

WESTERN RESERVE SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BOARD MEETING

**February 4, 2025
Minutes**

Present in person: Smith, Palo, Kertes, Hoon, Ross, Horner.

Present by Zoom: Havlovic, Stickney, Riley, Rezie, Stanley, Walker, Watkins.

Start time: noon

Stop time: 1:43 pm

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance: Smith.

Invocation: Horner

Quorum: Stanley confirmed.

Oath: Ross swore in Smith as President of WRSSAR.

Minutes: Motion by Horner, seconded by Hoon, to approve the December Minutes.
Approved.

President's remarks:

- Smith reported that the George Washington Birthday luncheon will be held at the Shaker Heights Country Club. Noted author and speaker Salina Baker will be our speaker. WRSSAR has purchased several of her books as door prizes. Baker will provide a QR Code to purchase books at a discount. Horner reported that, as of today, he had received 45 responses for attendance.

First Vice President's remarks:

- Havlovic reported working with Ross to create a 250 lapel pin. He is looking for suggestions for a software package. After George Washington's Birthday, there are the beginnings of events: First Thursdays to start in April, Veterans Day in November and the Annual Meeting in December.
- For programs this year Smith suggests an overall theme of 250 anniversary for all events. For a specific 250th event Horner suggested something outward facing - to the general public. Hoon suggested an event at Fort Laurens.

Treasurer's Report

- Horner discussed liability and director & officer insurance. He had polled four WRSSAR lawyers who all agreed about the need for liability and D & O insurance. As we have revised our membership rolls down to 360 members, we save about \$250 a year. Total annual insurance cost is \$1100. A \$10,000 bond is also renewed. As we have revised our membership rolls down to 360 members, we save about \$250 a year. Total annual insurance cost is \$1100. A \$10,000 bond is also renewed.
- For the poster, oration and brochure contests we have placed an advertisement in the Northeast Ohio Parent Association magazine due to the difficulty of getting schools to

advertise. We received one inquiry from Hudson. Watkins added that we have been having a low level of responses for all contests throughout Ohio.

- Discussion of the 2025 budget had been deferred from the December meeting to this meeting. On motion by Smith, seconded by Palo, the 2025 budget was approved.

Youth Awards:

- Watkins reported that Coleman Lauritien won our chapter's Scout award; he received 2nd in the state. Our chapter's second place award went to Gerard Thornton. Watkins will recognize both scouts at the George Washington Birthday luncheon.

Consolidated Funds

- Watkins reported \$677,821.33 as of December 31, 2024. As of January 31, 2025 the figure was \$686,012.57. Liquidate assets amount to about \$178,000.
- Smith asked whether there should be some level of review of the consolidated funds. Horner responded that a detailed review is typically done of the cash account rather than of the consolidated fund. The mechanism for looking at the consolidated fund is accomplished by a Consolidated Fund Committee. Smith asked Watkins to call a meeting of the Consolidated Fund Committee before the next Board meeting.
- Smith's name needs to be placed on the signature card for the accounts.

Veterans Committee:

- Ross reported that Michael Quintus is the new Veterans Committee chairman. Members are Riley, Shanklin, Kittredge, Shemory and Ross. The Committee distributes awards to ROTC, JROTC and Sea Cadets in addition to marking graves. The Committee is looking forward to awarding Flag and First Responder Awards. In November we will return to a Friday celebration of Veterans Day at the Shaker Heights Country Club.
- Ross introduced Jim Riley who reported events sponsored by the Joint Veterans Council, including an April 12 luncheon at the Holiday Inn in Independence.

Registrar's Report:

- Rezie reported that it was too early to determine exactly how many members have been dropped or re-instated. He went on to discuss the five or six bankers boxes of records he holds in his mother's basement. The Board discussed the retention of records and did not want to see paper records disposed of. The Board will determine how it wants to handle these records at a later date.

New Business:

- Smith reported a grave marking in the Evergreen Cemetery in Westlake and the appearance of the Color Guard at a summer Guardians game. Smith has reached out to the Cleveland Orchestra for the Blossom Music Center for an Independence Day event. Smith is looking to create a 250-Register, similar to a Centennial Register, listing all members from the very beginning of WRSSAR.
- Hoon reported that, so far, the Color Guard has 11 events on its calendar for 2025.

Benediction: Horner.