

# Western Reserve Circular

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



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Cleveland, Ohio

Winter 2017

## Happy 125th Anniversary: Western Reserve Society Sons of the American Revolution!



It is with extreme pride and joy that the Board and Officers of the WRSSAR announce the start of our 125th Anniversary year! The Western Reserve Society SAR is the country's largest and 2nd oldest chapter. The National Society SAR, the Ohio Society SAR and the WRSSAR were all founded within a brief 3 year period starting in 1889. There were 23 members living in the Cleveland area when the 1st meeting took place on December 13th, 1892. Today, our membership averages around 450 members of which more than half are Life Members.

In honor of our 125th anniversary, the WRSSAR has adopted a new logo and redesigned our webpage to make it more user-friendly. The new logo combines the best of our past with the hope and dreams for our future. In the center of the logo, you will find the heart of who we are: our Patriot Ancestor icon who is surrounded by 13 yellow stars reflecting the ideal of E Pluribus Unum. In the background, you will find the Cleveland skyline of today. The WRSSAR is proud of our origin and service to the Greater Cleveland area over the past 125 years. The colors, tan and blue, represent the colors on George Washington's uniform. The Patriot is standing firmly, proudly, on the rock solid foundational ideals born out of the US Revolutionary War. But, his gaze is to the future and to the subsequent generations who will carry his legacy forward



Come one—Come all...on Friday, June 16th, to the 125th Anniversary Benefit Gala at the Shaker Heights Country Club. We pray that all of our members can come together to celebrate and toast our great Society and the diverse members who make up our unique family. This will be a true celebration featuring speaker Stephen McLeod of Mount Vernon, Virginia. If you haven't been to one of our events before, this is the one to attend. Raise a glass with us—together!

For 125 years, the WRSSAR has been here, in Cleveland, working to promote the study of Revolutionary War history, encourage patriotism and support civic programs. Our Color Guard has served countless local communities by participating in their Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day parades, Naturalization ceremonies and other civic events. But, this is only the beginning. You can help to lead us to our 126th year!

## 2017 Calendar of 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](mailto:wrssar.communications@gmail.com)

### The Board & Officers of the Western Reserve Society SAR:

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Trustee:	David Benson
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Trustee:	David Foster
Trustee:	Lee MacBride
Trustee:	Chatham Berry

**February 18th** (Saturday): 12 Noon

**Annual George Washington's Birthday Celebration** luncheon featuring speaker Professor Greg Moore of Notre Dame College who will speak on "Washington's Network of Spies". The Shaker Heights Country Club. RSVP by February 14th.

**April 12th** (Wednesday): 12 Noon

**Annual WRSSAR High School Oration Contest** featuring students from across the area competing for cash prizes and the chance to represent the WRSSAR at the Ohio Society. The Union Club of Cleveland. RSVP by April 9th.

**June 16th** (Friday): 6pm

**WRSSAR 125th Anniversary Benefit Gala.** Come help us celebrate our 125th anniversary—making us the largest and 2nd oldest chapter in the country! Featured speaker is Stephen McLeod of historic Mount Vernon, Virginia. Shaker Heights Country Club. RSVP by June 11th.

**July: 3rd Annual Family Night Out with the Cleveland Indians.** Join us for a night under the stars. Game date to be announced later this spring.

**September 16th** (Saturday) **Fall Family Social Event.** Details to be announced later this spring.

**November 8th** (Wednesday) 12 Noon. **Annual SAR / DAR Veterans Day Luncheon.** Union Club of Cleveland. Details to be announced later this spring.

**December 15th** (Friday): 5:45pm

**Annual Meeting & Christmas Dinner:** Details TBA



Stay in touch with the WRSSAR: Visit our Facebook page for photos, news and updates: [www.facebook.com/wrssar](http://www.facebook.com/wrssar)

Or, visit our website at [www.wrssar.org](http://www.wrssar.org)

## A Message From Our President



By William L. Shanklin  
WRSSAR President, 2017

The Western Reserve Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is soon to commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding in 1892. WRSSAR is the second oldest chapter in the Sons of the American Revolution organization and currently has the most members of any chapter. Its membership rolls through the years have included people from all walks of life and venerable names from Cleveland history.

