

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter
Reading, PA



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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WHAT IS THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Sons of the American Revolution was incorporated on 17 January 1890 in Connecticut and later chartered by the United States Congress on 9 June 1906. Prior to this date a number of state societies were formed in the 1880's. These were led by the Sons of Revolutionary Sires, organized 4 July 1876 in San Francisco. The first Congress of the National Society was held in Louisville, Kentucky on 30 April 1890, which was the 100th anniversary of George Washington's taking the oath of office of President of the United States.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution celebrated its centennial and the bicentennial of Washington's becoming President on 30 April 1990.

The purposes of the Sons of the American Revolution are patriotic, historical and educational. These include:

- Perpetuating the memory of Revolutionary Patriots
- Promoting fellowship among their descendants
- Inspiring the community with a reverence for the principles of government founded by our forefathers
- Encouraging historical research of the American Revolution
- Preserving the records of the American Revolutionary Patriots
- Marking the locations of the Revolutionary events and its soldiers
- Celebrating anniversaries of the Revolution
- Fostering true patriotism
- Maintaining and extending institutions of American freedom
- Carrying out the purposes of the Preamble of the Constitution
- Following the injunctions of Washington's farewell address to the American people

PAST PRESIDENTS

1937	George B. Hiester
1938 & 1939	Irving C. Hanners
1940 & 1941	Walter S. Ludwig
1942 & 1943	Louis J. Heinzman
1944	George B. Balmer
1945 & 1946	Daniel F. Ancona
1947 & 1948	Ernest F. Rhoads
1949	G. Fred Steinrock
1950 & 1951	Arthur W. Heim
1952	John F. Neihart
1953 & 1954	John Stolz
1955	Paul K. Stolz
1956 – 1958	Louis J. Heinzmann
1959 & 1960	John H. Henniger, Jr.
1961 – 1963	John E. German, M.D.
1964 – 1966	Tyler W. Gray
1967	Clarence O. Hartman
1968	D. Clarence Hoffa
1969	William G. Hintz, Jr.
1970	LeRoy M. Kutz, Sr.
1971 – 1976	John H. Henninger, Jr.
1977 – 1979	Darryl S. Jeffries
1980 – 1983	Howard D. Baldwin
1984 – 1987	Robert J. Buckalew, Ed.D.
1988 – 1990	Darryl S. Jeffries
1991	Richard R. Long
1992	John E. D. Huffman II
1993 & 1994	John L. Houser
1995 & 1996	Philip L. Garrett, Ph.D.
1997 & 1998	Miles K. Dechant
1999 & 2000	Thomas E. Shultz, M.D.
2001 & 2002	Darryl S. Jeffries
2003 & 2004	Nevin C. Miller
2005	Martin J. Peicker
2006 & 2007	Eric H. Troutman
2008 & 2009	Floyd N. Turner II
2010	Eric H. Troutman
2011 & 2012	Robert M. Hillegas
2013 & 2014	Barry L. Kauffman
2015 & 2016	Leon E. Adam
2017	Robert M. Hillegas
2018	Sean M. Teaford

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

PLEDGE TO THE S.A.R.

We descendents of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

RECESSIONAL

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men.

SUGGESTED MEETING AGENDA

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. National Anthem
4. SAR Pledge
5. Introduction of guests or prospective new members
6. Secretary's minutes: Approval declared if no corrections or additions
7. Treasurer's Financial Report: Request a motion to accept report
8. Registrar's Report
9. Reports of Standing Committees
10. District Deputy's Report
11. Old (Unfinished) Business
12. New Business & Correspondence
13. Suggestions for the good of the SAR
14. SAR Recessional
15. Benediction
16. Adjournment

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME AND LOCATION

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Section 2. The principle place of business and the offices of the Chapter shall be located in the vicinity of Reading, Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE II

GOVERNMENT AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The Constitution of the Chapter, objectives, purposes and the government of the Chapter are hereby declared to be patriotic, historical and educational and shall conform to and be governed by the Constitution of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Section 2. The objectives of this organization are declared to be as follows:

1. To perpetuate the memory of the men and women who, by their service and sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people and the rights and freedoms defined in the Constitution of the United States.
2. To inspire, unite and promote fellowship among the descendents of those men and women.
3. To inspire the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers.
4. To encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution.
5. To acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of that war as well as documents, relics and landmarks.
6. To mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials.
7. To celebrate the anniversaries of the events of the Revolutionary War and the founding of our Nation.
8. To foster true American patriotism.
9. To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom.

10. To carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America and the injunctions of George Washington in his Farewell Address to the American people.

ARTICLE III

ELIGIBILITY FOR AND CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any man shall be eligible for membership in the Society who is a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendent of an ancestor who was at all times unflinching in loyalty to and rendered active service in the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman or minuteman in the armed forces of the Continental Congress, or one of those of the several Colonies or States, or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, or as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence, or as a member of a Continental, Provincial or Colonial Congress or Legislature, or as a foreign national of, but not limited to, France, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland or Germany who came to North America and rendered service in the cause of American Independence, or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain, provided, however, that no person advocating the overthrow of the Government of the United States by use of force or violence shall be eligible for membership in the Society.

