

Western Reserve Circular

*The Western Reserve Society
Ohio Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution*



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Cleveland, Ohio

Winter 2015



The Officers and Trustees of the WRSSAR Wish You All A Happy, Healthy and Successful 2015.

On December 10th, 2014, your Officers and Trustees were sworn-in at our Annual Meeting/Christmas Luncheon at the Union Club of Cleveland. 2014 was a very successful year for the WRSSAR under the exemplary leadership of Duncan McVean. Under his steady hand, the Board made significant changes to modernize the WRSSAR, increase our support and funding of Youth Outreach, and promote internal policies that made the WRSSAR truly a leader in SAR Board Governance. For 2015, President David Foster returns to shepherd the organization to even more success: as President & chapter Chaplain. He is joined in leadership by a wonderful group of men: all of whom volunteer to carry out our broad mission and objectives. We welcome our newest leaders: William Shanklin, William Lentz, Frank Moore, David Benson, Thomas Stickney, and William Ross. Joining them in 2015 are our longtime leaders: John Franklin, Ted Minier, Richard Fetzer, Rich Rezie, Michael Kertes, Duncan McVean, Zachary Hoon, Lee MacBride, Fred Watkins, and J. Atlee Horner III. The WRSSAR can only thrive if new leaders step up to take the reigns from those who have come before. If you have any interest in participating at any level, please let one of the officers know!

WESTERN RESERVE CIRCULAR

The Western Reserve Circular is the official publication of the Western Reserve Society, Sons of the American Revolution, established in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1892.

The editor is J. Atlee Horner, III.

Pictures by John & Betty Franklin.

To submit an article for publication, please email
jatleehorneriii@gmail.com

The Board & Officers of the Western Reserve Society SAR:

President	David Foster
1st VP	William Shanklin
2nd VP	William Lentz
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Trustee:	Michael Kertes
Trustee:	Thomas Stickney
Trustee:	Duncan McVean
Trustee:	David Benson
Trustee:	William Ross
Trustee:	Zachary Hoon
Trustee:	Lee MacBride
Trustee:	Fred Watkins

SAR Renewal & Dues Update

The Western Reserve Society is the largest local chapter of the SAR. In 2015, over 400 members returned to join our proud society.

If you forgot to mail in your 2015 dues, unfortunately, you will need to file for reinstatement. Richard Rezie, our new Registrar, would be glad to file the paperwork on your behalf and forward it to the Ohio SAR and National SAR. Please send J. Atlee Horner, our treasurer, a check for \$61 which covers the local, state, and national dues and includes a \$5 reinstatement fee.

We have also initiated an AUTO PAY feature so that you will never risk losing your membership and having to file for reinstatement. With auto-pay, simply provide our treasurer your credit card information, and he will process all dues on-time for renewal each fall. No information is kept online as we focus on protecting your security.

For those members who want to SAVE MONEY over time, the best option is to become a Life Member. Life memberships can be paid via check or credit card. By becoming a Life Member, your local, state and national dues will be paid for life AND WILL NEVER INCREASE!

We all know that SAR dues will increase over time as part of natural inflation. But, by becoming a life member, your dues will be covered for life regardless of any future increases by the local, state or national SAR.



Don't write another check.

and SAVE time
and MONEY

Get started today with Auto Bill Pay

WRSSAR EVENTS IN 2015



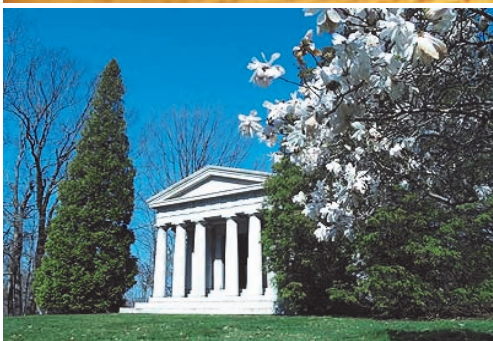
Saturday, February 21st, 2015: The Annual Luncheon to celebrate George Washington's Birthday begins at 12 noon at the Shaker Heights Country Club. Last year, 150 people attended this yearly event with more than 20 co-sponsoring organizations. This year, there will be musical entertainment. The lunch is filet of beef, potato, vegetable, cherry pie. There will be a cash bar open from 1130am on. Cost is \$35 & includes the valet and coat check. Pay at door only: cash, check or credit card. You must RSVP by 2/18/15 by phone at 330-635-5101 or by email: pilgrim1607@gmail.com. Vegetarian lunch is available upon request. Please bring your family and friends!