Just a few of these members include: Archibald Willard, painter of “The Spirit of 76”; Frederick Crawford, founder of TRW; Marcus Hanna, US Senator from Ohio and Carl Weygant, the longest serving Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. Additionally, the WRSSAR had five early members whose fathers actually served in the Revolution: Dudley Baldwin, Eli Turney, Moses Warren, Walter Cheney and George Arvin Ford.

Will you please mark your calendar and resolve to join with your fellow compatriots to honor WRSSAR by attending a dinner and program on Friday, June 16, 2017 at the Shaker Heights Country Club at 6 PM? The featured speaker will be Stephen McLeod, who is the Director of Library Programs at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, located at historic Mount Vernon, Virginia. Mr. McLeod manages the Library’s fellowship programs, scholars’ residence, lecture series and symposium, and publications. His presentation is titled “Saving Mount Vernon.”

I am asking you to help to make this event a great success, one that is worthy of 125 years of history and one that honors of all of the WRSSAR compatriots who have come before us.

During the Christmas season every year, I think of George Washington’s storied return journey to his beloved Mount Vernon at the end of the Revolutionary War and contemplate the range of emotions he must have felt. In Stanley Weintraub’s book *General Washington’s Christmas Farewell*, he cogently describes the events that culminated with the General arriving home on Christmas Eve in 1783:

“In late November 1783 when Washington finally received formal notice of the signing of a peace treaty with England he had little more than a month to accept the transfer of power from British troops in New York, to bid farewell to his troops, and to resign his commission to Congress if he hoped to make it to Mount Vernon for Christmas. He could have remained in charge of the army and become a virtual king to the Americans who loved him. Control of the newly forming government was his to take—yet he chose to resign.

Washington’s homeward journey is one of the most moving and inspiring stories from his great and eventful life. When he bade farewell to his troops at Fraunces Tavern in New York City there were no dry eyes. When he reached Congress and gave a retirement speech, it cemented his greatness more fully than had his victory over the British. When he made it to Mount Vernon, finally, on Christmas Eve, it could not have been a happier homecoming.”

WRSSAR compatriots, as we say goodbye to the 2016 holiday season and look forward to 2017, I hope that you and your families had the same kind of joy and contentment that General Washington must have experienced on that Christmas Eve 233 years ago.



## WRSSAR 2016 Fall Events

Our September luncheon at the Union Club of Cleveland featured a wonderful presentation by Jennifer Chevreux, Education & Advancement Officer at ICA-Art Conservation Center located in Ohio City. She spoke to us about the work that is done by the ICA—the oldest art conservation center in the USA. She showed us examples of how they repair and restore great works of art.



In September, the WRSSAR Color Guard joined the Ohio Society Color Guard and the Honorable Thomas Parker, Magistrate of the US District Court, Northern District of Ohio, for a naturalization ceremony on the yard of the President Garfield Historic Site. 27 new citizens from around the world came forward to shake the hand of the judge and place a pin on a world map showing their country of origin. The WRSSAR has a long history of attending Naturalization ceremonies in Cleveland. Our newest member, Mr Brian Walker, will be making brief remarks at the January 6th, 2017, Naturalization Ceremony in downtown Cleveland. He will distribute brochures to all of the new citizens that explain how and when to properly display the US flag.





## WRSSAR 2016 Fall Events



Our October dinner featured professor Michael Olenik from Case Western Reserve University who shared poems written by soldiers during World War I. This unique event was sponsored by Catherine and David Foster. Following the program, the Archibald Willard Committee awarded the Archibald Willard Cup to Compatriot Horner for his service to the WRSSAR. Former recipients and longtime leaders of the SAR: Ted Minier, John Franklin, Lee MacBride, Roger Jones and one of our most cherished members who just celebrated his 100th birthday, Bill Donley, joined Mr Horner for the awarding of the cup. As we begin our 125th year, we look to the next generation of leaders to help us plan future events and programs. The WRSSAR must constantly evolve to meet the needs of our members while faithfully serving our mission. Bring your ideas...they are welcome!



