



Spring 2024

The Illinois Patriot

Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution
Illinois-sar.org

Illinois Society President Farewell Message

Fellow Sons of the American Revolution,

As I am now concluding my term as your President, I greatly appreciate the accomplishments of this Society under your collective leadership. Gratitude, for the unwavering dedication each of you has shown to this esteemed organization. While this last year of my term has been interrupted by family health issues, I am truly thankful for Bill Wheeler's intercession to keep our organization moving forward. As I officially relinquish the reins of President to Bill, I know that he will continue to strengthen the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

When I first assumed this office, I did so with a profound respect for the legacy we uphold. The sacrifices made by our forefathers to secure the very liberties we enjoy today are a constant source of inspiration. Together, we have strived to honor that legacy

through our youth programs, participation in local patriotic and veteran events, and our cemetery marking program.

However, the Sons of the American Revolution is not merely a society that venerates the past. We are, and must remain, a vibrant force in the present. The ideals that fueled the American Revolution – liberty, justice, and a representative government – are as relevant today as ever. We must continue to be champions of these ideals, fostering a spirit of patriotism and civic engagement within our communities.

Bill Wheeler, please accept my congratulations and heartfelt wishes for a successful term. I, along with every member here, stand ready to offer our unwavering support.

To all of you, my fellow Sons, a final word of thanks. It has been an honor serving alongside you. Let us continue to uphold the legacy of the



Richard Ruedin
Illinois Society SAR President

American Revolution, not just through remembrance, but through active citizenship and a commitment to the ideals that forever bind us.

Thank you,
Richard R. Ruedin

2024 Annual Society Meeting & Awards

The Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution cordially invite compatriots to join the Annual Society meeting and Youth Awards luncheon at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield on Friday, May 3 & Saturday, May 4.

A block of rooms have been reserved at the rate of \$115. Reservations are needed by April 12.

Our Friday evening banquet is a formal affair. Black tie and/or uniform are expected. If you do not have a tuxedo or uniform, no harm, but we ask that you wear your formal attire.

Among guests joining us for the weekend include: Mike Elston, NSSAR Treasurer General; Mike is an Illinois

native and is looking forward to returning to Illinois for the meeting. The current Great Lakes VPG, David Van Hoof, will also be attending. Others in attendance include:

- Carol Borner, IL DAR, SAR/CAR/SR Relations Committee Chair
- Amie Callahan, C.A.R. Great Lakes District Sr. President
- Bailey Callahan, C.A.R. Great Lakes District President
- Jack Rosenthal, I.S.C.A.R. President

On Saturday, we will be having our meeting at the Abraham Lincoln

Presidential Library and Museum. We will have our meeting and will also be present a donation towards the C.A.R. National Project. After the meeting, we will return to the hotel where we will have our Youth Awards Luncheon.

Finally, the Springfield chapter will be hosting a cemetery marking after the luncheon (at about 2:30pm) in nearby Chatham. It would be great to get as many supporters as possible for the event.

We will not be able to accept payment at the door. Please be sure to pay ahead of time either using Zelle or with a check and send to Drew Robinson. Be sure to support the Ladies Auxiliary Silent Auction!

**Illinois Society Sons of the
American Revolution Officers
2022-2024**

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A Message from Bill Wheeler Senior Vice-President



We were truly fortunate to have a mild winter this year! And now we are slowly easing into warmer weather. That means that outdoor events are in our future!

Every year the Illinois Society, SAR, hosts our Annual Awards banquet. This year the banquet will be at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL. During the banquet we pause to celebrate the achievements of Compatriots who have done great things for SAR and the Illinois Society specifically. We are fortunate to have Michael Elston, National Society Treasurer General, as a guest. Treasurer General Elston is an Illinois native, so we are excited to have him with us for the weekend. At our annual Awards Banquet we hold a silent auction. Each chapter is encouraged to donate items for auction. The proceeds of the donations go towards our Cemetery Marking Program (more on that in a moment). We thank Linda Ashby, Tina Robinson, and the ILSSAR Ladies Auxiliary for keeping the silent auction going and supporting our marking program.

