

Western Reserve Circular

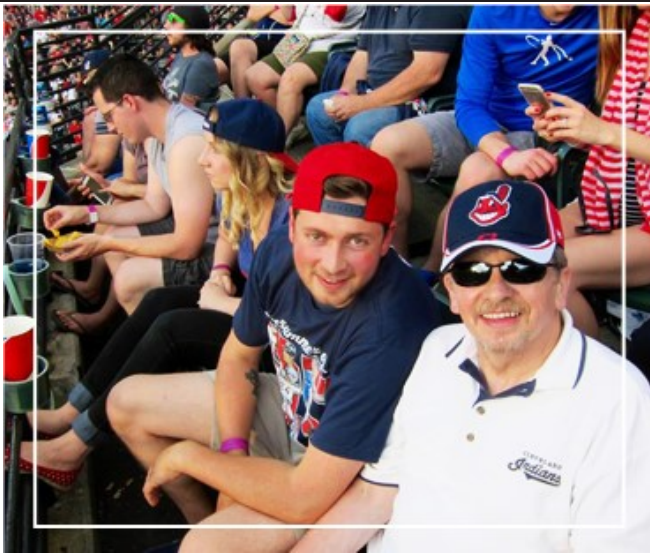
*The Western Reserve Society
Ohio Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution*



Volume 118 No. 2

Cleveland, Ohio

Summer 2019



A Call For New Ideas

A Call For New Programs

A Call To The Next Generation
To Lead The WRSSAR
Towards New Heights
& In New Directions

For 127 years, the WRSSAR has been an active part of Northeastern Ohio cultural life. We are the oldest and the largest local chapter. But, the world has changed since our founding. Technology has changed how we interact, the pace of life and the demands on our time have increased and the population of the USA has gone from 62,979,766 in 1890 to 309,300,000 in 2010. Yet, the WRSSAR has not evolved to reflect these changes. There was a day when our members could leave work on a Wednesday to attend a luncheon downtown. Those days are long gone. Our outreach programs haven't changed at all but the students to whom we target our programs have. We all want to be relevant and important in this new millennia and while our membership is strong, we struggle to find volunteers to promote our programs and to attend our events.

We need to reshape what communication looks like in a digital world and we need to look to the next generation for their ideas. I am so proud to be a member of the WRSSAR and I wear my rosette everywhere! But, I want to use this newsletter to make a special appeal to the younger members of our Society. We should all be proud of the 127 years of leadership but the world of 2020 is far different from the world of 1892.

We need the next generation to step up and make the WRSSAR what they want it to be so that we continue to thrive and to stay relevant in an ever changing world— a world that they and their children will lead. Our amazing leaders have worked tirelessly to maintain the programs that have existed for decades and decades. But, it may be time for the WRSSAR to do things very differently. How do we speak to the Elementary-High School students, today, so that it catches their interest? Students are not apathetic but they live in a different world, see through different eyes and communicate with one another very differently. And, our families are busier than ever and traditional luncheons and dinners may not be the best way to entice our members to attend and participate in events and programs. As we draw ever closer to 2020, I am making this appeal to the next generation of WRSSAR members and leaders to step up and lead us into the future!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
wrssar.communications@gmail.com

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October 5th (Saturday) @ 11am

Annual Family Picnic at Lakewood Park.

Join us for a fun afternoon on the shore of Lake Erie—overlooking downtown Cleveland. We have rented the Women's Pavilion so the picnic will be held rain or shine. There is no program or speaker. It is Pot Luck style: we will furnish sloppy joes and paper products. Please bring a side dish, dessert or drinks to share. The event is free and open to everyone. Please RSVP to wrssar.communications@gmail.com so that we know how many sloppy joes to prepare and to let us know what food you would like to bring to share.

November 13th (Wednesday) @ 12 noon

Annual SAR / DAR Veterans' Day Luncheon

Join us at the 100th Bomb Group Restaurant for our special Veterans Day luncheon. Our speaker will be Lt Col. Brian Ferguson. The cost is \$35 payable at the door. Please RSVP ahead of time.

