

WESTERN RESERVE SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BOARD MEETING

December 3, 2024

Minutes

Present by Zoom: Hoon, Arnold, Benham, Havlovic, Kertes, Kittredge, Palo, Rezie, Ross, Shemory, Smith, Stanley, Walker, Watkins.

Start time: noon

Stop time: 1:06 pm

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance: Hoon.

Invocation: Hoon.

Quorum: Stanley confirmed.

Minutes: Motion to table the review of the October minutes was seconded and approved.

President's remarks:

- Hoon reported the following:
 - A well-attended Veterans Day event at the Shaker Heights Country Club. Thanks go to Veterans Committee Chairman Will Ross for a job well done. Hoon led the Color Guard at our Veterans Day event, as well as at the Cleveland City Hall on actual Veterans Day.
 - Hoon attended the Fall Ohio Board of Managers Meeting in Ada, Ohio on October 26. He learned that the National SAR has removed references in our mission statement to "lineage" society in favor of "service" and "education." There is a new youth video contest, open to junior and senior high school students. There is a grant available from the Pomeroy Foundation for signage at graves of Revolutionary War veterans. Hoon would like us to take advantage of those grants. As far as dues, there was a movement for centralized dues collection through national SAR, but that movement since has been withdrawn. The big news is that the national congress will return to Ohio in 2028; Columbus will host. Hoon has joined the 2028 Congress Committee for which the budget is estimated to be \$120,000. So far, \$40,000 has been raised.
 - Flyers are going to new members informing them that they may also be eligible for the Society of Founders and Patriots.

First Vice President's remarks:

- Smith reported conversations with author and Speaker Salina Baker who has extensively researched Nathanael Greene. She will speak at our Washington's Birthday celebration in February. We will have some of her books available either to purchase or as door prizes.

Second Vice President's remarks:

- Havlovic reported on the initiative for the 250th to match compatriots with service of their patriot ancestors. The goal is to put it together by July, 2025. He also reported on efforts to create a pin, perhaps as part of the 250th celebration. Hoon thought the reported prices sounded reasonable, but it would be prudent to obtain a

comparable. Watkins will contact Franklin to see whether he has some legacy artwork. Havlovic will check that pins will be made in the U.S. The Board will give guidance on what the pins will be used for - 250th commemoration or a part of a fund raising effort.

Treasurer's Report:

- Horner submitted an extensive Treasurer's report, as well as a budget for 2025. Hoon asked that, should any Board members have questions, they submit those questions to Horner, by email, copying all. **MOTION** by Ross to defer discussion of the budget to the February Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Smith. Motion passed.

Registrar's Report:

- Rezie reported sending out dues letters. He also reported that all life memberships are updated.

Consolidated Funds:

- Watkins reported \$698,749.40 as of November 30. So far this year the gain has been 23.5%. There was significant cash, \$100,000 of which has now been used to purchase a 5% CD, due in May, from JP Morgan.

Youth Awards:

- Watkins reported that Don McGraw had forwarded one candidate's name for the essay contest. Watkins believes we should have at least one more candidate. WRSSAR candidates have done very well in these awards.

Veteran's Committee:

- Ross reported a well-attended Veterans Day event at the Shaker Heights Country Club. There were between 85 and 90 in attendance. There was a decrease in third-party groups (DAR, ROTC), but an increase in members and member guests over prior years. On Veterans Day itself the Color Guard presented colors at the Cleveland City Hall. The Veterans Committee will participate in the Wreaths Across America program at the Maple Shade Cemetery on December 14.

Nominating Committee:

- Ross reported the following proposed slate of officers for 2025:

President	Matthew Smith
First Vice President	Stephen Havlovic
Second Vice President	John Darst
Secretary	Richard Stanley
Registrar	Richard Rezie
Treasurer	John Atlee Horner III

For Trustee positions Gregory Arnold and Robert Lee Shemory, Jr. roll off. Zackary Hoon and James Riley are added. There is still one open slot.

- Ross brought a **MOTION** to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Acceptance was unanimous.

New Business:

- Hoon reminded everyone to respond as soon as possible to the invitation to the Annual Meeting at the Cleveland Yachting Club.

Old Business:

- None.

Benediction: Hoon.