Our Saturday meeting will be taking place at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. This year, ILSSAR is supporting the National Society Children of the American Revolution project. You can read all about the project at <https://tinyurl.com/NSCAR2024>. C.A.R. is partnering with the

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to restore two objects:

- The First Report of the United States of Depart of Agriculture
- Abraham Lincoln's Leather Portfolio

Coincidentally, TG Elston is an active supporter of the Children of the American Revolution (former Senior State President of the Virginia Society C.A.R.). After the meeting, we have our annual Youth Awards Luncheon where we recognize youths.

Getting back to the cemetery marking program, we will be wrapping up the weekend with a marking in Chatham. Even if you are unable to join us for the awards banquet and the meeting, we encourage you to attend the cemetery marking.

We have additional cemetery markings this year from the Kishwaukee, General Joseph Bartholomew, Elijah Smith and Fox Valley chapters. If you aren't able to attend the Awards Banquet and support the program through the silent auction, the program accepts personal donations or for a \$100 donation, ILSSAR will award a ILSSAR Cemetery Marking medal. For a \$35 donation, ILSSAR will award a Grave Marking pin (limited supply).

You can find more details about our State Awards banquet and the silent auction at <https://www.illinois-sar.org/conference>.

Thank you for your support and all the work that you do! We hope to see you at an upcoming event!

*The Illinois Patriot
is the official newsletter of the
Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Published Quarterly (Jan/Apr/July/Oct)
Jason Butterick, Editor*

*Submissions, Photographs, Articles, and Chapter announcements/
events can be submitted at the following e-mail address:
kybrd76@hotmail.com*

*Editor reserves right to edit submitted materials for space.
The Illinois Patriot Summer (July 2024)
Deadline for Submissions: **Thursday, June 20.***

Cemetery Marking Program Plans Announced

The cost of the Cemetery Plaque (Sewah Studios) with post have risen to around \$3000 and it is getting harder for chapters to budget this enormous cost. The lead times have come down a bit but are still very long. The lead times a few years ago were 6-8 weeks, now they are 8-10 months.

Sewah Studios is not the only foundry. We are always looking for new Historical Plaque vendors so if you find one, please share.

We are already booked with 5 Cemetery Markings for 2024, Kishwaukee, Fox Valley, Springfield, General Joseph Bartholomew and Elijah Smith Chapters.

Starting in 2025 the standard GWEF donation will be \$1000 and ILSSAR donation will be \$1000 per plaque/ ceremony and the remaining balance of \$1,000 the chapter must come up with.

We will have a MAXIMUM OF 5 CEMETERY MARKINGS PER YEAR GOING FORWARD STARTING IN 2025.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, it is never too early to send your Cemetery Marking requests to the ILSSAR President for 2025. The earlier the requests come in the better to ensure funding from the GWEF and ILSSAR. These requests when approved are on a first come first serve basis. We will only have 5 markings per year going forward from 2025.

CHAPTERS, personal donations from \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100 always help. Chapters can have Silent Auctions or fundraisers throughout the year to raise money. Maybe for a \$500 donation from a person, family, or organization you can have that name or organization put on the plaque itself. The Illinois Society will be flexible and will work with all the chapters for reimbursement from GWEF and ILSSAR. We want to make sure when the invoice comes the chapter doesn't have to drain their entire savings waiting for reimbursement.

ILSSAR, for a \$100 donation the ILSSAR will award a ILSSAR Cemetery Marking Medal. (I have 3 medals left) For a \$35 donation the ILSSAR will award a Grave Marking Pin. (I have 21 pins left). These proceeds will go into the ILSSAR Cemetery Marking Fund.

Feel Free to call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

Michael Campagnolo
ILSSAR Cemetery Marking Chairman
14062 Verbend Path
Huntley, IL 60142
(C) (630) 464-4904
e-mail: mscfoxvalleysar@att.net

Illinois Society February Meeting Highlights

The 250th celebration in 2026 of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence is soon upon us. At the national level, SAR is going to acknowledge ten years of recognition, which began with the anniversary of the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 2023, all the way to the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which will take place in 2033. The national website AMERICA250SAR.org contains a wealth of information chapters can use to mark the many events that led

to and supported our independence.

Society membership is currently 954 members across 15 chapters—down from 970.

Beginning in 2025, Patriot Grave Marking Subsidies are increasing from \$500 to \$1,000. There are currently 5 markings planned in 2024.

