

RHODE ISLAND SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
President's Annual Report – Annual Meeting – February 13, 2010

Our State Society continues to thrive!

Our membership total increased from 150 to 158, a 5% increase. We have 12 new members and 1 transfer in. Unfortunately, 4 of our members died in 2009 .

We have had strong attendance at our state and chapter meetings, and we have made sure to support the DAR and CAR with the attendance of our officers, and financial donations to the CAR.

Sometimes we're actually a little bit stressed, with so many events! We have meetings for the state society, meetings for 3 chapters, and invitations for many DAR and CAR events.

I have been pleased to continue to honor our members with 20 years or more of membership. These are members who are not only long term members, but members who have supported us financially with their dues and donations, and shown their personal support by attending our events. Each member having an anniversary of 20 years or more, in 5 year increments has received a formal National SAR Certificate, listing their name, the name and service of their Patriot ancestor, and the date they became a member.

We continued our recent tradition of publication this year by printing and distributing to all members and nearly 50 Libraries across the country, a volume honoring our 6 "Real Sons", RI SAR members who were sons of actual Revolutionary War veterans. This follows earlier publications of "The Journal of John Francis October 9-17, 1786" in 2007, which was also distributed to the libraries, and our "Roster & Bylaws 2009" which was for members only. Later in this meeting, we'll talk about an exciting publication for 2010, which will break new ground in this kind of publishing. I think our publication efforts help to emphasize that we are an active organization that is more than a social club. We demonstrate for ourselves, the world, and for the IRS, that we follow our Bylaws by actively be "patriotic, historic and educational..." What better

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way to demonstrate this than by publishing information that perpetuates the knowledge of the heroic deeds and ideals of our Patriot ancestors!

If I were to stop at this point, it's quite clear that we've had a very good year. But there's even more good news! The RI Society of the SAR won the President General's Award two years in a row, 2007 and 2008, and those streamers are displayed on our state society flag for all to see. What this means gentlemen, is that our state society was recognized as the best in the nation for our active schedule of events! We have high hopes that we will win this award again for efforts in 2009.

On top of that, we also received the National Society's CAR Activities Award, which also includes a streamer for our state society flag. To receive this award, eight out of ten criteria must be met. I recently filed our report for this year, and I'm pleased to report we qualified for this award again this year by reaching all ten of the criteria for the 3rd year in a row!

Our Secretary John W. Adams has taken our Newsletter to a whole new level. He published 5 issues in 2008; and increased that to 6 in 2009. This is another import way of communicating with our membership. Thank you John!

Our state society's website is growing and improving all the time. Webmaster Steve Shaw has things well in hand, and there is a host of valuable information on Rhode Island Revolutionary soldiers and the unit histories of Rhode Island's Continental Line regiments. A unique feature is a list of over 500 Rhode Islanders who are included in Francis B. Heitman's *Historical Register of Officers in the Continental Line During the War of the Revolution*. There are a few biographies of Rhode Island soldiers and officers on the website, but more are needed. Perhaps you can provide them. Our website is located at www.RhodeIslandSAR.org; check it out.

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I don't intend to review all our activities, as our officers and committee chairmen will do that. We will publish a complete review with our next newsletter "The Independent Man."

We will soon have a new state President, who is planning a busy and ambitious schedule for our 2010 activities. I'll leave it to him to circulate the details.

However, our record of events is so impressive that I'd like to list our state meetings, and then summarize the rest of our successful year follows:

1. February 14, Saturday, RISSAR Annual Meeting, Varnum Memorial Armory
2. April 4, Saturday, RISSAR Board meeting
3. April 24, Thursday, RISSAR Spring Luncheon, Wannamoisett Country Club; Speaker: Frank Snyder; "Blue Stripes?, The Flags of John Paul Jones" Wannamoisett Country Club
4. May 15-17, Friday to Sunday, SAR New England District Council Spring Conference, Portsmouth, NH
5. June 11, Thursday, Navy Day Parade, East Greenwich
6. June 13, Saturday, RISSAR-RISDAR Flag Day Luncheon
7. June 20, Saturday, Oak Dell Cemetery ceremony
8. July 11, Saturday, RISSAR Board meeting
9. August 23, Sunday, Battle of RI Ceremony, Portsmouth
10. September 14, Monday, RISSAR Fall Luncheon, Clarke-Cook House, Newport
11. October 24, Saturday, RISSAR Board of Managers meeting, Ivy Garden
12. October 31, Saturday, SAR New England Council Meeting, Wethersfield, CT
13. November 8, Sunday, RISSAR Veterans' Day, Ceremony at Veterans' Cemetery, followed by Luncheon at Wilcox Tavern
14. December 4, Friday, RISSAR Christmas Luncheon, Speaker: Bruce C. MacGunnigle: "Our Patriot Ancestors" 1149 Restaurant
15. January 9, Saturday, RISSAR Board of Managers meeting, Ivy Garden,

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In Summary 31 total events:

State SAR Events: 13

New England District Council Events: 2

John Peck Rathbun Chapter Events: 5

Washington County Chapter Events: 3

Knight Lippitt Chapter Events: 1

DAR-CAR Events: 7

It has been a great pleasure for me to spend the past 2 years serving as the 87th President of the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and I have enjoyed it immensely. Thank you all for help making it so successful!

Bruce C. MacGunnigle

President