

# Sons of the American Revolution — Harris Ferry Chapter News

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Fall 2016

## Welcome!

Welcome to our “new” newsletter, the first in recent memory. We say “new” because at some point in the past the Chapter had a newsletter but it probably ceased

publication when no one volunteered to keep it going. Thanks to our Chapter’s rejuvenation, it’s back!

The obvious purpose of our quarterly newsletter is to in-

form our compatriots of recent and upcoming events. Additionally, our goal is to facilitate increased interaction between our members. We

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## President’s Message

As we begin the second half of 2016, I’d like to make you aware of a renewed energy that exists in the chapter. The new Board of Directors is now larger than it’s been in recent years with the addition of Second and Third Vice President offices. Many of our recent Past Presidents remain active on the BOM and their insights into SAR protocols along with their dedication and leadership in running Chapter programs are invaluable. I am fortunate to be in this position alongside such a dedicated group of individuals.

Looking to the future, we are developing a formal strategic vision to identify goals which will be our guideline in operational decision-making. These goals are in alignment with NSSAR and its Americanism principles. New initiatives include increasing our visibility and reinforcing our heritage to the community and schools, expanding our youth award programs, growing our membership while affording more opportunities for member interaction, and increasing the participation of our younger compatriots in our events and leadership. We have

created a Strategic Initiatives Committee (SIC) whose task is to develop programs to achieve these new strategic goals (see Page 2) and its efforts are already reaping rewards.

Of course we will remain active in the recognition of Eagle Scouts and JROTC/Sea Cadets and plan to expand these programs to additional schools. Our Youth Award programs and contests will also continue and we will attempt to increase participation through additional NSSAR contests. Our Americanism Committee

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## Chapter Color Guard Formed

We are extremely proud to announce the formation of the first Color Guard in our Chapter’s history. This unit is created as one of the strategic objectives identified by the newly formed Strategic Initiatives Committee. The concept was introduced by Compatriots Forrest Myers and Dick Wenner at our

SIC kickoff meeting in March.

The purpose of the Guard is to increase our visibility in the community and promote our Chapter at dedications, events including parades, and various school and community programs.

The original members of the HFCG are Bob Bakelaar, Clay Dawson, Forrest Myers,

and Dick Wenner. The unit will fall under the direction of the SIC and will be led by Compatriot Dawson.

The unit plans to be fully operational by the Fall. We are currently seeking additional members. For more information, see the article on page 3 or contact Clay at 717-592-9412.

## Upcoming Events

Constitution Day Luncheon  
Sun, Sept 18 @ WSCC 12:30

Board of Management Meeting  
Sat, Nov 19 @ Highspire 9:00

HF 76th Annual Meeting  
Sun, Dec 4 @ WSCC 12:30

Washington’s Birthday Luncheon  
Sun, Feb 19 @ WSCC 11:30

**All Compatriots are invited**

## Recent Officer Retirements

We recognize and thank these previous officers who recently retired from the BOM:

James Long—Secretary  
2008-2015

Richard Kunkle—Treasurer  
2008-2015 (President in 2008)

John Peifer—Registrar  
2004-2014

### 2017 Dues

Dues notices for 2017 will be mailed by PASSAR on Sept 1. Please be timely in remitting your dues to avoid any reinstatement fees!

*2017 looks to be an outstanding year for our Chapter with new events and programs!*

# Strategic Initiatives Committee

The creation of the Strategic Initiatives Committee (SIC) is, in itself, indicative of the new BOM's commitment to creating a progressive vision for the future of our Chapter. The committee will be chaired by Compatriot Dick Wenner, who has a strong desire to improve our Chapter's visibility and have us more active in our community.

The goal of the SIC is to implement and achieve the strategic visions of the Chapter. It will make recommendations to the Board which will have final approval of all SIC operations. Specific strategic goals for the



Compatriots Forrest Myers and Clay Dawson handed out SAR membership brochures during Hampden Township's recent Independence Day festivities.

Chapter for 2016 are:

*-Membership increase of*

*10% from 12/31/15. This will increase our Chapter membership to 94 if accomplished.*

*-Become more visible in the community and civic functions. The formation of the HF Color Guard is a significant advance in accomplishing this goal and a measure of success of this strategic initiative. We also want to assist academia in the area of American Revolution education through the development of a program geared to bringing the American Revolution to life for students.*

*-Display our Chapter's revitalization to the PASSAR community via a significant increase in our Americanism Score.*

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## Progress in Education Initiative

At our May BOM meeting, we were fortunate to take our initial step in partnering with local schools in enhancing the educational experience for today's youth. Through the efforts of Compatriot Bill Jackson, we were fortunate to welcome Steff Chortanoff, a history teacher at South Hanover Elementary School in the Lower Dauphin School Dis-

trict, as our guest. For over 30 minutes we discussed potential opportunities for us to assist educators in bringing more excitement to the student when learning about the American Revolution.

In our conversation, we were happy to learn that the stories we've all heard about the lack of emphasis on the American Revolution in

schools is overblown. Steff also expressed how having reenactors present a lesson has a lasting effect on students as opposed to a standard lecture. This may become an opportunity for our newly formed Color Guard program. More discussions are pending and we are hoping to initiate a pilot program with South Hanover ES as early as this Fall.

### \*\*\* Town Crier \*\*\*

#### We Need Your Help!

We have a very aggressive agenda of honoring our veterans, young citizens, and our Patriot ancestors.