Every chapter is encouraged to utilize the “Americanism Report”, a great tool to document monthly activities contributing to the SAR mission.



Jasper Spears, 91, compatriot of Lewis & Clark, demonstrates patriotism everywhere he goes. He wears it, too. A different cap for the American Legion, Army, etc. But he didn't have a hat for his SAR. Until now, and with best regards from Illinois Society as an Emeritus Compatriot.

Welcome New Compatriots & In Memoriam

American Bicentennial

Scott Alan Bernholdt
Philip Lauf

Ewington

Samuel Warren Phillips

General Joseph Bartholomew

Jeffrey Robert Clements
Hadley Peter Welsch
Dustin Ashley Grier
Kevin Dale Keller

Kishwaukee

Timothy Virgil Taylor

Long Knives

Dennis Wayne Kern

In Memoriam

Wayne H. Nehring
February 24, 2020

Mike Tubbs
March 8, 2024
Captain Zeally Moss

Loren Jay Rakich
November 27, 2023
General Henry Knox

Earnest Ray Parker
February 24, 2024
General George Rogers Clark

Thomas Michael Graham
February 20, 2024
Fort Dearborn

Chapter Capsules *News from Our Chapters*

Captain Zeally Moss

The chapter provided a color guard, led the pledge of allegiance, and provided patriotic flair at the 81st annual Lincoln dinner held on March 9 at the Cliff Event Center in Princeton.

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Dick Wells presented a program "The Blakes of Bunker Hill" at Westminster Village in Bloomington to veterans and students of Bloomington Middle School on March 14.

Participants complimented about the display materials and anecdotes not commonly found in books or classroom presentations.

Fort Dearborn

The Fort Dearborn had its first meeting on March 21st with newly installed chapter President, Martin Starr.

Fort Dearborn hosts their meetings on the third Thursday of January, March, May, September, and November at the Union League Club Chicago located at 65 West Jackson Boulevard in Chicago. You can learn more about the meetings and Fort Dearborn at <https://www.dearbornsar.org>.

Fort Dearborn was honored to have Guide Sobecki as the speaker during the March meeting. Mr. Sobecki is a public relations specialist and ghostwriter for the national



Guide Sobecki presented his program on "Colonial Weapons" at Fort Dearborn's meeting, March 21, 2024.

association of neurosurgeons. Mr. Sobecki presented his program on "Colonial Weapons" which included dispelling myths of weapons used in the Colonial era such as axes were thrown. Weapons reviewed included the sword, long and short blades and axes/hatchets.

Fort Dearborn's next meeting will be on Thursday, May 16th at 11:45am at the Union League Club Chicago.

General Joseph Bartholomew

25 attendees, including six new applicants were present at the February 9 meeting held at St. Luke Union Church. The meeting was hybrid, with one compatriot in Arizona joining via Zoom™.

During the meeting, Chapter President Jay Cummins presented the Eagle Scout Arthur M. and Berdena King Contest Award to Katie Heger, a member of Troop 8888 of Bloomington. Her scout master is Doug Schwalm, and her parents are Margaret and Michael Heger.

The application for the Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest has one section pertaining to Eagle Scout activities, and points are given for the leadership positions held, each merit badge earned and various other activities. Points are also given for involvement in community, church and school activities. Another section of the application requires completion of a four-generation ancestor chart on which points are also awarded. Finally, the applicant must write a patriotic essay of a maximum 500 words

Ms. Heger's application has been forwarded to the Illinois Society SAR for state competition. She received an Eagle Scout certificate, an Eagle Scout King Contest Participation

(Continued on page 6)



Retired LtC Dick Wells of Captain Zeally Moss presents on "The Blakes of Bunker Hill" to Bloomington Middle School students and veterans at Westminster Village in Bloomington on March 14, 2024.



Dick Wells and Tom Ashby of Captain Zeally Moss chapter at the 81st Lincoln Dinner on March 9, 2024 at the Cliff Event Center in Princeton.

badge, and a check for \$750.

Dan Leifel presented on “The Man Jefferson Called ‘The Most Pure Patriot of the Revolution’, Andrzej Tadeus Bonawentura Kosciuszko.

