

Western Reserve Circular

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



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Cleveland, Ohio

Summer 2017



WRSSAR Celebrates Our 125th Anniversary

On June 16th, 2017, over 100 attendees, many in period attire, celebrated our 125th Anniversary at the Shaker Heights Country Club. The Western Reserve Historical Society brought original documents and artifacts including WRSSAR Minutes from 1892—our founding year. Select excerpts from 125 years of Minutes and publications were compiled and published in our 125th Anniversary Bulletin which will be available online on our website soon.



Our wonderful speaker, Stephen McLeod of Mount Vernon, spoke on the history of Mount Vernon and the Cleveland connection of Frances Payne Bolton. Attendees and Color Guard Members came from all over Ohio and included members of the DAR and other local patriotic and civic organizations..

It was a night of wonderful music, a great speaker, silent auction, awarding of the WRSSAR Eagle Scout award to Joseph King, fun and fellowship. The evening, our 125th Gala Fundraiser, raised over \$5,000 in donations and auction earnings. Special thanks must be given to our Commander-In-Chief level donors (\$1,000): John & Betty Franklin, Natalie Kittredge, and Thomas Stickney. All patrons and donors can be found in our Anniversary Bulletin online soon. The final section of the bulletin contains historical anecdotes about the Revolutionary War patriots ancestors of some of our members.

This summer, we welcomed our 2,500th member since our founding—reinforcing our current position as America's largest and 2nd oldest local chapter.

FUN ALERT: The WRSSAR 125th Anniversary Bean Bag Toss (corn hole) game can be borrowed (for free) by any WRSSAR member by contacting us via email at wrssar.communications@gmail.com.



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. Article due dates are July 1st and December 10th, each year.

All newsletter are archived in pdf form on our website: wrssar.org. Paper copies available starting in 2018 only by request.

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

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Trustee:	Lee MacBride
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September 16th (Saturday) Private, guided tour of Revolutionary War era art & furniture at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Tour lasts 1 hour and begins at 330pm. RSVP online on our events page (wrssar.org) or by email. Max 25 attendees. Cost \$10 plus parking. RSVP required by September 13th. Pay at door or via credit card online.

November 8th (Wednesday) 12 Noon. **Annual SAR / DAR Veterans Day Luncheon.** Union Club of Cleveland. Join us for our annual Veterans Day lunch featuring John Carroll University professor Dr Gallo who will speak on his research in the area of the confiscation of property during the US Revolutionary War. RSVP required; pay at the door or online. We will perform the MIA POW table and honor the veterans in attendance.

December 15th (Friday): 5:45pm
Annual Meeting & Christmas Dinner to be held at the Tudor Arms Hotel near University Circle. The membership will elect our leadership for the 2018 year and thank our current leaders for their service. Our speaker will be Cleveland State University professor Dr. Humphrey who will speak on a topic related to the Revolutionary War. Join us for Christmas music, hot cider and cookies before the dinner and program. RSVP required; pay at the door.

2018 DUES RENEWAL: Treasurer Horner will send an invoice to all non-life members beginning October 1st. Remember, the local chapter are responsible for all dues collection and fees are then forwarded to the State and National Societies. Starting this fall, members may pay their annual dues on our website via Paypal via the 'donation' button.



Stay in touch with the WRSSAR: Visit our Facebook page for photos, news and updates: www.facebook.com/wrssar
Or, visit our website at www.wrssar.org

A Message From Our President



By William L. Shanklin
WRSSAR President, 2017

The Fourth of July is a day to be revered and reflected upon by all Americans. The first signer of the Declaration of Independence was John Hancock, who affixed his name--with a famous flourish--to the document in the presence of only one other person. Hancock's bold signature was meant to be defiant: and, according to legend, he wanted to be sure that King George III of England could read it without using bifocals. The signature became synonymous with signing one's name and the phrase "sign your John Hancock" has endured down through the years

Hancock's wealth, social status, and lavish lifestyle made him an unlikely candidate to be a revolutionary. But, instead of being a Loyalist, he was a member of the Sons of Liberty, along with his friend Samuel Adams and others fed up with oppressive British rule.