Wednesday, March 11th, 2015: Our regular march program will be back at the Union Club of Cleveland in downtown Cleveland. We are excited to announce that our speaker will be from the Cleveland Indians. Do you like sports? Do you love the Tribe? Are you sick of the snow and the thought of "opening day" makes your heart beat a little faster? Come join us for a special luncheon to kick off the spring season beginning at 12 noon. Cost is \$25 at the door: cash, check or charge. Valet parking & a beef meal included. RSVP before March 7th at jatleehorneriii@gmail.com.



Wednesday, April 15th, 2015: Join us for our annual WRSSAR High School Oration Contest. This annual event features high school students from across the area who memorize a 5-6 minute original oration and present it live before our membership. The winner earns \$300 and represents the WRSSAR at the state-level competition. The event begins at 12 noon at the Union Club of Cleveland. Cost is \$25 at the door: cash, check or charge. Valet parking and a beef meal included. RSVP before April 11th at jatleehorneriii@gmail.com.



Wednesday, May 13th, 2015: Join us at the Union Club of Cleveland at noon for a special presentation on Lake View Cemetery. Our speaker will share the life stories of the Civil War Veterans buried there. ***You may know the cemetery, but, do you know the stories contained within?*** Come and learn! Cost is \$25 at the door: cash, check or charge. Valet parking and a beef meal included. RSVP before May 9th at jatleehorneriii@gmail.com.

WORKING TO BRING YOU MORE OF WHAT YOU WANT!

In an effort to attract more members to our regular monthly luncheons, we are meeting at the **UNION CLUB** in downtown Cleveland. Valet parking is included & we offer more exciting meals such as Pot Roast, Sirloin Steak and fresh bakery desserts. You won't find chicken or cold sandwiches!

Up-Close and Personal with One of Our Newest Members



Galen Daniel Swab grew up in Warrensville Hts., Ohio. He graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in Business Education. In December of 1970, he married Donna Ungar, whom he had met at Advent Lutheran Church in Solon during their senior year of high school.

Galen's first employment was with Sherwin-Williams in the regional office in Cleveland. He also taught Distributive Education at Maple Hts. High. After selling Moving and Specialty Product Services for Stevens Worldwide Van Lines for 25 years, he retired in July of 2011. Galen and Donna have been married for 44 years and have two children; Brian Swab and Amy Senn, plus 6 grandchildren.

Galen is of Pennsylvania Dutch descent on his father's side, and the family has lived between Philadelphia and Harrisburg until his father Galen Edward moved to Cleveland after WWII. Johannes Schwab came from a town near Stuttgart, Germany. He arrived on the ship called Halifax in Philadelphia, PA. on October 20th

1754, at the age of 34 with his wife and children. He acquired land from Richard Penn near Andulhea in Berks County PA. and was engaged in the manufacturing of linen. He was naturalized on April 7, 1761. His son John participated in the Revolutionary War and served at Valley Forge. Further details are unknown as many records have been either lost or destroyed over the years. Galen learned his family history from his grandfather, Galen A. Swab. John is buried at the Altalaha Lutheran Cemetery in Rehrersburg, Berks County, PA. Other relatives have also served in the War of 1812. His great-grandfather's brother was at Appomattox when Lee surrendered. Please help us to welcome Galan Swab to the Western Reserve Society Sons of the American Revolution.

Do you have school aged children or grandchildren?

The WRSSAR offers multiple Youth Outreach Contests each year: Elementary School Americanism Poster Contest, the Good Citizenship Award, the High School Oration Contest, & the High School Essay Contest.

Your child's school does NOT need to participate in order for your child to compete in some events.

Your child or grandchild can win cash prizes (\$300), fame and glory! Please contact Jatleehorn-eriii@gmail.com for more information! Boys and Girls are welcome to compete!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

The entire family of the Western Reserve Society SAR wish to honor the memory of our members who died in 2014. We send our deepest condolences and support to their families and friends. If you know of the passing of any member, please notify our registrar Rich Rezie by email at rrezie@gallaghersharp.com.

Bruce Gail Harper: January 25th, 2014

Ebert Weidner: July 1st, 2014

Harry Alexander Scott: July 25th, 2014

Charles Thomas Bingham, Jr: October 19th, 2014

We regret to announce that the WRSSAR cannot sponsor any future Pistol & Rifle challenge events. Given the unlikely but possible chance for an accident, the Board of the WRSSAR has determined that our insurance would not cover any potential loss and in our efforts to guarantee the long term financial stability of this organization, we simply cannot put the organization's fiscal health at risk - no matter how slight.