The 25th annual Citizenship Banquet will be held on April 4 at the Bloomington Country Club where 20 high school students from McLean and Woodford counties will be honored and two \$1,000 scholarships will be presented. The guest speaker will be Adam Hickman, Senior Vice-President at PNC Bank and a 2002 Scholarship award recipient.

In addition to the scholarships presentation, the chapter will present its first Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest winner Shreya C. Nallamothu with a certificate and \$250.

The Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest is open to all students attending 9th through 12th grades in public, parochial, or private schools; or home-school students studying at the same grade levels. Participants must write an original oration of not less than five minutes, or more than six minutes. The oration must be delivered from memory and without the use of notes or any kind of props. The subject of the oration shall deal with an event, a personality, or a document pertaining to the Revolutionary War with a mention of our nation’s 250th anniversary celebration. It is essential that each oration show the relationship it bears to America today. Orations are judged based upon its composition, delivery, significance, historical accuracy, and relevance to the 250th anniversary.

Long Knives

The Long Knives recently had



Eagle Scout Katie Heger (center) with parents Michael and Margaret Heger (left) with Milton "Sonny" Rudsinski (in uniform) and General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter President Jay Cummins

the pleasure of awarding Compatriot Jim Whitt with the Bronze Roger Sherman Award. Jim has been very active over the years, taking responsibility for Chapter Flags and their maintenance, Color Guard activities, and Liberty Tree Plantings. Jim is a member that can be counted on when needs arise. Well done Jim!

Even through the Winter months, the Long Knives Chapter can and does, continue to stay busy. This March was a continuation of our S.A.R. activities. Firstly, new Compatriot Dennis Kern, accompanied by wife Mary, Son Eric, and Daughter-in-law Misty were heartily welcomed into S.A.R. membership. Secondly, Jack Cramer presented Awards to the following members: Tom Edmondson for service as past President; Toby and Everett Rhine for

“Outstanding Citizenship” for offering a cannon safety and certification school to the Long Knives; Josh Wallace received the “Liberty Medal”, and Patrick Haskell was awarded the “Bronze Roger Sherman



Compatriots Alan Lang and Patrick Haskell present the Bronze Roger Sherman Award to Compatriot Jim Whitt for service to the Long Knives chapter.

Award”.

Continuing in “Old Business”, the Long Knives are participating in the National S.A.R. “Liberty Tree Program”. The Long Knives have committed to a mission of planting a “liberty Tree” in each of the fifteen Counties in the Long Knives Chapter district. Six have been planted, with nine to go. The goal is to have all fifteen in the ground and thriving by our Country’s 250th Birthday Dedication.

The March Meeting Program was presented by Compatriot Ken Hall. The topic was “Amvets Outdoors” and the recreational services they provide for our veterans. The Long Knives continue to support the “Haven House”, a recreational estate for veterans located on Crab Orchard Lake. The Haven House is having a poker run for vehicles of all type on 27 April. Everyone is invited to attend this fundraiser for a good cause.

This April 13th, the Kentucky State Sons of the American Revolution will again hold a Memorial Service at the Hopkinsville National Cemetery. The Long Knives will again send a Color Guard contingent to stand along side their brother Compatriots. The event attracts Color Guards from Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, and sometimes other States. It is an impressive Ceremony to witness, as there are multiple cannon and musket salutes fired at the conclusion of the Keynote addresses and Wreath Laying presentations. The Long Knives Chapter continues to stay as busy as possible, furthering the Aims and Purposes of our Society.

Revolutionary War Rarities Podcast

Are you interested in the rarely taught history of the American Revolution? Do you know the name of the oldest soldier in the Revolution? Have you ever heard of Timothy Matlack or Christopher Ludwick? Do you know how much the American Revolution cost in terms of 2023 dollars? If any of this information is intriguing to you, tune into Revolutionary War Rarities, the podcast from the Sons of the American Revolution.

The easiest way to find Revolutionary War Rarities is to visit www.fastfunhistory.com.

The intent of Revolutionary War Rarities is to expose many people to the Sons of the American Revolution and contribute positively to our membership challenges all while growing our education programs.

Are You A George Washington Fellow?

The George Washington Endowment Fund (GWEF) was created to establish a permanent restricted fund, the income of which would provide annual funding for the support of NSSAR unfunded or underfunded committees and special projects. 80% of the corpus earnings are withdrawn for NSSAR project support. The remaining 20% is added to the permanent fund.