Section 2. There shall be the following classes of members.

1. A Regular or Regular Life Member shall be any member at the age of 18 years or over, excepting those members described in subsections 2 through 4 of this paragraph, who meets all of the requirements for membership as defined in this Constitution and in the Bylaws of the Chapter.

2. A Youth Registrant shall be a male under the age of 18 years whose Youth Registrant application has been submitted and approved in accordance with the Bylaws of the National Society.

3. A Youth Life Member shall be a male under the age of 18 years who has applied for and been admitted to Youth Life Membership.

4. A Junior Member shall be a male under the age of 18 years who shall have met the membership requirements of the Sons of the American Revolution. A Junior Member shall not have the right to vote nor shall receive the Chapter newsletter until he attains the age of 18 years.

5. A deceased male for whom a National and Pennsylvania membership number shall have been assigned and for whom the requirements of the Society's Bylaws shall have been met shall be provided with a Memorial Membership in the Society.

Section 3. (a) The application for membership shall set forth the name, occupation and residence of the applicant, his line of descent, and the name, residence and services of the ancestor or ancestors in the Revolution from whom he claims eligibility. It shall be executed in duplicate upon the form prescribed by the National Society and shall bear the oath or affirmation of the

applicant the statements therein contained are true to the best of his knowledge and belief. A third (Chapter) copy, if desired, may be a photocopy. Every application shall be endorsed by at least two members of this Society and be approved by the State Board of Management before the applicant shall be elected to membership.

Section 3. (b) The application for membership may be made either to this Chapter or directly to the State Board of Management.

Section 4. Election to membership and approval of transfer of membership shall be by approval of the State Society.

ARTICLE IV

ELECTIONS

Section 1. At the annual meeting of the members of this Chapter, there shall be elected the officers of this Chapter by majority vote of the members present.

Section 2. Not less than ten days prior to the Annual Meeting, the Secretary shall inform the membership, either by mail, e-mail or publication in the Chapter newsletter, of the Report of the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of this Chapter shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Genealogist, and such officers as Chaplain, Chancellor and Surgeon, provided there be qualified candidates, all of whom shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and hold office for one year or until their successors have been elected and installed. The President is not eligible to hold office for more than two consecutive years.

ARTICLE VI

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Genealogist, Chaplain, Chancellor, Surgeon, Past Presidents of the Chapter and Presidential Appointees (which are Newsletter Editor, Color Guard Captain and Aide to the President) shall constitute the composition of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have full direction, management and control of the property and affairs of the Chapter and be responsible for the promotion of its objectives.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall hold regular meetings at such place and hour as it may determine. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President.

Section 4. The order of business at the meeting of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

1. Call to order by the President or the Chairman
2. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting
3. Reports of Officers
4. Committee Reports
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

ARTICLE VII

ANNUAL AND OTHER MEETINGS

Section 1. The Annual Meeting for the nomination, election and installation of Officers and the transaction of general business shall be held in November or December each year, at such time and place as may be designated by the Executive Committee, and the term of the office shall commence at the installation. The officers shall be elected and installed at the Annual Meeting and shall hold office for one year or until their successors have been elected and installed.

Section 2. There shall be at least three meetings of the membership in addition to the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President and shall be called by him when directed by the Executive Committee or upon the written request of seven members.

Section 4. The right to vote in any meeting shall be limited to the members in good standing in attendance.

Section 5. Seven members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Chapter.

Section 6. Meetings and procedures not otherwise provided for in this Constitution or in the By-laws shall be conducted and governed in accordance with the provisions of the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order."

ARTICLE VIII

INITIATION FEES AND DUES

The initiation fee and annual dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee, as prescribed by the By-laws.

ARTICLE IX

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Chapter shall coincide with the calendar year.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The duties of the Officers shall be those which usually pertain to their offices.

Section 2. The President and Treasurer, respectively, shall make a report to the Annual Meeting and at such other times as may be required by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Members of the Executive Committee may hold more than one office, but may have only one vote.

ARTICLE II

THE PRESIDENT

The President, or in his absence, the Vice President, or in his absence, a chairman pro tempore, shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and the Executive Committee and shall have a vote. He shall exercise the usual functions of a presiding officer and shall enforce a strict observance of the Constitution and By-laws and of the Standing Rules of the Society.

To fulfill the purposes of the Chapter, he shall establish committees and appoint the chairmen of the committees unless otherwise specified in the Constitution and By-laws.

He shall make Presidential Appointments which are Newsletter Editor, Color Guard Captain and Aide to the President.

The President shall have the responsibility to make the arrangements for the Annual and Quarterly meetings and any special or additional meetings as required and notify the Secretary for dissemination to the membership.

He shall make every effort to attend the Quarterly and Annual meetings of the Pennsylvania Society.

ARTICLE III

THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall perform such duties as usually pertain to his office and shall promote the interests and activities of the Society and the Chapter. He shall encourage the enrollment of new members.

He shall perform those duties assigned by the President and/or Executive Committee and familiarize himself with the duties of the President.

