

# Western Reserve Circular

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



Volume 117 No. 1

Cleveland, Ohio

Summer 2018



## **WRSSAR: AMERICA'S OLDEST LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE SAR**

We proudly announce that after some investigation, the Western Reserve Society SAR is not only America's largest local chapter, but also, the oldest! We have long believed that our chapter was the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest – tracing our formation back to May of 1892.

For years, it was believed that the Elizabethtown, NJ, chapter was America's first local chapter. However, the New Jersey Society's web page traces that chapter's origin to 1893. After contacting a New Jersey Society officer, we learned that the Elizabethtown chapter is more of an historic chapter. It was suggested that there probably is no one that we could contact who would have the historical documents that we are looking for.

The founding of the National Society SAR, the Ohio Society SAR and the Western Reserve Society, all occurred within a three-year period starting in April 1889. On April 10, 1889, a call was issued by the New Jersey Sons of the Revolution for a delegate convention to be held at Fraunces Tavern in New York City. He called for the formation of a National Society. After a two-day session, the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution was founded with 18 State Societies, one of which was Ohio. After the formation of the Ohio Society SAR, Ohio meetings were held in Columbus but members came from across the state. By early 1892, the Cleveland area had 23 members and the Western Reserve Society was chartered by the Ohio Society on May 5, 1892. It was formally organized and our 1st meeting was held in the Club Room of the Hollenden Hotel on December 13, 1892 – several months before the founding of the Elizabethtown chapter. We are proud of over 125 years of service and fraternity.



WRSSAR Color Guard proudly presents the Nation's Colors at President Garfield Historic Site, Mentor.



## 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

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

President	David Foster
1st VP	J. Atlee Horner III
2nd VP	Thomas Stickney
Secretary	William Ross
Treasurer	J. Atlee Horner III
Registrar	Richard Rezie
Historian	John H. Franklin, Jr.
Genealogist	Nathan Carmon
Chaplain	David B. Foster
Parliamentarian:	Thomas Stickney
Statutory Agent:	Richard Rezie
Trustee:	Ted Minier
Trustee:	John Franklin
Trustee:	Frank Moore II
Trustee:	Peter Knox
Trustee:	Daniel Mitchell
Trustee:	William Shanklin
Trustee:	Chad Berry
Trustee:	Lee MacBride
Trustee:	Open

Board Meetings are held quarterly at the Union Club of Cleveland Starting at 1145am. The Annual Meeting is Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Join us to welcome our 2019 officers and trustee members.

## 2018 Calendar of Events

August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Sunday)

1pm Progressive Field, Cleveland

Join us for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Night Out with the Cleveland Indians.

This event is now sold-out but I still wanted to list it so that everyone knows that it is an annual event and we look forward to their participation in 2019.

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Saturday noon)

Lakewood Park Pavilion, Lakewood, OH

Join us for a FREE picnic lunch at Lakewood Park.

You can bring your own picnic basket or enjoy hot dogs, chips, baked beans, cookies for free.

Bring your family, neighbors and guests. But, you must RSVP so we know how much food to bring.

Also, we are featuring two incredible presentations by Mr Joe Hardesty, Library Director of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, in Louisville, KY:

10 am: What you never knew about Irish immigration

115pm: Introduction to African American Genealogy

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Wednesday)

Union Club of Cleveland @ 12 noon

Annual Joint SAR / DAR Veterans Day Luncheon honoring the service of all WWII veterans:

Live Music (Andrew Sisters) & Speaker

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Friday)

100<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group Restaurant 5:45pm

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party TBA

2019 Annual George Washington's Birthday

Luncheon will feature a speaker from Monticello!



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) for event information, newsletters and more

## A Message From Our President



2018 WRSSAR President

David Foster (pictured - right) with 2017 President Shanklin (left)

Gratefully, I accepted the 2018 WRSSAR presidency for the third time. This has only happened once before when President Dr. Elroy H. Avery served three 1892, 1893, and 1894. This honor of working with such a grand society makes me proud, for we are not only the largest, but the most prestigious chapter in the National Society.