George Washington Fellows

are elected through a single \$1000 gift or annual installment payment plan as a permanent gift to fund. It is not limited to SAR members; spouses, children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces are also eligible.

All new George Washington Fellows receive a beautiful gold pin, a certificate acknowledging their GW Fellow status, and listed with all GW Fellows in the SAR Genealogical and Research Library.

Additional information, including brochure and form are available at the SAR Foundation website. Consider a gift today!



Highlights of Patriot History: April

- April Apr. 18: The Rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes 1775
- Apr. 19: Minutemen and redcoats clash at Lexington and Concord, "the shot heard 'round the world." 1775
- April 19: Congress ratifies preliminary peace treaty 1783
- April 25: Greene defeated at Hobkirk's Hill, SC 1781
- Apr. 27: Benedict Arnold's troops force a British retreat at Ridgefield, Connecticut. 1777



CSM Robert Haglund (Ret)
Vice President General GLD (Nominee)
And Wisconsin State President
And
Don Skarda
1st Vice President Wisconsin Society

Cordially invite you to the
Annual Great Lakes District Banquet and joint host state meeting
With the Wisconsin Society SAR

Friday, October 25th and Saturday, October 26th, 2024

Doubletree by Hilton - Brookfield
1815 West Bluemound Road
Brookfield, WI 53045
(262) 792-2334

Lodging \$129.00 plus tax through October 1, 2024.
Reservation includes free breakfast per room.
Link for room reservations: [Sons of American Revolution
\(hilton.com\)](https://www.sons-of-american-revolution.com/hilton.com)

(Guests can also call 800-222-TREE and ask to book in the Sons of the American Revolution room block at the DoubleTree Milwaukee Brookfield; group code: 908)

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, the SAR will be providing event news and educational resources, including videos covering various aspects of the Revolutionary War. Visit their site at america250sar.com. The website is live and would like your information on 250th events held in our state and locally.

The SAR Education Committee also has a dedicated website at education.sar.org.



Your Chapter News Missing in the Illinois Patriot?

Submit Your News Here!

Attn: Illinois Patriot

kybrd76@hotmail.com

The Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution was honored to participate in the graduating class from Great Lakes Naval Training Command. One of the Sailors was presented with an Outstanding Achievement award for achieving the highest academic score from the Sons of the American Revolution. Pictured (from L to R) is Capt Froberg, Admiral Munsch, Mr. Chris Stallings, ILSSAR SVP Bill Wheeler, Fleet Master Chief Gonzalez, and Command Sergeant Major Tschense (German Army - Allied Joint Forces Command Naples)

Reserve Your Friday Dinner for the Illinois Society Annual Meeting!

Use the QR code below (Remember, payment will not be accepted at door!)

Send Money with Zelle®
Scan in your banking app to pay.

Il Ssar



ILSSAR Silent Auction

All chapters are encouraged to support the auction by donating items for auction. All proceeds support the cemetery marking program.

May 3, 2024, 7pm CDT
Abraham Lincoln Hotel
<https://www.illinois-sar.org/conference>
Please contact Linda Ashby (lkashby1@icloud.com)





Illinois Society Sons Of
The American Revolution
999 N. Plaza
Schaumburg, IL 60173

DATES TO REMEMBER

Illinois Society Annual Meeting/Awards
Abraham Lincoln Hotel—Springfield
Friday, May 3—Saturday, May 4, 2024

134th National Congress
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, July 10—Tuesday, July 16, 2024

Illinois Society Meeting
Effingham Holiday Inn
Friday August 9—Saturday August 10, 2024

Fall Leadership
The Galt House—Louisville, KY
Thursday, October 3—Saturday, October 5, 2024

Great Lakes District Meeting
Doubletree by Hilton - Brookfield
Friday, October 25-Saturday, October 26, 2024

Illinois Society Meeting
Doubletree—Bloomington
Friday November 1-Saturday, November 2, 2024

More Ways To Stay Informed

Here are even more ways to connect with SAR events & news

National Society

sar.org

[facebook.com/
sonsoftheamericanrevolution/](https://facebook.com/sonsoftheamericanrevolution/)

Great Lakes District

illinois-sar.org/gld.html

Illinois Society

illinois-sar.org