He shall make every effort to attend the Quarterly and Annual meetings of the Pennsylvania Society and be prepared to represent the Chapter at those meetings

It is suggested that he organize and maintain a file of all printed material and archival items of historical note regarding the Chapter, except for those maintained by the Secretary and Registrar, to include but not limited to, newsletters, programs, newspaper articles, etc.

ARTICLE IV

THE SECRETARY

The Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence of the Chapter and such other matters as may be directed by the Executive Committee. He shall keep the By-laws and records of the Chapter, and together with the presiding officer, shall certify all acts of the Chapter.

He shall keep fair and accurate records of all the proceedings and orders of the Chapter and shall give due notice to the several officers of all votes, orders, resolves and proceedings of the Society affecting them or pertaining to their respective duties.

He shall notify all members of their election and shall, under the direction of the President or Vice President, give due notice of the time and place of all meetings, either by mail, e-mail or publication in the Chapter newsletter, and attend the same.

He shall properly notify NSSAR and PASSAR of the election/installation of all Chapter officers.

He shall work with the PASSAR Secretary to ensure the NSSAR Membership Database is maintained current.

He shall, in a timely fashion, notify the Executive Committee of all new members, supplementals, transfers, changes of address, resignations, drops due to lack of payment and death.

Notify the PASSAR Secretary of the Chapter delegates who will attend the PASSAR Annual Meeting.

Maintain an archive of the minutes of past Executive Committee and membership meetings.

He shall keep a complete register of names, dates of birth, dates of admission, resignation or deaths of all members of the Chapter.

Maintain a list of Standing Rules comprised of motions approved by the Executive Committee which affect the conduct of Chapter business.

ARTICLE V

THE TREASURER

The treasurer shall collect and keep the funds and securities of the Chapter. The funds of the Chapter shall be deposited in a bank or savings association or trust company, provided that any such institution is insured by the Federal Government or its agencies which are guaranteed by the Federal Government, or in bonds, bills and obligations of the Federal Government or its agencies which are guaranteed by the Federal Government, and shall be placed in the name of or to the credit of the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The funds shall be drawn by the check of the Treasurer for the purposes of the Chapter.

He shall keep a true account of his receipts and payments and at each Annual Meeting render the same to the Chapter. He shall also make such other reports as may be required by the Executive Committee. A committee shall be appointed to audit his accounts.

He shall collect member dues and forward the appropriate dues to PASSAR.

He shall notify the Secretary if any member fails to pay his dues timely.

He shall assist members with transfers and reinstatements.

He shall prepare and submit the required tax forms to the IRS and report their completion to the PASSAR Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI

THE REGISTRAR

He shall prepare membership applications and submit them to the PASSAR Registrar.

Moreover, he shall keep a register of all current members and have possession of all approved applications.

ARTICLE VII

THE GENEALOGIST

The genealogist shall keep a record of the applicants and their genealogical information and shall assist the applicants in the preparation of their papers.

ARTICLE VIII

THE CHAPLAIN

When so directed by the President or by the Chairman of the meeting, the Chaplain shall open and close meetings with remarks or prayer usual and proper on such occasions.

He is encouraged to reach out to Compatriots and their family in times of distress to express the sentiments and sympathy of the Chapter.

ARTICLE IX

THE CANCELLOR

The Chancellor shall be an attorney at law who shall give opinions on all legal matters affecting the Chapter when such questions are referred to him by the proper officers of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X

THE SURGEON

The Surgeon shall be a doctor of medicine whose duties shall be to inform and advise the Chapter as to such public health matters as may be of concern to the members and to render first aid in case of emergency at such meetings of the Chapter and the Executive Committee as he may attend.

ARTICLE XI

THE PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE CHAPTER

The Past Presidents of the Chapter shall have a vote on the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XII

THE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

Section 1. The Presidential Appointees shall have a vote on the Executive Committee.

Section 2. They shall submit written reports regarding their activities to the Executive Committee.

Section 3. **THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

1. The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the President and he shall publish at least four (4) newsletters per year reporting on the activities of the Chapter and therein shall announce the time and place of all meetings.

Section 4. THE COLOR GUARD CAPTAIN

1. The Color Guard Captain shall direct the activities of the Chapter's Color Guard and be in charge of the storage, maintenance and use of the Chapter's flags and related equipment.

Section 5. THE AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT

1. The Aide to the President shall assist the President as directed.

ARTICLE XIII

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be composed as provided in the Constitution.

ARTICLE XIV

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Chairmen shall be appointed by the President and have the authority and power to accomplish their mission as directed. The Executive Committee shall oversee the activities of all chairmen. Chairmen shall submit written reports regarding the activities of their committees to the Executive Committee at their regular meetings.

ARTICLE XV

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The committee shall consist of three Chapter members. The committee chairman shall be the immediate Past President. He shall select a Past President and another member of the Chapter to fill the committee.

The slate of officers selected by the committee shall be submitted to the Secretary for dissemination to the membership as required.

ARTICLE XVI

AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be amended by the Executive Committee as set forth in the Constitution and shall then be submitted to the Chapter for its approval.