The Annual SAR / DAR Veterans Day Luncheon was held at the Union Club of Cleveland. Our featured speaker was Mr James Behling who served on the Battleship Missouri during the Korean War and afterwards. For 23 years, he served as an officer for the USS Missouri Veterans Association. We were honored to have Navy Veteran and compatriot Gerald Murphy light the candle and share the Remembrance Poem for our POW / MIA table. Chairman of the ROTC committee, Lee MacBride (left w/Rev uniform) welcomed our honored ROTC guests from John Carroll University: Major James W Sanders and Cadet Carlton. While in the Reserves, Major Sanders was deployed in Iraq and he has just been promoted to LTC. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Military Science at JCU. At the conclusion of the luncheon, President Shanklin invited all those veterans present to come forward to receive our warm appreciation and gratitude. Though all were far too modest of their contributions and service to the country, we thank each and every one of them: Douglas Dechert, Stan Thomas, Jerry McGill, John Applegate, Jonathan Kittredge, David Foster, Gerald Murphy, Bill Donley, Duncan McVean, James Behling, LTC Sanders, Cadet Carlton, Ted Minier and Bill Shanklin. If you have thoughts about how the WRSSAR's Veterans Committee can serve the community, please share your ideas with us!



## WRSSAR 2016 Fall Events



On Friday, November 11th, the WRSSAR Color Guard participated in the Veterans Day Program that was sponsored by the Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County. More than 150 people filled the Rotunda of Cleveland's City Hall for this annual Veterans Day salute. WEWS Channel 5 newscaster Leon Bibb was awarded the Veteran Honoree Award for service to the country and to the people of Cleveland, Ohio. Bibb served in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star. During his speech, he commented, "I don't think that I did anything special. I only did what was asked of me". He added, "I think of those who are still here and those who didn't come back". Pictured at the right are Color Guardsman Galen Swab, Commander John Franklin, and Lee MacBride with Leon Bibb and his wife Marguerite. The Color Guard is always in need of additional volunteers. You can volunteer as much or as little as you like. There are events all year long and your service is always appreciated by all those in attendance!



WRSSAR Color Guardsmen Galan Swab and Lee MacBride attend the 2016 Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony in downtown Cleveland aboard the USS Cod.

In the picture on the left, you will notice the flag for the National Society Sons of the American Revolution.

The WRSSAR Color Guard was founded in 1996 and has been lead by Commander John Franklin since. They attend more than 25 events annually. Women and teens may also serve in the Color Guard.

For more than a decade, compatriot and veteran Bob Mattoon served as chairman of the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest. Bob died in December of 2016 and his loss will mark a tremendous loss to our chapter. Bob donated over \$1,000 each year so that he could supply local area elementary school teachers with packets containing all of the information that they could ever need regarding each year's topic. Each year, fewer and fewer schools have the time or the interest in participating in civic and patriotic programs that are not directly tied to their required testing objectives. Knowing this Bob provided them with all that they would need in one folder. Under his leadership, more than 100 posters were submitted to our contest each year. And, in 2016, our poster won the Ohio Society Elementary School Poster contest and traveled to compete at the National SAR meeting. The poster contest will continue and hopefully it will motivate children across the city to read and become interested in the US Revolutionary War and US history. The Americanism Committee offers contests at both the Elementary School and Middle School Levels. If you have any interest in helping us with either of these programs, please contact us via the webpage today: [wrssar.org](http://wrssar.org)



## WRSSAR 2016 Fall Events



December 7th, 2016, was National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and the WRSSAR Color Guard was in action again—on the USS Cod in downtown Cleveland. If you look closely, you can see the Color Guard as TAPS is played. The attack began at 7:48am on December 7th, 1941, by 353 Imperial Japanese planes. Four US Navy battleships sunk and 2,403 Americans were killed.

On August 23rd, 1994, the US Congress created National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day instructing that all US flags should be flown at half-staff until sunset.

