed the new PASSAR officers.

*"The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress and grow brave by reflection."*

-Thomas Paine

*"I haven't failed, I've found 10,000 ways that don't work."*

- Benjamin Franklin

### **Memorial Service and Wreath Laying**

A memorial service was held on Saturday, May 6 at the Trinity Lutheran Church on Washington Street in Reading. The service was organized and conducted by Compatriot Darryl Jeffries who did an absolutely wonderful job. It included a very interesting narrative about the reminiscences of a fictional Revolutionary War soldier living in Reading in the 1790's. The Colors were presented by a combined Color Guard made up of members from the Gov. Joseph Hiester, Philadelphia-Continental, George Washington and Gen. Arthur St. Clair Chapters.

After the service there was a wreath laying at the Dr. Bodo Otto marker on the grounds of the church. Compatriot Bruce Dietrich spoke about the life and accomplishments of Dr. Otto. After which, President General Roland Downing and PASSAR President Miles Dechant placed a wreath at the marker.

The event was covered by WFMZ Channel 69 News and the Reading Eagle. An article about the service and a picture of Compatriot Nevin Miller (below) appeared in the Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the paper.

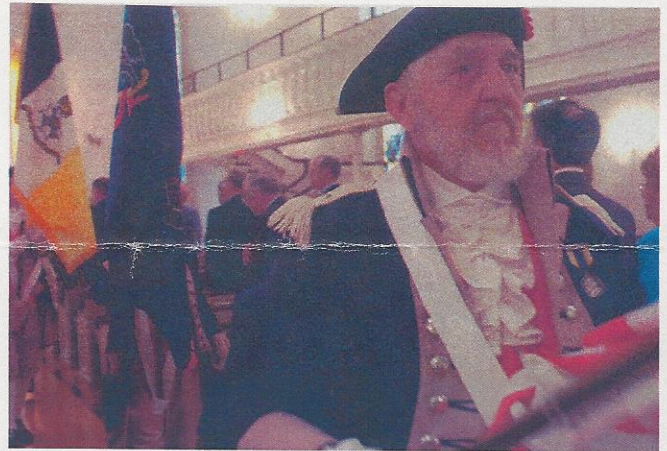


Photo by Lauren Little – Courtesy of the Reading Eagle  
Compatriot Nevin Miller, looking resplendent in his Color Guard uniform, retires the colors after the memorial service.

### **Sergeant of the Color Guard**

Compatriot Nevin Miller has accepted the position of Sergeant of the Color Guard. His primary responsibility will be to assist the Captain of the Color Guard and lead the Color Guard when necessary. We appreciate Nevin once again answering the call to duty.

## Outgoing PASSAR President Dechant Presents Awards

Outgoing PASSAR President Dechant was very kind and generous in the praise and awards he gave out at the Annual Meeting banquet on Saturday night. Numerous awards were given to PASSAR members who are active on the state level. The following Chapter members received awards. Chaplain Darryl Jeffries was awarded a Distinguished Service Certificate and Nevin Miller received his 2<sup>nd</sup> Meritorious Service Medal. President Eric Troutman, Martin Peicker, Bruce Dietrich, William Koch and Floyd Turner received Certificates of Appreciation.

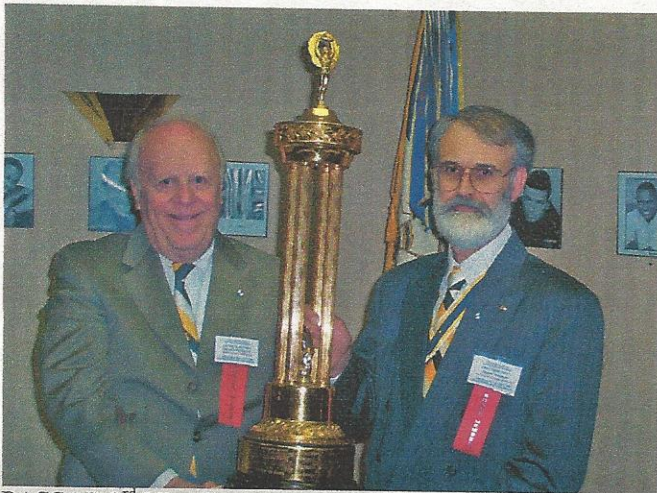
In addition, he presented his daughters with Certificates of Appreciation for their efforts in organizing and preparing for the Annual Meeting.

His most heartfelt award was the Martha Washington Medal awarded to Betty Dechant for her years of service and support to him and the SAR.

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## GJH Wins Trimble Trophy Again

At the Board of Management Meeting the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter received the Trimble Trophy. The trophy is awarded to the chapter with the largest percentage increase in membership during the previous year. GJH acquired 7 new members thereby increasing our membership by 18%. Our challenge now is to retain this award next year.



PASSAR 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Lanny R. Patten (L) presents the Trimble Trophy to President Eric H. Troutman

## GJH Bounty Day Meeting Recap

This was the first event that the Color Guard functioned as a fully uniformed unit by posting and retiring the Colors.

Compatriot Henry L. Troutman was presented the War Service Medal for his service during World War II. We thank Compatriot Troutman for his service to our country

Compatriot Eric H. Troutman, Jr. was presented his membership rosette. It's good to know that the Troutman family will continue to be a part of the GJH Chapter for years to come.

Compatriot R. Wayne Murray generously donated a parade banner to the Chapter Color Guard. The banner was displayed at the meeting and will be proudly carried in future parades.

Compatriot Darryl Jeffries discussed the NSSAR outreach program which is designed to inform and educate members about the programs and activities of NSSAR. The spring 2006 issue of the "Pennsylvania Minuteman" contained a post card that should be filled out and returned to NSSAR to reaffirm your support of SAR programs.

PASSAR President Miles Dechant spoke about the future of the SAR and whether his grandchildren will want to join. It is up to all of us to recruit and inspire new members especially within our own families and to make the SAR an organization of which they would be proud to be a member.

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*"To be true and just in all my dealings. To bear no malice nor hatred in my heart. To keep my hands from picking and stealing. Not to covet other men's goods; but to learn and labor truly, to get my own living, and to do my duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call me."*

- Patrick Henry

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*"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude."*

- Thomas Jefferson