Hancock was born in 1737 in Baintree, Massachusetts. His father died when Hancock was seven and his mother soon remarried. Hancock was then adopted by a rich uncle, who had a thriving shipping business. After graduating from Harvard at age seventeen, Hancock joined the business and eventually inherited it--and his childless uncle's wealth--when he was twenty-six, making him one of the wealthiest individuals in the colonies and possibly the richest person in New England. Ironically, early in his career, Hancock's uncle sent him to England on business, where the young man witnessed the crowning of George III.

Hancock was the first Major General in the Massachusetts Militia, but he was an inept commander and resigned to help the Revolution in other ways. He was the first and third governor of Massachusetts and second president of the Continental Congress. His most significant and invaluable contribution to the Revolution was in using his vast wealth to finance arms and ammunition.

When the Constitutional Convention was held in 1787 in Philadelphia, Hancock's health did not allow him to represent Massachusetts as a delegate, but he was instrumental in getting the document ratified. Hancock ran against George Washington and John Adams in the first election for President of the United States, receiving but four electoral votes. He died in 1793 at age 56...forever an American protagonist and icon.

Ask someone with a sense of history to name a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the name John Hancock is likely to be remembered. His signature was 1.3 inches tall and 4.7 inches wide, much larger than any of the other 55 signatures.

On a closing note, heartfelt thanks to the volunteers, generous monetary donors, 100-plus people who attended, the speaker, and musicians...all of whom made the 125th anniversary celebration of WRSSAR a night to remember. Because of such dedication and support, I am honored to sign my John Hancock as your current president.

**The Board of Trustees and all of our officers wish you,
our members, a safe and happy Labor Day holiday!**

Thank you for your continued membership and financial support!

WRSSAR 2017 EVENTS



The annual George Washington's Birthday celebration took place at the Shaker Heights country club on February 18th.

Over 100 members and guests came together to celebrate Washington's 285th birthday. Fox TV anchorman, Todd Meaney, sang the Star Spangled Banner and America The Beautiful. John Cimperman presented a proclamation from the City of Cleveland honoring our event. Speaker Dr Moore of Notre Dame College made a wonderful presentation about the various spies used by General Washington during the war.



On Wednesday, April 12 at The Union Club of Cleveland, The Western Reserve Society held our annual Douglas G. High Orator contest for high school students. Five students from Gilmour Academy and University School competed in this year's contest. It was a well organized competition which the members appreciated and enjoyed. The WRSSAR winner, Isaih Paik, traveled to the Ohio Society Annual Meeting where he won 1st Place at the State level and then continued on to win 2nd place at the Annual Convention of the NSSAR. In 2015, our local winner Sophia Zupanc, won 1st place both at State and National contests.



Following the competition, members of the WRSSAR voted for their choice of winning poster for the Elementary School poster contest. There were 99 posters accepted into this year's local contest. Our local winner went on to take 4th place at the OHSSAR level.

Following the judging of the poster contest, Brochure Contest chairman Horner judged the Middle School Brochure contest. There were almost 300 brochures submitted this year. Our local winner went on to win 1st place at the Ohio Society and 2nd place at the NSSAR contest. We should feel great pride for the consistent, successful performances of our poster, brochure and oration contest winners!

WRSSAR 2017 EVENTS



Flag Day & Naturalization Ceremony: the program started with the posting of the Colors by the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion accompanied by the SAR Color Guard. President of the Joint Veteran's Council of Cuyahoga County welcomed everyone. The mistress of ceremonies was Monica Robins, WKYC-TV, who sang the National Anthem and congratulated all new immigrants on becoming US citizens. There were greetings from a number of dignitaries and local groups who celebrated the naturalization of 32 immigrants in front of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



WRSSAR lead the 2017 Gates Mills 4th of July Parade. Color Guard members Galen Swab, Stan Thomas, Scott Glasgow, James Glasgow, Claude Custer join Lee MacBride as he leads the parade up the main street, past the Town Hall, and then across the bridge to the Pollo Field. There, WRSSAR President William Shanklin, presented an SAR Certificate of Outstanding Citizenship to Gates Mills 4th Grade student, Cici Cao, for her essay on "What the 4th of July Means to Me' (left).