December 13th (Friday) @ 530pm

Annual Meeting and Holiday Party

Join us at the 100th Bomb Group for our annual meeting and holiday dinner. After a buffet style dinner, help us to support our active troops by writing holiday cards to troops in the field; make Christmas ornaments for Veterans in our local hospital and donate to a Care Package for the troops. Cost \$35 payable at the door. RSVP.

February 22nd, 2020 (Saturday) @ 12 noon

Annual George Washington's Birthday luncheon at

the Shaker Heights Country Club. We have hosted this same luncheon for 125 years. Our speaker this year is Lt .Col Fleek from West Point. Cost \$35. Payable at the door. RSVP required.

2020 DUES RENEWAL: Invoices will be mailed in early October. Payments can be made online.



Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/wrssar

Visit our website at www.wrssar.org to see a Calendar of Events, RSVP for events, Pay Annual Dues, Download our Roster / Newsletters and more...

We Need You To Support Youth Outreach Programs



2015 Cleveland.com Headline

Gilmour Student Wins National S.A.R. Oration Contest

For decades, the WRSSAR has promoted US history in elementary—high school levels through our poster, brochure, oration and essay contests. In 2015, we won 1st Place in the nation (oration) For the last 2 years, we won Ohio. This year, both our oration and brochure contest winners won Ohio and our brochure winner won 2nd place nationally!

It may be the case that in the future, the WRSSAR will need to find new ways to stimulate student interest in US history. As the oldest local chapter in the country, I challenge our members to create NEW outreach and education efforts that we can spread to the OHSSAR and NSSAR. Let's continue to be leaders.

But, until those programs are developed, we have longstanding programs that are in risk of disappearing due to a lack of volunteer leaders. 2020 may be the last year of our Elementary School Poster Contest, Middle School Brochure Contest and High School Oration contest if no one steps forward to lead these programs. In an effort to collaborate with outside organizations, in the spring of 2020, we will partner with the Rose Senior Living Community in Avon to host these three programs. They will display the posters and brochures in their lobby before they travel to local libraries following the contest. Additionally, they will host the 2020 High School Oration contest in their auditorium so that community members can attend this event. We now have a community organizations partnering with us (providing free parking/rooms) but as an SAR event, it must be lead by an SAR volunteer. After 2020, there is no one in line to lead this amazing program.

Every member of the WRSSAR lives in a town with an elementary school, middle school and high school. Not only are there public schools, most communities have Catholic and other private schools. Every single member of the SAR could help to SAVE THIS PROGRAM by picking up the phone over the next few weeks and call your local school principal to promote the programs and encourage them to contact us with more questions and details.

Here is all that you need to know to make the call:

- 1) The WRSSAR is a non-partisan organization, the oldest chapter in the nation, whose mission is to promote US history and whose diverse members are all descendants of the patriots who fought in the US Revolutionary War. We have no political agenda and we simply wish to offer a wonderful opportunity to the school to enrich their US history programs and motivate their students through a fun contest.
- 2) The poster contest is open to any student in grades 3, 4 and 5 and this year's topic is: Valley Forge. The brochure contest is open to any student in grades 6, 7, and 8. The topic for the brochure is any of the original founding documents: Declaration of Independence, US Constitution, Bill of Rights, etc. The Oration contest is open to any student in grades 9-12 and is an original speech of between 5-6 minutes on any topic related to the US Revolutionary War. Details about all of these contests can be found on our website "wrssar.org" and they can contact the chairman directly from our webpage.
- 3) All 3 contests have cash prizes and local winners compete at the Ohio Society and may travel to National.

The Color Guard—our Premier Community Outreach Program—Needs you!



Members of the WRSSAR volunteer as members of both the WRSSAR and OHSSAR Color Guards. Throughout the year, the Color Guard travels throughout northeastern Ohio to support local civic events. Our Color Guard carries the Nations Colors at 4th of July events, Memorial & Labor Day Events, Veterans Day Events, a vast array of civic events and programs that honor the various US Military Service branches. Importantly, the Color Guard is also a regular presence at various New Citizen Swearing-In ceremonies. In so many ways, the WRSSAR has found a voice and played a role in local civic life.

