

**House of Delegates Meeting  
Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution  
Indianapolis, Indiana – April 29, 2006**

The Spring Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates of the Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution was held in Indianapolis, Indiana and hosted by the Clarence Cook Chapter. The Saturday session was called to order at 10 a.m. by President T. Rex Legler II followed by the Invocation, colors were posted by the Color Guard, and Pledges to the American Flag and S.A.R were led by Vice President Garry M. Eckard. John Kessler was selected to serve as Parliamentarian. Compatriot Halleck called the roll and determined that a quorum was present as follows:

Anthony Halberstadt Chapter:

2 delegates

Continental Chapter:

2, including 1 delegates-at-large

Clarence A. Cook Chapter

10, including 4 delegates-at-large

David Benton Chapter

2 delegate-at-large

Daniel Guthrie Chapter

4, including 2 delegates-at-large

John Martin Chapter

1 delegate-at-large

Ohio Valley Chapter

3, including 1 delegates-at-large

William Henry Harrison Chapter

6, including 3 delegates-at-large

William Knight Chapter

1 delegate-at-large

*Reports*

Minutes for the meeting of January 21, 2006, were approved, with the following changes 1) the program, Flags over America, following the meeting in Evansville was presented by John West. This program has won regional praise and has been presented throughout Indiana. With these corrections, the minutes were approved by consent. Chapter and INSSAR officers who have received a mailed copy in the past are to notify Secretary Halleck if they wish to receive a paper copy, one of which will always be prepared for permanent minutes. On motion of National Trustee Roger D. Barnhart, seconded by Treasurer G. Thomas Schnuck, the agenda for this meeting was approved.

Treasurer G. Thomas Schnuck's printed report showed \$9,890.15 in cash and money market accounts and \$43,099.29 in CD's for a total of \$52,989.44 in total assets.

District Director North – Willard Watterson forwarded his report to the INSSAR – stating that most of the SAR chapters were meeting and attempting to grow membership. The newly formed SAR Color guard for the Northern region has participated in several events, bringing more recognition to the SAR.

District Director North Central – no report

District Director, South Central – Compatriot Howell stated that he was able to attend meetings of two of the four chapters in the South-Central District. The Clarence Cook chapter held its meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2006. During that meeting, the chapter had an excellent program by Mr. Ray E. Boomhower of the Indiana Historical Society who discussed his book, “John Bushemis: Combat Photographer”. Chapter President Steve Oberlin inducted Compatriots Andrew Thompson, Andrew Marsh, and Howard Smith into the SAR.

The Daniel Guthrie chapter held its meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, in Bedford. During that meeting, the chapter’s “annual” meeting, INSSAR President T. Rex Legler II, installed the 2006 officers who are: President James Arnold, Vice-President Robert Cunningham, Secretary Terry English, Treasurer Gary Rutherford, and Chaplain Rev. Charles M. Carpenter. The chapter distributed awards for law enforcement, fire safety commendation medal, the War Service Medal, Bronze Good Citizen Medal, and the Martha Washington Medal. The chapter also recognized seven new members Compatriots Samuel R. Harris, Edward G. Wilson, Toby G. Rutherford, Joshua M. Kellems, Michael W. Kellems, Matthew J. Kellems, and Robert J. Kellems.

District Director South – The David Benton Chapter is continuing to meet monthly and continues to receive media coverage in the *Jackson County Banner*. John Sheets has done a wonderful job – increasing the visibility for the local chapter and the Indiana Society. Compatriot West commended Sheets on his efforts. The General Thomas Posey Chapter has elected a new President, Stephen H. Johnson. Albert Gibbs decided to step down after serving as President for the past ten years. This chapter meets twice a year (spring and fall). The Ohio Valley Chapters meets quarterly on Saturday mornings at Willard Library’s Bayard Room in Evansville, Indiana. At the last meeting, Compatriot Robert Hall presented his program about the Green Mountain Boys and Ethan Allen. Several members participated in a community service project providing tornado relief clean-up in Newburgh for the November 5<sup>th</sup> tornado – listed as the “deadliest tornado” in 2005. Compatriot West states that the Color Guard continues to grow in Southern Indiana. Compatriot West’s program entitled “Flags over America” has been videotaped with 25 copies being distributed to at least five states and one to Germany. The South District will host another state meeting in the fall of 2006. The George Rogers Clark chapter is making plans for that meeting in Vincennes, Indiana.

