

WESTERN RESERVE SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BOARD MEETING

February 6, 2024
Minutes

Present in Person at Union Club: Hoon, Havlovic, Kertes, Palo, Shemory.

Present by Zoom: Arnold, Rezie, Ross, Smith, Stanley, Walker, Watkins.

Start time: noon

Stop time: 12:50 pm

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance: Hoon.

Invocation: Hoon.

Quorum: Stanley, confirmed.

Minutes of December 5, 2023 minutes: Hoon corrected that only Hoon and Galen participated in the Color Guard event at Cleveland City Hall on November 10. On **MOTION** the December minutes were approved, as corrected.

President's remarks: Hoon.

- 2023 Recap - There were three main objectives: (i) increase engagement (Memorial Day flag planting at Lakeview Cemetery and First Thursdays were both successful in bringing out people we do not typically see); (ii) increase recognition (250th lecture series, social media advertising, awards - not much movement on these, but an article from last year's Washington's Birthday luncheon was picked up by the SAR media); and (iii) increase awareness (the Color Guard is important in bringing awareness of WRSSAR to the greater public, more on the Color Guard later).
- 2024 Objectives - We have 360 members, but we do not see close to that number at typical events. We should build on the number of members who turn out for events. Further on the issue of engagement, Hoon would like each Board member to serve on a Committee. For increased recognition, upcoming are various 250th anniversary events: the Intolerable Acts, the First Continental Congress and the Battle of Point Pleasant. To be discussed in New Business: a 250th committee. Let's also discuss identifying upcoming battles/events in which individual members' ancestors may have participated. The Color Guard needs to be addressed. There will be a focus on new recruits.
- Veterans Affairs lunch - The Board had approved a holiday lunch for the veterans at the VA. Hospital. With flu and Covid going around, sandwiches were delivered to individual patients. Hoon attended and spoke to several patients who were very appreciative. Over 350 patients were served. We should continue involvement with the VA.
- Board Schedule 2024 - February 5, April 2, October 1, and December 3 will be hybrid meetings at noon. June 4 and August 6 will be Zoom only meetings at 7:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report: Hoon reported that Horner will submit a report to Board members by email.

Consolidated Funds Update: Watkins reported \$591,912.13 at the end of January. As of February 5, the total was \$593,603.07. A substantial amount is in CDs and cash; overall we have conservative investments.

Knight Essay and Eagle Scout awards: Watkins reported WRSSAR had two entries for each of these awards. For the Knight Essay award in Ohio, eight chapters participated. Our WRSSAR first place entrant won first place in the state! Our Knight Essay winner and parents will attend the George Washington Birthday luncheon. For Eagle Scout awards, money will be granted to both Eagle Scouts. We are waiting to hear whether our first place Eagle Scout will attend the George Washington Birthday luncheon. Outreach is going well.

New Business:

- 250th Anniversary Committee - Hoon asked whether there was any interest in establishing a 250th Anniversary Committee. **MOTION** by Havlovic, second by Smith to establish a 250th Anniversary Committee. Motion passed. Smith volunteered to chair the committee.
- Kertes reported that the National Congress will be coming to Ohio in 2025, probably to Cincinnati, but that is yet to be confirmed. Kertes recently attended a state finance committee meeting at which a financial contribution from each chapter was discussed. When Hoon attends the state conference in Marietta this weekend, he will learn more about arrangements for the National Congress.
- Ross reported that the Veterans Committee will hold its first meeting of the year on Monday, February 12th. On Saturday, April 13 the JVCCC will hold a luncheon which we should support.
- Hoon reported that the Color Guard will appear at the Hudson DAR awards luncheon on Sunday, February 11.

Old Business:

- Hoon formally installed Watkins and Walker as new Board members.
- Hoon asked Board members to check the list of confirmed attendees of the Washington's Birthday luncheon. If anyone sees people missing from the list, please encourage them to attend. At this point the number of confirmed attendees is in the mid-60's.
- Rezie reported that some 40 people were recently dropped, about two thirds of whom were life members with whom we have had no contact. Watkins remarked that the elimination of that number of members from our rolls significantly reduced the dues we pay to national. The national dues increase did not really have an effect on a loss in our numbers.

Benediction: Hoon.