(Below): the WRSSAR attended the Ft Laurens Memorial and musket Salute to the Patriots.



Join the WRSSAR Life Membership Program for only \$1,000. Act now!

The WRSSAR In The News



In 2016, almost a dozen grave markers at Erie Street Cemetery were damaged by vandals. There are 168 veterans buried at Erie Street Cemetery dating from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War. The Moses Cleaveland Chapter DAR and the WRSSAR along with ½ dozen other civic groups donated \$3,516 to repair those damaged markers. We were represented at the ceremony by our Color Guard.



Congratulations to Isaiah Paik, a student at University School, for his wonderful oration at the NSSAR Congress in Knoxville, TN, where he won second place. Pictured here are: Oration Co-Chairmen Jack Bredenfoerder and John Franklin, with Isaiah Paik and President General J. Michael Tomme. Isaiah received an Oration Medal, a certificate and a check for \$3,000. This is the 2nd time in 3 years that our local winners earned honors at the NSSAR competition!



LET ALL HEAR THE NEWS WITH PRIDE: Color Guard commander, Historian, longtime SAR volunteer and leader, John Franklin, was awarded the highest honor that can be given by the National Society SAR: the Minuteman Award. John has held leadership positions at the local, state, and national levels. He and his wife Betty have not only been extremely generous with their time, but, also with financial support. We cannot thank them enough for what they have done for our society! Pictured: President General J. Michael Tomme, John Franklin & Larry McKinley.

Congratulations & Thank You to compatriot and friend: John Franklin

Why use the new WRSSAR web page?



We are so proud that since 1892, 2,500 men have joined the WRSSAR. Today, our membership stands above 450 members. However, 1/3 of those members now live out of state.

We value and respect all of our members and we want to find a way to keep in touch with everyone – no matter how far away one may live. The answer – create a user-friendly webpage and Facebook page. Through these two online platforms, everyone can stay in touch and take advantage of all that we have to offer.



From our website, you can:

- 1) View a description of all upcoming events (date, speaker, location, price);
- 2) RSVP to any event with just a click of the mouse;
- 3) View, read or download all of our high color WRSSAR newsletters – archived since summer 2014
- 4) Make payments via Paypal for annual dues or events;
- 5) Make fully tax deductible donations via Paypal;
- 6) Purchase Lands End clothing w/ WRSSAR logo
- 7) View & Download our most recent membership Roster;
- 8) Review of all the mission-based programs that we offer;
- 9) Review all of our contests & awards;
- 10) View a copy of the current By-Laws;
- 11) COMING THIS WINTER: view a YouTube video that explains how to correctly prepare and file a WRSSAR membership & supplemental application;
- 12) View our 125th anniversary Bulletin & other items of interest (this will grow over time);
- 13) Find links to other SAR & civic organizations;
- 14) Find a list of ALL Memorial Fund donations;
- 15) Read our history and find our contact information.



Visit our **Facebook** page to see the latest pictures from our events, notices of recent deaths, and topics of interest.

125th Anniversary Commemorative Coins:

Thanks to an extremely generous donation by John & Betty Franklin, we minted a commemorative coin to mark our 125th Anniversary: making us the 2nd oldest chapter.

These coins are available for a \$20 donation. 100% of the proceeds are deposited in our Youth Outreach Fund which is one of our restricted funds that can only be used in accordance with the mission of the fund. If you would like to buy one of these coins, contact us via our website.



Visit us: www.wrssar.org or www.facebook.com/wrssar

URGENT --- CRITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT -- URGENT



We Need Volunteers To Run Our Programs!

While we are blessed to be the largest chapter in the country, 1/3 of our members live out of state and only 20 members volunteer to serve on the Board of Trustees, as Officers or Program Chairman. At this time, there are only a handful of members who run our youth outreach, patriotic, civic, historic and Color Guard programs. These same members have been chairing these programs, on average, for 8 years.