Editor John Van Zandt reported that because of using bulk mail, delivery time *cannot* be guaranteed. If the society were to mail the newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> class, the costs would be an additional \$200.00. In addition, the *Hoosier Patriot* is being considered for awards at the national level. We are encouraged to continue submitting material for publication to Compatriot Van Zandt. For those interested in saving the society money, please view the publications online at [www.inssar.org](http://www.inssar.org). Compatriot Van Zandt is currently looking into setting up a mass email to be

sent notifying SAR members that the *Hoosier Patriot* has been posted online. This email will include a link to the INSSAR Website.

Martha Barnhart's report about the National Ladies Auxiliary noted currently there were 28 paid members as of April 29, 2006. The membership year begins on January 1. During the Evansville meeting, members of the Ladies Auxiliary met and voted to transfer \$200.00 to the INSSAR for their Youth Awards program. A check was presented to President T. Rex Legler by Martha Barnhart following the luncheon. Karen Bragg attended the February 25, 2006 National Ladies Auxiliary meeting in Louisville and reports that gift baskets are again requested from each state organization to be raffled during Congress. The financial report noted an ending balance of \$90.

During the first three months of 2006, the INSSAR Color Guard participated in 10 events, with approximately 20 others scheduled for the remainder of the year. The Color Guard expects to have 50-60 programs during 2006. Notable upcoming events include Memorial Day commemorations with DAR at Acton Cemetery, the four day July 4<sup>th</sup> concerts with Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and several parades and cemetery ceremonies.

There are an increasing number of youth oriented activities such as schools, contests, and scouting. The "northern command", lead by G. Tom Schnuck, has been increasingly busy. The Continental Chapter has uniformed several new guardsmen and is participating in, and scheduling events. Four compatriots participated in the Blair Point School Fine Arts Festival in Peru, and they are currently making plans for the Memorial Day Parade in Muncie.

Registrar Noel Reen reported that to date, he has 34 Membership and Supplemental Applications (New Applications – 24; Supplemental – 10) awaiting INSSAR approval. Registrar Reen noted that while the primary application must be printed on SAR Archival paper, enclosed with all generational documentation, and sent to the INSSAR Registrar for review and approval, the second application copy need NOT be accompanied by a complete set of documentation, but we do need the second application copy. This practice will save on postage and paper. In addition, please note that all copies of DAR and SAR reference applications must be marked with "Record Copy" or "Duplicate Copy". After further review of pended applications, it is noted that some are dated from 2002 and 2003. Registrar Reen will be posting information about these pended files in the *Hoosier Patriot* seeking help from INSSAR members.

National Trustee Roger Barnhart reported that during the National Trustee meeting in Louisville, several important issues for members were discussed. First, it was decided support changes that if you are a member and for any reason your Compatriot's line was "closed" by the DAR or SAR, your sons, nephews, grandchildren, etc. would still be eligible for membership in the SAR. Second, there has been discussion to increase the terms at the National office for President General, Secretary General, and Treasurer General from one year to two years. A poll, not a vote, of trustees present had 44 against the bylaw change and 13 for the bylaw change. Compatriot Ted Williams motioned for Indiana to propose 2 year terms for the top three positions at the National Congress, it was seconded. The floor was opened for discussion – while it would provide continuity and would allow the President General more time to accomplish goals on his agenda, it would almost certainly require a commitment of 6 years while

rotating the top three positions (generally the Treasurer moves to become Secretary and the Secretary becomes President). A vote was called and the motion to support the two year terms was overwhelmingly defeated. A motion to request that all delegates attending the National Congress be instructed to vote against two year terms was made, seconded and passed.