But, after years of active leadership, the Color Guard is down to just a few members. Without new volunteers, the WRSSAR Color Guard could very well cease to exist. This would be a terrible loss to us and to the entire area. The WRSSAR is approached regularly by groups in search of a Color Guard. We are one of the go-to organizations to provide this important service. But, without new members, this tradition will come to an end.

Even if you can only attend 1 event a year, PLEASE consider joining the Color Guard. You do not have to participate regularly. You may or may not need to purchase a uniform. Several of our members have donated uniforms back to the SAR when they retired from the Color Guard. Do not let the uniform stop you from reaching out and volunteering. No matter how young or old you are, you can help our Color Guard to remain active. We are the oldest and largest chapter in the country but without you, there is no one to carry the flag!

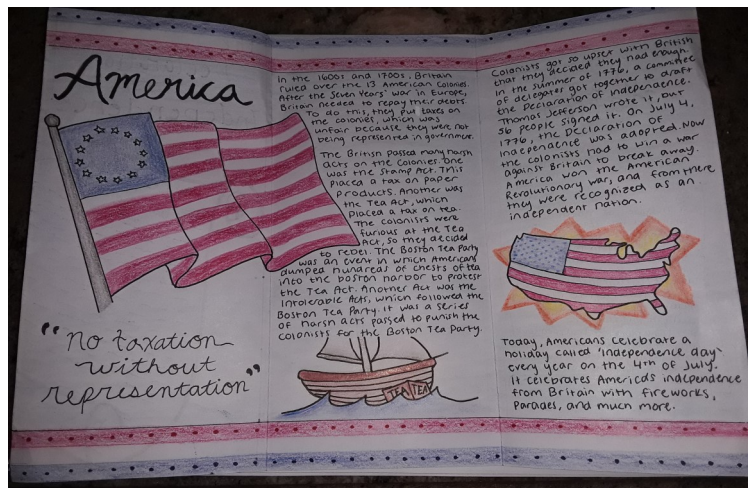


THANK YOU to Color Guard Commander John Franklin. John has been the heart & soul of the Color Guard for years! With his wife Betty at his side, he has built strong relationships with various city leaders, veteran groups, civic organizations and naturalization officials. The Color Guard would not exist without the members who put on the uniform, volunteer their time and carry the flag with honor. This is a special thank you to John Franklin and ALL of the men of the Color Guard.

Pictures from Events in 2019



Above left: Members of the WRSSAR Color Guard join the OHSSAR Color Guard at Ft Laurens
Above right: Long time officer Ted Minier places a wreath on behalf of the WRSSAR at Fr Laurens



We had 6 High School Orators, 12 Poster Entries and over 300 middle school brochures submitted. Our Oration winner won the OHSSAR contest and traveled to Los Angeles to represent us at NSSAR. Our Brochure winner (above) won 1st place at the OHSSAR and 2nd place nationally at NSSAR.



The 2019 George Washington's Birthday luncheon at the Shaker Heights Country Club welcomed over 100 guests. This year marked the 3rd and final year of a 3-year program that featured speakers from the Great Estates: Montpelier, Mount Vernon and this year: Monticello. Each February, we bring in speakers from around the country. In 2020, we will welcome Lt. Col. Fleek from West Point. Don't forget to attend our Veterans Day luncheon in 2019 and our Annual Meeting/Holiday Party.



Western Reserve Society
Sons of the American Revolution
J. Atlee Horner III, Treasurer
17511 Daleview Drive
Lakewood, OH 44107

ALL DONATIONS TO THE WRSSAR ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

We are so proud of all 450+ members of the WRSSAR. We are also amazed that 300 of you have shown your support by joining our Life Membership Fund.

But, the cost of printing color newsletters, processing them and mailing them to our members is simply cost-prohibitive unless we were to raise our dues—which we do not want to do. This will be the last paper newsletter that we print. All future newsletters can be found in pdf form on our website in the Newsletter section.

All donations are fully deductible and appreciated. Donations may be made via Paypal on our new and improved website or via check: 17511 Daleview Drive, Lakewood, OH, 44107