Our presidential heritage at WRSSAR is rich. Our oldest living past president is Gilbert M. True who served in 1970. I serve with the most honorable men; men who are wise, knowledgeable, and who seek to expand, in their own way and collectively in the Sons of the American Revolution. We do not consider ourselves superior, for we humbly look for ways to improve the WRSSAR. Our strategy for the coming year is to improve our service through our existing and expanding programs.

Last year, the Board of Trustees voted to have quarterly meetings. To best steward our limited resources, we continue to transition to electronic communication via our new and improved website ([wrssar.org](http://wrssar.org)). For our members who wish to serve in leadership roles but who live outside of the Cleveland area, we are now using internet teleconferencing. Our first long distance Board Member is Peter Knox who lives in New York City and works in New Jersey. For those members who are not comfortable with computers, we continue to send a Year at a Glance postcard each January summarizing our events for the upcoming year. But, bit by bit, we hope to make our website our primary tool of communication. As we start our 126<sup>th</sup> year, we continue to grow: our membership now stands at 456.

This year we expect our Archibald Willard Color Guard led by past Ohio President, John H. Franklin, to once again present itself in the Cleveland area. They have been featured in the Cleveland Plain Dealer and in other publications. If all goes as planned, our Color Guard will greet Palace Theater guests who attend the opening night of the Broadway show Hamilton – this July. The Western Reserve SAR officers and committee chairmen hope to further our influence, purpose, and outreach to the greater Cleveland community and to assist the youth in our community to better understand American history through our many youth outreach programs.



**But, WE NEED YOU.** We are a fully volunteer organization. We are seeking volunteers to either support or lead the following programs and positions:

**Elementary School Poster Contest**  
**Middle School Brochure Contest**  
**High School Oration Contest**  
**New Citizens' Swearing-in Ceremony Greeter**  
**Newsletter Editor**

**Graves Committee Chairman**  
**Hospitality: Name Tag preparation**  
**Veterans Outreach Leader**  
**Webmaster: Knowledge of WordPress**

**Hospitality: Registration table**  
**Color Guard Member**  
**Member Retention Leader**  
**Trustee Members & Officers for 2019**



## WRSSAR EVENTS



The annual George Washington's Birthday celebration took place at the Shaker Heights Country Club on February 17th. Over 100 members and guests came together to celebrate Washington's 286th birthday. Our speaker flew in from Madison's Montpelier Estate in Virginia in order to join us for this year's event. In 2017, we were joined by a speaker from Washington's Mount Vernon and in 2019, we conclude our series with a speaker from Jefferson's Monticello!



On March 17<sup>th</sup>, WRSSAR compatriot and Secretary Will Ross traveled to Virginia to represent the WRSSAR at the Annual Commemoration of Patrick Henry's Speech at historic St John's Church.

Mr Ross is one of several WRSSAR members who maintain a join/dual relationship with other chapters of the SAR. Mr Ross placed a WRSSAR wreath at the ceremony in Virginia on behalf of the entire WRSSAR family. Mr Ross will also place a wreath at the up-coming Gold Star Family Memorial in Cleveland.



In April, the WRSSAR held its annual Oration, Poster and Brochure contests at the Union Club of Cleveland. This year, students from University School and Gilmour Academy competed for the coveted 1<sup>st</sup> place award. In the past several years, the WRSSAR oration winner has gone on to win 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Ohio Society and we have even placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally.

In 2019, we hope to do things a bit differently. In the past two decades, we have struggled to attract even 2 dozen SAR members to this key and important program. Starting in 2019, we hope to partner with John Carroll University to host this event on the JCU campus. We will display all of the posters and brochures under consideration and attempt to attract greater outside participation and attendance.



This will no longer be a luncheon but we will serve refreshments following the contest. We need every member to help us to promote this public event and even call their local school districts to encourage them to participate!