Compatriot J.D. Strouth stated that the INSSAR had submitted on-time all the necessary documentation to be considered for awards from the NSSAR – points totaling 8,175. Of those, 4,690 went to Color Guard activities, the remaining were from youth programs and publicity (i.e. TV, newspaper, website, etc). All members should forward all publicity to Compatriot Strouth with details listing the location, date, etc.

It was noted that many of the INSSAR youth programs are lacking participation. This is a growing concern for the state society. The Eagle Scout applications at one time numbered over 50 while lately we have been receiving no more than 4-5 per year. Rachel Henderson, Indiana CAR President received the Bronze Good Citizen medal and spoke on the efforts of the CAR to increase membership – specifically dual membership. Compatriot Bob Howell noted that there are 24 ROTC units at 11 schools and 41 JROTC units at 40 schools. At the last meeting, Compatriot Howell provided a list of ROTC/JROTC units and the chapters closest to those units. Medals can be presented by the local chapter – please contact Compatriot Howell for more details.

Compatriot Theodore Williams updated members on the Revolutionary War Graves, now totaling over 2,200 listed. There is a master roster of compatriots, service providers, etc. available for members – he has copies of this updated CD.

All grave websites have been moved to the INSSAR website, [www.inssar.org](http://www.inssar.org). In addition, each chapter has the ability to have a “chapter website”. The INSSAR website has also been submitted for awards on the National level and is a finalist.

It was reported that the Indiana Society would be receiving a streamer for our flag at the National Congress for the work we’ve done on the Veterans’ program. The state and several chapters participated with the American Legion and other Veteran groups – if your chapter is participating, please report this to Compatriot Arnold.

### *Old Business*

The Handbook History Revision was presented to members at the Annual Meeting. All current and incoming members will receive a copy of the INSSAR Handbook.

### *New Business*

The following 2006-2007 budget was approved unanimously with these changes 1) the Registrar’s expenses be increased to \$150 2) the state graves project be funded at \$100 3) the *Hoosier Patriot* will be mailed 1<sup>st</sup> class increasing the budget \$200.

### **Expenses**

President's Expenses	\$500
Secretary's Expenses	\$500
Treasurer's Expenses	\$50
Registrar's Expenses	\$150
Orations Contest	\$1000
ROTC Medals	\$400
Eagle Scouts	\$600
4-H Youth program	\$300
Secretary of State Reports	\$10
State Medals and Awards	\$400
Essay Contest	\$390
Hoosier Patriot	\$2,400
CAR Scholarship	\$330
Escrow Accounts	\$350
Society of State Pres.	\$10
District Dues	\$110
Contingency	\$100
Recruitment Literature	\$100
Web Site	\$100
State Graves Program	\$100
Liability Insurance	\$1,000

Total \$8,900

600 members @ 10.00	\$6,000.00
50 at-large members @ \$2.50	\$125.00
½ interest from CD's	\$1,000.00

Total \$7,125.00

After no nominations from the floor, Compatriot Roger Barnhart's presentation of the following names for consideration for INSSAR office was motioned, seconded and approved.

President	Garry M. Eckard
Vice President	Robert Howell
Secretary	Brandon Halleck
Treasurer	G. Thomas Schnuck
Registrar	Noel Reen
Chancellor	John A. Kessler
Genealogist	Edward Hitchcock
Historian	Jack Moore
Chaplain	J. D. Strouth
Director North	Willard Waterson
Director North Central	Roger Barnhart
Director South Central	James Arnold
Director South	John West

National Trustee  
Alt. National Trustee

T. Rex Legler II  
Garry M. Eckard

The meeting was recessed for a joint luncheon with the DAR. James Alexander Thom was the guest speaker – it should be noted that this is the first joint luncheon between the two state societies.

The meeting resumed after lunch with the Call to Order from President T. Rex Legler II, and the Invocation by Chaplain J.D. Strouth.