The USS Cod is a WWII era GATO class fleet submarine that served from 1943 until 1946 and then again in 1951-1954. Not only did she seem combat in WWII, she performed the only submarine to submarine rescue in history. The Cod became a floating memorial in Cleveland in 1976. The Cod will re-open for tours on May 1st, 2017 and active duty military

The WRSSAR is a completely volunteer organization. For many, the primary objective of becoming a member of the SAR is to prove one's lineage to one or more Patriot Ancestors. And, certainly, we are all incredibly proud of our lineages. But, the SAR is more than simply a genealogical organization. We are a diverse group of men with different backgrounds and different political views who all not only celebrate our connection to the US Revolutionary War, but also, value the opportunity to meet with each other, promote US history and serve the community. As we celebrate our 125th anniversary, we must encourage a new generation of leaders and volunteers to come forward. Don't make any assumptions—while all of us are direct descendants of Patriot Ancestors, our membership includes people of every political affiliation. We are staunchly non-partisan but we are all patriots and supporters of the US Constitution and the great achievement that was the US Revolutionary War. Know that as members, you are a truly welcome part of the WRSSAR family. Come to our events or consider volunteering for any of more than a dozen different programs and activities that we offer. No matter how much or how little time you have, there is a place for you with us!

## Wonderful Changes in 2017

In the past year, you may have felt that the WRSSAR was not contacting you as often as we did in the past. You may have felt that we didn't value or appreciate you. We are sorry. Our local dues are only \$20 per person and the costs associated with printing newsletters, monthly meeting announcements, and membership rosters were growing far too quickly. In 2016, we decided to stop printing newsletters and rosters (except for those select few who requested paper copies) and we would send these items via email. But, in December of 2016, we found out that an incredible number of emails had never reached our members. They had become labeled as spam and our members never heard from us. We are so sorry and so we have studied the problem and will act in 2017 to remedy the situation. Please know: we value each and every member and we pray for your participation in our programs and any leadership or service that you can offer.

Starting in 2017, thanks to a donation from a member, we completely redesigned our website: [wrssar.org](http://wrssar.org). From our website, you can now see a calendar of events for the entire year and you can actually make RSVP reservations online. The website is user-friendly not only to members but also to students seeking information about our programs and contests. Additionally, you can now donate and make payments online using Paypal. And, all of our newsletters will now be uploaded to our website and available as PDFs (winter and summer editions). We are sending this newsletter to all of our members, now, because we were concerned that many of our members were not receiving our emails. But, in the future, we will use Mail Chimp to deliver our newsletters and rosters and that may help to avoid the spam filters. Further, members now will know that each winter/summer, they can simply go to our website to download the latest newsletter.

**We also have a MEMBERS ONLY SECTION on the website. The universal password is** . There are no spaces between letters/words and capitals are used where shown. Behind the password wall, you will find our latest Membership Roster (new one posted each February). Additionally, we have included a master list of ALL Memorial Funds which will be updated each February. And, if you are a volunteer, chairman or officer, you can find a copy of every job description in our Officer and Committee handbook. You can search by job and not need to download an entire handbook. The newsletters are available to the public and the membership rosters are kept in our members' only section. But, by placing these items on our webpage, we can reduce spending on these publications from 40% of our operating budget to possibly 5% (depending upon how many people still request paper copies). So, after this edition, rosters and newsletters will be emailed via Mail Chimp and will always be available on our website. Paper copies will only be sent to those who request it. If in doubt, just email us at [wrssar.communications@gmail.com](mailto:wrssar.communications@gmail.com).

For our events, we will continue to print color postcards and mail them to all members within about 1 hour drive of Cleveland. For everyone else, we will email a copy of the postcard via Mail Chimp. We know that you will most likely not be able to attend, but, we want you to know what we are doing on your behalf. If you are not receiving these emails, please check your spam filter or contact us since maybe we have an out-of-date email address. Our goal is to be the best shepherds of our dues as possible. We know that most members would prefer to see their \$20 serve our programs and not our operating expenses. So, we are constantly looking for ways to use technology to reduce costs. **If you do not hear from us, CONTACT US at [wrssar.communications@gmail.com](mailto:wrssar.communications@gmail.com) or via our new website: [wrssar.org](http://wrssar.org). We never want to lose touch! We truly value your membership.**

### A Huge THANK YOU to our Donors and Sponsors in 2016

All donations are tax deductible and can be made via check, credit card or Paypal at [wrssar.org](http://wrssar.org). We encourage our members and local companies to sponsor one of our events or outings. And, donations can be made either to the General Fund (preferred) or to our Restricted Funds: Oration Contest, Eagle Scout, Color Guard, Speaker's Fund, or Memorial Gift Fund (which is pledged to support our long term financial viability).