## WRSSAR Events



The WRSSAR Color Guard is truly an exemplary group of men. Under John Franklin's leadership, the Color Guard proudly represents our Society at dozens of civic, historic and patriotic events each year.

Top 2 Pictures: May 28, 2018, The Western Reserve Society Archibald Willard Color Guard participated in the Lake View Cemetery Annual Memorial Day Event. This takes place in the shadow of the grand monument of the 20th US President, James A. Garfield, who spoke at the first Decoration Day on May 30, 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery, which is now Memorial Day.



The Archibald M. Willard Color Guard started the program followed by the Boy Scout Troop 701 from Strongsville Ohio, Cleveland Public Schools Horizon Science Academy JROTC and "We Made History" historic reenactors. The editor would like to take this time to draw your attention to Galen Swab (middle picture). You always bring honor to our Society!



Bottom picture: Compatriot Fred Watkins has been a tireless supporter of our youth programs. There would be no High School Essay Contest, Eagle Scout Award or Gates Mills 4<sup>th</sup> of July Essay Contest without him. He is pictured here on the dais with the 2018 4<sup>th</sup> of July Essay Contest winner. Thank you Fred for your dedication!



## 2018 – 2019: The Year of Community Outreach

The WRSSAR is America's oldest and largest chapter of the NSSAR. But, other than our members, who knows that? If you scan the pages of the Plain Dealer, there was a time when a WRSSAR event was a Societal Event – a Must-Be-There event. But, times have changed. However, instead of fading into the background, the Board is pushing full steam ahead with a Public Relations campaign. Cleveland is home to the Indians, the Browns, the Cleveland Orchestra, great hospitals, great museums...and us!

Moving forward, we are going to attempt to increase our profile. The Spirit of '76 can be found in City Hall but does anyone even know that its painter was a member of WRSSAR? It is a different world but we hope to offer programming of interest to non-members that are in line with our educational and historic mission. In 2019, we will offer a free program at Lakewood Park about the US Census – since only a few months later, the Census begins again.



As part of this PR effort, the Color Guard participated in a Gala Event at the Palace & State Theaters. While the event was a fundraiser for the Arts, the theme was Hamilton -the Broadway show under production at the same time. If there were ever a starting point for our PR campaign, Hamilton was it! We greeted guests as they arrived and used the opportunity to talk about our own patriot ancestors' contributions. Prior to our outreach, no one even knew that the SAR existed in Cleveland. After this event, Clevelanders left amazed and shocked that we exist and no one knew about it. This was a great starting point.

Over the next 2 pages, you will see pictures from that event. But, this is just a starting point. We need EVERY MEMBER to contact their local schools (elementary-high school) and encourage them to participate in our Americanism contests. We are about to become caretakers of a Patriot Soldier's Memorial in Shaker Heights. There is so much to be proud of but it takes all of us working together. We need people willing to call their local papers after each one of our events. One person cannot do it all -we have to work together!



The Hamilton-Themed Arts Fundraiser at the Palace & State Theaters  
The Launching Point for the 2018 WRSSAR City-Wide Public Relations Campaign



**The WRSSAR is a fully volunteer organization.  
Whether you can attend an event, make a phone call for us to promote our  
programs, join a committee, or take a leadership position,  
we need you! If you are proud of what we have been doing, go to [wrssar.org](http://wrssar.org)  
and make a credit card donation today! Help however you can.**



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

**Remember: Our Website (WRSSAR.org) is our primary means of communication with our members!**

**From our website you can:**

- \* See a calendar of all upcoming events (Events Page)
  - \* RSVP for upcoming events right on the same page
  - \* Access our Membership Roster (Members' Only Page)
  - \* Pay your annual dues online via credit card (Renew Membership Page)
  - \* Access all of our recent Newsletters (Newsletter Page)
  - \* Contact us via email with any question or comment.
- And, so much more!**

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