Vice President General Richard Brockway gave greetings from the Central District – noting that all four states are healthy and continuing to contribute to local, state and national causes. Martha Barnhart, representing DAR State Regent JoAnn Nichols, brought well wishes. The Indiana Society DAR looks forward to continued collaboration with the Indiana Society SAR. Rachel Henderson reported the beginnings of an endowment to help fund trips to the National Congress – it was noted that Miss Henderson had also presented about the CAR during the Daniel Guthrie Chapter meeting. Sr. State CAR President Jeff Voris encouraged members of the INSSAR to contact those in our families eligible for membership in the CAR – increased membership helps all those involved in the CAR, DAR, and SAR.

Benjamin Thomas was selected as the Eagle Scout Patriotic Essay Winner, Antigone Fleck was selected as the Essay Winner – she also presented her essay, Camilla Oldenkamp was selected the Orations Winner – she will represent Indiana at the National Congress in Dallas, and Kathryn Carter was selected as the CAR Cyril Johnson Scholarship winner.

Medals and awards were presented to the following members:

Color Guard Commander Steve Oberlin presented the following Color Guard Awards to Stuart Hart (award for service), David Betzner (award for service), Wade Harshman (Bronze Color Guard), and Will Teague (award for service).

Golden Chapter awards are based on the number of attendance, color guard activity, grave sites, chapter websites, state meetings, etc. The following chapters were presented the Golden Awards:

Small Chapter: David Benton  
Medium Chapter: Ohio Valley  
Large Chapter: Daniel Guthrie

John Van Zandt received a certificate of appreciation for the dedicated work on the *Hoosier Patriot* and the work he does on the local chapter level.

Steve Oberlin received a certificate of appreciation for the work he does as Commander of the Color Guard – and as President of the Cook Chapter.

Robert Burton was the INSSAR Secretary for eleven years, created the History Handbook. He received the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and Certificate for the Indiana Society Meritorious Service Medal.

J.D. Strouth being the current President of the Ohio Valley Chapter, is very active in the community, Boy Scouts, and is a Katrina Volunteer. Compatriot Strouth received the Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate by the Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

John West is the current South District Director. He has served his community in several areas including 4-H, the Air Force, and the INSSAR Color Guard. Compatriot West was awarded the Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate.

Martha Barnhart was commended for her unselfish support of the INSSAR. For over five years, she has attended chapter, state, and national SAR functions. She has been instrumental in the development in the Ladies Auxiliary of the SAR. For her actions, above and beyond, Martha Barnhart was awarded the Martha Washington Medal for her outstanding support of our society.

Roger Barnhart for his service at local, state, and national offices/committees was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Compatriot Jack Moore presented Barnhart with the George Washington Fellows. A member who contributes at least \$1000 to the George Washington Endowment is eligible to be recognized as a George Washing Fellows.

T. Rex Legler II was presented the State Past President Pin and the Trustee's Pin. President Legler was also presented a special award by the Daniel Guthrie Chapter. Vice President General Brockway presented Legler with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Central District.

Vice President General Richard Brockway installed the newly elected officers for the 2006/2007 term.

As the new INSSAR President, Garry Eckard encouraged members to continue to help increase membership and increase funding for our youth programs. It is vital that we recruit and retain new members – programs such as the Color Guard and Youth Programs promote SAR to the general public.

Chaplain J.D. Strouth conducted the Departed Compatriots Ceremony – recognizing those who had passed on since over the past year.

Vice President General Elect Larry Perkins presented a workshop on Genealogy and SAR Applications. He provided handouts and worksheets that would help members start researching and documenting records. His "Beginner's Guide to Genealogy" listed several key steps to a successful "find". Noting that talking to relatives, visiting local courthouses, searching the census records, and finding other researchers working on the same lines will help those researching family records.

The meeting closed with Vice President Robert Howell, Sr. leading the SAR Recessional and Chaplain J.D. Strouth provided the benediction. President Eckard adjourned the meeting. The next INSSAR meeting will be held Saturday, July 29, 2006, in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon R. Halleck, Secretary  
Indiana Society Sons of the American Revolution