We need YOU. Without our member volunteers, we cannot continue to play the role that we have played in Cleveland for the last 125 years! Our Color Guard is requested by local governments and patriotic/civic organizations from all over the state of Ohio. Our high school oration winners have won 1st and 2nd place at the National SAR level. Schools across the area have made our 8th Grade Good Citizenship contest a key part of their spring awards program. Local ROTC cadets are honored each spring and Eagle Scouts receive public commendation for their work. This is just a small sample of what we do...annually.

Please consider leading one of these great SAR programs in 2018:

Elementary School Poster Chairman:	15 hours per year	Contact local schools to promote the program
Middle School Brochure Chairman:	15 hours per year	Contact local schools to promote the program
Public Relations Chairman:	20 hours per year	Send news releases to local media
Chapter Historian (officer):	20 hours per year	Compile records of our programs/file reports
Photographer (multiple positions):	2-20 hours p/year	Attend events & take pictures
Naturalization Program Chairman:	12 hours per year	Attend Naturalization Ceremonies
Hospitality Volunteer (multiple positions)	2-20 hour p/year	Attend WRSSAR events; print name tags; collect payments; welcome new members.
Color Guard Member (multiple positions)	5-50 hours p/year	Attend various events throughout the year
Genealogist (multiple positions)	5-25 hours p/year	Assist new members; review applications
Flag Award Chairman	5 hours per year	Promote proper flag use / award certificates
Audit Committee (multiple positions)	5 hours per year	Review annual financial reports
Program committee (multiple positions)	5 hours per year	Assist 1 st VP in designing WRSSAR events

Do you live out of town? In 2018, you can now be a full fledged member of the Board of Trustees!

Starting in 2018, we will be encouraging out of town members to join the Board as a Trustee. We will be adopting a teleconferencing system so that our out of town members can call-in via regular phone or internet and fully participate in our bi-monthly or quarterly Board Meetings. We are only as strong as our volunteers!



Welcome Our Newest WRSSAR Members

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

Christopher A Brooks – Olmsted Township

Joseph W Coleman IV – Lakewood

Gabriel C Hutchins – Beachwood

Dana M Lattimer – Strongsville

Daniel P Mitchell – Ashland

Christopher J Tomshack – Avon

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 2017. We send our deepest condolences and support to their families and friends.

Raymond L Pianka

December 2016

Robert "Bob" Mattoon

December 2016

Richard P Reece

January 2017

Stanley W Kimball

January 2017

Henry T Heckman

May 2017

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 or 216-357-1646.

NEW TO THE WRSSAR

ALL LANDS END MERCHANDISE CAN NOW BE ORDERED WITH THE NEW WRSSAR LOGO

Simply [visit our website and click on WRSSAR Clothing.](#)

You will be taken to the WRSSAR Storefront at Lands End Merchandise. Select the item of clothing, the size and color - then the logo prompt will automatically appear.

Logo embroidery is \$8.50 per item but several times a year, they offer free logo embroidery. We will notify members via email when those promotions are in effect. The WRSSAR doesn't earn any money from the sale of Lands End merchandise. But, wearing WRSSAR clothing is wonderful, free advertising for our Society. Take a picture of yourself or your family member in WRSSAR clothing and email us the picture. We will put it on our Facebook page!

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



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



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS - PLEASE BE ADVISED -

As we approach the year 2020, almost all organizations have come to realize that it is not practical or affordable to print and mail paper newsletters to members. We CARE ABOUT OUR MEMBERS and we do not want to anger or frustrate any of you. However, it is in the best interest of our Society that we shift from traditional paper communication to electronic options. To this end, we have completely revised our website to make it more user-friendly.

Starting in 2018, our newsletter will be posted to our web page (wrssar.org). Members can find all newsletters archived on our site. Additionally, those members who have provided an email addresses will get an email that links to the newest newsletter. The WRSSAR membership roster will be posted, as well, in our Members Only Section. Contact us to get the password to that section.

If you would like to receive a paper newsletter or paper roster, please contact us and we will honor your request. If you have already requested a paper newsletter or roster, there is no need to contact us again. This is the last paper newsletter that will be sent to all members. We take this action to allow us to focus our financial resources on our youth outreach, historic and patriotic programs.