Treasurer's Report: Fiscally Healthy, A+!

The fiscal health of the WRSSAR is good! Each month, I write a mini-treasurer's report to the Board which provides a detailed summary of all income and expenses from all WRSSAR events/programs. In early fall, I present a budget to the Board which is analyzed and then revised/approved at our December meeting. Due to the foresight of so many members, the SAR has established a series of restricted funds designed to support our various outreach programs such as the Oration Contest, the Color Guard, Speaker's Fund and others. Our Life Fund is well endowed and the Board has even established an additional fund designed to support the Life Fund during any time of global financial crisis. These memorial and other restricted funds have allowed us to keep our dues levels low while inflation and the cost of programs have risen.

In 2014, the Board made significant steps to modernize, update and professionalize our governance and accounting. A motion was passed requiring the Treasurer to submit a budget where 100% of the yearly operating costs are covered solely by the income from yearly dues collection. The objective was to guarantee that while we have investments that can supplement our various Outreach programs, we want to ensure that operating costs never exceed the income from our annual dues collection. This was a prudent move!

The WRSSAR operated for over a century with no liability insurance and no insurance to protect our volunteer Officers and Board Members. Given the litigious nature of our society, the Board realized that it was their fiduciary duty to obtain insurance to protect the fiscal health of the society. At the same time, we undertook a process to analyze how our level of Cash Awards (student programs) compares to other local non-profits. As a result of that study, it became clear that we really needed to increase our awards—not only to represent the value of the award itself, but also, to show our commitment to our mission and community outreach.

The annual local dues per WRSSAR member has only been \$16 for years. With 400+ members, we generate \$6,400 for the operating budget.

However, while the world has become much more 'digital', our society has continued to print, publish and mail annual membership Rosters (\$900), a newsletter (\$2000), and monthly meeting announcements (\$2400). Just those publications cost our society approximately \$5300 or approximately 82% of our annual budget. Once we include the cost of insurance, bonding, webpage and non-profit fees, the total is nearly 100%.

It is my suggestion that starting in January of 2016, all WRSSAR members will be emailed their yearly membership roster and all newsletters—but not a paper copy. Those members who truly wish a paper copy of either item, may request one and we will provide it to them for free. In addition, I would love to be able to reduce the publishing/mailing costs of monthly meeting announcements by going to an email version as well.

However, the Board wishes your feedback before voting on these changes in December of 2015. I am opening the finance committee to new members—come one, come all. I would like to walk you through a typical annual budget, seek your ideas regarding what our priorities should be, and find ways to reduce unnecessary expenses. You are welcome to email me your thoughts which I will read before the committee, should you not have the time to attend any meetings. I hope to hold 2-3 meetings between March and August of 2015 so that I can propose any changes in the 2016 budget that will be presented in the fall of 2015.

To repeat, the fiscal health of our society is very good. We have investments and restricted funds of considerable proportion—thanks to decades of prudent leadership and generous donors. However, we are no longer a small society & the costs of the modern world have increased. It is time to take a look at what we are doing to see if the modern world allows for new alternatives and new ways to best steward our resources.

**Western Reserve Society
Sons of the American Revolution
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WRSSAR Memorial Funds Support Our Long Term Fiscal Health

You may not be aware that family members have set up over 80 different Memorial Funds with the WRSSAR. These funds are invested and are used solely to preserve the long term fiscal health of the organization. While we do not publish this list often, the Board believes that at least once a year, we should identify those accounts with the most substantial funding. The Officers and the Board wish to thank ALL of the family members who have established Memorial Funds. We also want to thank our members and their friends who have given so generously in remembrance of our wonderful SAR members:

Charles Bingham Jr & Sr Memorial Funds:	\$13,595	Jay Collins Memorial Fund:	\$12,164
Luther Leavitt Memorial Fund:	\$10,482	Warren Gerber Memorial Fund:	\$10,425
Albert Trefts Memorial Fund	\$ 4,800	Russell Peck Memorial Fund	\$ 4,425
Dwight Crawford Memorial Fund	\$ 2,950	Geo & Jane Carmer Memorial Fund	\$ 2,450
Burton & Treva Printz Memorial Fund	\$ 2,290	Oliver & Gladys Schroeder Fund	\$ 1,690

Please send us your email address so that we can reduce our printing and mailing costs.

We would love to be able to reduce our annual operating expenses so that our general fund can directly subsidize our Youth and Community Outreach programs!