#### DONATIONS

Marilyn Bingham  
Steven Clark  
Dick Fetzer  
Mary Alice Horner  
Ted Minier

Charles Bingham III  
Bill Donley  
John & Betty Franklin  
Lee MacBride  
Albert & Victoria Trefts

#### EVENT SPONSORS

Mr David Benson  
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Mr Richard Rezie  
Mr Will Ross  
Mr William Shanklin



## Welcome Our Newest WRSSAR Members

Can you join a committee, volunteer once or assume a leadership position?

Please welcome the WRSSAR's newest members. These members have all been approved by NSSAR in 2016. The WRSSAR remains the largest local chapter in the United States with over 450 members and we are so grateful to each and every one of you for your membership and support.

<b>Mr Raymond Pianka</b>	Cleveland, OH	<b>Mr Mark Wisnieski</b>	Burke, VA
<b>Mr Maxwell Wisnieski</b>	Alexandria, VA	<b>Mr Noah Wisnieski</b>	Alexandria, VA
<b>Mr Jonathan Kittredge</b>	Richmond Hgts, OH	<b>Mr Roderick Sullivan</b>	Strongsville, OH
<b>Mr Edward Root</b>	Lakewood, OH	<b>Mr Zachary Wyman</b>	Beachwood, OH
<b>Mr Fred Hawk</b>	Cleveland, OH	<b>Mr Brian Walker</b>	Shaker Hgts, OH
<b>Mr Chandler Whipple</b>	Solon, OH	<b>Mr James Wyman</b>	Aurora, OH

If you have not considered joining the WRSSAR Life Membership Program, 2017 may be the year to act. We have not raised our buy-in for Life Membership in years, but, that could change over the next few years. A Life Membership guarantees that the WRSSAR will pay your WRSSAR, OHSSAR and NSSAR annual dues for life no matter how much the State and National may raise their fees. The combined dues in 2017 were \$65 but a Life Membership can be obtained for a single payment of \$1,000. Join the Life Program today!

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

The entire family of the Western Reserve Society SAR wishes to honor the memory of our members who passed away in 2016. We send our deepest condolences and support to their families and friends.

Robert "Bob" Mattoon	December 2016
Edward Harvey Saxton	September 2016
Compatriot Thomas Ernest Hedge	April 2016
Compatriot George M Solan	February 2016

If you know where your Patriot Ancestor is buried, the WRSSAR would like to know as well. One of our most sincere duties is to perform a solemn Grave Marking ceremony. The WRSSAR can organize a Color Guard lead memorial for your Patriot Ancestor. Please contact Graves Chairman J. Horner at any time with information or questions: [jatleehorneriii@gmail.com](mailto:jatleehorneriii@gmail.com) or 216-357-1646.

Also, the Graves Committee is putting together a booklet for our 125th Anniversary featuring stories about our members' patriot ancestors. If you know any details about your patriot ancestor, please email the information to [wrssar.communications@gmail.com](mailto:wrssar.communications@gmail.com). If you have already provided some information, please email any graphics that we might be able to use such as his grave site, a family home, a map of where he lived or served, pictures of the area where he lived, or a picture of you and your family (his descendent).

**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**

Consider making a donation to the WRSSAR General Fund. Your donation is truly appreciated and will support all of our Youth and Community Educational Outreach Programs: School Americanism programs reinforce US Revolutionary War history by supporting teachers and encouraging students to explore and enjoy US history: poster contest, brochure contest, oration contest, essay contest, and History Day award. Our Good Citizenship Program, Eagle Scout Award, Law Enforcement Award, Veterans Outreach, ROTC, New Citizen Programs, and Flag Certificates promote civic pride, leadership and patriotism.

**These are just a few of our many programs. Your donation, no matter how small, will help to keep the WRSSAR actively engaged with the Greater Cleveland community . Donations can be made by check or credit card. You can mail checks payable to the WRSSAR to 17511 Daleview Drive, Lakewood, OH, 44107 or visit our website and donate via credit card or Paypal account: [wrssar.org](http://wrssar.org).**

**All donations are fully deductible and appreciated!**