We are in need of volunteers to help us accomplish our goals. We are asking compatriots to consider helping us out, even if it's for an hour occasionally so that a few are not doing the work of many. If you'd like to place your name on an on-call list to possibly assist us in a future event or possibly be responsible for one particular task, please contact Compatriot Dick Wenner at 856-3631.

We also graciously accept help from Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts (especially those working toward the designation of Eagle Scout), and other community and civic groups. The Chapter thanks you for your consideration.

## Welcome New Compatriots



We welcome our new Compatriots:

Gary Lee Coburn of Mechanicsburg was sworn into the Society at our Annual Awards Luncheon in May. Gary's Patriot ancestor is Thomas Warren, a Sergeant in the Virginia Militia serving under Captains Woods, Estill, and Barnett.

Michael Donmoyer of Lemoyne will be inducted into the SAR on Sept 18. His Patri-

ot ancestor is Nicholas Bittinger, a Captain in the Third Battalion of York County.

Lewis Shaw Jr of Hershey, his son Lewis III and grandson Nathan (both of Hummelstown) will also be inducted on Sept 18. The three generations of Shaws are descendants of Patriot John Gearhart who served as Ensign in the Third Company, Fourth Battalion of the Pennsylvania Militia.



Newest Compatriot Gary Lee Coburn is sworn into the SAR on May 15.





Compatriots Clay Dawson, Forrest Myers, and John Pringle present an SAR Flag Certificate to Caddy Shack Restaurant owner Nick Dunphy on June 14.

**SIC (from page 2)**

The Americanism Scoresheet is a matrix where the goals of PASSAR are weighted through a point structure and each chapter's activities during the year are tabulated and compared to other chapters. The more activities a chapter has, the higher the score. Our goal is to finish in the top 3 chapters in the state for 2016.

*-Evaluate the merit of creating a Revolutionary War Roundtable.* With the guidance of Compatriot Bill Jackson, founder of the Harrisburg area's Civil War and World War II Roundtables, we may establish this monthly event as another avenue to promote discussion of the American Revolution and our ancestors.

*-Have our membership become more interactive.* Create new activities to allow more interaction between our members. Provide nametags at all HF events to facilitate interaction. Find ways to include the younger members of our chapter and get their involvement in chapter leadership.

All compatriots are welcome to attend SIC meetings and dates will be published on our website as they are scheduled. Initial meetings have been attended by Denny Bobb, Clay Dawson, Bill Jackson, Forrest Myers, and Dick Wenner. Please consider attending and voicing your opinions and concepts on shaping the future of our Chapter.

**HFCG (from page 3)**

and colonialuniforms.com.

Clay also noted that the unit welcomes the participation of women and children as family members, serving in the role of "camp followers" which were common during the Revolution. For more information on the HFCG, contact Clay at 592-9412 or email at claydaw@yahoo.com.

**Email Addresses Needed**

To be more timely in communications with fellow Compatriots and reduce postage costs, we will be utilizing email for future invitations, etc. If you use email, please email Secretary Clay Dawson at claydaw@yahoo.com to add your address to our database. If we do not have an email for you, we will continue to send notifications via regular mail.

**Our Patriots' Stories**  
—Thomas Bolter—

Thomas Bolter was born on 23 Apr 1735 in Boston, Massachusetts and he wed Mary Goddard there on 10 Nov 1757. As the flames of colonial discontent began to ignite, Bolter was swept up in the cause of freedom and on 16 Dec 1773 he participated in the Boston Tea Party.

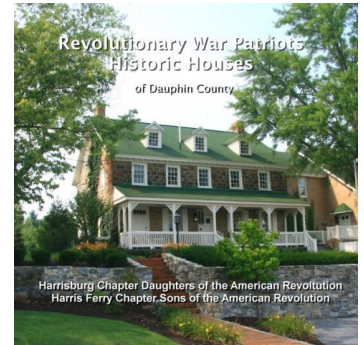
Following the incident, Bolter removed to Springfield, MA. He enlisted in the Continental Army and served in Major Joseph Eayer's Company, Colonel Flowers regiment of artillery with the rank of Captain. He served the entire duration of the war.

Bolter died in Boston on 26 Aug 1811 and is buried in Boston's Central Burying Ground alongside his wife.

- Thomas Bolter is the Patriot ancestor of Compatriot Stuart Foutz

*To see your Patriot ancestor in our newsletter, submit a short bio to editor@harrisferrysar.org*

**Revolutionary War Patriots Historic Houses of Dauphin County**



The Patriot Houses of Dauphin County book is a joint fundraiser for the Chapter and the Harrisburg Chapter of the DAR. The book, loaded with color photographs, features 58 houses still standing in Dauphin County that were homes to our Revolutionary War Patriots. If you wish to purchase a copy of the 91 page hardcover book, contact Cheryl Bobb at 566-5195. Cost is \$40 + \$5 postage (if mail is requested).



From left: D. Bobb, C. Dawson, F. Myers, R. Wenner, M. Bobb, R. Bakelaar

**Board of Directors**

- President: Dennis Bobb
- Vice-President: Robert Bakelaar
- 2nd Vice-President: Dick Wenner
- 3rd Vice-President: Forrest Myers
- Treasurer: Matthew Bobb
- Secretary: Clay Dawson
- Registrar: Robert Bakelaar

**Committee Chairmen**

- Americanism: John Pringle
- JROTC: Keith Huntzinger
- Flag: Ron Wix
- Strategic Initiatives: Dick Wenner
- Facebook Editor: Andrew Lick
- Website Editor: Robert Bakelaar